

**Cherokee County Master Gardeners  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Cherokee County Historic Court House  
November 17, 2009**

Following a delightful potluck dinner, the regular monthly meeting of the Cherokee County Master Gardeners was held on Tuesday, November 17, 2009. The meeting was called to order by President Suzie Thomas at 7:32 PM. Members present were President Suzie Thomas, Immediate Past President Russell Brannon, President-elect Gerald Phillips, Secretary Joan McFather, Treasurer Nell Gillespie, Historian Martha Ann Slatton, Sue Allen, Lois Andresen, Pat Ball, Judie Bicknell, Patricia Chastain, Anna Marie Cutts, Billie Davis, Mariana Divita, Becky Dixon, Mageeda Doe, Valarie Downey, Martha Etchells, Sandra Ferguson, Carol Jackson, Maurya Jones, Lynn Knotts, Vickie Lindsey, Dalia Lowe, Shirley Lowe, Janis Marshall-Kroen, Dot Martin, Debbie Meadows, Pam Raines, Gail Roos, Mary Ellen Roos, Steve Scott, Mary Selden, Gerry Slaughter, Diane Smith, Mary Ann Szostak, Glenda Thompson, Katie Van Hiel, Diane Walton, Sandi White and Marcia Winchester. County Extension Agent Paul Pugliese was also present.

**OFFICER REPORTS**

**President** Suzie Thomas welcomed 4H Coordinator Trudy Christopher, who in turn introduced Erin Wehunt, a Freedom Elementary School sixth grader representing the 4H. Trudy explained that 4H has several sponsorship opportunities, ranging from a \$30 over night trip for students to full support for a student at the Rock Eagle Summer Camp. She thanked Gerald Phillips for a Beekeepers Club's sponsorship. Erin then presented her award winning speech on "Using Water Wisely." With support posters, she covered the seven step process: 1) Planning, incorporating shade and water zones, 2) Soil Analysis, 3) Appropriate Plant Selection, 4) Practical Turf Areas, 5) Efficient Irrigation, 6) Use of Mulches, and 7) Appropriate Maintenance.

**President-elect** Gerald Phillips invited everyone to the Christmas party on Friday, December 18<sup>TH</sup>, at 6:30 PM at the Rock Barn.

**Secretary** Joan McFather stated that she had written one thank you note—to Jean Garner for the donation of tables for use at Master Gardener projects. She passed around the roll sheet for everyone to sign in. There were no corrections to the October minutes as posted on the website.

**Treasurer** Nell Gillespie reported a balance of \$11,914.78. She will write checks for approximately \$200 to cover expenses until the year's end and requests that all receipts needing reimbursement be given to her by January 15, 2010. She will send in all Pikes receipts for the past two years in expectation that the company will honor them. Nell made a motion that \$100 be made available to her from the miscellaneous line item in the budget to cover unexpected additional state sales tax. Marcia Winchester seconded, and the motion carried. Because the By-Laws say that the budget must be approved before any spending is done in any given year, Nell also moved that \$500 be allowed from miscellaneous to cover such project expenses that occur prior to the 2010 budget's passing next year. In the future, the Budget and Finance Committee will include a provisional fund to cover any expenditures needed in the new year that occur prior to the Budget being approved by the members. Clara Mae Van Brink seconded, and the motion carried.

## AWARDS

Paul presented certificates to five new Master Gardeners: Sue Allen, Dalia Lowe, Martha Etchells, Carol Jackson and Sandi White.

## EXTENSION AGENT REPORT

- Next year the **Southeastern Flower Show**, cancelled last year, will be held in association with the Southeast Horticulture Society on February 4-6, 2010, at the Cobb Galleria. February 6<sup>th</sup> is the day when Cherokee County Master Gardeners are asked to help, so get your name in early. If there are more respondents than slots available, a lottery of some sort may be held.
- **Intern Training** will start on January 5, 2010, in Building 400 on the Chattahoochee Tech campus formerly known as North Metro Tech. Cherokee County is sharing responsibilities with Bartow, Cobb and Paulding Counties—our dates are March 16, 23 and 30, and we will need two or three volunteers for each day to set out and collect badges, organize break times and do general maintenance. There will be a potluck lunch at the first and last classes and a time for office orientation and recruitment for committees. As in the past, interns will bring the snacks themselves. We will supply paper products, tea, coffee and water. Chairman Dot Martin is in charge of mentors and hopes to have a coffee with both mentors and sprouts so as to make our interns feel welcomed. The midterm exam will be held in each county separately. All MGs are welcome to sit in on any class. In case of snow: call the Extension by 8:30. If there is no answer, there is no class.
- **Recommitment Forms** are available now. You are required to earn 25 hours in each year or be removed from the active roll. Forms are accessible on line and are due in the Extension office by December 15<sup>th</sup>. Interns who are interested in earning hours in the office entering data should contact Paul.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Care and Share:** Pat Ball asked everyone to keep Bernice Cagle in our prayers. She is not doing well with her cancer. And Roxanne Rutledge is having a difficult time with her treatments for cancer. She is unable to drive. Contact Pat (678-297-1992 or [ballfredpat@aol.com](mailto:ballfredpat@aol.com)) to be included in food and driving schedules, and continue to send cards and emails to Roxanne.

**Polo Shirts:** Mary Ann Szostak distributed MG shirts and announced she would happily train a co-chair, since Dalia Lowe was unable to continue in that role. She will look into using MG Ed Stumler's son-in-law's company for additional shirts.

**Publicity:** Mary Ellen Roos announced that the seminar topics have been decided. Linda Lullie has designed the bookmarks, and they have been contracted for at a price of \$94.80 for 1000. Woodstock Library, a new site for several seminars, will need all new signs, and old signs will need supplemental inserts. Ed Stumler's son-in-law held the winning bid of \$126.14 for his company Fast Signs in Roswell. Russell Brannon will place the pvc pipe for sign installation at the Woodstock library when we have their approval. Sign rotation will be handled by Dot Martin at Woodstock, Diane Walton at Ball Ground, Gail Roos and Shirley Lowe at Hickory Flat and Vickie Lindsey at the Senior Center. Diane Walton suggested placing stand up reminder signs such as Mary Ellen exhibited on each library's check out counter prior to seminars. They could be displayed at plant clinics, too. Interns could help in the office by making reminder calls to those signed up, and it was suggested that a space

for emails be added to the attendance sheets. Mary Ellen will continue to work on subdivision newsletters and other outlets for publicity.

**Burgess Arboretum:** Russell Brannon announced that the plant sale brought in over \$900. He said that at the thank you luncheon a WAGA interview with Dr. Burgess after his retirement was shown. The witch-hazel was planted in honor of GMGA's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and since Zach White covered the cost of both the tree and plaque, Russell moved to donate the allocated \$125 to the Arboretum. Sandi White seconded and the motion carried. There will be a planning session in January to discuss our further involvement.

**Field Trip:** Russell reminded everyone about the upcoming tour of Peach State Orchids, carpooling from the Hickory Flat Kroger at 10:30 on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Historian:** Martha Ann Slatton asked that participants at any activity take pictures with the new camera.

**Mentors:** Dot Martin asked everyone to write down what they particularly liked and/or disliked when they went through the program. She has fourteen mentors signed up for our fifteen interns (one a couple who will need only one mentor), and in an effort to create a bond with our sprouts, mentors will have a coffee in the Extension classroom on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM for them.

**2010 Seminar Series:** Pat Chastain announced that we would have the bookmarks before Christmas. There will be 27 seminars, including erosion control and shade gardening and eliminating four older programs. The committee has designed a questionnaire to be filled out by presenters that will facilitate introductions at and newspaper articles about each program. Rules for speakers and administrators are available on the website.

**Policies and Procedures:** Gerry Slaughter's committee has finished all but one of the committee descriptions. There will be folders for each when the job is done.

**Christmas Party:** Suzie Thomas reminded everyone to save the December 18<sup>th</sup> date—6:30 PM at the Rock Barn. We have earned the free location by having 13 people at the last workday. Susan Franklin, head of decorating, will host a work party at Autumn Hill Nursery (Highway 140 location) on December 16 at 6 PM. Sign up and call Susan. She still needs an unlighted deer decoration and 3 or 4 hurricane lamps. There will be a set up night on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. Anyone working on the party may consider it a service project and count the hours by bringing two cans for MUST. Members are encouraged to bring two cans to the party as well, but they cannot count hours for simply attending.

**Food Team:** Maurya Jones announced that the party will be potluck: please put the name of the dish on it. The CCMG will provide the pork tenderloin and stuffed turkey that the Van Brinks will prepare. You may bring additional beverages of your choice. Maurya could use more help on the food committee.

**Raffle:** Vickie Lindsey is working on a raffle to be held at the party. She asks that everyone bring an unwrapped gift to the Extension office by December 7 (unless you plan to bring baked goods that may be brought at the last minute). These gifts she will incorporate into gift baskets that can be "bid" on with \$1 raffle tickets. Bidding will take place during the social time between 6:30 and 7:30, when we will eat.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** None

**NEW BUSINESS** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Wreath-making Seminar:** Clara Mae asked that members bring tools and supplies of greenery to the Senior Center. They especially need wire cutters and glue guns.

**ELECTIONS:** There being no nominations from the floor, Russell Brannon moved and Marcia Winchester seconded that the nominations be closed. Gerry Slaughter moved and Nell Gillespie seconded that the slate of President: Gerald Phillips, President-elect: Clara Mae Van Brink, Secretary: Joan McFather and Treasurer: Diane Walton be elected by acclamation. The motion carried.

**DOORPRIZES**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Vickie Lindsey moved and Lois Andresen seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 9:18 PM.

**UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER**

- Nov 19 – Demo Garden Workday, 10 AM
- Nov 19 – Field Trip to Peach State Orchids, meet 10:30 AM, Kroger on 140/E Cherokee
- Nov 21 – Seminar: Make a Fresh Wreath, 10 AM, Senior Center
- Dec 03 – Demo Garden Workday 10 AM, (noon if cold)
- Dec 16 – Christmas Party Decorations Work Party, 6 PM, Autumn Hill (Hwy 140 location)
- Dec 17 – Demo Garden Workday, 10 AM (noon if cold)
- Dec 17 – Christmas Party Setup and Decorate, Rock Barn, 6 PM
- Dec 18 – MG Christmas Party, 6:30 PM, Rock Barn
- Jan 05 - Mar 30, 2010 – Intern Classes, Tuesdays, Chattahoochee Tech
- Jan 07 – Demo Garden Workday, 10 AM (noon if cold)
- Jan 19 – MG Monthly Meeting, First United Methodist Church, 10 AM
- Jan 21 – Demo Garden Workday, 10 AM (noon if cold)

**BIRTHDAYS**

- Nov 18 – Mignon Fleischel
- Nov 20 – Mary Ellen Roos
- Nov 26 – Mary Tucker
- Nov 30 – Mariana Divita
- Dec 07 – Debbie Meadows
- Dec 07 – Mary Ann Szostak
- Dec 16 – Linda Lullie
- Dec 19 – Thomas Dorn
- Dec 20 – Diane Walton
- Dec 29 – Carol Mumaw
- Jan 04 – Don Krueger
- Jan 05 – Glenda Thompson
- Jan 07 – Trudy Christopher
- Jan 15 – Nell Gillespie
- Jan 19 – Clara Mae Van Brink

Interns: please email your birthdates to Joan McFather: [jmcfather@hotmail.com](mailto:jmcfather@hotmail.com) if you didn't add them to the sign-in sheet at the meeting. Thanks!

