

Cherokee County Master Gardeners

Regular Monthly Meeting - Cherokee County Senior Center - November 15, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of the Cherokee County Master Gardeners was held on Tuesday, November 15, 2011. At 6:30 p.m. the meeting was called to order by President Clara Mae Van Brink. Members also present were Vice President Ed Stumler, Secretary Joan McFather, Treasurer Diane Walton, Lois Andresen, Judie Bicknell, Mark Dady, Billie Davis, Becky Dixon, James Gilson, Linda Lullie, Janis Marshall-Kroen, Dot Martin, Debbie Meadows, Pam Raines, Gail Roos, Mary Ellen Roos, Steve Scott, Jane Shelnett, Diane Smith, Mary Ann Szostak, Suzie Thomas, Sherry Wileman, and Marcia Winchester.

PROGRAM

The President asked Ed Stumler to introduce our speaker, Peter Jenkins, a certified arborist with 30 years experience, who spoke on "How to Spot a Dangerous Tree." (This program can be found at www.treeinspection.com.) In brief, Mr. Jenkins took us through four basic steps assessing first the ground around the tree, looking at the root system and any clues of problems: fungus and the upheaval of roots. Second, examine the trunk; look for cavities, lack of bark, insects. Look for weakness in a multi-stemmed tree where the stems come together. Finally check branches for die-back.

OFFICER REPORTS

President

- Clara Mae presented Sherry Wileman with her certificate of member status.
- Mark Dady announced the Cherokee Master Gardeners' purchase of a new projector and a computer with a clicker housed in a travel case, including an extension cord. The computer is loaded with Microsoft Office Windows 7 and includes virus protection. The organization has a contract with Office Max, giving us support by the Geek Squad and optional lessons—all for a price of about \$1,000.
- The group watched an excellent promotional film for the 2012 Conference shot in the area and featuring local individuals such as Canton Mayor Gene Hobgood, and Horticulturist Zach White of Reinhardt University.

Secretary Joan McFather asked for and received approval of the October 2011 minutes as posted on line. She read a card for the staff at the Extension, thanking us for the luncheon.

Treasurer: Diane Walton supplied copies of her monthly report. Cash on hand as of October 1, 2011, was \$7,448.28. Deposits in October: \$1,191.00, expenses in October: \$428.02, debit to money market account: \$100.00, leaving an October 1 balance in the operating account of \$8,111.26. The money market account balance is \$900.39. [*See secretary's book for entire report.*]

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Demo Garden:

- Marcia Winchester stated that we now know that the renovation will take out a large part of the gardens behind the Center. In the coming months she will need help digging, labeling and potting up such plants as can be salvaged. She is considering proposed new gardens: a cutting garden that the seniors could use, and a native plant bog garden. Megan Hilf-Reily is working on plans. She is also considering a once-a-month Monday workday for the spring.

Jim Gilson is working on moving the shed. (If you need the combination, ask any of the regular volunteers.) Marcia concluded by saying that Director Nathan Brandon has been very helpful in including the Master Gardeners as plans more forward.

- Marcia also encouraged members to contribute quality green material to the new compost bins located in the community garden.

Newsletter: The December-January newsletter is almost ready, including an article on grafting by Rachel Prakash. Marcia needs articles for the February-March issue.

Budget:

- Diane reminded the group of our decision to award at least 10% of all profits to the Extension at the end of each calendar year. Including plants, bug charts, books and Cobras, she has figured the total profit for 2011 to be \$3,694.20 and 10% of that to be \$369.42. Marcia Winchester moved to award \$370.00 to the Extension, Mark Dady seconded, and the motion carried.
- Joan McFather moved to again contribute to Canton UMC's Thanksgiving project the amount of \$250. The motion was seconded by Jane Shelnutt and it carried.
- Diane pointed out that our only major funding source is plant sales, and these may be difficult to stage while the Senior Center is under reconstruction. Members should be giving thought to other fundraisers.
- Discussion followed concerning gifts to libraries and other places that allow us to present seminars at no charge. Diane proposed allocating \$50 each to Hickory Flat and Rose Creek libraries, the Senior Center and the Ball Ground Community Center, amounts she has budgeted for. After discussion, it was decided to eliminate the Senior Center, since we do much there already. Pam Raines moved to donate to the others, Debbie Meadows seconded, and the motion carried.
- In January Diane will email the budget for 2012 to everyone. Email her if you want the budget broken down in detail.

GMGA Conference: No report

Nominating:

Diane Smith announced the slate of officers for next year, including President – Ed Stumler, Secretary – Joan McFather, and Treasurer – Diane Walton. The committee was unable to fill the Vice Presidential position, many members citing their extensive work on the 2012 Convention. Clara Mae Van Brink agreed to remain as Vice President through April, 2012, when our convention work will be done and a new Vice President can be appointed by the Executive Board. Mark Dady moved to accept the slate under those conditions, Jane Shelnutt seconded, and the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Seminars for 2012: Diane Smith distributed the proposed schedule of seminars for next year. [*See secretary's book.*] There will be 20, and 5 of them will be at night. Email Diane to volunteer for particular seminars by December 1. Qualifications can be found on the back of the agenda. Mark plans to have all housed on the computer. Clara Mae wants a committee or an individual to work on tallying all the seminar critiques so as to make them useful for future seminars. It was suggested that Deborah Wyatt had agreed to do this.

Seed Separating Party: Marcia will announce date and time—probably in January.

Pikes Bucks: Marcia announced that we have a credit of \$75. She must spend it by the end of the year on the Demo Garden.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Clara Mae reminded everyone that the December 13 meeting would be an open forum on reorganization.
- Hours are due by December 1. Work done in December is counted next year. **DO NOT STOP COUNTING AFTER YOU REACH 25!** It is important that we show how much good we do in the community.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, at 8:40 p.m. Mark Dady moved and Jim Gilson seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 1 – Demo Garden Workday

December 3 – Seminar: Crafting a Natural Christmas Wreath, Senior Center, 10 a.m.

December 15 – Demo Garden Workday

December 13 – Open Forum on Reorganization, Canton First Methodist Church, 6:30 p.m.

BIRTHDAYS

December 7 – Debbie Meadows

December 7 – Mary Ann Szostak

December 16 – Linda Lullie

December 19 – Thomas Dorn

December 20 – Diane Walton

December 28 – Veronica Steffensmeier

December 29 – Carol Mumaw