

**Cherokee County Master Gardeners
Regular Monthly Meeting
Canton First United Methodist Church
August 18, 2009**

The regular monthly meeting of the Cherokee County Master Gardeners was held on August 18, 2009. The meeting was called to order by President Suzie Thomas at 10:04 a.m. Members present were President Suzie Thomas, Immediate Past President Russell Brannon, President-elect Gerald Phillips, Secretary Joan McFather, Betty Adams, Lois Andresen, Pat Ball, Judi Bicknell, Monte Bores, Pat Bowen, Debbie Califano, Valerie Downey, Jean Garner, Carol Jackson, Maurya Jones, Lynn Knotts, Dalia Lowe, Linda Lullie, Dot Martin, Carol Mumaw, Helen Ogren, Linda Robbins, Gail Roos, Mary Ellen Roos, Carol Royball, Jane Shelnut, Gerry Slaughter, Diane Smith, Veronica Steffensmeier, Ed Stumler, Mary Ann Szostak, Glenda Thompson, Jami Thompson, Katie Van Heil, Sandi White, Pat Whiting, and Marcia Winchester. County Agent Paul Pugliese and Extension Intern Josh Halpin were also present.

OFFICER REPORTS

President Suzie Thomas welcomed everyone and asked Paul Pugliese to introduce Josh Halpin, who has one week remaining as Extension Intern.

President-elect Gerald Phillips announced that the speaker for today was unable to be present but would give a program on Plant-A-Row for the Hungry at the September meeting to be held at the church on September 15th. The October meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. at the Extension office; members are asked to use the lower left corner entrance to the building. A representative from CASA will give the program. The November 17th meeting is also a 6:30 p.m. meeting going to be a pot luck, and elections will be held. Members entering from the lower door may take the elevator to the old courtroom.

Secretary Joan McFather reported that she has sent three thank you letters: to Pat Bowen for her years of service as Publicity Chairman, to Sharon Atcheson for allowing MGs to dig plants, and to Clara Mae Van Brink for hosting the July picnic. She also wrote letters to County Commissioner Buzz Ahrens, County Manager Jerry Cooper, Community Services head Jackie McMorris, with a copy to Senior Services Manager Barbara Dobyne asking for a timetable in the matter of the county's planned enlargement of the Senior Center. It might be necessary to move the gardens when that occurs. We also asked if the county had any suggestions as to where we might relocate.

Joan asked that everyone be sure to sign the attendance sheet, and asked for approval for the June 2009 minutes. No changes were made to the minutes as found on line.

Treasurer Nell Gillespie could not be present. Suzie reported a balance of \$8,942.38, not including a \$342.93 deposit to be made following the sale of aprons.

EXTENSION AGENT

The current Master Gardener/Intern list of names and addresses, etc. will be emailed periodically as changes occur.

The Forty Gallon Challenge has resulted in 409 pledges amounting to 45,900 gallons of water saved daily. The Clean Water Challenge has 82 pledges including 1,266 practices. The Extension will continue to give away three rain barrels a month until the end of the year. This month's winners are Maria Jennings and Kim Gencsy of Woodstock and Laura Lockhart of Canton.

Paul presented a certificate to the first intern to finish her probationary hours: Veronica Steffensmeier.

The new intern class will be held at North Metro Tech on Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m, between January 5 and March 30, 2010, in conjunction with Cobb, Bartow and Paulding Counties. Cherokee will be able to fill 20 of the 60 seats available.

PROGRAM

At the December 2008 Executive Board meeting it was decided to thank First Methodist Church with a gift of \$100 for allowing us to meet there. The gift was earmarked for the Serenity Garden being implemented by a church group headed by Master Gardener Jean Garner. Jean explained the purpose of the garden and talked about its progress toward completion. Entering through an arbor, guests will be able to walk the concrete walkway among raised beds of flowers and shrubs and read the reflections written on panels that will enclose the space. It is still possible to make endowments for the garden. Jean invited everyone to see what has been accomplished so far and thanked us for the gift.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Care and Share: Pat Ball gave an update on Roxanne Rutledge's chemo sessions. She has received 6 of the 12 treatments and continues to need transportation due to the weakness they engender. Please contact Pat if you would like to help.

Gerald Phillips' brother continues to battle leukemia and will be trying a new treatment soon but is very weak.

Demonstration Garden: Marcia Winchester announced that plants at the center were beginning to produce seed which will be harvested for the Seed Separating Party to be held in January or February. Check your own gardens for seeds. When you collect, be sure to label with the name and color of the blooms. She will have boxes at the center and at the extension for envelopes to be dropped in.

Newsletter: The August-September issue will be out this week. Marcia needs articles for the October-November issue. She asks that we talk up the on-line newsletter when we are in the public. There is a directory to guide the reader to specific articles. If you would like to write for the newsletter, contact Marcia.

Plant Sale: The plant sale will be held on Saturday, September 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Demonstration garden. Set up will be on Friday. Mary Ellen Roos and others will sell crafts. Lynn Knotts will do tours of the garden. There will be shifts, including take down on Saturday. Tables can be provided by Jean Garner, Mary Ellen Roos, and Gerald Phillips. Prior to that time there will be plant-dividing and potting. Should you need to get into the shed where tools and buckets are kept, call the Extension office to get the combination. Marcia will try to get together a list of probable sale plants, including daylilies and sedum.

By Laws/Ad Hoc: Gerry Slaughter announced that the template for describing the responsibilities of each committee will be sent to chairs this week along with a sample showing how to fill it in. Chairmen, please follow the guidelines, then edit it with your committee members. Next, submit it to one of the Planning and Procedures committee, which consists of former presidents Betty Adams, Russell Brannon, Jean Garner, Mary Ellen Roos, Glenda Thompson, and Marcia Winchester and current president Suzie Thomas. The descriptions are due back to Gerry before the September meeting.

Burgess Arboretum: Russell Brannon passed out brochures showing off the new arboretum at Reinhardt College. The August 28 workday planned for tagging trees will be rescheduled when the tags are available. Master Gardeners will be invited to the Opening Ceremonies at the college's Alumnae Day. We may be involved in giving tours. Expert Dr. Berle is offering his services with no fee to teach the use of GPS coordinates in creating self-guided tour map of the 125 Most Noble Trees (most impressive trees). The Arboretum Committee will meet in November to discuss what role Master Gardeners will play on the Reinhardt

campus in 2010, possibly give tours and/or transcribe biographies for significant trees. Russell added that Georgia Master Gardeners has awarded the Arboretum a grant of \$650.

GMGA 30th Year Anniversary: Russell reported that the GMGA 30th Year Anniversary and asked for volunteers to decide what CCMG are going to do in honor of the event. Volunteers for the committee are Judie Bicknell, Dot Martin, Mary Ellen Roos, Ed Stumler, and Sandi White. Russell agreed to serve as Chairman.

2010 Seminars: Pat Whiting thanked Roxanne Rutledge and Susan Wyman for their leadership of the Seminar Committee. She and Co-chair Pat Chastain have drawn up the policies for seminars and will meet with Sequoyah Regional Library System personnel to determine what will be taught where. She would like to expand venues to include Canton and Woodstock. Pat asked for recommendations for seminar topics, perhaps dropping some of the old ones for new, since there is a limit as to how many we can teach in a given year. She asked that everyone sign up next month, if not as a presenter then as support personnel. All seminar presenters should see Pat for a questionnaire. Questionnaires are due back to her by November 2.

Plant Clinics: As of August 15 we have held 12 Plant Clinics this year, giving Master Gardener exposure to 345 residents—which amounts to 1,380 hours spent by only 11 Master Gardeners and 11 Interns. Gerald Phillips thanked the Interns and asked the Master Gardeners to come and help—“sign up then show up.” He needs more manpower.

Fair Committee: Jean Garner said the committee will meet again on September 4 at 1 p.m. at the Extension office. She announced the theme, “Master Gardeners Go Natural.” The booth will be set up to suggest using native plant materials rather than invasives, as well as preferred gardening practices. We will set up on September 13th at 2 p.m. and break down the booth on Monday, September 21st. The committee is in need of certain natives and asked for donations of native azalea (Marcia, Russ), American Holly (Marcia, Ed Sumner), foamflower (Marcia, Sandi White), fothergilla (Senior Center).

UNFISNISHED BUSINESS

Polo Shirts: Suzie reviewed the survey results that followed a decision that Master Gardeners need to be readily identified when working with the public. By one vote the survey indicated we should wear dark green shirts embroidered with our logo. Mary Ann Szostak brought shirts of various sizes for us to look at or try on, saying she needed an order of 25 to achieve the best price break. Shirts may be ordered either as 100% cotton (non-shrinking) at \$22 or 65% polyester at \$18. Extra large sizes may cost slightly more. Intern Dalia Lowe will create an order form for emailing orders; checks should be sent to Mary Ann by October 20.

NEW BUSINESS

Canopy Purchase: Suzie would like to buy a new one particularly for use at plant clinics. Jane Shelnett moved and Mary Ellen seconded that a new canopy be purchased, the price not to exceed \$120. Treasurer Nell Gillespie has indicated that the funds could be taken from Miscellaneous. The motion carried.

Nominations: Joan McFather will head the Nominations Committee. According to the By Laws, she has chosen Jane Shelnett to be on the committee. The remaining three committee members are to be volunteers at the August meeting. Monte Bores, Judie Bicknell and Dot Martin agreed to serve. Marcia Winchester moved and Mary Ann Szostak seconded approval of this committee; the motion passed. The committee will secure a slate of officers for the November election.

New Chairmen Needed:

Publicity/Marketing: Diane Walton will help. Mary Ellen Roos said she would help if someone would take over being Historian.

Speakers Bureau: Calls to the office regarding potential speakers to other groups are going unanswered. Intern MG Intern Carol Royball said she will help on this committee.

Christmas Party: Suzie has assigned the potluck dinner to the Social Committee, chaired by Maurya Jones. Glenda Thompson will provide tablecloths; Susan Franklin will head the table decorations and floral sub-committee. Clara Mae Van Brink will assist. Suzie wants entertainment in the form of a talent show this year—about 30 minutes. Please sign up. An over-all chair is needed.

New Project: Intern Tim Luxemburger wants to do a garden tour fund-raiser next year. Gardens could include those of non-Master Gardeners, but would be hosted by members. The project will have to be researched, then put in writing and submitted.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Glenda Thompson moved and Mary Ann Szostak seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 12:04 p.m. The motion carried, and members enjoyed door prizes.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

August 20 - Demo Garden Work Day
September 03 - Demo Garden Work Day
September 04 - Fair Booth Committee, 1 p.m., Extension Classroom
September 12 - Make a Hypertufa Planter Seminar, 10 a.m., Senior Center
September 12 - Pansies, Helebores and Winter Bulbs Seminar, 10 a.m. Ball Ground
September 14-18 - Canton Fair Week, Fairgrounds
September 15 - Master Gardeners meeting, 10 a.m., CFUMC
September 17 - Demo Garden Work Day
September 18 - Work day for Plant Sale
September 19 - MG Plant Sale
September 19 - Creating a Backyard Wildlife Habitat Seminar, 10 a.m., HFL
October 17 - Fall GMGA Conference
October 20 – MG Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Extension Office
November 17 - MG Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Extension Office (pot luck AND elections)
December 18 - MG Christmas Party, Rock Barn, Canton
January 05 - March 30, 2010, Intern Class, 9:30a.m.-3:00p.m., North Metro Tech

BIRTHDAYS

8/03 - Lin Harris
8/08 - Maura Watson
8/10 - Maurya Jones
8/18 - Katie Van Heil
8/20 - Susan Wyman
8/27 - Becky Griffin
8/29 - Betty Adams
8/29 - Pat Bowen
8/30 - Sandi White
9/04 - Sandra Ferguson
9/16 - Mechelle Baardson

9/17 - Pat Whiting

9/20 - Roxanne Rutledge

9/25 - Debbie Califano