

**Cherokee County Master Gardeners  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
Extension Training Room  
October 20, 2009**

The regular monthly meeting of the Cherokee County Master Gardeners was held on Tuesday, October 20, 2009. The meeting was called to order by President Suzie Thomas at 6:40 p.m. Members present were President Suzie Thomas, Immediate Past President Russell Brannon, President-elect Gerald Phillips, Secretary Joan McFather, Betty Adams, Lois Andresen, Judie Bicknell, Monte Bores, Billie Davis, Becky Dixon, Valarie Downey, Carol Jackson, Maurya Jones, Donald Krueger, Shirley Lowe, Janis Marshall-Kroen, Dot Martin, Pam Raines, Ellen Reagan, Karen Rockwell-Lail, Mary Ellen Roos, Mary Selden, Jane Shelnett, Lynn Sisson, Gerry Slaughter, Ed Stumler, Mary Ann Szostak, Glenda Thompson, Jami Thompson, Katie Van Hiel, Diane Walton, Maura Watson, and Marcia Winchester. County Extension Agent Paul Pugliese was also present.

### **OFFICER REPORTS**

**President** Suzie Thomas introduced our guests, Deidre Hollands of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and Art and Andy Wick of Boy Scout Troop 465.

**President-elect** Gerald Phillips noted that Deidre Hollands would be our speaker for the evening and announced that the program for next month will be on the Cherokee County 4H program. The November meeting will also include election of officers for 2010.

**Secretary** Joan McFather mentioned one correction to last month's minutes: the motion to purchase a tree in honor of GMGA was seconded by *Sandy White*, not *Cindy*. She passed around the roll sheet for everyone to sign in.

**Treasurer** In Nell Gillespie's absence, Suzie reported a balance of \$11,635.43.

### **AWARDS**

Paul presented certificates to our three newest Master Gardeners: Shirley Lowe, Mary Selden and Jami Thompson.

### **PROGRAM**

Deidre Hollands, Director of CASA—our neighbor down the hall—spoke briefly about CASA's mission: to train advocates for children who are in foster care, having faced abuse or neglect. The program needs volunteers, she said, and research has indicated that the best are those with a strong church affiliation and a love of gardening. The CASA program was started 30 years ago by a judge in Seattle and is now in every state and two other countries. Cherokee County has had the program for the last 16 years and currently serves about 60% of the 220 children now in foster care. Volunteers are trained for 40 hours over a five-week period and then are assigned one or two cases to visit at least once every 30 days. Deidre pointed out that in court a lawyer may know the law, but it is the CASA who knows the child. Anyone with an interest in volunteering should pick up a packet from her office.

## **SPECIAL REQUEST**

Art and Andy Wick of Boy Scout Troop 465 explained that they are seeking help landscaping a pavilion area next to their scout hut on Cherokee Drive in memory of troop member Hans Priegel, son of Lyn and Jerry Priegel, who was killed in a car accident. Lyn is a Lifetime Master Gardener but is unaware of the potential project. They want to keep it a surprise. Discussion was tabled until New Business.

## **EXTENSION AGENT REPORT**

- Paul announced that we have 17 applications for the next class. It appears that we will be able to accept 15. He will want help screening them and also help hosting three or four of the sessions that will be once a week at Chattahoochee Tech. MG's are welcome to sit in: no registration is necessary.
- The three newest Master Gardeners drew the last three recipients of rain barrels in the Forty Gallon Challenge. Winners were Bill Guion of Canton and Dawn Thorpe and Marie Bartlet-Sloan, both of Woodstock. These were the last 3 barrels of the 50 procured with the grant. Overall 426 people signed up, pledging 47,000 gallons of water saved. A sister project, the Clean Water Initiative, added another 87 people and over 1,300 practices pledged.
- Paul reviewed some of the new forms we will find on line. He explained that the log sheets are keyed to state requirements and thus cannot be changed and asked that we please get them in by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month. Anyone with Microsoft Word can fill them out and submit them electronically. Several suggestions were made: that we get the state to announce figures in percentages as well as numbers, and that Paul design some instructions for how to reply via email. Master Gardener Activity Reports should be filled out only once per activity by whoever takes the lead role.
- The Burgess Arboretum opening was a great success, attended by many folks. Both Paul and Zach White of Reinhardt College spoke and then gave guided tours of 50 of the 125 noted trees and shrubs. Paul read highlights of his speech and expects to get a DVD of the proceedings soon.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Care and Share:** No report

**Polo Shirts:** Mary Ann Szostak will take orders until next Thursday, when she will place her order.

**Demonstration Gardens:** Marcia Winchester announced that the October 22 workday would start at around 9:30. Work will continue in the annuals beds, seeds will be harvested and plants will be divided and potted for the next plant sale. Irises, identified by color, are requested, if members have any to spare.

**Newsletter:** There was difficulty in getting the October – November newsletter uploaded to the website due to old templates. Interns will be asked to delete duplicate articles already uploaded and type hardcopy articles that could then be added to the newsletter database. Volunteers include Diane Walton, Becky Dixon, Valarie Downey and Carol Jackson.

**Plant Sale:** Marcia thanked all who helped at the sale, which netted \$1,174 plus \$160 from the sale of crafts. Jean Garner donated two long heavy tables for future use. A second plant sale brought in an additional \$168 plus \$15.70 for crafts.

**Publicity:** Mary Ellen Roos has taken over as chair of this committee. She is seeking committee members.

**Burgess Arboretum:** Russ feels that the hours reported on the project were too low. There will be an appreciation luncheon at Reinhardt College for all Master Gardeners on November 6 at 11:30. A video of the Arboretum dedication walk will be shown, and a tree will be planted in honor of GMGA's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The \$125 tree purchase price was picked up by the college's arboretum project fund as a thank you to us. Clara Mae Van Brink is sending out an evite for the luncheon: please reply.

**Fair Booth:** Lois Andresen reported for project chairman Jean Garner that our booth won 2<sup>nd</sup> place and a check for \$115. The Farm Bureau placed 1<sup>st</sup>. Lois said that we had a good group of workers but felt that more committee members would be beneficial next year.

**History:** Martha Ann Slatton has agreed to be Historian. With as many activities as we have, it is important for each chair to see that pictures are taken, since Martha Ann cannot be expected to be at every event. Pictures are the responsibility of seminar administrators, who then send them to the Historian. A discussion ensued as to whether a camera would be a useful addition to the seminar kits.

**Mentors:** Dot Martin will be responsible for identifying 15 mentors for the new interns in the next MG Training class. She sent around a sign up sheet; please contact her if you would like to be a mentor.

**Rock Barn Workday:** Dot Martin reported that the first workday date was flooded out, and the next opportunity will be on November 1 for a cleanup of the site beginning at 1:30 and finishing no later than 4 PM. The Historical Society has quite an elaborate plan and is looking for plant donations.

**Junior Master Gardeners:** Glenda Thompson announced that there are 21 enrollees at Hickory Flat Elementary this year. Intern Donna Frye has started a JMG group at Knox Elementary and is looking for instructors. She has 12 students.

**Policies & Procedures:** Gerry Slaughter says her committee is almost finished: three committees have not turned in their descriptions. Several activities, such as the Rabies Clinic, will not need policies: they are chaired outside of Master Gardeners. The committee will meet next Tuesday at 1 PM for proofreading, so as to have the Policies & Procedures completed and on line by the November meeting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Billie Davis spoke about the **R.T. Jones Library's refurbished courtyard**. It was used this summer and now has fresh plantings of pansies and ornamental cabbage. Still in need are fertilizer, new pots and re-sealant for the wooden benches. Billie asked if the Master Gardeners would contribute to financing these things a sum that would last until the end of the year. She expects Traleeta Garden Club and Friends of the Library to contribute also. Lois Andresen moved to allow the amount of \$50; Jane Shelnett seconded, and the motion carried.
- Gerald Phillips asked to purchase another **canopy** for use at outdoor events. Mary Ann Szostak moved to allow up to \$108 for this purchase; Mary Ellen Roos seconded, and the motion carried.
- Suzie Thomas asked for discussion concerning the purchase of a Master Gardener **camera** that would be available for all events. Valarie Downey displayed an advertisement for an Olympus camera at a very reasonable price. Clara Mae Van Brink moved to allow up to \$100 for the purchase, and Dot Martin seconded, but the motion failed due to the group's desire to include more items in the purchase price. A new motion by Glenda Thompson and a second by Gerry Slaughter to raise the amount to a maximum of \$175, and thus include accessories such as a case, batteries and an electronic card, was successful.

## **BOY SCOUT PROPOSAL**

After considerable discussion it was felt that a written proposal by Scout Troop 465 would be needed to determine exactly what the scouts wanted. Paul Pugliese, an Eagle Scout himself, pointed out that if the project were given to an Eagle Scout, the candidate would be expected to line up the funding and workers needed. If that were the case we would serve in an advisory capacity, more in line with our mandate to teach. Suzie will let the Wicks know and will email MG's to see if anyone wants to volunteer to be chairman.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Field Trips:** Russell Brannon announced that Peachtree Orchids was open Monday through Friday from 10 AM to 4 PM and Saturday 10 AM to 1 PM. He will email everyone giving some suggestions as to when a field trip might be arranged.

**GMGA Conference:** Russell said that 15 MG's attended the fall conference. There were exciting speakers on topics such as birds, compost and rain gardens—lots of vendors, food and door prizes. The next conference will be January 22-23, 2010, in Gainesville. Walter Reeves and Pamela Crawford will both be speakers.

## **DOORPRIZES**

Those having turned in their hours up through this date were deemed eligible for door prizes.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Pam Raines moved and Marcia Winchester seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 8:45 PM.

### **UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER**

Oct 22 – Demo Garden Workday  
Oct 24 – Green Festival (MG will have plant clinic)  
Oct 24 – Seminar: Lawns in Georgia, 10 AM, Senior Center  
Oct 28 - 30 – Burgess Plant Sale, 10-2 PM, Reinhardt College  
Nov 01 – Rock Barn Workday, 1:30 PM  
Nov 06 – Burgess Arboretum Luncheon for all MG's, 11:30 AM Reinhardt College  
Nov 17 – MG Meeting/Elections/Potluck, 6:30 PM, Extension Office  
Nov 21 – Seminar: Make a Fresh Wreath, 10 AM, Senior Center  
Dec 18 – MG Christmas Party, 6:30 PM, Rock Barn  
Jan 05 - Mar 30, 2010 – Intern Classes, Tuesdays, Chattahoochee Tech

### **BIRTHDAYS**

10/22 – Linda Robbins  
10/24 – Lois Andresen  
10/25 – Lauren Rockwell-Lail  
10/26 – Dawn Perlotto  
10/28 – Martha Ann Slatton  
10/28 – Marie Cutts  
11/01 – Gerry Skalsky  
11/06 – Merrily McLaughlin  
11/07 – Jane Shelnutt  
11/11 – Shirley Lowe  
11/15 – Jean Collins  
11/18 – Mignon Fleischel

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!