

**Cherokee County Master Gardeners
Regular Meeting
R.T. Jones Memorial Library
October 19, 2004**

The regular monthly meeting of the Cherokee County Master Gardeners was held on Tuesday, October 19, 2004. The meeting was called to order by President Mary Ellen Roos at 7:09 p.m. Members present were President Mary Ellen Roos, Immediate Past President Gerry Slaughter, President-elect Jean Garner, Secretary Joan McFather, Treasurer Mary Ann Szostak, Historian Mary Hughes, Lois Andresen, Judie Bicknell, Monte Bores, Mignon Fleishel, Cindy Foster, Susan Franklin, Karen Garland, Debbie McCollum, Roxanne Rutledge, Martha Ann Slatton, Bill Slatton, Frank Weltz, and Marcia Winchester. Current interns present were Russell Brannon, and Tom Walston, as was Becky Willis, who transferring, having completed her transfer requirement classes. Extension Agent Todd Hurt was also present.

OFFICER REPORTS

President Mary Ellen introduced our new transfer, Becky Willis, and two interns, Russell Brannon and Tom Walston. She congratulated all the interns for passing the midterm and thanked Jean Garner and her committee for providing goodies for the midterm festivities. The Redbud container class was a success: 11 attended and several made two container gardens. Redbud Lane Nursery is considering another class in the spring whereat members can bring their own containers. Mary Ellen announced that Cindy Foster had agreed to serve as our representative on the Aging Council and thanked members who have agreed to fill speaking opportunities: Monte Bores at the Woodstock Garden Club; Karen Lutz and Karen Garland to the Boy Scouts; and Mary Ellen, Roxanne Rutledge and Margit Woods at a plant swap. The need for a speakers' bureau was discussed, with the result that Monte and Roxanne agreed to organize it. Members will be able to sign up with their specialties either at the office or online. Mary Ellen concluded her report with a mention of a Lady Slipper coupon of 5% off good through December 24th.

President-elect Jean announced that November's meeting would be at the Rock Barn, December's would be the Christmas party. She filled several co-chairmanships from the floor: Mary Hughes will help Glenda Thompson with Care and Share; Karen Garland and Martha Slatton will head the Fair Committee. We will vote on the officers slate for 2005 in November.

Secretary Joan asked for a correction to the August minutes (the replacement of a deleted motion from the text), and after discussion Susan Franklin moved and Marcia Winchester seconded that this be done. Motion carried. Mary Ann Szostak then moved and Jean seconded approval of the corrected August minutes; motion carried. Susan moved and Mary Ann seconded approval of the September minutes; motion carried. Joan will write to Gerry Skalsky, thanking her for the trowels donated to the senior center.

Treasurer Mary Ann reported that she had sent a check to Marie Cutts for the Boy Scout project. We now have a balance on hand of \$7997.89, with Pike's receipts of \$35 left. Please continue to bring in receipts. Though the 11% rebate will end October 28th, we will still get 7%. Mary Ann sent a check to Hickory Flat library for the purchase of the book we want to give and will follow up to see that that book is purchased. The budget committee is aware of our substantial balance and will meet before the end of the year to decide what to do with the money. Please do turn in receipts for projects; do not bear the cost personally—we have plenty of money!

Historian Mary will be working to finish up this year's album before turning the responsibility over to Martha Ann and Susan Cox.

Extension Agent Todd reported on the following:

- Scary times at the state level: the number of extension agents has dropped to the lowest since the 1980s—from 500 down to 290. Unfortunately, the Macon-Rome-Atlanta area, with 62% of the population, has more missing agents than anywhere else in the state. And we can expect 1.5 million more dollars to be cut. Therefore it becomes even more important to start new initiatives and programs, branding them as extension projects for name recognition. Todd is on the modeling

- team planning for next year. We will hear those plans by March 2005. At the district level we must keep businesses happy and working with us. Master Gardeners can help.
- Would we like to host an Advanced Master Gardener class—possibly in May? Todd's suggestion: a digital photography of horticulture class taught by Dr. Bodie Pennisi. We could offer it via satellite TV as well as live. We would have to organize it and do the paperwork. [Mary Ellen suggested we vote on it at the November meeting: be ready to step forward and help.]
 - Progress Growers Supply now has a new manager and is open for retail business in Ball Ground. He is offering us the use of an 1800 square foot green house located on site (575 Exit 24—Airport Rd.) It is distant for our general use, but Karen G. might use it for her milkweed project.
 - Welcome to Becky Willis who has completed her four requisite classes for transfer, and congratulations to Judith Lutz, who has completed her 50 hours for full membership.
 - A new landscape plan for the Funk Heritage Museum at Reinhardt College has been created. Todd would like a MG to draw the plan.
 - Clean water will be an ongoing campaign. Todd is looking for specific topics.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Field Trips: Gerry said they are done for the year.

Reinhardt: In Elizabeth Smith's absence, Mary Ellen reported that the project is going well.

Senior Center: Marcia announced that this Thursday she will need help winterizing any plants left over from the recent sale. November dates will be the 4th and the 17th (the 18th is interns' final exam). Work takes place in the morning, then resumes at 12:30 or 1:00 after lunch. We need dump dirt from Mann's. If you can go, take containers to load it, making unloading an easier job at the center. Seed harvesting will continue, the seeds saved for placing in labeled envelopes at the January "seed party." Save your own seeds to contribute, also, just be sure to label for variety, color, etc. These can be taken to the center or the office, or given to Marcia.

Plant Sale: Marcia reported the sale was very profitable: we netted \$605. She thanked everyone for their hard work.

Newsletter: The deadline for the December-January issue is November 1.

Rain Garden: Marcia invited all to come to the Installation at the Water Authority Building (little white building on the right after the railroad tracks when coming up Main Street. There is a lecture from 10 a.m. to 12 noon discussing how to slow down rainwater and thus lessen flooding.

PAR/Harvest Tours: In Becky Griffin's absence, Mary Ellen reported that the PAR garden is finished and that the Cagle's have taken over the responsibilities of the Harvest Tours.

Phone Buddies: Mary Ellen asked if everyone was getting messages.

2004 Seminars: Roxanne is looking for a new name for the series and for volunteer presenters for 2005. There was discussion on the idea of offering a certificate to attendees completing a certain number of seminars. Get your ideas to Roxanne. Mary Ellen will co-chair.

Publicity: Carol Mumaw will co-chair the committee with Sharee Riggs.

Membership/Mentoring: Susan reported that all sprouts and buddies are matched.

Care and Share: Intern Karen Shutt lost her sister and the committee sent a plant. Debbie Meadows lost a brother-in-law. Judith Lutz has had shoulder surgery.

Farmers' Market: Susan reported that the market has wrapped up for this year. She would like to hear from anyone with ideas for next year. Please volunteer.

Calendar: Monte will take over the chairmanship for the 2006 calendar.

Fair: Karen Garland and Martha Slatton will co-chair.

T Shirts: Get your order in to Debbie by the end of October. She expects a ten day delivery: the shirts should be here for the November meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Cindy Foster is proposing that the Master Gardeners provide the decorations for the annual Aging Council Auction. The proposal is attached. We will vote in November.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

DOOR PRIZES

Judie Bicknell, Monte Bores, Karen Garland, Jean Garner, Mary Ellen Roos, and Marcia Winchester all donated door prizes.

BIRTHDAYS

October: Bill Slatton 17, Linda Robbins 22, Lois Andresen 24, Cicinda Richardson 27, Marie Cutts 28, Martha Ann Slatton 28.

November: Merrily McLaughlin 6, Judy Haygood 15, Mignon Fleishel 18, Mary Ellen Roos 20, Mary Tucker 26, Mariana Jackson 30

ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 30 – Rain Garden installation at Water Authority Building: 10 a.m.

October 30 – Macon State College Botanical Garden Tour and Lectures

November 4 – Senior Center Workday: 10-4

November 4 – Second Annual North Georgia Gardening Symposium in Gainesville

November 13 – Water Gardens/Ponds Class at Hickory Flat Library: 10 a.m.

November 16 – CCMG November Meeting at the Rock Barn: 10 a.m.

November 17 – Senior Center Workday: 10-4

November 18 – Intern Final Exam/Bring food in Cartersville

March 2-6 – Southeastern Flower Show

July 28-30 – National Children and Youth Gardening Symposium in Atlanta

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS

Teresa Gregory: 102 Broadwater Court, #1246, Waleska, GA 30183 678-493-8223