

**Cherokee County Master Gardeners
Regular Monthly Meeting
Bluffs Conference Center
January 17, 2017**

The regular monthly meeting of the Cherokee County Master Gardeners was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2017, at the Bluffs Conference Center. At 10:00 President Susan Franklin called the meeting to order. Members also present were Immediate Past State President Dot Martin, President Elect Marc Tefteau, Secretary Joan McFather, Treasurer Pam Raines, Evelyn Balejcsik, Pat Bowen, Russell Brannon, Becky Dixon, Laura Dorsey, Carol Jackson, Maurya Jones, Debbie Meadows, Portia Moseka, Carol Mumaw, Gerald Phillips, Pam Raines, Linda Robbins, Mary Ellen Roos, Mary Schuster, Diane Smith, Denise Stephens, Ed Stumler, Mary Ann Szostak, Suzie Thomas, Glenda Thompson, Katie Van Hiel, Diane Walton and Marcia Winchester. Trainees Julia Fuller, Sharon Grundeis, Janis Lytle, Eva Plachy, Dick Rubant, and Hope Sorrells were also present, as were Cobb transfer David Hindman and Extension Agent Josh Fuder.

OFFICER REPORTS:

- **President:** Susan Franklin offered an overview of this past year's accomplishments by CCMG. She presented outgoing officers with cards of thanks and incoming officers with cards reminding them of their duties. A motion to accept the new slate of officers was made by Marcia Winchester, seconded by Mary Ellen Roos and approved.
- **Secretary:** Joan McFather asked that the November minutes be approved as published with one correction: Russell Brannon was present though not recorded. There was no objection. Joan asked everyone to sign the attendance sheets.
- **Treasurer:**
 - Pam Raines presented the treasurer's report.
 - Pam reported that an additional \$965 in donations had come to CCMG following the death of Judie Bicknell.
 - Today is the final time to donate to the fund for Ashley Witcher's expected baby.

[Posted: Cash on Hand as of November 30, 2016, was \$3039.91. Deposits in December, including transfer from Money Market \$750. Expenses in December: \$2482.92. Transfer to Money Market Account \$100.00, leaving a January 1, 2017 balance in the operating account of \$1206.99. The money market account balance is \$2256.07. Total Cash Available \$3463.06. {See secretary's book for entire report}.] This report is emailed monthly to all members on or around the 7th or 8th of the month prior to the meeting. If you are not receiving it, please contact her [waltond@bellsouth.net]

- **President:** Marc Tefteau thanked the organization for the opportunity to serve as president, thanked the retiring officers and welcomed the new, including Denise Stephens as president elect and Diane Walton, returning after a leave of absence, as treasurer. He then briefly reviewed his personal background of over forty years of involvement as a former county agent and extension specialist, as well as in related fields. He also has experience in management, as a corporation trustee and as an elected official. Marc is excited about the possibilities in this new year. He expressed continued support for the Cherokee County

Extension and stated two priorities: finding a new home for us as a corporation and seeking out further advance training opportunities. He will support Denise in securing speakers for our meetings, and he plans to run meetings using *Roberts Rules of Order*.

EXTENSION NEWS

- **Fruit Sale:** The sale is starting now. Sales forms were available at the meeting and at the Extension. The income after expenses will be split 50-50% between the Extension and CCMG.
- **State MG Training Webcast:** A webcast of "Grow Strong!" will take place on February 24 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. It will include 5 presenters on UGA horticulture, crops and soils, food safety and nutrition. Josh needs to know the number of people interested in attending locally so he can arrange accommodations. [Contact him at jfuder@uga.edu]
- **MG Training Class:** We will have a training class along with Bartow, Pickens and Cobb counties in June, using the reduced time schedule of Monday-Wednesday-Friday. Application forms will be available until the end of March.
- **Recommitment Forms:** are due now. The forms are required of everyone and can be downloaded or found at the county office. (2016 hours can be entered on MG-LOG until January 27.)
- **Online Reassessment:** is required by June and thereafter yearly.
- **Pollinator Program:** The Bee Kind Cherokee program allows you to register your garden and earn a certificate. Josh has distributed brochures to area nurseries and will have more printed.
- **Josh's Library Classes:** Josh's classes will occur mid-week to prevent confusion between them and the MG seminar series held on Saturdays. The first will occur on February 15. No registration will be necessary.
- **Master Gardeners Check:** Susan presented a check to Josh for \$358.78, representing 10% of the 2016 MG sales profits, as appreciation to the Extension for its support.

STATUS REPORTS:

- **GMGA:**
 - Having had appreciation expressed to her as retiring Georgia state president, Dot Martin challenged everyone to renew their state MG membership; the current \$5 rebate to CCMG is still in effect. They are having problems with the online renewal service, so write a check and mail it per the site's instructions.
 - Dot also reminded us about the international search for best new program in the state. Our seed library was too young to be considered last year, but it could be this year.
 - The state convention will be hosted by Gwinnett County.

501c3: Dot expressed her displeasure with our lawyer Glen Johnson's failure to respond to emails. However, all the paperwork has been filed, and we are waiting for a tax ID number. As of now we can apply for grants.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **2017 Seminars:**
 - Round Robin Series: Susan explained that we would be trying a new format whereby in the space of 4 hours, 6 topics would be covered: 2 at each of three locations with a

provided lunch break in between. (Help preparing and serving will be needed.) Susan distributed a handout including the dates: March 25 and April 29.

- Regular Seminars: Susan turned to Diane Smith who announced that the 9 traditional-style seminars will begin on February 11. Rachel Prekash will be promoting on Facebook, and the Extension will have brochures. Those wanting to assist with seminars should contact Diane directly at dianehsmith44@gmail.com
- Marc commended Rachel on her contributions to Master Gardeners. She is unable to attend meetings.

- **Plant-A-Row:** Gerald announced an open house at Papa's Pantry this Saturday from 11 to 1 p.m. CCMG will have a booth displaying information on our seed library, fruit sale, soil tests, and so on. He has changed workdays at Papa's Pantry to second and fourth Thursdays, beginning at 10 a.m. The next will be January 26. Plans call for mulching the beds after removal of freeze-burned vegetables.
- **Seed Library:** Gerald reported that we must discard all our old seed. He will announce a new seed-separating party (different from Marcia's). Gerald has a new color-coded system to apply to all seeds, following UGA's recommendations. If anyone would like to serve as a local contact for the Hickory Flat area, let Gerald know. [gphilli@hotmail.com]
- **Senior Center:** Marcia Winchester has 'inherited' several tomato cages she cannot use. Anyone interested in them could come to next Thursday's workday (January 19) to collect. Meg wants crepe myrtle branches with which to create a wattle wall. Come February 16 for a hands-on experience. Karen Garland has also written a newsletter article on the subject.
- **Plant Sale:** There will be an extra workday to get organized, including potting and propagation.
- **Newsletter:** Marcia needs more forms to sign up the public to receive the newsletter. Marc has these.
- **Scholarship/Foundation:** Russell Brannon announced a committee meeting for January 26. The committee is working with Chattahoochee Tech. Email Russell for further information [rlbsjb@windstream.net]
- **Tribune MG Columns:** In Sue Allen's absence, Marc commented that he wanted to consult with the *Tribune's* editor about more coverage and promotion.
- **Care and Share:** Mary Ellen Roos reported that
 - Janis's husband is doing better
 - Lula is better and is back at Lady Slipper
 - Steve still has pain from hip stansosis
 - Glenda Thompson will serve as 'gatekeeper' for Betty Adams, who had difficult days with pain. To visit with Betty, please call Glenda first at 770-664-5074
 - Please continue to pray for these and others.
- **Trainees:** Mary Ellen reported that we should have nametags for those trainees who have their required hours. Eight do, one is close, and three have until March 30.

SCHOOL GARDENS:

- Katie Van Hiel reported that the chef at Woodbridge would visit with the Little River group. She enjoys the teaching and thanked Farm Bureau, the Master Gardeners, the Native Plant Society, Bonnie's and others for their continued support.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION REVIEW *Corrections highlighted*

Discussion: Dot explained that an Articles of Incorporation is largely **a vehicle by which the corporation lets the state know that the corporation exists**: such statements that are needed to satisfy the federal government and thus not allowing much alteration. From three to twelve board members are suggested, their terms staggered so that some experience is always available on the board. At present, our board consists of our five CCMG officers, but this is a work in progress and can be changed. Marcia asked if it is typical to have the local officers be the officers of the corporation, and Dot answered that it is not. Marc added that we can change following a nomination process.

PROPOSED BYLAWS REVIEW

Discussion: Marcia was concerned that the proposed new bylaws do not agree with the bylaws we have now. Marc explained that the two sets serve different purposes and need not be the same. The bylaws we currently have refer only to the old informal organization. When we are legally incorporated, we must have bylaws that conform to federal standards and which must be sent in with our federal IRS application. Much of the latter will consist of basic bylaws for any corporation. Significant points to note: membership in the new corporation will include all those who have ever passed the requirements to be a Cherokee County Master Gardener, regardless of restrictions lately levied by UGA—a move to encourage those who have dropped out to return. It will also allow the establishment of Friends of CCMG, people who have not passed the requirements but who would like to help out in some capacity. In her continued concern, Marcia asked if we could amend the proposed bylaws at the meeting. Marc replied that the chair advised against, that changes could be made later. Mary Ellen asked if we would retain the existing bylaws committee to make recommendations. Marc felt that the incorporation bylaws should have a new committee and he would take nominations from the floor. He added that much of the current local bylaws could probably be converted to a Policies and Procedures document. The president immediately asked for nominations to a Policies and Procedures committee. Volunteers included Marcia Winchester, Gerry Slaughter (as a nomination) and Russell Brannon.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Motions Relative to Incorporation:**
 - Denise Stephens **stated, "I move** to accept the proposed Corporation Bylaws as distributed." Katie Van Hiel seconded. Discussion: Marcia was still concerned with the inconsistencies between the two sets of bylaws and suggested fixing the flaws before voting. Marc replied that changes can be made at any time. Russell Brannon called the question and Susan Franklin seconded. A count ensued, and it was determined that of the 33 voting-eligible members present, 23 were required to declare a passing vote. **A vote was then taken on the Standing Motion of accepting the proposed Corporation Bylaws as distributed. A vote was taken and the motion passed with 27 voting affirmative.**

- Denise Stephens **stated, "I move** to appoint a Policies and Procedures Committee." Mary Ellen Roos seconded, and without significant discussion, the motion carried with 28 agreed.
 - Denise Stephens **stated, "I move** to approve the 2017 budget as proposed," and Mary Schuster seconded. As a point of interest, it was stated that a budget can be changed when needed. Approval was secured with a positive vote of 33.
 - Denise Stephens **stated, "I move** to transfer current financial assets of Cherokee County Extension Master Gardeners to Cherokee County Master Gardeners, Inc." Gerald Phillips seconded. Dot reminded that we don't have a tax number yet, and Russell agreed that we couldn't transfer funds without an ID number. Marc clarified that the vote would simply facilitate the change when numbers were secured. The motion passed with 28 in approval.
 - Denise **stated, "I move** to establish the inaugural membership class for Cherokee County Master Gardeners, Inc." Pat Bowen seconded. Marcia asked for all, "What...is that?" The inaugural class will consist of all members currently on roll, including absentees and trainees. Marc instructed the secretary to collect cards with everyone's name on them, submit these to the president and then contact all absentees, asking if they wish to be included. The vote was 34 in favor.
 - Denise Stephens **stated, "I move** to establish a post office box for Cherokee County Master Gardeners, Inc." Gerald Phillips seconded. Diane Walton asked who would be responsible for checking it, and Gerald asked if the new address would be included on all our materials, such as business card. The answer to that was yes. Vote to approve was 32.
- **Arbor Day:** Marc asked how we typically handle this. The date is February 17. Susan Franklin volunteered to coordinate with Joan Anderson of the Tree Commission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Susan stated that we need to be done collecting for Ashley Witcher's baby. See Pam if you want to contribute.

ADJOURNMENT There being nothing further, the business meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m., following a motion by Ed Stumler and a second by Gerald Phillips.

DOOR PRIZES: Marcia handed out tickets and called winning numbers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2 – Demo Garden Workday – Senior Center
 February 9 – Plant a Row Workday – 10 a.m. Papa's Pantry
 February 11 – Garden Planning and Seed Starting Seminar – 10a.m. Hickory Flat Library
 February 16 – Demo Garden Workday – Senior Center
 February 16 – Hand on class on building a wattle – 10 a.m. Demo Garden
 February 17 – Arbor Day program downtown Canton
 February 23 – Plant a Row Workday – 10 a.m. Papa's Pantry
 February 24 – State Webcast – viewing site TBA
 March 2 – Demo garden workday – Senior Center
 March 9 – Plant a Row workday – 10 a.m. Papa's Pantry

March 8 – Deadline for ordering fruit plants
March 15 – Pick up Fruiting Plants orders
March 16 – Demo garden workday – Senior Center
March 21 – Regular CCMG Business Meeting at the Bluffs
March 23 – Plant a Row workday – 10 a.m. Papa’s Pantry
March 25 – Gardening Summit – Senior Center

BIRTHDAYS

Apologies for not including December birthdays with the November minutes. These included....

Debbie Meadows – 12/7
Mary Ann Szostak – 12/7
Laura Johnson – 12/10
Diane Walton – 12/20
Chris Davis – 12/27
Steve Barron – 12/28
Veronica Steffensmeier – 12/28
Carol Mumaw – 12/29

Now for January birthdays....

Janis Lytle – 1/3
Glenda Thompson – 1/5
Marc Tefteau – 1/7
Mike Ashe – 1/17/17
Beverly Poag – 1/17/17
Clara Mae Van Brink – 1/20
Russell Brannon – 1/22
Linda Connelly – 1/22
Janet Peeler – 1/22
Lucile Rich – 1/23
Elizabeth Kelly – 1/26

If you haven’t seen your birthday recognized, it’s because we do not have it. Please contact jmcfather@hotmail.com Thanks!