

**Cherokee County Master Gardeners
Regular Monthly Meeting
Merrilily's Gardens
June 21, 2016**

The regular monthly meeting of the Cherokee County Master Gardeners was held on Tuesday, June 21 at Merrilily's Gardens in Woodstock. In the absence of President Susan Franklin, President Elect Marc Tefteau called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m. after members' visit to the gardens. Members also present were State President Dot Martin, Secretary Joan McFather, Treasurer Pam Raines, Betty Adams, Evelyn Balejsik, Russell Brannon, Melora Hiler, Carol Jackson, Maurya Jones, Devin Layman, Janis Marshall-Kroen, Merrily McLaughlin, Portia Moseka, Melissa Mungiguerra, Gerald Phillips, Liz Ellis Porter, Pam Raines, Gail Roos, Mary Ellen Roos, Mary Schuster, Diane Smith, Denise Stephens, Ed Stumler, Suzie Thomas, Glenda Thompson, Katie Van Hiel, and Marcia Winchester. Trainees Steve Barron, Judy Lester, Janice Lytle, Eva Plachy, Debra Rogers, Dick Rubant and Hope Sorrells were also present.

PROGRAM

Prior to the business meeting, Merrily McLaughlin spoke briefly about her daylily gardens both at the house and also further down the property. She provided catalogs for those who wanted to go see and perhaps purchase not only daylilies but also hostas, calla lilies, gaillardia, astilbe, ferns, and other plants.

OFFICER REPORTS:

- **Secretary:** Joan McFather asked everyone to sign the attendance sheets. She thanked Pam Raines for taking the May minutes and asked that they be approved as published. There was no objection. Joan wrote one thank you letter to Scottsdale Farms for their help with the hydrangea seminar.

- **Treasurer:** Pam Raines presented the treasurer's report. Please let Pam know if you are not receiving the treasurer's report via email.

[Posted: Cash on Hand as of May 1, 2016, was \$1504.94. Deposits in May: transfer from money market \$130.00. Expenses in May: \$187.53. Transfer to Money Market Account \$100.00, leaving a June 1, 2016 balance in the operating account of \$1347.41. The money market account balance is \$1905.70. Total Cash Available \$3253.11. {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 [pamelaraines@ymail.com]

- **GMGA News:**

- Dot reported that a new link for the upcoming convention (October 1 in Carrollton) will soon be available, <http://georgiamastergardeners.org/gmga2016Carrollton.htm> .
- The GMGA field trip to Oakland Cemetery with guide Sara Henderson was well attended, very interesting—and hot. The next field trip is planned for Gibbs Gardens in the fall for maple season. Check the website for details.

- **Care and Share:**

- Jim Saylor is suffering with bad arthritis. A card was passed for signing.
 - Billie Davis is awaiting upcoming surgery.
 - Beverly Poag and her husband are both ill.
 - Diane Smith's husband has received an unexpected heart diagnosis.
 - Diane Walton is still awaiting her surgery. She sends thanks for concern expressed.
 - Lucille Rich is battling high blood pressure.
 - Mageeda Doe is improving.
 - Melissa's sister is better.
- **MG Training Update:**
 - Trainees present agreed that they were happily getting involved.
 - Mary Ellen Roos said that office training would be held as soon as Judy Haygood could break loose from running the office while Josh is required elsewhere.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Plant-A-Row: Gerald Phillips announced that the garden has been fully planted at Papa's Pantry and what is required now is maintenance. Possibly there will be work on putting in a path.

Seed Library:

- Gerald Phillips reported that 60 people have taken seeds to try in their gardens. On July 14 he plans to have a meeting at the Hickory Flat library to package seeds for the fall. He will send out an email regarding details.
- Gerald moved and Marcia seconded that CCMG submit the seed library project to the state organization contest for innovative ideas. The motion passed unanimously. Dot will supply information for Joan to write the submission.

Apparel: Pre-ordered shirts and aprons were brought to the meeting for distribution. CCMG expressed our gratitude to Carol Jackson and her committee for getting the project organized and followed through.

Plant Sale:

- The May 27th sale was a big success, netting \$1425 and in the process damaging two tents. Merrily has two that she will donate. It was noted that stores like Cabela's and Dick's have tents on sale now. Unpurchased yard art will now become door prizes.
- Set up for the next sale is June 24 at 10 a.m. with the sale on June 25 from 9 to 12. Helpers should be there by 8:30 and plan to stay until 1 p.m. There will be daylilies and pollinator plants in particular. Thanks to Gail Roos for hard work and ingenuity updating information cards.

Demo Garden:

- Because of continuing ill health, Jim and Cherry Saylor will give up the herb garden, and trainees Sharon Grundeis, Julia Fuller and Debra Rogers will take it over.
- Gerald will solicit bids for an improved water system.

Newsletter: The next issues will come out at the end of July. Steve Barron will take over the lawn care column.

Tomato Taste: The contest is scheduled for July 28 after setup at 10 a.m. Categories are best red, yellow/orange, cherry and over-all. Bring enough for seniors to vote on. Winner will receive as usual the Coveted Golden Zucchini. Participants will receive MG hours.

Farmers Markets: Ed Stumler announced that the markets have all met at least once. CCMG participation has been good. If you don't see an opportunity to sign up with Sign Up Genius, contact Ed personally. [ejs230fish@windstream.net]

Seminars: Diane announced that the hydrangea seminars went well with over 40 participants. She encouraged trainees to volunteer for seminars.

Fair: Speaking for the committee, Suzie Thomas encouraged new people to volunteer with fresh ideas. There will be a meeting on June 28 at 2 p.m. at the Extension.

School Garden Planning Committee: Katie Van Hiel reported that the committee is working on lesson plans for grades 2, 3 and 4. Lessons such as these will ensure that MGs are not considered simply workhorses to dig and mulch.

NEW BUSINESS

Internet Domain:

Marc Tefteau moved that CCMG “purchase an internet domain name and supporting email services for the Cherokee County Master Gardeners. Estimated cost will be \$72 per year and will come from the Publicity line item in the current budget.” Ed Stumler seconded the motion. Discussion ensued regarding the proposal to set up specifically a MailChimp account to mail out our bimonthly newsletter. *See the attached rationale for this purchase.* The vote was called for and the motion passed unanimously. Marc will move ahead with setting up the account.

Incorporation of CCMG as a 501(c) (3) organization:

Marc Tefteau moved that “Cherokee County Master Gardeners pursue incorporation of the organization as a non-profit corporation within the state of Georgia and file for tax-exempt status with the U.S. Treasury – Internal Revenue Service under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Tax Code. Funding for the application process will be allocated from the Miscellaneous line item in the current budget.” Ed Stumler seconded the motion. Discussion ensued as to the benefits of becoming a tax-exempt corporation. *See the attached rationale for this purchase.* The vote was called for and the motion passed unanimously. Marc will move ahead with consulting a local lawyer as the first step in the process. The Executive Committee believes the cost of legal and filing fees will run approximately to \$1310, with an annual renewal corporation fee of \$30.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marcia reported that a good time was had by all at the plant swap and tour of Debbie Meadows' garden.

ADJOURNMENT There being nothing further, the business meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m. for a potluck lunch.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 24 Plant Sale Set-Up
June 25 Plant Sale 9am-12am
July 7 Demo Garden Work Day
July 16 Seminar 10am Hickory Flat Library
July 19 Monthly Meeting
July 21 Demo Garden Workday
July 28 Tomato Tasting – Golden Zucchini Award up for Grabs

BIRTHDAYS

July 12 Diane Smith
July 13 Melora Hiler
July 15 Susan Franklin
July 16 Joan McFather

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

ATTACHMENTS

memo

To: **Cherokee County Master Gardeners** From: Marc Tefteau – President Elect

CC: CCMG Executive Committee

Date: 6/17/2016

Re: Motions to be presented at June 21st monthly meeting

Comments: Fellow Master Gardeners:

This is to let you know that two motions will be presented at our June 21st MG meeting under new business for your consideration and action. Supporting material for the motions is attached. Please note that only active MG's for 2016 can vote on the motions.

Motion 1: "To purchase an internet domain name and supporting e-mail services for the Cherokee County Master Gardeners. Estimated cost will be \$72 per year and will come from the Publicity line item in the current budget."

Note - this will enable us to set up a MailChimp account our bimonthly newsletter and email it out.*

Motion 2: "Cherokee County Master Gardeners pursue incorporation of the organization as a non-profit corporation within the State of Georgia and file for tax-exempt status with the U.S. Treasury – Internal Revenue Service under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Tax Code. Funding for the application process will be allocated from the Miscellaneous line item in the current budget."

BACKGROUND FOR MOTION #1

FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions – Moving the Cherokee County MG Newsletter to MailChimp and Getting a “Domain” address

- **Why do we need to consider getting an Internet “Domain” Address and supporting email account?**

In setting up a MailChimp it is suggested that we purchase a “Domain” address for use as the email contact for the account. A Domain address is the URL for a website. www.uga.edu is a domain address. Email support will allow us to have specific emails associated with domain address.

- **What is MailChimp?**

MailChimp is an email marketing service and the trading name of its operator, a United States company based in Atlanta, founded in 2001. By June 2014 it was sending over 10 billion emails per month on behalf of its users.

- **Why are we thinking about using MailChimp?**

We are interested in getting broader distribution and readership of our bimonthly MG Newsletter – Gardening with the Masters. At the present time to access the newsletter one has to go to the Cherokee County Extension MG website. Use of MailChimp will allow us to “push” the newsletter out to a subscriber base rather than expecting them to be “pulled” into a website. MailChimp also has a number of attractive email templates that we can use free to enhance the look of our emails and newsletter.

- **How would I get a “subscription” to the newsletter under MailChimp?**

The newsletter would first be distributed to our current active membership of our MG group. We could then promote the newsletter by mass media and have “sign up” forms at our plant sales, seminars, programs and other events. Someone who is interested in getting the newsletter would sign up for it and allow us to add their email address to the subscription database.

BACKGROUND FOR MOTION #1

FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions – Moving the Cherokee County MG Newsletter to MailChimp and Getting a “Domain” address

- **Would we stop mailing the newsletter?**

No. Presently, according to our records, we only have two paid mail subscriptions. As long as the subscriptions are paid the newsletter will still be mailed.

- **Would the newsletter still be posted to the website?**

Yes. That would not change.

- **Can we use our MailChimp account for other emailing’s?**

Yes. We can use it to send out notices of our MG and other Extension programs, promotions for the Plant Sale and other MG activities which we would like to invite the public to attend.

- **Is there a charge to use MailChimp?**

No, not at the level that we will initially be using it. Up to 2,000 subscribers and 12,000 emails per month is free. A subscriber base of 1,501 to 2,000 with unlimited emails is \$25 per month.

- **Who will do it?**

The process is very simple, straight forward and not time consuming, just like sending an email. Hopefully an interested MG volunteer could be designated to be the point person to handle the “mailings.” Estimated volunteer time would be one to two hours/month.

BACKGROUND FOR MOTION #2

FAQ -Frequently Asked Questions on 501(c)(3) – Non-Profit – Incorporation and Filing for Master Gardener Programs

- **What is 501(c)(3)?**

Refers to the section of the Federal Tax Code that grants tax-exempt status to corporations which meet certain qualifications.

- **What would the Cherokee County Master Gardeners do to obtain such status?**

1. *File with the State of Georgia to incorporate Cherokee County Master Gardeners.*
2. *File with the US IRS to request tax-exempt status.*

- **Why would Cherokee County Master Gardeners want to incorporate and obtain non-profit status?**

1. *From a liability standpoint it would provide additional protection to MG volunteers from personal liability concerns. Currently MG's are covered under UGA policies.*
2. *It would enhance our fundraising abilities and provide added financial support for enhanced Master Gardening activities and projects in the county. Currently we are limited in what larger projects and activities that we can do. Community groups such as the Lions Club, Rotary, and other civic organizations that have Federal tax – exempt status can only provide donations to other tax-exempt community organizations. 501(c)(3) designation would also allow us to solicit contributions from individuals. Local and national businesses such as Home Depot, Walmart and others have community grant programs to which we could apply. State and National non- profits also have community grant programs available for local non-profits.*
3. *We could solicit sponsorships for specific programs and projects.*
4. *It would allow us to accept and manage tangible assets such as equipment and real estate.*
5. *We would have a more formal and organized structure.*

- **What changes would we have to make to the organization administratively?**

1. *Revision of the by-laws as needed and development of the Articles of Incorporation.*
2. *Changes in the financial management of the organization as needed.*
3. *Annual filings to State of Georgia and IRS–Form990-N*

BACKGROUND FOR MOTION #2

FAQ -Frequently Asked Questions on 501(c)(3) – Non-Profit – Incorporation and Filing for Master Gardener Programs

- **How long would this process take?**

With the State of Georgia, the incorporation process takes 5 to 7 days once the application is filed. The review and granting of Federal tax-exempt status takes longer. However, Federal tax law does allow the corporation to solicit funds as a 501(c)(3) while the application is under review.

- **What are the costs involved?**

A local attorney will assist with the process. Legal fees will run approximately \$750. Filing

fees to the State of Georgia are \$160 and to the IRS \$400 for an approximate cost of \$1310. There is annual renewal corporation fee to the State of Georgia of \$30.

- What oversight would UGA have over the non-profit?

None. The corporation would be entirely separate from UGA and managed by a Board of Directors elected by active Master Gardeners.

- What other county MG groups have non-profit status?

Cobb, Carroll, Clayton, Coastal, DeKalb, Fayette, Gwinnett, Master Gardeners of Central Georgia (Macon-Bibb & Houston), Madison, North Fulton, Towns- Union Master Gardeners Association*

Questions/comments please contact Marc Tefteau, President-Elect – CCMG

Email: marctefteau@gmail.com

Home: 770-213-3561

Cell: 410-924-4491

5/2016