

**Cherokee County Master Gardeners
Regular Monthly Meeting
Bluffs Conference Center
November 15, 2016**

The regular monthly meeting of the Cherokee County Master Gardeners was held on Tuesday, November 15 at the Bluffs Conference Center. At 10:09 President Susan Franklin called the meeting to order. Members also present were State President Dot Martin, President Elect Marc Teffeau, Secretary Joan McFather, Treasurer Pam Raines, Betty Adams, Sue Allen, Pat Bowen, Becky Dixon, Carol Jackson, Maurya Jones, Shirley Lowe, Debbie Meadows, Portia Moseka, Carol Mumaw, Gerald Phillips, Pam Raines, Linda Robbins, Mary Ellen Roos, Mary Schuster, Gerry Slaughter, 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, Judy Lester, Eva Plachy, Lucille Rich, and Dick Rubant were also present, as was Extension Agent Josh Fuder.

OFFICER REPORTS:

- **President:** Susan Franklin offered thankfulness for all who have helped her with a year's presidency and welcomed Diane Walton, now officially off the care list.
- **Secretary:** Joan McFather asked that the October minutes be approved as published with one correction: Paula DiArtiaga was not present. There was no objection. Joan asked everyone to sign the attendance sheets.
- **Treasurer:**
 - Pam Raines presented the treasurer's report.
 - Pam asked that all budget requests for next year be in to her by November 30. There will be a budget meeting in December, and the budget will be voted on at the January meeting. [*Forms can be found online at the UGA Extension page, lower right: forms.*]

[Posted: Cash on Hand as of September 30, 2016, was \$1952.63. Deposits in October, including transfer from Money Market \$980.25. Expenses in October: \$270.72. Transfer to Money Market Account \$100.00, leaving a November 1, 2016 balance in the operating account of \$2562.16. The money market account balance is \$2155.96. Total Cash Available \$4718.12. {*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]

EXTENSION NEWS

- Trainees' badges: Josh presented badges to trainees having completed their community service hours – Sharon Grundeis, Judy Lester, Janis Lytle, Janet Peeler, Eva Plachy and Hope Sorrells. Others will be awarded on completion when further badges are ordered.
- ALL MEMBERS ARE URGED TO REPORT THEIR HOURS SO JOSH CAN MAKE HIS REPORTS IN A TIMELY MANNER.
- Number of MGs who have passed the risk management test: 40. Decals are available.

- At the County Agents' yearly conference, Josh submitted our seed library project to the Innovation in Urban Agriculture contest, and won first prize. He will present again at the district meeting.
- Josh plans to offer mid-week evening programs at R.T. Jones and Woodstock public libraries. Those interested in participating should talk with him before mid-December.
- Recommitment forms will be due in January.
- Josh introduced Heather Haines, a member of 4H and a volunteer, who is helping Ashley Witcher in the schools. Those with interest in long range school programs could email her at heather.haines@uge.edu for possible coordination.

STATUS REPORTS:

- **501c3:** Dot Martin reported that the lawyers will have everything ready by the end of the week, certainly filed by Thanksgiving, meaning that we could begin soliciting grants for projects by December 1. Pam Raines added that the lawyers have been paid for all their services. Susan thanked them for their work on the initiative.
- **Mail Chimp/Newsletter:** Marc Tefteau explained that we will have a website – Cherokee CountyMasterGardeners.org – but for now it will simply link visitors to the UGA website. He is still working on the format; it will be segmented into areas such as members, newsletters, promotions, and so on. He has made a spreadsheet of subscribers. Pam mentioned the need for a printable version of the newsletter, since we have hard-copy subscribers.
- **Scholarship/Foundation:** General discussion elicited that with our 501c3 we can start asking for support in the community to begin a foundation which ultimately will support the proposed scholarship of \$1,000 per year to a graduating Cherokee County high school senior who will attend Chattahooche Tech to study in some field related to agriculture. Josh suggested having Chat Tech administer the funds for us. Susan asked for a steering committee, and Russell Brannon volunteered to chair it. Members will include Carol Jackson, Mary Ellen Roos, Joan McFather, and Susan.
- **Project Summaries:** Susan reminded us that project summaries should be completed by each chairman. To make these more useful, she asked that each summary include a brief description of activity, results obtained, hours spent and the chairman's analysis of the results in terms of next year's programs. Should the program be continued, retired, expanded? Please include suggestions for next year. Summaries are due to Susan or Josh by November 30.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Care and Share:** Mary Ellen Roos reported that
 - Steve Barron will have hip replacement surgery.
 - Judie Bicknell, suffering terminal cancer, is at home resting.
 - Janis Marshall-Kroen's husband is still not doing well.
 - Sue Allen's brother is out of the hospital.
 - Ashley Witcher's baby is due February 1. There's still time to enter the sex and weight contest. Mary Ellen passed a sheet for that.
 - Please continue to pray for these and others.

- **Publicity:** Susan thanked Becky Dixon who has been giving the newspapers our seminar information. Susan feels that we should have a publicity chairman to widen our exposure. Marcia Winchester suggested creating a trifold display that could be set up where needed.
- **Newsletter:**
 - Marcia needs volunteers to keep with county rainfall. Karen Garland's class will do collecting.
 - Larry Link will put a counter on Facebook to check readership.
- **Demo Garden:**
 - The hill is gone and the sprinkler system works for part of the garden, but regular watering must be done by hand two or three times a week in other areas. You should count hours spent watering under 'Plant Sale.'
 - The greenhouse was moved by inmate labor. Ken Loud will water the plants there.
 - Those nurturing plants for the spring sale should keep them at home.
 - There will be a meeting this week to brainstorm more educational approaches to demo garden use. Marcia is looking for sign holders such as are used by real estate agents to hold educational materials. More identification signs will be coming as well.
 - The key to the trailer is in a plastic box on the potting shed bench.
 - Marcia asks that all her garden managers submit budget requests by November 28.
- **Senior Center:** Gerald has talked with Tim Morris, manager.
 - Stairs will make climbing the hill easier.
 - Our old plastic shed was rendered useless in the attempted move, so the county will replace it with a better one, including a concrete pad to place it on.
 - We will need to establish a new holding area; Gerald suggests building with raised beds.
 - A grant applied for by the county may lead to creating a covered area for loading and unloading Meals on Wheels. If so, the center will no longer need their large trailer, and we might acquire it.
 - Behind the Animal Shelter's expansion there may be room for a community garden. We would need a new chairman (not Gerald) and a grant to get it established.
- **Plant a Row:** Gerald could use help cleaning the beds at Papa's Pantry: 10 a.m. November 17 and possibly other dates. [gphilli@hotmail.com]
- **Seed Library:** Gerald announced we will discard any seed dated prior to September of this year. New packets will arrive next January. Susan remarked that we will need to look over progress so far with an eye to improvements in the future.
- **Seminars:** Diane Smith reported that the committee has now met four times. Next year there will be 9 traditional seminars, to be held at Hickory Flat library or the Senior Center, and 2 round robins of short presentations within a time frame of 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., one at the Senior Center and one at Josh's home. Attendees would progress from one to another, with food such as hot dogs made available at no charge by Master Gardeners. Dates for the round robins: at the Senior Center – March 18 (rain date March 25) and at Josh's – April 29 (rain date May 6). Susan will send out the minutes regarding these plans along with volunteer

opportunities. She feels that the round robins should have overall chairmen as well as presenters and support help.

- **Social:** The Christmas party will be catered at Woodmont on Saturday, December 17, at 6 p.m. We will do our own table decorating and dessert table as we did last year. As chairman, Susan will have a decorations-making session at her house. She passed a sign-up list for desserts. Checks of \$15 per person attending may be given to Pam Raines. Please RSVP when you receive your evite. Katie clarified that once you have turned in at Woodmont, the club house is located at the second left turn.

SCHOOL GARDENS:

- Katie Van Hiel reported some of the kids' activities.
- Susan mentioned that nothing further has transpired since her and Josh's meeting with Dr. Carroll of the public school system. She added that Becky Griffin has already done a PDF on starting school gardens that should be made available to teachers.

GMGA

- Dot Martin announced that the state field trip to Gibbs Gardens on November 2 is sold out. The last field trip of the year will be a visit to the governor's mansion with Sandra Deal, coming in December.
- The GMGA membership drive extends until December 31. All who join or renew by then will be rewarded by a \$5 rebate to CCMG.
- Hours spent on educational learning experiences should be recorded on MGLOG, even though they don't count towards the 25 required service hours.

ELECTION: Ed Stumler announced the nomination committee's slate for 2017: President – Marc Tefteau, President Elect – Denise Stephens, Secretary – Joan McFather, Treasurer – Diane Walton. There were no nominations from the floor, so Russell moved the slate be approved by acclamation, Marc Tefteau seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was decided to give a group baby gift to Ashley Witcher.

ADJOURNMENT There being nothing further, the business meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 17 – Senior Expo at the Bluffs from 10 am to 2 pm. Becky Dixon and Portia Moseka will organize a table of Extension Master Gardener information.
- November 30 – Project Summaries and budget requests due
- December 3 – Seminar: Holiday Wreath Making at the Senior Center, 10 a.m.
- December 17 – Holiday party at Woodmont Golf and Country Club, 6 p.m.
- December 31 – MGLOG must be completed for 2016
- January 17 – Regular business meeting; installation of officers and vote for budget approval

BIRTHDAYS

November 6 Merrily McLaughlin
November 11 Shirley Lowe
November 12 Dick Rubant
November 16 Debra Rogers
November 20 Mary Ellen Roos
November 21 Ed Stumler
November 26 Mary Tucker
November 30 Mariana Divita

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