

**Regular Monthly Meeting
Bluffs Conference Center
May 15, 2018**

The regular monthly meeting of the Cherokee County Master Gardeners was held on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, at the Bluffs Conference Center. Members present were CCMG, Inc. President Mary Ellen Roos, Immediate CCMG Past President Marc Tefteau, Past State President Dot Martin, Vice President Karen Lail, Treasurer Diane Walton, Lois Andresen, Stephanie Ashbaugh, Evelyn Balejsik, Pat Bowen, Russell Brannon, Pat Burgess, Becky Dixon, Sharon Grundeis, Stephanie Howard, Carol Jackson, Maurya Jones, Judy Lester, Portia Moseka, Carol Mumaw, Gerald Phillips, Eva Plachy, Pam Raines, Linda Robbins, Gail Roos, Dick Rubant, Jennifer Ruscilli, Denise Stephens, Ed Stumler, Mary Ann Szostak, Suzie Thomas, Glenda Thompson, Katie Van Hiel and Marcia Winchester. Extension Agent Josh Fuder was also present.

CALL TO ORDER

President Mary Ellen called the business meeting together at 10:02 a.m. The meeting agenda was tacitly approved with no additions. Slightly later in the meeting, Mary Ellen welcomed guest Joyce Wilson, a transfer from Alabama.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - (Joan McFather)

Preliminary March 2018 minutes were posted to the website as approved. There being no corrections, Pam Raines moved to approve, Marc Tefteau seconded, and the minutes were approved as posted. In Joan's absence, Diane Walton passed a pad for members to sign in. Denise Stephens recorded the meeting for later transcription of the minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Diane Walton

- Diane presented the March I&E: there was no income, but no expenses either.
- [Posted for April: Cash on Hand as of March 31, 2018 was a balance of \$2790.20. Deposits in April, \$0.00, plus transfer from money Market \$50.00. Expenses in April: \$0.00. Transfer to Money Market Account \$100.00, leaving an April 30, 2018 balance in the operating account of \$2740.20. Donations/dedicated funds is \$1100.00. The money market account balance is \$3057.13. Total available: \$4697.33 {See secretary's book for entire report}.] The treasurer's report was accepted as presented.
- Diane asked that everyone submit bills in a timely manner.
- Diane reminded us that after the May meeting she and Pat Bowen will hold a seminar to explain how to apply for grants (Pat) and what follow up to do after you succeed (Diane).
- The liability policy will cost approximately \$1,000 per year and will be paid in quarterly installments.

EXTENSION AGENT'S REPORT - Josh Fuder

- Name badges are now available for those who ordered.
- The exploratory trip to Chattanooga went well.
- Mike Lloyd grows good plants and has extra, but please do use anything you get from him. He lives on Conns Creek Road. See a previous email for details.
- Josh was invited to speak at the Roslyn Carter Butterfly Trail spring symposium in Plains, GA, expenses paid, where he met the former President and his wife.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Liability Insurance:** Denise Stephens announced that we do have liability insurance covering our directors and officers. The document is 169 pages and designed for non-profits. Our broker specializes in small business and non-profits. Suzie Thomas was concerned about emergency phone numbers. Josh explained that MGLOG has space to enter information that the Extension could use to contact others for us, although we could not access each others' accounts. Marcia Winchester suggested including emergency contact information on our recommitment forms. Other discussion followed. We could go back to creating a booklet.
- **Mail Chimp:** No report.

NEW BUSINESS

- **June Meeting** will be held at Merrily's home. She will talk about growing daylilies and there will be a brief business meeting. Bring a covered dish for lunch.
- **GMGA:**
 - Dot reminded us that GMGA members are eligible to attend GMGA field trips. The next one scheduled is June 16 at Joe Lamp'l's home here in Cherokee County. Details are on the GMGA website.
 - The GMGA Conference will be held at the Galloway School in Atlanta. The schedule for July 13-14 is on the website. Ten pages of speakers' bios follow, plus tours. Scroll down to register for a variety of activities.

ACTIVITIES REPORTS

Seminars & Publicity: Chair Karen Lail announced the next two seminars. Stephanie Howard has her helpers but could still use cut flowers and greenery at the Senior Center for Saturday, June 19. Carol Mumaw mentioned that the hydrangea seminar on June 9th will have two sessions, so can accommodate 70 people. Spread the word.

Care and Share:

- Stephanie Ashbough is undergoing issues with her eyes.
- Steve Barron continues to improve.
- Nothing direct from Dail Luciani.

- Please send information to Gail. [gailroos@gmail.com]
- Parenthetically, Gail is looking for exterminator lawn warning signs that will hold cards. They can be used in the Senior Center gardens. Please save for her.
- Ed Stumler reported that Penny's pulmonologist has told her that she does not have the heart disease that took her brother, though there are continuing concerns.

Plant Sale: Marcia reported the best plant sale ever, bringing in \$3126.50. She thanked everyone involved. Shirley Lowe and Dail Luciani cleaned up and spray-painted several castoff metal chairs and fitted them with plant containers. Two of the chairs, donated by Carol Mumaw, were sold, and one remains at the Senior Center. Suzie Thomas had a display centered on her birds project. Gerald Phillips and Hope Sorrells also had displays and made sales of pitcher plants. The Animal Shelter participated with the sale of aprons and bags and has been invited to return to the next plant sale June 23, during Pollinator Week.

Newsletter: Marcia reported that they are working on the June – July issue and have plenty of articles.

Demo Garden:

- Still putting layers of cardboard down over which is spread compost donated by the County.
- Need to rearrange holding and potting areas.
- Still need a manager and/or volunteers for a tri-compartment compost bin. And help is needed in the urban garden and the pollinator garden.
- Marcia will send out emails as needed to fill the watering schedule.

Plant Swap: Marcia announced that the plant swap she and Debbie Meadows hosted at Marcia's home on May 10th was a lot of fun and involved about 30 people.

Soleil Garden Club: Marcia is doing a cement planter demonstration on May 29 and needs two more volunteers to assist club members with building their own. Debbie Meadows will be the overall supervisor. [*Contact Marcia at marciawinchester1@gmail.com*]

Native Plant PowerPoint: Marcia has redesigned her seminar, including new photographs, and is seeking help from a MG with more technical savvy than she has to mount the PowerPoint needed for the lecture.

Poppa's Pantry & Seed Library:

- Gerald has new beds planted already. An Eagle Scout candidate is developing a plan to make rain barrels as his project. The kids camp, in June, is expecting 35-50 kids at a local trailer park. Gerald usually handles the garden-oriented presentation and would like some ideas.
- Gerald is frustrated about the seed library. Ball Ground is interested in having one; Woodstock is not. But Gerald thinks we need a meeting of interested MGs to lay out

a comprehensive plan, including classes, to make people aware of their responsibility to bring back seeds from crops they have grown from our seeds.

Bird Committee: Suzie will send out a meeting notice, either May 23 or 25 about creating decorative signs for the garden in honor of selected species. She also wants to design a brochure. Suzie mentioned her sales items.

Seniors Project: Judy Lester reported a successful class on April 24, including five now calling themselves “the Senior Girls,” where everyone had a good time. They are looking forward to the Tomato Taste Test, this year to be held on July 12.

Holly Springs Project: Marc Tefteau reported two site visits, one to Heritage Park in Henry County in April and a second to Chattanooga on May 8. Heritage is a community garden in a county park. Chattanooga offered three sites: the Chattanooga Food Bank’s demonstration garden, a downtown rain garden, and the Hamilton County Extension’s demonstration garden. Visits to several more sites will probably not be feasible, but the committee would especially like to see what Hall County offers and will focus on a trip there. Re the Cagle property: the committee has been in discussion with Holly Springs and now understands that any improvements in the house would have to be done according to code. Unfortunately, the house in question is a mobile home to which additions were made. Bringing it up to code will be impossible, and the city will tear it down. The committee will investigate the possibilities of using the barn. Mr. Logan has been informed that we will not be ready to move forward in September, since we cannot have access to the property until August 15. Marc will meet next week with an architect recommended by the city to discuss other possibilities for building a facility that would meet our needs. Meanwhile there are other materials that might be of use to us on the property. Marc is considering putting together a PowerPoint presentation of our proposal to show Recreation and Parks, but we are not to that point yet.

Scholarship Committee: No report.

School Garden Clubs: Katie Van Hiel said that the schools are done. In August she will meet with those interested to see how we can assist next year. She thanked all those participating in a very good year. Josh mentioned that annual teacher training will be on May 31, during post-planning. Registration is free. MGs are welcome.

Field Trips: Suzie reminded everyone about the field trip on Tuesday, May 22, to tour Green Meadows Preserve Park in Cobb County (3780 Dallas Highway) that Jim Bearden, an MG in Cobb County, looks after. Plan to meet at the Exit 7 (Hwy 92) exit Good Will parking lot, ready to go at 9:15. Things to see include a bluebird trail, a period garden, community gardens, and the Cherokee Gardens. Lost Mountain is close.

Speakers Bureau: Jennifer Welton of the Wildlife Action Corporation at Kellogg Creek has let us know about the Scouts event the first week in June. They are asking for any help we might offer. MG hours will be awarded, and the Extension has possible materials for use relating to the pollinator part of the planned program.

Plant Clinics/Farmers Market:

- Ed Stumler explained that so far we have no plant clinics scheduled: the companies he has contacted want a proposal stated on email MG letterhead. We have had no replies.
- Farmers Markets are scheduled for Canton and Woodstock on Saturdays. Ed has eliminated the months of July and August. Canton starts May 26; Woodstock starts June 2. We will alternate Saturdays, doing more than one per month. Judy Haygood will handle signups. These are forthcoming. We will be doing demonstrations, not just sitting.

PROGRAM

Marc introduced Helen Lawson, speaking on the art and science of bringing a plant to market. Helen is a Forsyth Master Gardener and published garden writer, among numerous other accomplishments. Helen began her talk with the development of the gardenia Swan series by the Gardener's Confidence Collection, due out in the fall. Why are plants introduced? One: improved performance over what we already have. Two: aesthetics—whatever is prettier. Three: consumer demand—what people ask for. Four: adaptability—extending where and how well a plant can grow. Helen went on to talk about breeders of various types, in-house plant breeding operations, plant introduction companies, licensed growers, and branded collections. A timeline for producing a new plant includes identifying and evaluating, then going into production...it may take ten years or more. Helen also explained what goes on a plant tag. It is possible to patent your own cultivar, but there is quite a multi-step process. Her book *Deer-Resistant Designs* will be out in the fall of 2019. The audience was delighted to receive plants as prizes from Ms. Lawson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m. Door prizes were awarded thereafter. Light refreshments and a seminar on the grant process followed.