

**Gwinnett County Master Gardener Association**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 14, 2013**  
**10 a.m. to 12 Noon**

**Attending:**

Margaret Bergeron, Becky Wolary, Carol Hassell, Karen McGinty, Terri Ervin, Baye Bruce, Mary Ann Hindes, Timothy Daly, Jessica Miller, Pat Harper, Becky Panetta, Wanda Wilburn, Alice Verner, Jackie Kujawa.

**Approval of January 2013 Minutes:** Motion by Pat Harper; Wanda Wilburn, second.

**Reports of Officers:**

**State of the Organization – Margaret Bergeron**

GCMGA is financially secure  
Education programs moving forward  
176 members as of last report  
Pleased to have Publicity Chair back on board  
VP position vacant. For now will remain vacant

**Finances and Membership - Becky Wolary**

The report distributed prior to meeting reflects revenue and expenses as of the end of February.  
Several new friends joined.  
As of this morning: \$23,327.90 in the bank.  
Becky called reminded the board that expenses for the year are just now starting.  
The grants submittal period ends tomorrow.

**Extension Office Updates – Tim:**

Thanks to those who helped out at the Home Show. Changes will be implemented next year.  
Looking for help in office.  
He could use a few more on speakers' panel.  
Farmers Markets are coming up.  
Lilburn application approved (once a month: Fri pm).  
Will be submitting to Snellville and Suwanee (2 times monthly).  
Kathy will put out notices.  
Remote chance there will be advanced training on insect identification.  
Marilyn Farnsworth now is office manager.  
New MG class nearly at end of session. Gwinnett has 16.

**Committee Reports**

**Grants - Margaret Bergeron (funding), Gaye Bruce (procedures)**

Deadline: tomorrow (Friday, Mar 15) end of day.

Gaye and Margaret will meet on Monday, Mar 18, to review and determine if submittals qualify.

They'll make recommendations, submit to EC if applications exceed \$5,000. Then to full board for vote. Be on lookout for email with info and vote promptly. Deadline for awards April 1.

Jessica asked: who all votes on these? Margaret sees this as vote of all board members, including Committee Chairs.

Gaye provided a recap of submittals to date: Kistner Center by Jackie Kujwa: \$500. Lanier Community Garden by Rosalie Tubre: \$500. Norcross Community Garden by Debbie Parks: \$500. Lilburn Greenway (Camp Creek Greenway) by Karen Dupew, \$770.32. Pinckneyville Edible Garden by Mim Harris, \$500. Sycamore Butterfly Garden, Karen Alexander: \$454. Vines Garden by Shirley Boehm, \$500. McDaniel Farm by Kathy Parent, \$330. Don Freidus Memorial Garden by Kathy Parent, \$100.

Pat reported on a presentation made by the Mayor of Lawrenceville to Pat's garden club about the City's new green space. Pat asked whether any potential excess funds could go for some purpose to the green space – such as a bench. Plants probably not possible, since area will be maintained by landscaper. Consensus is to review this possibility once the submitted grants are reviewed and recommendations completed.

#### **Website - Aaron Tulin (current site); Becky Wolary (status new site)**

Aaron couldn't attend today.

Becky W. reported that the transition to a new website design has hit a glitch: the web designer quit without explanation. Best estimate: lack of communication with the designer and Committee expectations. She recommends that the Committee put out an RFP (request for proposal) again. She's already got a couple names. Gaye knows a possible candidate. Jessica noted that her office found a great contract. Becky W. observed that lots of people can do websites; but, Members Only side is the difficulty. New password announced: *daisy* (not case sensitive).

#### **Garden Tour - Alice Verner and Maggie Howze**

Moving right along. Next big opportunity for promotion of garden tour is Queen of Hearts (March 21-24), an antique mall on Buford Drive next to Hobby Lobby. Tour Committee has our posters up at this venue. Still need volunteers for Ask a Master Gardener table at Queen of Hearts.

Question raised about whether EO will be producing printed factsheets, etc. County not giving out literature anymore; only remaining quantities are available. Kathy said they will no longer be producing factsheets. Alice asked about whether she can produce garden tour flyers for distribution at GAMG convention. Yes, she can make these copies. Just as a courtesy, ask permission.

Alice has tickets, ready for sale. Purchasers can pick up tickets at any stop on garden tour except McDaniel Farm. Tickets can be purchased at any site except McDaniel Farm, as well. She detailed flyer and press release distribution. Jessica re-emphasized that she would help with distribution of press release.

Alice will bring tickets Monday night for sale, as well as having them available today.

Maggie is working on getting garden angels and docents.

They will have pre-tour the Tuesday before for sites on southern tour; Wednesday for sites on north side. Alice will have party afterward. More details to come.

Jackie wondered if they could have cookbooks at garden tour sites. Idea was well received with payments for these being taken by whomever is working the table at each site. Wanda wondered about selling cookbooks at Ask A Master Gardener table at Queen of Hearts event. This is ok at the Ask a Master Gardener table only.

### **Public Relations - Jessica Miller**

Jessica reminded the board of the upcoming Georgia Master Gardener convention, March 22-23 in Watkinsville.

The GCGMA garden tour is now in Scoop and on GAGM website. She reminded the Tour Committee that she is willing to distribute publicity for the tour.

Jessica has done media distribution for speaker & meetings through May. Margaret will send her June speaker.

### **Hospitality - Terri Erwin**

All is fine with the Hospitality Committee. Just need to know when new speakers are identified.

Becky W. noted that table decorations are beautiful and long-lasting. Terri will provide info to Margaret about which can be taken home by members.

Since the subject concerned upcoming meetings, Carol stated she would be out of town during Monday's meeting. Jessica stated she will take notes.

### **Volunteers - Wanda Wilburn**

Wanda observed that this weekend could be a challenge with so many events going on.

### **Welcoming - Pat Harper**

Her committee's process working very well: Taking covered dishes as contributors come in the door at each meeting and placing them on serving tables is very helpful since meeting attendees generally take some while to get past the sign-in table.

Becky W. requested that when committee members take covered dishes, that they save any dish covering, including foil and plastic wrap, if possible, for wrap-up at the end of the meeting. Alice noted that aluminum foil is available in the kitchen, if needed.

### **Education - Mary Ann Hindes**

If training courses are offered by the EO, then only MGEVs can attend. Other training courses will be open to all GCMGA members. First training is Terri's; date and arrangements to be announced.

Also, thanks to Robert for his leadership class. Many good comments. Attendees from other counties.

Will have photo contest results on Monday.

Margaret announced that Don Stewart will have a photo class in May at Vines, date to be confirmed. Shannon Pable coordinating a workshop (for MGEVs only) on landscape design. Another workshop will cover building a bat house. Carole Teja doing one on building birdbaths. Dates and details on all to be forthcoming.

### **Field Trips - Debbie Parks**

Tomorrow: Southeastern Flower Show. Gibbs Gardens on March 27. The Pocket at Pigeon Mountain, April 2.

### **Intern Breakfast - Karen McGinty**

GCMGA's turn to provide breakfast at intern training is at halfway point. Great support from members with donated food. Sales are doing well. Volunteer committee doing a great job – decorating, great food. Acknowledged great assistance from Becky W. Karen stated that they upped the prices yesterday on food on one table (from \$.50 to \$.75) as a trial. Drinks remained at \$0.50. Suggestion: each of the counties should increase price. Made observations about table layout, having an extra coffee pot. Need to price items appropriately; food such as yogurt and fruit cups cannot be purchased for less than \$1.00 an item.

Margaret asked her to thank entire committee for great effort.

### **Seed Exchange - Marlene Westrom**

No report

### **Historian - Becky Panetta**

Asked for pictures at any event since she cannot be at all events. Pictures should be identified with date, event name, names of MGs and friends in the photo.

### **Auction - Faye Sisson**

No report. No date. As of now, appears it will not happen this year.

### **New Business**

Jessica announced that State Master Gardener day is March 16. Becky W. posted on website. Margaret will send out email to full GCMGA. Her distribution includes interns.

Jackie asked about reinstituting Weed & Feed – help for members who can no longer maintain their yards because of health issues – as a GCMGA project. Suggested we start this again. Needs to be regional – close to members' homes. Can be spring clean-up. Can be a one-time event. Can be ongoing. Need to identify members who need this assistance. Wanda needs to ask for volunteers.

Next meeting Thursday, May 9, 10 am..

**Adjournment**

Motion by Jessica. Second by Gaye.