



**Gwinnett County
Master Gardeners
Association**

**Gwinnett County Master Gardener Association Board
Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2013
10 a.m.**

Meeting convened by Margaret Bergeron: 10:04 am

Approval of July 2013 Minutes

Motion: Pat made motion to approve the July minutes with correction to note that the motion to approve scholarships amounts to Gwinnett Technical College and to the Georgia Master Gardeners scholarship fund did not pass unanimously. Changed to: Motion passed.

Second of the motion to approve amended July 2013 minutes: Jessica. Motion passed.

Extension Service Information – Robert Brannen

Stated that equipment and technology are available through an information program to emphasize improved water quality and septic maintenance. Includes wireless speaker and mike, and tents, among other items. Jackie wondered if the wireless speaker was blue-tooth enabled so a presentation on a cell phone could be presented. MGEVs can use this equipment for presentations.

EO has been contacted by Gwinnett Parks & Rec concerning a request for MGEV assistance. Pinckneyville Park has an area that has been requested as location for weddings. Does it have irrigation? Hilary says the area has huge drainage issues. An herb garden once place there has been removed. P&R has budget to purchase plants. The request: Parks & Rec needs guidance about what to purchase or put in budget. Circular concrete area – about the same size as our meeting room -- just outside building. Raised beds constructed of concrete between the circular area and building. Presently, elm trees – healthy -- in place in grassy area around the concrete. A pavilion is adjacent. Plantings in raised beds are hodgepodge, i.e., a cactus next to an azalea. Herbs seem a perfect choice for raised beds: well drained, hot in full sun, low maintenance. Robert repeated several times that maintenance help will be made available, just needs complete instructions. Pallets of grass planted under trees; grass then scraped away near sidewalk for safety.

Are they willing to make drainage changes? He said, Yes. Do they want a plan? Yes. As far as maintenance, P&R would do the work, but Robert says it would be good for a small committee or individuals to stop periodically to check to see it's being done correctly. No budget has presently been established. P&R asking: what do we suggest for area around concrete pad, raised beds and hill behind it. What they're looking for is information (plan) and advice.

Following Robert's presentation, Margaret stated we would consider the idea of soliciting interest to form a small committee to undertake this project. No action taken by the board.

Officers' Reports

State of the Organization – Margaret Bergeron

GCMGA is doing great. Had lots of activity. New officers in place. Membership over 200. Lots of publicity. Website activity excellent. Working on leadership for 2014.

Duties and responsibilities for each committee head: Have been compiled by Margaret and Becky. Margaret passed around draft descriptions. A change: Greeting committee will be folded back under Hospitality Committee. Another change: attendance at board meetings by Committee Chairs is voluntary with request to attend only during Committee period of activity. Job descriptions will be living documents. If current Committee heads have any changes to these descriptions, let Margaret know. Descriptions will go on Members Only page under respective Committee.

Finances and Membership – Becky Wolary and Maggie Howze

This is Becky's last report. Revenues and expenses as of 9-4-13. \$13,548.26 in checking account as of 8-31-13; savings balance as of the same date is \$10,000.55. Expenses from grants not all in yet. Otherwise in good shape.

Programs – Becky Wolary

For: November 2013 meeting – Dr. Chappell

Drawing at November meeting: Jars will be placed with example wreathes from workshop. If participants want to donate wreathes to add to drawing, let Pat know.

January 2014 – Atlanta Audubon Society on backyard wildlife sanctuaries. Specific speaker not identified.

February, March, April in planning but not finalized yet.

Committee Reports

Hospitality - Terri Erwin

All is good for the picnic. Food will be from JRs. 38 RSVPs . She needs by next Thursday. Send RSVPs to Margaret.

To ensure we have sufficient food – particularly main dishes, the committee is analyzing the number of names per letter in the alphabet and the way they break when alphabet groups are identified for various categories of food for upcoming meetings. They may need to adjust letter groupings according to which letters include the most members. Also, they will encourage attendees to stick to what they're supposed to bring to the upcoming meeting.

Needs volunteers for next year, including a volunteer for head.

Welcoming - Pat Harper

The Committee always is present at meetings. Will be under Hospitality next year. Margaret asked her to work with Marlene on plant exchange.

Seed Exchange - Marlene Westrom

This Committee has been expanded to include plant exchange also.

Make sure you bring plants to the picnic. Everything that comes, leaves.

Education – Margaret Bergeron for Mary Ann Hinds (absent)

Field trip to the UGA soil lab: Several more spots are open, although the van travelling there is full.

Just had hypertufa workshop at Carole Teja's home. Everyone had great time

Jessica's wreath workshop upcoming.

Looking for ideas for workshops. Send to Becky.

Aaron – do bat houses.

Clarification about workshop fees: workshops are not fundraising events for GCMGA. Fee for registrations is for cost of supplies only. A refund to attendees of the hypertufa workshop will be forthcoming. Maggie has said this refund can be credited toward 2014 membership dues. Details will follow.

Field Trips – Margaret Bergeron for Debbie Parks (absent)

Dec 11, reservation for tour of Governor's mansion. Want to have lunch for those interested in the Buckhead area. Suggestions for an appropriate restaurant welcome. Send to Margaret.

Weed and Feed – Jackie Kujawa

Genia Ryan – October 1, 9:30 to noon. Small yard, don't need a lot of volunteers. 4 total.

Kay Fields appreciated effort.

Trying to contact Cindy Reeves, but Glenn is watching her yard.

If anyone knows of someone who needs help, let Jackie know.

Website - Becky Wolary and Aaron Tulin

Aaron noted that everything seems to be going well. Looks like about 500 hits a month – up from previous counts. A lot is coming through organic search terms. Around 100 are direct links, rest though Yahoo links.

Aaron called attention to a security upgrade from his hosting provider, just to prevent problems apparently directed to Wordpress sites. Some visitors to our site have encountered this extra screen. Enter “human” then password, if encountered.

Need more content. Write article in Word document, send pictures separately.

Grants – Margaret for Gaye Bruce (absent)

Reminds grant holders to send in requests for reimbursement as soon as possible, along with pictures. Nov 1 is deadline.

Public Relations - Jessica Miller

September is no publicity since it's our picnic. October publicity will be sent next week. She needs 3-month lead time notices. She'll send a general announcement about the AAS presentation since no speaker has been designated.

Looking for new chair for next year.

Refer people to website for last-minutes schedule changes.

Historian - Becky Panetta

Working on compiling year's photos into slideshow for November meeting. Nancy Costello made 2 disks.

Looking for head for next year.

Volunteers - Wanda Wilburn

No requests at this time.

Looking for Committee head for next year.

Trainee Breakfast – Karen McGinty

Nothing at this time. Will get some information to Kathy about raising prices of breakfast items, such as baked good, yogurt, other items, for other agents. Some items cannot be purchased for the amount charged.

Karen and her committee will do this next year.

Garden Tour – Alice Verner

No report.

Looking for Committee head for next year.

Extension Office Updates – Kathy Parent and Tim Daly

Kathy:

Had MGEV webinar yesterday. A number of Gwinnett MGEVs were in attendance. 3 segments: Background Checks, Online reporting. There will be 5 initiatives and blanket categories, so project forms must be in ahead of time or time will not be accepted.

Plant Clinics – have a few

 Lowe's this weekend

 Family Tree in October for Alzheimer's program

Tim:

Now taking applications for upcoming Trainee class.

Farmer's Market program has been success.

Wants to have a meeting at end of Farmer's Market schedule to explore what worked and what didn't work. Need more volunteers for next year. Two-hour shifts, instead of 4-hour shifts.

Noted Fair will be going on this weekend.

New Business

Robert's proposed project at Pinckneyville Park: Need to form a committee. Good relations if we do so. Tatiana McClure has gone over there and looked at it. Margaret will put it out through email to members in the area.

GNPS plant sale this Saturday.

Vines: once a quarter, a committee has formed, encouraged by Jackie, to meet to promote a quarterly educational event there.

Adjournment

Today is last board meeting of the year. Margaret thanked all attendees. Additional plea for Coommittee Chairs for next year.

Motion to adjourn: Jackie, second Jessica.