

**Gwinnett County Master Gardeners Association  
Board Meeting – January 13, 2014**

**Attending:**

- Alice Verner
- Timothy Daly
- Jackie Kujawa
- Becky Wolary
- Carol Hassell
- Maggie Howze
- Karen McGinty
- Terri Ervin
- Susan Hanson
- Aaron Tulin
- Faye Sisson
- Mary Ann Hides

**Call to Order by President Becky Wolary at 10:10 am.**

**Approve September 2013 Minutes:** Motion to approve: Jackie. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Nancy Approved unanimously.

**Reports by the Officers:**

**State of the Organization – President Becky Wolary**

- Becky thanked the members who stepped up to volunteer to chair various committees.
- Speakers are lined up for initial meetings of 2014.
- Thanks to Susan Hanson for stepping up to chair the plant sale
- Board meetings will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon of every other month through this year.
- March Board Meeting will be at Bethesda Senior Center because of renovations to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Annex Building by the County. This meeting will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon in Mar, March 10.

**Finances and Membership – Treasurer Maggie Howze**

- Carried over 12 members prepaid for 2014, now 26 members.
- 2014 Budget Approval –
  - Plant sale not included in this budget version because Susan hadn't volunteered for committee chair at time it was compiled and finalized.
  - Carol Hassell made a motion to approve the budget as presented. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mary Ann Maher. Approved unanimously.

**Programs – Becky Wolary**

- Auction during the February Meeting –

- Auction items should come in at tonight's member meeting.
- For the live auction, Dan Smith will be the auctioneer.
- Smaller items will be silent auction.
- The committee will meet next week to develop details.
- Photo Contest – Becky is including this on a new announcement sheet to be available at the sign-in table at general member meetings as a time saver.
- Becky solicited ideas for programs since she is shouldering other responsibilities as a result of the VP position being empty.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Hospitality - Terri Erwin**

- Committee is good to go.
- Becky called attention to a problem: people don't bring what they're supposed to bring as notified in pre-meeting email distributions. This has caused entrees to run low at some meetings. Following a discussion, the decision was made to reduce the number of members included in the dessert category in the pre-meeting notifications.

### **Education –Mary Ann Hindes**

- Bat workshop: Aaron has offered his heated workshop for a February workshop -- date to be determined. Aaron also offered red raspberries which he's removing from his yard. Can do this in conjunction with workshop. MaryAnn and Aaron to work out costs – after Aaron verifies materials costs. Perhaps start 10 am. In addition to the cost of the workshop, members who sign up will need to bring their own lunch and water.
- Other workshops: Don has agreed to do the photo workshop, again, since it was a big hit last year, with more interested in attending than the workshop could accommodate.
- Lavender wand workshop: Late June/early July. Winnie White will do this.
- Jessica will do a container plant workshop Sep/Oct.
- Another workshop possibility: Paul Thomas to do an all day workshop on propagation at Gwinnett Tech.
- Tim stated he will be doing a raised bed workshop at Lilburn Community Garden in March.

### **Field Trips –Debbie Parks**

- Not present. No report.

### **Weed and Feed – Jackie Kujawa**

- Jackie asked for information about members who may need this help since they may not be able to ask themselves.
- Mary Lou Dykes needs help; Jackie will contact her.
- Right now the weather is an issue. Will begin sessions for members needing such help as it warms up.

### **Website - Aaron Tulin**

- Website: up and running. AT&T and BellSouth continue to cause cause problems.

- Password will change on February 15. New password will be *tulip*.

### **Grants – Alice Verner**

- Becky thanked Alice for agreeing to do chair the Grants Committee.
- The Grant application form could not go out until the board approved the budget because the individual grant maximum has been increased to \$750 and the total award for 2014 to \$7,500. Other changes: This year only one application will be accepted per member. Finally, only members may apply.

### **Historian – Nancy Costello**

- Nancy commented that she had encountered a bit of a challenge in downsizing jpg file sizes as she takes over the chairmanship.
  - Elements and Lightroom will downsize. LR will batch process.

### **Plant Sale – Susan Hanson**

- Response is good about her handling the sale.
- She asked for help.
- She's doing this because she's promoting native plants – not to clean up people's yards.
- Been suggested that some plants – shrubs mainly – we get from vendors to sell.
  - Hall County charges for booth, so MGs sell and get a cut.
  - Rockdale (Becky) has mix: lots of member stuff plus some stuff they bought, but mostly vendors. Almost like festival.
- Susan posed an idea: Ask MGs to pre-buy interesting new plants, then sell them at the plant sale. She will do this in her announcement at the general member meeting tonight.
  - Native winterberry looks beautiful right now. She'll bring it tonight to promote idea of buying in April.
- Can we arrange with Woody's to have native plant stock available and learn what they require us to purchase. Perhaps approach Woody with exclusive vendor arrangement. Thus, they might deliver because on Friday. Discussion about costs/need to raise funds. We would need to have some profit.
- Another way to approach a vendor arrangement: Perhaps if Woody's would agree to booth rental, let them keep sales. Any agreement with possible vendors will depend upon what the County's policy is concerning sales.
  - What about having Randy's supply perennials, with Woody for shrubs, recognizing their specialties.
  - Nancy recommended that all board members go to Forsyth MG sale in March. Had both vendors and tables selling association dug plants. One issue that would need to be addressed: Vendors are unwilling to be outsold by association members offering plants at lower prices.
  - Best approach this year, try just one approach in vendor relationship.
- Suggestion by Jackie about dug plants: if it cannot be sold for \$5, don't bring it.
- Aaron's solution: all plants can delivered to his staging area ahead of time, allowing time to sort and toss.
- To manage sales logistics, Jackie observed that past sales had a pricing committee which marked all plants. As an alternative Aaron suggested using colored dots to identify specific price points, thus allowing prices to change as needed.

- Susan says she'll have a subcommittee to put up tents, etc.
- Have heritage tomatoes available – popular and in demand, but we' need to have a hothouse to do this.
- Seeds will sell.
- Susan said she already has publicity volunteers; Jessica will help. She will let Becky know about if she wants committee meeting.
- Suggestion: Have experts/help tables/ tomato guy.
- Becky asked: Should we transition to plant sale and garden tours on alternate tours?
- This year's sale will be at GJAC on April 25<sup>th</sup>, the last Friday in the month.

### **Publicity -- Faye Sisson**

- First three-month release went fine. Thanks to Jessica for helping.
- Three month out notice needs to be distributed before 20<sup>th</sup> of month. Even if not too much detail.

### **Trainee Breakfast – Karen McGinty**

- GCMGA is responsible for the four Wednesdays in March.
- 71 Internees.
- Karen confirmed that we can raise prices to whatever we want. The increase will be modest but more reflective of actual food costs.
- Committee meeting is next Tuesday to plan and organize. She'll have information to Becky later this month. People can bring items to EO office the Tuesdays before the classes for which we're responsible.
- This is her 2<sup>nd</sup> year. She will begin looking for successor.

For any committee, Becky asked to have information to be included in announcements sheet.

### **Extension Office Updates –Tim Daly**

Tim noted that we have 21 Gwinnett County Interns in Master Gardener class  
Mentioned the Extension Office Plant Sale  
Gwinnett Tech has developed new garden to fit into Urban Ag certificate

### **New Business**

**Storage** – Aaron offered to take the tents.

### **Adjournment**

11:21 a.m.