

# **Gwinnett County Master Gardener Association**

## **July 14, 2014 – Monday -- Board Meeting Minutes**

Attending:

Becky Wolary  
Margaret Bergeron  
Jackie Kujawa  
Karen McGinty  
Mary Ann Hinds  
Terri Erwin  
Alice Verner  
Aaron Tulin  
Carol Hassell  
Maggie Howze  
Kathy Parent

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### **Approval of May 2014 Minutes**

- Postponed to next meeting.

### **Officer Reports**

#### **Finances – Becky Wolary and Maggie Howze**

- Had some problems with Finances report spreadsheet, so an updated report isn't available, but the association is in good shape.
- Not much activity since last report; the only expense was a speaker fee.

#### **Programs – Becky Wolary**

- July – Tony Gobert, The importance of buying and eating locally grown food products
- August – Ellen Honeycutt, Native shrubs of north Georgia
- September – Picnic.
- October – Dr. Stephen Garten, recently retired from the Forsyth County Extension Office, Water Gardening with a focus on Lotus

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Hospitality – Terri Erwin**

- Next month work on picnic begins.
- Since she may not be at the July meeting next Monday, Maggie and Alice will function as backup.
- Discussion concerning the extra expense from the April awards luncheon. This event is not really our function, but we are supporting the Extension Office. Thus, the expense is not our responsibility. Terri suggested that this arrangement needs to be passed along to the next committee head, since she did not know these facts.

- No committee head for next year, as yet.

#### **Survey – Becky Wolary.**

- Results to date: 39 completed out of 54 attempts. Of the 15 not completed, 7 were blank, 3 are duplicates of completed surveys and 5 have only the name information entered.
- Responses so far not great. Reasons for this are not apparent: everyone satisfied and happy with organization? Apathetic?
- At this point, the results are not substantial enough to draw any conclusions.
- Through additional communications, members will continue to be encouraged to fill it out.

#### **Education – Mary Ann Hides**

- Photography Workshop on May 6 had maximum capacity with 12 participants.
- Lavender Wand Workshop, June 25, had 11 participants. There was discussion about having another lavender workshop next year since response was enthusiastic
- The Arbor Workshop at Pinckneyville Park on July 9 had 4 participants.
- Upcoming:
  - Jessica Miller will do Making an Herb Container, Wednesday, October 8, at the Extension Office, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. Fee: \$28.00. This includes all supplies, soil and herbs. No fee will be charged for people who come to learn but not participate. Maximum number of workshop participants is 20 (not including observers). A discussion ensued concerning the location for this workshop, given the mess this session will inevitably create. Other venues previously were considered but none seemed appropriate for one reason or another. Additional venues were suggested by board members, including Vines and the Georgia Piedmont Land Trust's Kistner Center. Mary Ann will check with Jessica to see if the latter would work, since it's an ideal location in all respects related to the actual implementation of the workshop.
- Apparently, the idea of GCMGA sponsoring an Advanced Learning session has not met with a good reception by the state EO Liaison. Discussion followed about conducting advanced topics as GCMGA workshops without seeking to have them be considered as part of the statewide advanced program resulting in Silver or Gold stars. Jackie would like to see a training session on DDDI, an online resource offered by UGA that helps with species identification of plants and insects, among others. This could be added to a workshop on using identification keys. Another suggestion: Schedule a Propagation workshop this fall at Gwinnett Tech. Mary Ann should check with Robert Brannen as a courtesy.

#### **Field Trips – Debbie Parks.**

- Apparently Debbie has moved. Becky had tried to contact her without success since Debbie indicated she'd like to finish out this year of committee chairmanship.

#### **Grants – Alice Verner**

- No project submittals for the fall round. If another round of reminders doesn't generate any response, the funds will remain in the association's account.

#### **Historian – Nancy Costello**

- Becky reported that because of her health issues, Nancy had trouble getting to her computer, so has not uploaded pictures or forwarded them to Becky for the website.

**Public Relations – Faye Sisson**

- Becky observed that Faye was doing a great job getting press information out, noting that she (Becky) had missed getting some information to Faye by press deadlines in a couple instances.

**Trainee Breakfast – Karen McGinty**

- For the 2015 class Karen will have the same committee as she had this year. GCMGA will be responsible for three dates, not four as in years past: March 11, 18 and 25. Cobb County will have interns in the 2015 class, so that it will be comprised of Fulton, DeKalb, Gwinnett, Clayton and Cobb trainees. The class size is limited by seating capacity, so will be capped at 80 participants. She plans to hold item prices the same as last year. She also expects her budget to be the same as this year's.

**Website – Aaron Tulin**

- Everything going well. If anyone experiences problems, let him now.

**Weed and Feed – Jackie Kujawa**

- One session was held at Fran Robbins' home; lots needed to be done, but the participants got her garden in good shape.
- Let her know of anyone who might need help.

**Extension Office – Kathy Parent**

- Reviewed the new volunteer hours online log and early results.

**New Business**

- Leadership; Committee Chairs. Discussion about why people are not stepping up with no conclusions drawn.
- We will have a 2015 garden tour. Becky reported that two individuals have stepped forward to chair the tour. They have done garden tours for other organizations and know what they are doing. She had an initial meeting with them. They intend to begin selection of gardens soon. Date for tour TBD.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 11:30.