

**Gwinnett County
Master Gardeners
Association**

www.gwinnettmastergardeners.com

BOARD MINUTES

Monday, January 12th at 10:30 a.m

Held at:

Gwinnett County Extension Office
Suite 400, 750 Perry Street,
Lawrenceville, GA 30046-4804

Attending: Carole Teja, Becky Wolary, Maggie Howze, Jessica Miller, Shirley Bohm, Karen McGinty, Timothy Daly, Faye Sisson, Alice Verner, Kathy Parent, Ann Bonislowski, Becky Panetta, Lori Prosser, Carol Hassell,

Absent: Jackie Kujawa; Margaret Bergeron; Genia Ryan

10:30 am Meeting Called to Order by 2015 President Carole Teja

10:35 am Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting: Motion to approve, Maggie, 2nd by Becky Wolary.

Officer Reports:

President – Carole Teja

- Announced she started a Facebook page for the Association.
- Mentoring Program. Ann Bonislowski helping now, but committee chair is needed. Carole emphasize need to help trainees get involved.

Vice President – Genia Ryan (not present)

- No report.

Treasurer –

- Financial Report
- 2015 Budget –Motion to approve, Jessica, 2nd by Shirley.

Recording Secretary – Carol Hassell

- No report.

Extension Office – Tim Daly listed Extension Update.

- New training class underway – 20 trainees.
- Speakers' Panel – circulated flyer. He encouraged promotion of this.
- Wants to have at least one advanced training – plant propagation, probably at Gwinnett Tech. Hold it twice.
- Re-emphasized need for volunteer hours entry. Hours off in 2013. This affects the EO's budget.
 - Becky W raised the issue of travel hours – currently a problem.
- Will be having Farmers Market presence again this year. More info to follow on this.
- Request for GGIA volunteer assistance. (Thurs 1/22 and Fri 1/23 – am and pm shifts)
- The Extension Office's plant sale is underway.

Carole noted that she's also looking for volunteers for GGIA convention, to staff an information table.

Kathy extended thanks for the trainee notebooks, stating that they were well received.

Committee Chair Reports**

Trainee Breakfast – Karen McGinty

- 3 Wednesdays instead of 4 since Cobb County now is a part of the training.
- She'll announce at member meeting next Monday
- Dates in March when GCMGA will provide food::March 11,18 and 25
- Committee (comprised of same group as last year) meeting will be tomorrow.

Education – Jessica Miller

- Full committee report at end of minutes.
- She circulated report ahead of time.
- Carole has donated her basement for first workshop.
- First workshop on terrariums by Emily Robinson, January 31 (Saturday),. Participants limited to 20. Registration, \$20. Covers plants, soil gravel, class. Jessica will make announcement at member meeting next week.

Field Trips – Mary Ann Hindes.

- Handed out calendar, included at end of notes.
- First field trip: to Orchid Opulence.
- Wants to have a single banner/sign at member meetings to promote each field trip.
- Brought up idea of re-instituting bus/van.
- Jessica suggested going to Oakland Cemetery (even though we had a trip there two years ago) again.
- Jessica then asked: Are these events workshop or a field trip? Following discussion, consensus was that Jessica and Mary Ann should consider this and coordinate their scheduling.
- Are the field trips/education workshops limited to MGEVs? Consensus following review: GCMGA members get first pick, then open up (one week before event) to family if any spaces available with \$5 fee for nonmembers.

Public Relations/Marketing – Faye Sisson

- No report.
- Because monthlies have 3 month lead time, she noted that she will send out whatever information she has in advance – and this may not be complete because details haven't been finalized.. Becky Panetta suggested adding to these announcements: "Check the GCMGA website."
- Carole asked Tim is Branden could help with communications.

Garden Tour –

- Since chairs were unable to be present, their report is included at end of minutes.
- Next committee meeting, this Wednesday at 1:30 pm, in EO office.
- Carole noted that committee chairs are doing great job.

Project Grants – Alice Verner

- Announcement about the grant program needs to be sent out to members.
- She requested it be sent as a standalone item, for added emphasis.
- Include submission deadline – February 28th.
- Grants: up to \$750.

Hospitality – Shirley Bohm

- Her report circulated ahead of time. Included at end of minutes.
- Carole asked for extra help in cleaning up after meetings to get out of Bethesda Senior Center in timely fashion.
- Her committee is comprised of previous members, so they have procedure well in hand.
- As to location for picnic: Under advisement. Shirley raised issue of location for picnic. Becky W. offered explanation for why Kistner Center selected. Under discussion.
- Procedure of having greeters at meetings is excellent.

Historian – Lori Prosser

- She'll be at the first member meeting, starting to take pictures. She wants to get pictures of all events – members can take pictures on smartphones. She wants to collect for end-of-year assemblage. Email: loriprosser@aol.com.
- She'll begin taking pictures of Trainees at upcoming training session.

Photograph Competition – Becky Panetta

- Next Deadline – end of January. Contest from whenever info goes out. Deadline will be February 8. Mail any entry to Becky P. 6 categories, one photo per entrant per category. Entrance limited to GCMGA paid up members. Photos must be taken in 2014 in Georgia. Added categories: Things from the Garden.
- Carole suggested: Consider moving the photo competition to July – a slow program month.
- March program is Hazel Berger, the person who will judge the contest. She's been doing nature photography for years. She enters competitions and sells her photography at www.hazelbergerphotography.com. She also has a FB page.

Old Business

When do we change the member website password? Password typically is changed one week after Feb meeting. New password: *Apples* (not case sensitive).

New Business

New Trainees: Kathy wondered about a past policy of providing first year free membership to trainees. Carole noted that the EC discussed and decided that we would not offer free membership.

Next BOD Quarterly Meeting: Friday, April 17th – same place, same time.

** Please let the Recording Secretary have your written report for *The Minutes* if you are unable to attend any Board Meeting. Thank You.

Meeting adjourned by Carole: 11:52 am.

Committee Report Attachments:

- Education
- Field Trip calendar
- Garden Tour
- Hospitality

Education Committee Report
Jan 12, 2015
Jessica Miller, GCMGA Education Chair

Here are my ideas for 2015:

- Emily Robison - Terrariums (Jan 31) at Carole's
- Lori Processor - English Garden Photos (Feb or March) 2nd floor conference room
- Susan Myers - Pollinator Habitat Restoration, Monarchs Across Georgia (May?) at Stone Mountain conference center if possible (she is possibly an Educator there)
- Shannon Pable - Landscaping 101 Workshop (Sept or Oct) 2nd floor conference room
- Monastery of the Holy Spirit - Bonsai Workshop (mid summer)
- Don has offered to do a Photography Workshop as well. We could do that perhaps at the Kistner center in the fall.
- Karen A. Rawlins – ID of invasive plants


Also, from the 2014 MG survey were requests to do the following workshops/field trips:

- Herbs
- Oakland Commentary
- Containers
- Orchid Farm

Some of these would be repeats, but maybe that is OK.

Questions:

Are Education events limited to only current Master Gardeners?
In the description of the Education Chair, publicity goes to the webmaster. Who else receives it? Is Kathy Cc? I assume it goes to the President for distribution, is this correct?

 Field Trips 2015	Dates (some dates to be determined)
Orchid Opulence: Two Nurseries in One Day Peach State Orchids peachstateorchids.com Rainbeau Orchids rainbeauorchids.com Sue Baker at Rainbeau will repot your orchids if you bring them along. We can buy plants at both nurseries. A flyer on the front table for mtg. on January 19	February 25 Wednesday Peach State 11:00 a.m. Rainbeau 2:00 p.m. Lunch at nearby restaurants Union Restaurant will take reservations for a group http://www.theunionrestaurant.com 770-569-7767
The Pocket at Pigeon Mountain: Wildflower Walk Sack Lunch at Debbie Parks' home afterwards Come along and see Debbie's new home in the hills!	March 25 Wednesday, (trying to change to March 26 due to trainee breakfast.)
Plant Delights Nursery "Plus" http://www.plantdelights.com Juniper Level Botanical Garden at PDN plus visits to nearby botanical treasures C. R. Keith Arboretum	May 1-3 (overnight trip) Thursday-Saturday
Annual Penny McHenry-Hydrangea Festival in Douglas County <i>Think French and fabulous!</i> <i>A celebration of French hydrangeas</i>	June 6 Saturday Theme: Madame Emile Mouillere Hydrangea
Jaemor Farms Tour Alto, GA	August Contact: Caroline Black caroline@jaemorframs.com tentatively mid August (Wednesday, August 19)
Piccadilly Farm Nursery (Conifer Days) Bishop, GA	October Probably last week in October

Pop-up tours	
Vince Dooley's Garden	Sometime after he is a speaker
Alternative/Organic Farms	Contact: Michael Wheeler (Hall County) Heather Tubbs (local CSA advocate)

Garden Descriptions for the 2015 GCMGA Tour

The Gwinnett County Master Gardener Tour is a great way to spend a spring Saturday! Visit local residential gardens created and maintained by Gwinnett Master Gardeners. Visitors can also see unique public spaces which received volunteer hours and/or grant money from the GCMGA. You'll take home wonderful ideas for your own garden and discover hidden gems you didn't know existed!

Edible Gardening

This is a great garden to visit if you like gardening with edibles! One of the first things visitors see upon entering the backyard is a cozy bench in the shade of a muscadine arbor. A productive vegetable garden is attractive with the addition of colorful flowers and decorative touches. An efficient composting system provides nutrients to amend the clay soil. Blueberries, raspberries and blackberries line the back of the property. A potting shed creates a focal point toward the back of the lot while also allowing Shirley a great space to start her seedlings.

Vines Park - Hidden Gem

This park on the Eastern edge of Gwinnett County is a hidden gem! The park consists of 25 acres of gardens that once surrounded a private estate. Vines Mansion still stands and currently operates as an event facility. The gardens are now part of the Gwinnett County Parks Department. The Gwinnett County Master Gardener program provides volunteers who help with maintenance as well as grant money for ongoing projects.

This beautiful park contains a formal rose garden, a woodland garden, a Japanese inspired garden, and a brook garden. A whimsical railroad garden runs through a miniature town. A path leads visitors around serene Swan Lake over a charming bridge that would be at home in Monet's garden. A charming gazebo is the perfect place to sit for a spell and watch the wildlife like the kingfishers and blue herons that call the pond home. Bluebird boxes dot the space and provide nesting opportunities.

Many native trees, shrubs and perennials such as plum leaf azalea, winterberry, sweet shrub, Turks cap, and bottlebrush dot the grounds. Many unusual plants not commonly seen such as an evergreen wisteria and a tree with roots growing over a boulder can also be seen.

Note: Public Bathroom available at this site.

Cutting Garden

Joan's love of fresh-cut flowers influenced her choice of plants in this colorful garden. Each season, there is something blooming that can be added to a flower arrangement and enjoyed inside her home. Joan's garden provides solace and joy for her and others. The front yard plantings are kept low maintenance and consist of crepe myrtles, tea olives, boxwood and nandina. The South side of the garden is where Joan grows peonies, gerber daisies, weigela, wisteria, verbena and her cutting flowers. The shady north side contains a variety of hosta.

Many varieties of azalea, camellia and hydrangea dot the backyard. A 50 ft. greenbelt runs along the back of the garden where Joan has cleared the woods adjacent to the school behind her property. Circular gardens with many different plant varieties create a mini botanical garden where Joan has repurposed old vinyl blinds to create plant markers to educate visitors.

Breezy Gardens

The Duello's backyard sanctuary is the perfect spot to sit and relax. This secret garden is affectionately referred to as "Breezy Gardens" by their friends and family. The garden has several spaces that each have unique features. As visitors enter the garden, they will find edibles tucked into pockets of sun along the mixed flower beds. A soothing water feature with goldfish draws visitors into the space. An herb garden is both beautiful and functional. A winding path created with stone containing bits of sparkly mica, leads to a charming playhouse which creates a focal point in the back corner of their yard. This path, called "the stairway to heaven," leads visitors past various perennials and shrubs. A giant checkerboard created using square pavers is a whimsical touch that provides a fun way to pass the time. Don't miss the Duello's back porch filled with vintage finds and a comfy porch swing!

Mountain Retreat

The Chatfield garden feels like a mountain retreat. The cool shade created by the mature trees and the soothing sound from the nearby creek offer a welcome respite. A woodland path leads past the creek and meanders to a brightly colored hammock on its way through an arbor to a cozy seating nook. Shade loving evergreen shrubs such as aucuba and perennials such as Christmas fern lend structure to the garden. Visitors will enjoy seeing the creative use of space under the two story deck.

Lilburn Greenway

The City of Lilburn's website describes the Camp Creek Greenway as a four mile paved and gravel trail that runs east-west through Lilburn. This scenic trail traverses woodlands for much of its journey. Deer, rabbits, foxes, owls, and other birds are often spotted in this natural setting. The local garden club is responsible for planting wildflowers that add color and beauty to the trail. Pets are welcome; be sure to use the waste stations provided along the way.

Lilburn Community Garden

In 2012, Mayor Johnny Crist encouraged the entire community to work together in creating this garden to benefit Lilburn. Local volunteers helped plan and design the garden on a piece of property offered by the City. According to the garden website, their mission is, *"to create an opportunity to grow food for area residents and local food banks, to cultivate community interaction and fun across all ages, cultures and income levels, to provide a learning environment for organic sustainable growing practices, and to beautify Lilburn."* Visitors to the Lilburn Community Garden will find a wide variety of edibles growing in raised beds as well as ideas for adding whimsy and fun to their own vegetable gardens.

Native Plant Lover's Delight

Jane Trentin's garden is a "must see" for anyone interested in native plants! It is a certified native and wildlife habitat. As a member of the Georgia Native Plant Society, many of Jane's treasures have been acquired through plant rescues. Several of the natives are deer tolerant, allowing them to thrive despite the deer which frequent Jane's yard. These indigenous plants are also well suited to our environment and thrive with little care. Visitors will enjoy seeing unusual natives such as Georgia savory and Franklinia tree. Jane has several native plants listed in Linda Chafin's [Field Guide to the Rare Plants of Georgia](#). These plants include *Waldsteinia lobata* (Barren strawberry), *Asclepias purpurascens* (purple milkweed), *Coreopsis integrifolia* (floodplain tickseed), *Echinacea laevigata* (smooth coneflower), *Pachysandra procumbens* (Allegheny spurge), *Rhododendron prunifolium* (plumleaf azalea), *Spirea virginiana* (Virginia spirea), *Symphotrichum georgianum* (Georgia aster) and *Helianthus verticillatus* (whorled sunflower). Jane's favorites include many of the spring ephemerals such as trout lilies and the several varieties of trillium in her yard. As development encroaches on Atlanta, it's good to know there is a safe home for many of these natives.

Serenity garden

Susan's garden is a great example of how planting in swaths or in masses of similar plant material such as hellebores or azaleas create cohesion in a garden. Much of this yard is shaded by hardwood trees so there are many shade loving plants, including natives. Pockets of evergreens such as daphne, yew, camellia, holly and autumn fern lend structure to the space. Statuary nestled among the plants and trees provide wonderful focal points. Most dramatic is the pure white marble statue of a man embracing a woman in the wooded backyard.

Charleston style garden

This charming Charleston style garden was designed by Tara Dillard using classic Southern plants. In the front yard, bed lines create a sense of enclosure and lead the eye to the front door in a welcoming manner. Classic plants such as boxwood, azaleas, many varieties of hydrangea, and both camellias sasanqua and japonica provide blooms almost year round. Seating areas tucked in pockets of shade provide pleasant spots to stop and rest. Entering the backyard through a charming arbor, visitors will hear the soothing sound of water. A formal fountain provides a focal point in the backyard. A koi pond adds an element of movement. Winding paths created with slate found on the property, guide visitors through a more natural area away from the house. A retaining wall created by stacking unopened bags of concrete will be of interest to the DIY visitors.

GCMGA Garden Tour 2015 Tour and Ticket Production Schedule

Task	Due date	Responsible party
select gardens & get approval for public spaces	January 1	Linda & Julie
take photos and create descriptions	January 1	Julie Foster
create map and directions	February 1	Linda Edwards
Committee meeting	Nov., Jan., & March	Linda Edwards
Recruit volunteers for Garden Angels	Nov. & ongoing	Michelle & Linda
Develop budget	November	Becky Wolary
Save the Date email to surrounding counties	November	Carol Teja
Design 'Save the date' flyers	January 15	Linda Edwards & Genia Ryan
Order gifts for gardens on tour	January 15	Carol Teja
Design tickets	February 1	Genia Ryan
Print tickets	March 1	Genia Ryan
Release to news media	Jan. 15 & ongoing	Marlene Westrom
Create a Facebook page	February 1	Linda Edwards
Release to Gwinnett Convention & Visitors Center	February 1	Marlene Westrom
Obtain Project approval from Ext. Service	January 1	Julie Foster
Sponsors for ticket sales confirmed	March 15	Alice Verner
Tour flyers at monthly GCMGA meetings	Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr	
Create educational handout for each garden	April 15	
Deliver tickets to nurseries	March 15	Alice Verner
Recruit volunteers for Ask a MG & ticket sales at local nurseries	March 15 & ongoing	Alice Verner
Recruit volunteers for Day of Tour	March 15 & ongoing	Rita Rudzinski
Begin online ticket sales	April 1	Becky & Sue Shaw
Sell tickets at GCMGA meetings	March & April	Sue Shaw
Pre-tour meeting for instructions	May 13	Rita, Linda & Julie
Directional signs to host gardens	May 15 or before	Julie Foster
Tour Day	May 16	All hands on deck!
Post tour meeting to recap, get money & signs to responsible parties	May 18?	committee

Hospitality Committee Meeting
January 7, 2015, 10:00 – 11:30 am
AGENDA Minutes

1. **Collect contact information from all members: contact information for committee members follow minutes. Members attending included Alice Vernor, Maggie Howze, Liz Tarver, Amelia Skelton, Pat Harper, Jean Patterson, Becky Panetta and Shirley Bohm, chair. Carole Teja, GCMG President, attended as well.**
2. **Handouts:**
 - a. **2015 Schedule Planning Draft Calendar**
 - b. **Hospitality Committee Responsibilities and Procedures**
 - c. **GCMG 2015 Budget**
3. **Responsibilities and Procedures**
 - a. **Maggie Howze sends the notice for the theme and assignments for type of covered dish to bring to the meeting to Pres. Carole Teja and Carole will forward to GCMG members and to Kathy Parent at the Extension Office for her weekly news message.**
 - b. **All members share in the responsibilities at the meeting for setup, greeting and cleanup.**
 - c. **Shirley will contact Bethesda to see if we can have access to another empty cabinet for storage and also a key**
4. **Theme and decorations for each month:**
 - a. **Jan. - Theme: Terrariums and Fairy Gardens/ Soup and Sandwiches. Have spoons and cardboard coffee cups for soup. Pat will bring her terrarium and Shirley will bring fairy garden furniture. All will bring anything blooming, etc. for floral bouquets.**
 - b. **Feb. – Theme: Valentine’s Day/Heart Healthy foods. Pussy Willows will be in bloom. Bring red decorations, heart decorations, red candles.**
 - c. **Mar. – Theme: St. Pat’s Day/corned beef and cabbage and Irish Food. Bring shamrocks, green Irish hats, anything green, whatever is blooming.**
 - d. **Apr. – Theme: April Showers/Favorite vegetable dish. Bring boots & umbrellas, bunnies and spring things, daffodils and other spring flowers.**
 - e. **May – Theme: Cinco de Mayo/Favorite Georgia and Mexican dishes. Red and black color theme, Bring ceramic bulldog, flowers in bloom. Speaker Vince Dooly is likely to be a big draw so we will need to open up the rest of the dining room. Start appetizers early at 6 pm and set out the “tip” jar for visitors.**
 - f. **June – Theme: Wild flowers & Kudzu/Favorite pasta dishes. Bring bird houses and wild flowers.**
 - g. **July – Theme: Red, White and Blue/Picnic Food. Bring 4th of July decorations and what ever is blooming.**
 - h. **Aug. – Theme: Beach with Sea Shells/Summer Vegetables. Bring kid’s beach toys (pail and shovel, etc.), light house, what ever is blooming.**

- i. **Sept. – Theme: Picnic at McDaniel Farm Park/ Food Provided.** Shirley will order food. Have \$20 tip available for delivery person. Leftovers could be frozen for the next meeting (bring large containers for food). RSVP to Shirley. Non Members to pay \$10, no charge for members. Shirley will track who paid. Get roll of checkered tablecloth for the picnic tables.
 - j. **Oct. – Theme: (21st) Happy Birthday GCMG!/German Food.** Carole will order a sheet cake for dessert. Limit number of people who are assigned to bring desserts. Bring balloons, party decorations, noise makers, mums and other fall flowers.
 - k. **Nov. – Theme: Holiday Party/Turkey-Ham (members can be reimbursed), holiday food.** Tablecloths and flowers are each dining table. Shirley will bring short blue mason jars for vases so people can see over the flowers to talk. Bring what ever you have blooming.
 - l. **Awards Luncheon (April) – date to be determined but Carole will suggest preference for Apr. 29 or 30 so Award Luncheon will not immediately follow monthly meeting.** Extension Office will provide KFC chicken, biscuit, slaw and tea. GCMG will bring sides, appetizers, desserts. Final menu and responsibilities TBD. All tables have tablecloths and bouquets. (canning jars)
5. **Additional comments:**
- a. The committee agreed to hold another meeting in 6 months.
 - b. Carole said she had been approached with holding the Volunteer Appreciation Picnic in the north (McDaniel Farm) one year and in the south (Vines or another location) the next year. The committee agreed on McDaniel Farm this year but Shirley suggested Bay Creek or another county park for next year. Bay Creek has several pavilions with lots of picnic tables that can be reserved for our picnic. Shirley will get details.
 - c. We have used JR's Log House to cater the picnic for several years. If you know of another business that has good food, is in the north part of the county and the price is right, let Shirley know. Here's what we ordered: 9 lb. chopped pork, 9 lb. chopped chicken with sauce, 4 large aluminum foil pans each of cole slaw, BBQ beans, Mac and cheese and green beans, 11 lbs. St. Louis ribs, 110 each bread slices, French bread buns, corn bread, 100 plates, cups and napkins, 10 gal. tea, 2 lg. pans of dessert (banana cream pudding and cherry crisp or something similar).
 - d. If someone comes to the pot luck and doesn't bring a covered dish, suggest they put money in the donation jar.
 - e. Carole suggested we move the table for magazines and plant exchanges to the back of the room by the exit to eliminate the bottle neck by the registration table.
 - f. If anyone has anything they would like to donate as a door prize, contact Gina Ryan.
 - g. We agreed to add a sentence to each reminder for the next monthly meeting to encourage everyone to make a donation of one can of meat, fish, fruit or vegetables for one of the local pantries, school supplies (in July as we did last year) or Toys for Tots (in Nov.) for needy children.
 - h. Carole will ask Kathy if they will make an announcement at the Master Gardeners class calling for volunteers for the Hospitality Committee.

Hospitality Committee Members 2015

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