

**Gwinnett County Master Gardeners Association  
Board Meeting – Monday, September 8, 2014**

**Attending:**

Becky Wolary  
Margaret Bergeron  
Carole Teja  
Jackie Kujawa  
Mary Ann Hindes  
Alice Verner  
Terri Ervin  
Linda Edwards  
Timothy Daly  
Carol Hassell

**Called to order: 10 a.m.**

**Approval of Minutes via email – Becky Wolary**

Becky described the procedure for review and approval of board meeting minutes as it proceeded last month: Carol submits the draft to the EC for review; this version then is distributed to the full board for review and approval with a deadline for response several days to a week hence. Any returned comments within the time period are incorporated; and these final minutes are posted to the Members Only section of the website. This procedure increases the efficiency of in-person board meetings by eliminating an agenda item.

**Reports of Officers**

**Nominating Committee – Jessica Miller**

Jessica could not be present, but she had submitted her report in advance. Becky reported on that Carole Teja has agreed to be the candidate for president, heading the 2015 slate. But more immediately, she also has agreed to step into the Vice Presidency for the remainder of 2014. The EC has approved this appointment. Jessica's report follows these minutes.

**Finances and Membership Update – Becky Wolary for Maggie Howze**

Present membership count: 188 members.

Checking account balance as of 7/31/14: \$13,875.18

Savings account balance as of 7/31/14: \$10,003.55.

Outstanding expenditures: Still have the picnic to pay for, the holiday party and grants. The difference between final total expenses and year end revenues will be made up from reserves (in the checking account).

**Programs – Carole Teja**

October – Stephen Garten (Water Gardening/Lotus); 2015

January 2015 -- Terrariums and fairy gardens, followed by hands-on workshop on January 31.

February – she will consult with Genia, then follow with email to board.

She asked for suggestion for speakers: Jackie proposed backyard beekeeping (because the primary beekeeping activity starts Mar/Apr/May). Her speaker suggestion for this topic is Steve Rasmussen – excellent, former school teacher. Rasmussen Honey.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Education – Mary Ann Hindes**

Wednesday, October 8: Jessica Miller will conduct a workshop on container herb gardens at Family Tree.

### **Field Trips – Debbie Parks**

Margaret had contacted Debbie (who is busy moving to a new home). Margaret will help her. A brief discussion followed on possible fall trips.

### **Garden Tour – Julie Foster/Linda Edwards – Linda reported**

Several master gardeners have agreed to have their gardens on the tour: Shirley Bohm, Deborah Duello, Jane Trentin and Susan Varlamov, along with Vines Gardens. Still needed: a couple more gardens in specific parts of the county to form a sort of trail. Perhaps: the gardens of Carol Chatfield, Debby Bush or Richard Kennedy. Lilburn Green Trail: Karen DePew will take the idea to the Ladybug Garden Club. Also, Lilburn Community Garden. Discussion about ticket sales logistics. One location in Loganville; another in Lilburn. . Bonnie Smolinsky doesn't think her garden is tour-worthy. Still considering dates; Saturday, May 16 is one potential, but they are considering a June date as an alternative. Once gardens are identified, then they'll get committee together. They'll follow up with the county as well.

### **Grants – Alice Verner**

No update. Becky asked that Alice provide any feedback on the current grants process so improvements can be made for next year's program.

For the remaining 2014 program: Alice will send a out reminder to grant recipients about submittal deadlines. Following this, Maggie will send a reminder about the expense submission deadline.

### **Historian – Nancy Costello**

No report. Nancy's health issues make it unlikely that she'll be able to continue.

### **Hospitality - Terri Erwin**

Working on the picnic and in contact with JRs Barbecue, the caterer. She noted that they will serve dessert since there will be no cake. Need RSVPs to Betsy by the Friday beforehand. The very popular plant swap will be a part of the event. Robert Brannen usually wants to speak.

Terri concluded by stating that no replacement as Hospitality committee has yet been identified.

### **Public Relations – Faye Sisson**

No report.

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

Nothing to report at this time.

### **Website - Aaron Tulin**

Going fine.

### **Weed and Feed – Jackie Kujawa**

At present, she does not have any requests, and, therefore no Weed and Feed events scheduled. To make sure members are aware of this service for those who may need some help when health challenges keep them from their own gardens, Jackie asked for help in creating better and more visibility for the program.

### **Survey results – Becky**

Carole said the 3 speakers who topped the list of members' speaker ideas should get thank you's – recognition for conducting memorable presentations.

### **Extension Office – Kathy Parent/Tim Daly – Timothy reported**

2015 Master Gardener training class open for candidates. Asked for suggestions from GCMGA. On October 7, having & Meet n Greet for applicants.

Farmers Markets went well this year. Got a lot of support for the information tables at various Farmer Market locations.

Fall home show: October 8-10.

Tim will be doing trainings for MGEVs to help in office. In particular, he needs help with the volume of incoming phone calls.

Wants to revive Speakers Panels.

Working on writing for publications.

Advanced trainings: wants to line up some training events for next year. Tops for consideration: Plant identification. Plant propagation. Leadership (in winter).

National Urban Extension Conference will be held here in 2015. Will be at Ravana Hotel in May. Board members expressed the hope that it would NOT be on May 16 (potential garden tour date).

### **New Business**

#### **2015 Leadership -- Becky**

We have full candidate slate for next year. Jessica's report will be formally presented at the October meeting, with the floor opened for nominations, as required in the Bylaws..

Some Committee Chairs still needed: Hospitality, Field Trips, Historian.

January and February 2015 meetings: Normally, the regularly scheduled date for these two meeting must be altered because they both fall on holidays, when County facilities are closed. However, Becky reported that Bethesda Senior Center may be willing to open, if we are willing to pay. This would be a good solution since the date changes always cause problems. Becky hopes to get this settled in next couple days.

Next scheduled board meeting: Monday, November 10, 2014: Becky requested that board members keep this meeting on their calendars for now. Determination of need TBD.

Budgets for 2015: New committee heads need to work up budgets. Normally, the budget meeting is the first week in December; therefore, the budgets must be submitted by email prior to that. Becky also noted that the goal of workshops: not to make money, but supplies expense does need to be covered.

Margaret will contact Whole Foods about applying to be a featured 5% Day nonprofit in 2015 (nonprofits are eligible every 2 years and we last were featured in 2013).

### **Adjournment**

10:46 AM.

**GCMGA Nominating Committee Report  
Monday September 8, 2014**

A Nominating Committee was formed in August consisting of Margaret Bergeron, Jackie Kujawa and Jessica Miller. The committee was chaired by Jessica Miller (as a result of the Vice Presidential vacancy).

The committee would like to report that they met September 3, 2014 to develop a slate of candidates for the 2015 term. All nominees are GCMGA members in good standing and their consent to accept nomination has been obtained. The slate is being presented (today) to the GCMGA Board.

The committee would like to report, as well, that they spoke with Carol Teja, and that after accepting the nomination for 2015 President, the Executive Board appointed her Vice President, filling the 2014 vacancy.

As the final order of the business portion of the October GCMGA membership meeting, the slate of nominees will be presented to the membership and the nominating committee will accept further nominations from the floor with the nominee's permission.

The slate will then be presented to the President for vote at the November membership meeting.

**The 2015 Executive Board Slate of Officer Nominees:**

**President - Carole Teja  
Vice President - Genia Ryan  
Secretary - Carol Hassell  
Treasurer - Maggie Howze**

**In addition, Becky Wolary will serve on the Executive Board as  
Past President**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jessica Miller, GCMGA Nominating Committee Chair