



**Gwinnett County
Master Gardeners
Association**

www.gwinnettmastergardeners.com

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Friday, April 17th @ 10:30 a.m.

Held at:
Gwinnett County Extension Office
2nd Floor Conference Room

Present:

Carole Teja
Jessica Miller
Maggie Howze
Becky Wolary
Jackie Kujawa

Karen McGinty
Carol Hassell.
Kathy Parent
Tim Daly

10:35 am Meeting Called to Order by President Carole Teja
10:35 am Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting: Motion to approve as presented: Jessica; 2nd, Jackie.

Reports by

President – Carole Teja

- Carole asked Becky for a brief recap of the status of the Constitution/Bylaws Update project. Work on the Constitution was completed and submitted, as required, to the membership prior to a vote.
 - Becky reviewed process for the vote at Monday's (April 20) monthly member meeting. She and Carol Hassell will hand out printed ballots to current members, checking these names off a list prepared for the purpose by Maggie Howze. Mary Ann Maher and Marlene Westrom will be count the ballots, since they had nothing to do with update.
 - Vote will be members present only. No proxies.
 - The committee has continued the review and update of the Bylaws and are probably a third to half way through.
- Carole pointed out that a change to the Constitution requires a vote by the membership. Changes to the Bylaws require only by a Board of Directors vote.
- Other announcements by Carole: looks as though we'll have plant sale at Fairgrounds in fall 2016. Will require lots of prep work. Won't start planning till after this year's garden tour is completed.

Vice President – Genia Ryan

- From Genia: please accept this email as my written report to the GCMGA Board on April 17, 2015. I am missing the meeting due to the funeral of my great aunt.
- **Second Quarter Monthly Programs**
 - **April 20 - Bob Westerfield** will be speaking on vegetable gardening and will also talk about raised bed gardening options. Tickets for the GCMGA Garden Tour will be on sale at the meeting (20). Also, books by Vince Dooley and garden tour passes to Dooley's garden tour (May 19) will be available at Monday's meeting and our May (18) meeting.
 - **May 18 - Vince Dooley** will be speaking about his passion for gardening and hydrangeas. The following day, GCMGA members, on a first-come, first-serve basis, will be able to tour Dooley's private garden in Athens. Admission is the purchase of one of his books; either the Garden (\$35) or History (\$40) book. Order forms and a sample of each book will be at Monday's (20) meeting. Information will also be sent out by email early next week. Be sure to bring cash or your check book to Monday's meeting.

Carole added that this meeting will start at 6 pm so that if we have lots of visitors, members will get opportunity to get their dinners and eat before visitors arrive.

 - **June 15 – Karan Rawlins** will be speaking about invasive species and a project, First Detectors that she is working on through the University of Georgia. The goal of First Detectors is to offer tools and training to enable Master Gardeners the ability to identify and report invasive species infestations.
- **Other Topics**
 - **Field Trips** – Chair Mary Ann Hines is out of the state with her terminally ill sister. In her absence, I am coordinating the Dooley Garden Tour in Athens, GA. Information will be available at Monday's meeting and will be emailed to members.
 - **2016 Plant Sale** - Planning and the budget calls for a Plant Sale in 2016. The President and I think it's time to do something different. Our preliminary thoughts and discussions have centered around a fall 2016 plant extravaganza. We have shared our thoughts with County Agent Robert Brannon and the Executive Committee. Today, we just want to make the Board aware of the idea and let you know the idea is in the very early stages. There will be a meeting later this summer for further exploration and planning purposes. Again, just want to make you aware of our thoughts for now.
- **Questions:** You may reach me at genia@gasla.org or 404-583-1261.

- Carole added some items: They have approached Bethesda to see about the possibility of having the January and February meetings as lunchtime meetings. No decision yet, but this will be finalized soon.
- Carole also emphasized that there will be a big push to sell garden sale tickets. Becky has tickets with her today for sale.
- Carole made the point that field trips are a member benefit. If any openings beyond this, only then are they open to non-members.

Treasurer – Maggie Howze

- Financial Report
 - The checking account totals \$12,200.
 - Savings: \$10,000.
 - Membership stands at 173 members.
- On Wednesday, Maggie sent out an email to non-renewing members (from last year) saying, “We miss you.” She’s already heard back from ten individuals, renewing their memberships.
- Carole observed that we have lots of new members.
- EC decided we will not give out hard copies of membership lists.

Recording Secretary – Carol Hassell -- No report.

Extension Office – Tim Daly and Kathy Parent

- Kathy reminded board members the awards luncheon RSVP deadline is April 23rd. The lunch is April 28th.
- MGEV hours: She reminded people to enter hours timely and asked project managers to make this request of volunteers, as well. EO office numbers are down a lot.
- Becky called attention to the drop down list and its confusing entries.
- Can we include MGLog link on GCMGA homepage? The general opinion seems to be that this would not be particularly helpful, since it’s not accessed as much as her email distribution is read by MGEVs. Suggestions to her ranged from including the form for manual hours capture at the end of every email distribution to continuing to have a computer set up at every member meeting to help those who have trouble negotiating the MGLog website.
- Speakers’ Bureau: Tim says he’s getting requests. Also has volunteers.
- Farmers Market – sent out requests for volunteers. Not doing Norcross this year – too many problems. Getting underway: Snellville, Suwanee, Lilburn, Grayson, and Gwinnett Community Garden on Hamilton Mill Rd.

- Advanced training: Tim said planning is underway for an August training session at Gwinnett Tech on Propagation, including seed, vegetative and grafting.
- Want to do a Master Goat Training course.
- He asked for ways to increase volunteer participation/ hours input.

Committee Chairs**

Education – Jessica Miller

Workshops to date:

- Emily Robison - Terrariums (Jan 31) at Carole's: **25 GCMGA Members attended this workshop and took home a terrarium**
- Lori Processor - English Garden Photos (April 13) Bethesda Center: **46 signed in for this workshop, GCMGA provided drinks and cookies.** Apparently, however, this was perceived of as a meeting, rather than a workshop, so that only three members pre-registered.

Scheduled Workshops:

- June 3 – Jane Burke: Felted Flowers At her home, this workshop will be limited to 15 and each GCMGA member attending will make and take felted flowers.
- July 15 -- Monastery of the Holy Spirit - Bonsai introduction Workshop. This will feature a video, of bonsai gardening, a tour of the Monastery's greenhouse and an opportunity to shop the gift shop, including the department devoted to bonsai.
- November 4 – Jane Burke: Propagation and winterizing in the garden. In Jane's garden, GCMGA Members will receive "hands on" training at this workshop. Rain date, Nov 6

Workshops in consideration:

- 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
- 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

In addition, Education is providing 7 educational components for the Garden Tour to include: Composting, Native Gardening, Cut Flower Gardening, Erosion, Rain Barrels, Water Feature and Pollinator Gardening. These handout info sheets will be placed in info boxes near an example of the relevant educational component.

- Jessica requested board approval for refreshments for Lauri's workshop, totaling \$12.00, although not a budgeted expense. Carol made a motion to approve this expense with a 2nd by Jackie. Becky added a cautionary note, reminding about the board prohibition against reimbursing for food, etc., expenses generated during committee meetings. Carol pointed out that this was an event open to and benefitting the entire membership, rather than an expense benefitting only a small group with no chance for participation by the entire membership.

Field Trips – Mary Ann Hindes – unable to attend. See Genia's report above.

Public Relations/Marketing – Faye Sisson

The notice about our meeting appeared in the AJC, reported Carole in Fay's absence. She noted the reference was muddled.

Garden Tour -Julie Foster & Linda Edwards

- Plans are on track for the 2015 Garden Tour.
- Gardens have been selected and homeowners are preparing for the tour.
- Jessica Miller & Julie Foster are finalizing educational material specific to each garden.
- Our focus at this time is on ticket sales and securing all of the volunteers we need for the day of the tour.
- GCMGA website has all the info necessary to market tour and sell tickets online.
- Linda created a Facebook page. Please encourage anyone you know who is on FB to 'Like' our page in an effort to get the word out. Just search GCMGA garden tour to find the site.
- 36 tickets have been sold to date. Many more are in GCMGA members' hands for sale at churches & clubs.
- Sue Shaw is working with Becky Wolary to coordinate ticket sales. Sue will be selling tickets at April GCMGA meeting and annual banquet. Payge Cox has been marketing the tour every weekend at Family Tree nursery. I'm trying to set up something with nurseries in Loganville & Stone Mtn. Flyers are being distributed at upcoming Farmers markets and Plant Dr. clinics.
- Marlene Westrom has contacted several publications who are willing to print an article and photos about the tour.
- Tour info has been submitted to several online calendars (AJC event, Gwinnett Daily Post, Walter Reeves)
- Other ideas and suggestions are welcome!

- Rita Rudzinski is coordinating volunteers for the day of the tour. She still has about 10 time slots to fill.
- Michelle Fresa is working with the Garden Angels to help homeowners get their gardens ready for the tour.
- Final tour meeting to review docent and homeowner responsibilities for the day of the tour is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13 at 1:30pm in the 2nd floor conference room at the Extension Service building.

Project Grants – Alice Verner

- In Alice's absence, Carole reported that we declined a project because the project leader wasn't an MG. Carole reminded us that this is a member benefit. If this is diluted because non-members have access to benefits, there won't be any reason for anyone to join GCMGA – which means we will not have funds to grant and provide benefits to community.
- Carole stated she wants to work on providing information on other grant sources. Kathy said she would send a number of contacts and potential sources.
- This year's grantees include: Gwinnett Tech, the Mary Kistner Center, Creekland, Vines Park and others
- Total awarded was around \$4,000. (The maximum budgeted was \$5,000, so a portion was unused.)

Hospitality – Shirley Bohm –

Her report follows:

- ❖ Committee members:
 - Alice Verner
 - Amelia Skelton
 - Becky Panetta
 - Deborah Duello
 - Jean Patterson
 - Liz Tarver
 - Maggie Howze
 - Pat Harper
 - Shirley Bohm, committee chair
- ❖ Hospitality Committee hosted and provided beverages for meetings on the following dates:
 - January 19, 2015 – Monthly meeting, Terrarium Gardens
 - March 2, 2015 –Monthly meeting, Native Trees and Shrubs (postponed from 2/16/15 which was cancelled because of weather)
 - March 16, 2015 – Monthly meeting, Garden Photography
 - April 13, 2015 – Lunch and Learn, From Cottages to Castles
- ❖ Additional Points of Interest

- Several people have expressed an interest in joining the Hospitality Committee – will keep you informed
- I was unable to secure more cabinet space in the Bethesda Senior Center kitchen. All the cabinets have already been assigned to other organizations that use their kitchen and dining room space.
- There was a good turnout for the lunch time meeting following postponement of the February meeting because of weather and for Lori Prosser's lunch and learn talk. The committee would be willing to work if some of the monthly meetings were changed to lunch time.
- On April 9, 2015, I received an expense reimbursement of \$85.31 for purchase of tea, soft drinks, coffee and paper goods.
- We will likely have another committee meeting in July.

Trainee 2015 Class – Karen McGinty –

- Our breakfast this year had a few changes from last year. Instead of four breakfasts we had 3 and 80 trainees compared to 70, from last year. We decided as a group during the first breakfast, not to cut the prices in half at the break. Though the last week, we did drop the price to half on certain items at that time.
- Big items this year were sandwiches: egg salad, pimento cheese, peanut butter and jelly, and chicken salad, as well as fresh fruit and vegetables. And some breakfast items. It is always interesting to see what goes the first week!
- Some of the previous counties had stayed through to lunch to try to increase their proceeds. We decided not to do this. Instead, we put a sign on the door that said that we would be there through the first break and to purchase items for lunch at that time. And they did!
- Monetary donations were \$96, expenses were \$77.27, and the proceeds over the 3 weeks were \$637.75, with a net of \$656.48.
- We also sold 3 cookbooks!
- Thank you to committee members, Carin Ashman, Susan Smith, and Martha Moore, and also thank you to our guest helpers, Betty Mastley, Betty Songer, Carole Teja, Ann Bonislowski, and Susan Hendrickson, who all stepped up to help us out!
- A HUGE thank you to all who contributed to our breakfast, we had 47 different contributors, compared to 30 last year!!!!

Historian – Lori Prosser -- No report.

Old Business

Carole reported that Margaret Bergeron applied to be the featured nonprofit for Whole Foods Market. They responded with dates on very short notice. The date we selected, Thursday, April 9, didn't have much traffic. Carole will bring sprouted bean seedlings from the children's table to Monday's meeting. WFM has not communicated the total amount of the donation as yet.

Margaret also is the liaison for plant sale from board and is a district director to GMGA board. Carole noted that this latter position is of value to GCMGA.

Photograph Competition – Becky Panetta -- also Facebook® Admin

Went well. Didn't get as many entrants as hoped. Next year, the proposal is to move this competition to July since this is a sort of "open" month. Therefore, the time period for eligibility would be from July to July. They plan to add a category, as well: Out of state photograph. Becky has agreed to do the competition again next year.

Seed Exchange - Jane Burke –

No report at this time of the year, rather in Oct/Nov.

New Business

- Jackie and Karen suggested a memorial donation: book to library; plant a tree; or donation in Ken's name.
- Jackie Kujawa, Past President & Weed & Feed Chair, has requested an opportunity to give a presentation on GCMGA historical prospective.
 - Carole stated at outset that we are not discussing separation from the EO. Rather, we are looking at ways to cooperate.
 - Jackie provided an historical perspective, noting that from the beginning membership requirements included being "certified" as master gardener. She stated that the changes remove this. Everyone has to make up their own minds. She feels that in order to join and sit on board that UGA definition should be required.
 - Carole asked of Kathy: when we went to this Active/Inactive distinction, how many did we lose: lost about 20 percent. Discussion ensued.

Next Meeting: *Monday, June 22nd* – May be changed after feedback today.