

Gwinnett County Master Gardeners Association
Board of Directors Meeting
May 11, 2017

Jessica Miller, GCMGA President, called the meeting to order at 10:02 am, May 11, 2017. Attending was Jessica Miller, Virginia Schofield, Wes Nettleton, Shirley Bohm, Carole Teja, Susan Varlamoff, Jackie Kujawa, Timothy Daly, Robert Ayer, Becky Panetta, Ann Langley, Lori Prosser, Kathy Parent, Becky Wolary and Carol Hassell. Not in attendance: Aaron Tulin, Rosalie Tubre and Alice Verner.

Minutes from the May 11, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting:

1. Minutes from the Feb. 9, 2017 BOD meeting were previously distributed by Jessica for review. Carol moved and Jackie seconded the motion to approve as written. Unanimously approved.
2. President's Report by Jessica Miller –
 - a. Let Jessica know any information for the Biweekly announcements by Tuesday noon. The next announcement will go out May 24th.
 - b. The Plant Sale committee made a recommendation to purchase smaller and lighter popup tents to replace the two heavy 12' x 24' tents. They could be sold now at the beginning of the summer season and new tents purchased this fall during clearance sales or they could be added to the budget for 2018 for purchase next year.
 - c. The Georgia Piedmont Land Trust received a GMGA grant, Restoration of a woodland garden segment in the manner of a "Post-Wild World" submitted by Carol Hassell. It is another example of work GCMGA gardeners are doing. Carol explained they are trying to emphasize use of natives and disuse of exotics. An example is taking traditional landscape architecture and revising it to use natives such as woodland violets – Dirt does not want to be bare.
 - d. The Executive Committee approved \$45 for Thank You cards and coleus plants for the Plant Sale Committee and its subchairs: Shirley Bohm, Carol Scholfield, Jeff Hicks, Jean Shapiro, Susan Kosenka, Jackie Kujawa, Becky Wolary, Sonia Freidus, Carole Teja and Wes Nettleton.
 - e. Old Business: The Gwinnett Tech scholarships will be discussed.
 - f. New Business: The EC would like for the BOD to consider an Honorary Membership to be awarded to Robert Brannen. This is an appointment without voting or BOD privileges. Membership may be awarded to distinguished individuals by the BOD according to Article V Section 3 of GCMGA's Constitution.
 - g. The following will be given time on the agenda for comments at next Monday's monthly meeting: Becky P. (field trip), Carole (2017 GMGA Conference), Lori (send her pictures of their projects), Kathy (needs pictures too), Jackie (seed exchange), Tim (Extension helpers), Ann (photo contest), Shirley (Farmers' Markets).
3. Vice President's Report – Virginia Schofield
 - a. Programs for the rest of the year are scheduled:
 - i. May 15 – Martha Tate, "Margaret Mosley – A Garden to Remember" plus signing
 - ii. June 19 – Elise Cormier of Smart Landscapes, "Natural Play: Playgrounds as Learning Centers"

- iii. July 17 – Photography Contest Presentation
 - iv. August 21 – Gail Zorn, Journey to Daybreak Flower Farm”
 - v. September 18 – Volunteer Appreciation Picnic at McDaniel Farm
 - vi. October 16 – Dr. Allan Armitage, “Naked Ladies and Forget-me-nots” plus book signing
 - b. Virginia has begun the process of recruiting a Nomination Committee and looking for Chair position candidates
- 4. Treasurer’s Report – Wes Nettleton
 - a. Distributed copies of the Revenue versus Expenses Report for 2017 up to the present.
 - i. 168 paid members
 - ii. Plant Sale Report – still has one outstanding IOU (they have been contacted to submit the expense): Draft final report is \$456.50 - yard art, \$2623.21 - plants for a total profit of \$3079.71.
- 5. Extension Comments – Tim Daly and Kathy Parent
 - a. There are 5 Farmers’ Markets in Gwinnett County where “Ask a Master Gardener” tables will be located: Suwanee, Snellville, Lilburn, Grayson and Norcross. Tim is still looking for volunteers.
 - b. Kim Fritz, new in the Extension Office, is working with schools and helping Kathy. She is a former school teacher and is developing pollinator gardens and talks for kids in county parks.
 - c. Various talks are being scheduled through fall including developing a “Diagnosing Plant Problems” with Gwinnett Tech.
 - d. Don’t forget to log your hours on MGLog.org.
 - e. The Extension Office will send out applications for Master Gardener training in August-September. Let your friends know if they are interested.
 - f. Tim is a member of the Exotic Pest Plant Council and they want to collaborate with Master Gardeners. They will do a 1-day symposium in the fall.
 - g. Kathy thanked everyone, especially the Hospitality Committee, for their support of the Awards Luncheon.
 - h. Kim Fritz has trimmed the Project Report List on MGLog to get rid of inactive projects.
 - i. They are trying to get Robert Brannen on MG Log.
 - j. Dan Smith’s wife, Faye, passed away April 1.
- 6. Education Committee – Susan Varlamoff
 - a. April 4th Landscape Design Basics with Shannon Pable at Deen Day Sanders Garden House in John’s Creek was cancelled because of bad weather (tornado watch) and rescheduled for April 24th at Shannon’s home. 12 attended. The Extension projector now has an adapter so it will work with newer computers to show Power Point slides.
 - b. May 9th Container Gardening at the Family Tree in Snellville was cancelled at the last minute because of only 3 people who signed up. It will not be rescheduled.
 - c. Sept. 8th Fern Walk with Rick Barnes, Georgia State University Native Plant Garden will have a registration fee large enough to cover the cost of a garden fern for each participant. The Garden will benefit as well.

- d. October (day TBD) Ecological tour of the Monastery with Walter Bland (grass expert) and tour of the Monastery and bonsai exhibit. Lunch is available there. This will be a joint tour with Becky's Field Trip Committee since there is lots to see.
7. Field Trips – Becky Panetta
 - a. June 5th is the first field trip of the year to Daybreak Flower Farm in Loganville. Gail Zorn owner of this cut flower farm will be cutting the lavender later that week. There is also a blueberry, bee and alpaca farm nearby.
 - b. Becky is working on a trip to the State Botanical Garden in the fall. There will be a \$5 entry fee. November is a good time because it is cooler.
 8. Grants Committee – Carol Hassell
 - a. Two people have requested reimbursement so far:
 - i. Snellville Community Garden, Wes Nettleton, Project Leader, \$500
 - ii. Rebecca Minor Elementary School Garden and Environmental Club, Bonnie Reynolds, Project Leader, \$117.11 (project grant, (\$500).
 9. GMGA Conference 2017 – Carole Teja
 - a. Registration opens for the Conference on June 1st. People will have to go to their website to register.
 - b. There are still options for more breakout sessions. Joe Lamp'l is coming.
 - c. Mary Black got a park from 8 am to 8 pm for no charge for an event such as a workshop.
 - d. Contact Carole if you have any questions.
 10. Historian – Lori Prosser
 - a. Lori continues to take photos of speakers and events.
 - b. A group photo was taken of the new interns during orientation at the Extension Office in April.
 - c. We still need to encourage members to send photos of their activities.
 - d. Lori took photos at the plant sale set-up. If anyone took pictures on sale day, please send them to Lori.
 11. Hospitality - Alice Verner
 - a. Wed. May 3rd, the Awards Luncheon was held. Alice thanked her committee members who helped make it a beautiful success: Liz Tarver, Pat Harper, Deborah Duello, Becky Panetta and Amelia Skelton. Jean Patterson and Maggie Howze could not make it.
 12. Photo Contest – Ann Langley
 - a. There was good support to continue having categories for beginning photographers and phone cameras. Only members are eligible to enter the contest.
 - b. Ann has a lead for this year's judge: Tom Simpson, President of the Georgia Nature Photographers Association will recruit a judge.
 - c. Ann asked Shirley to include Wes's photo in the Biweekly Announcement about the Photo Contest to promote the contest.
 - d. She will not pursue using the winning photos in a gardening calendar as there was not enough interest although she would like to create some avenue so all can enjoy these photos throughout the year.
 - e. Carole Teja recommended printing note cards. Ann asked Lori how she created notecards with her photos. She used Shutterfly which offers to print 12 4x5 postcards at \$1.18 each. If we created 12 sets of 8 postcards, our initial investment would be

\$113.28 (plus shipping and taxes). It costs \$1.59 to print 3x5 fold notecards. If we created 12 sets of 8 notecards, our initial investment would be \$152.64 (plus shipping and taxes).

- f. Ann is researching two more digital ideas. One is to create a screen saver with a series of photos for members to download. The other is to create digital wallpaper. At the very least, we can download them to create their own screen savers or use as wallpaper
 - g. The photos could also be used as a header in the emails that are sent to the members.
 - h. Ann volunteered to edit a GCMGA newsletter. Jessica said she had considered sending out her announcements in the form of a newsletter. Becky W. said she has copies of old GCMGA newsletters up on the websites. All agreed that this was a great idea.
13. Plant Sale – Shirley Bohm and Virginia Schofield, Co-Chairs
- a. Copies of the minutes from the 4/6/17 committee meeting, 2017 Plant Sale Survey, Debriefing for the 2017 Plant Sale and Final Committee Report were distributed before the BOD meeting.
 - b. More than 85 people participated in the Plant Sale as volunteers at the set up and sale, hosting plant digs, helping at the plant digs, providing transportation, loaning tables, tents, wagons and other materials, and providing plants and yard art for the sale to make it a huge success.
 - c. It was recommended that we begin now to prepare for next year's plant sale. That includes identifying a Plant Sale Committee Chair now, potting up plants in the fall, beginning to make crafts now for yard art sales perhaps through workshops, etc.
 - d. The committee recommends that the 2 large 12' x 24' tents be sold and replaced by smaller popup tents. They could be sold now at the beginning of the summer season and new tents purchased at fall clearance or they could be put in the 2018 budget and purchased next year. The EC has approved the purchase already. Popup tents cost from \$100 to \$500 (recommend a mid-range tent at approximately \$200). Several additional tents would be useful as shade for volunteers and some part-shade plants that suffered in the full sun. Jessica suggested that Shirley, Virginia and the new Chair when identified work on sale and purchase of tents with a working budget of \$1200.
 - e. Ann was interested in purchasing a large tent for her personal use. Jessica suggested we approach Sonia to check if her Temple would be interested in having one of the large tents (no charge) since they have been so generous in loaning their tables to us.
 - f. The committee also suggested that we purchase several folding long tables for use at the sale. Tables can be rented including delivery and pickup (\$225 this year for 15 tables). Shirley got approval from Parks and Rec to store all the leftover pots, trays, garden art and other materials in the shop at Vines Park. The tables and tents could also be stored there.
14. Trainee Breakfast/Lunch – Robert Ayer
- a. The GCMGA participation in breakfast and lunch at the 2017 Master Gardener Training on Feb. 15, 22 and March 1 was a success. Committee members included Robert Ayer, Debra Hoaks, Mary Ann Hinds, Greg Mauldin, Jean Shapiro, Kathy Pitman and Marcia Lambert.
 - b. Meetings were held with Karen McGinty and the committee members to make the transition.

- c. Financials included: cash donations received (\$86), expenses (\$60), income (\$829.65) and profit (\$769.65).
 - d. They will likely continue doing lunches as they appeared to be the most profitable.
- 15. Web Master – Aaron Tulin (not present)
- 16. Assistant Web Master & Publicity – Becky Wolary
 - a. Website is updated on a monthly basis
 - b. The Website was down after the Plant Sale but is running now.
 - c. All three, two and one month notifications have gone out for the plant sale and other activities and media coverage was good.
- 17. Weed n’ Feed & Seed Exchange – Jackie Kujawa
 - a. Lori Prosser, Shirley Bohm, Jean Shapiro, Jeff Hicks, Erby Daniel, Gaye Bruce and Jackie Kujawa helped Gene Wallace with a weed n’ feed for 2 days.
 - b. The Seed Saver/Seed Exchange is a success. Remind everyone to save their seeds. Small sacks are available at the Extension Office for seeds.
- 18. Whole Foods 5% Day – Rosalie Tubre
 - a. Rosalie Tubre sent a letter of inquiry to Whole Foods. She was informed that there are still 2 quarters left in the year and the participants have not been determined yet.
- 19. Old Business
 - a. Gwinnett Tech Scholarships – The issue of giving a \$2500 scholarship to Gwinnett Tech was tabled at the last BOD meeting. We requested that we settle this issue now.
 - b. Gwinnett Tech has “let us down” and was not supportive for the 2016 Plant Sale location, training courses and 2017 GMGA conference location.
 - c. Georgia Gwinnett College, a 4 yr. college, also has an environmental major which could be considered for our grant.
 - d. We have budgeted \$2500 for a scholarship to Gwinnett Tech. We do not want to penalize their students for disorganization on the part of their school.
 - i. The motion to give Gwinnett Tech the money was made and seconded and passed unanimously to award the money.
 - ii. We should further explore Georgia Gwinnett College and consider grants for both.
 - e. As a separate issue, it was agreed to contact Gwinnett Tech to further clarify our relationship with them.
- 20. New Business
 - a. A motion was made by Carol Hassell to award an honorary GCMGA membership to Robert Brannen. It was seconded by Ann Langley and passed unanimously.
- 21. Calendar
 - a. May 15, June 19, July 17 – regular evening GCMGA meetings at Bethesda.
 - b. July 13 – EC meeting, 10-12 noon, 2nd floor conference room
 - c. August 10 – BOD meeting, 10-12 noon, 2nd floor conference
- 22. Adjournment at 11:40 pm May 11, 2017