

GCMGA Board of Directors Meeting
November 9, 2017
Minutes

1. Jessica Miller called the GCMGA Board of Directors Meeting to order at 10:00 am, November 9th.
2. Present: Jessica Miller, Wes Nettleton, Virginia Schofield, Carole Teja, Shirley Bohm, Jackie Kujawa, Lori Prosser, Burt Manning, Robert Ayer, Ann Langley and Kathy Parent. Absent: Aaron Tulin, Alice Verner, Becky Wolary, Becky Panetta, Carol Hassell, Jeff Hicks, Rosalie Tubre, Susan Varlamoff.
3. Jessica asked if there were any changes or amendments to the minutes for the last BOD meeting on Aug. 10th. With no changes noted, Carole made a motion and Jackie seconded the motion to approve the minutes.
4. President's Report (Jessica Miller):
 - a. Jessica thanked all the members of the BOD and EC who submitted reports before the meeting.
 - b. She asked everyone to get any announcements to her by Tuesday morning prior to the following Wednesdays, Nov. 15 and Nov. 29. There will be no announcements or meeting in December.
 - c. The Holiday Party will be held on Nov. 20th. Alice Verner wants everyone to RSVP to her by Nov. 16th. Jessica and Alice will provide hams and Jackie and Shirley will bring turkey. The cost of meats will be reimbursed by GCMGA. There is no charge for GCMGA members but non-member guests will be charged \$10.
 - d. There will be a show of hands election for EC members with additional nominations open from the floor.
 - e. There will be an EC meeting following this BOD meeting today.
5. Vice President's Report (Virginia Schofield):
 - a. The Nominating Committee submitted a slate of officers for the Executive Committee for 2018 including the following:
 - i. President – Wes Nettleton
 - ii. Vice President – Virginia Schofield
 - iii. Treasurer – Burt Manning
 - iv. Secretary – Susan Smith
 - v. Past President – Jessica Miller
 - b. Virginia thanked the Nominating Committee, Lori Prosser, Mary Ann Hinds, Wes Nettleton, and Carole Teja, for their willingness and industry in serving on the committee.
 - c. Programs are scheduled for Jan., Feb., March and May. Judy Stoops from Wild Birds Unlimited will present the Jan. program on bluebirds. April's program had to be changed.
6. Treasurer's Report (Wes Nettleton):
 - a. Wes reported that the budget and checkbook are balanced.
 - b. We have 180 paid GCMGA members for 2017 (136 MGs and 54 Friends).
 - c. All requests for reimbursement have been submitted and paid.
 - d. Trainee Notebooks has a \$350 balance.
 - e. Jessica requested and updated membership list.
 - f. Becky W. prepared a 2018 membership form which should be distributed with the next President's Announcement and put on the web.

- g. If Committee chairs or EC members have expenditures that have not been reimbursed, they should be submitted before the end of the year to allow transitioning between Treasurers.
7. Past President's Report (Carole Teja):
- a. Carole said she is still waiting on the GMGA Treasurer. We will likely get approximately \$2500 from the GMGA Conference at the Heritage Center (50/50 split of the profits and \$1700 from the Silent Auction). She will get a report to the BOD soon.
 - b. She received many compliments on the conference and catered food.
 - c. 164 people attended the conference this year with 30 from Gwinnett County. Some people thought they had to be GMGA members to attend.
 - d. The GMGA Conference will be in Fulton County next year.
 - e. The BOD offered Carole many thanks for all her hard work and service.
8. Gwinnett Extension Office Report (Kathy Parent):
- a. Gwinnett County is one of 13 counties in Georgia being audited by USDA. They get part of their budget from them for things like 4-H, Ag and MGs.
 - b. Kathy asked that everyone get caught up entering their hours in MGLog.org.
 - c. The 2018 Class for Master Gardeners have been named.
 - d. Sharon Cassidy is retiring at the end of December. The Extension Office will have an Open House for her. They will have to wait 3 months to refill that position.
 - e. Kathy is retiring at the end of March. She will volunteer until they replace her.
 - f. T-shirts have been ordered. They should come in a couple of weeks.
9. Committee Reports
- a. Education – Susan Varlamoff
 - i. A Fern Walk was held Sept. 8 at Georgia State University Perimeter College Native Plant Garden with 17 people attending. The \$10 cost was applied to the sale of a native plant of their choice at the end of the Fern Walk.
 - ii. A Monastery Tour was held Nov. 7 at the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers with 16 people attending. The tour was led by Father Francis Michael and Brother Callistus. Father Francis Michael, an expert on butterflies and dragonflies, showed the butterfly garden and native grasses and discussed the strategy of using conservation easements and restoring wetlands to conserve nature and raise funds. They toured the bonsai exhibit, had lunch, saw a video of the history of the monastery and toured an arrowhead exhibit of pieces found on the grounds.
 - iii. Proposed program for next year:
 - 1. Walk and Talk with Allan Armitage at his garden
 - 2. Tour of Fernbank forest
 - 3. Herb workshop
 - 4. Shade plants at Georgia Perimeter College
 - b. Field Trips – Becky Panetta
 - i. Only one field trip was completed during 2017. The field trip was taken to Daybreak Flower Farm on June 5th with 17 attending. Gail Zorn showed how to grow lavender and cut flowers for market. She also demonstrated lavender harvesting. The cultivar of lavender she grows is Lavandula x intermedia Phenomenal, also known as Niko.

- ii. A field trip to the State Botanical Garden in Athens was cancelled due to her cataract surgeries. She hopes to reschedule for 2018, probably late March or early April.
- c. Grants – Carol Hassell
 - i. Carol reported that there are still a couple of final reports that remain outstanding.
- d. Historian – Lori Prosser
 - i. Lori reported there were lots of activities this year. Some photos from events are still trickling in.
 - ii. The website galleries are up to date with meeting photos.
 - iii. Photos from the Photo Contest will be incorporated into the end of year slide show.
 - iv. Lori asked if there was a budget for Historian. She would like to buy stick drives to load photos for the BOD.
 - v. After 3 years as Historian, Lori is ready to pass it on to someone else. She has a candidate in mind.
- e. Hospitality – Alice Verner
 - i. Alice has commitments for 2 hams and 2 turkeys for the Holiday Dinner.
 - ii. She needs 2 additional people to help with set up.
 - iii. Jessica will request in her Announcement that members RSVP to Alice by Nov. 16.
- f. Newsletter and Photo Contest – Ann Langley
 - i. The first issue of the resurrected “A Bit of Dirt” newsletter was delivered by Mailchimp on Oct. 11.
 - ii. Articles were contributed by Jessica Miller, Kimberly Stump-Sutliff, Shirley Bohm, Carole Teja and Margaret Bergeron.
 - iii. Ann is soliciting articles for the Winter 2018 issue. The deadline for submission of articles and photos is Jan. 7. She has commitments from Tixie Fowler who will write about the School Garden at Summerour Middle School, from Carole Teja who will do a wrap up of the GMGA conference and from Tim Daly who agreed to write about kudzu. Allan Armitage also gave permission to reprint portions of his book, “Of Naked Ladies and Forget-me-nots.”
 - iv. She will also up-date the guidelines for the Photo Contest on the website.
- g. Trainee Breakfast and Lunch – Robert Ayer
 - i. The Trainee Breakfast and Lunch serving dates are: Jan. 10, 17 and 24, 2018.
 - ii. The Committee will meet Dec. 1 and 14 and Jan. 5 to discuss details.
 - iii. Robert will send emails to the people who donated last year and will provide a form for donations at the Holiday Dinner.
 - iv. The Trainee Breakfast and Lunch Committee made \$770 last year.
 - v. The Committee is composed of Robert Ayer, Deborah Hoakes, Greg Mauldin, Mary Ann Hindes, Jean Shapiro, Kathy Pittman and Marcia Lambert.
- h. Assistant Web Master & Publicity – Becky Wolary
 - i. Becky and Aaron (Web Master) will be updating the GCMGA website software app this month which could potentially take the website down for a few days. Some friends saw some opportunity for some hacking and we are vulnerable.
 - ii. Publicity emails are up-to-date and will go out for November mid-month and then December.

- iii. Becky said she will not be handling Publicity next year but is willing to continue as assistant Web Master for now.
- i. Weed N' Feed and Seed Exchange – Jackie Kujawa
 - i. Jackie reported that they have done 3 Weed N' Feeds in the last quarter – for Susan Hendricks, Nancy Costello and Sonia Freidus.
 - ii. The Seed Exchange is getting fully loaded. She is picking up 30 packets of seeds from Randy's Nursery . Kathy will do an inventory and Jackie will send out a list on the listserve so people can get their spring seeds planted. She is waiting to find out if more envelopes have come in. The Extension Office is providing the next batch.
 - iii. Jackie will do an article for the newsletter on the Seed Exchange.
- j. Whole Foods 5% Day – Rosalie Tubre
 - i. Rosalie said she has not received a word from them so it is obvious we were not selected. Since they have been bought out by Amazon, perhaps they will be more receptive.

10. Old Business

- a. Old and New Tents – Shirley Bohm
 - i. 6 new canopy tents, carry bags and weights were purchased for \$1,233.01. They are being stored in Shirley's garage at present.
 - ii. Ann Langley has one of the 10' x 20' tents. Sonia Freidus has made arrangements for one of the Temple members to contact Aaron and pick up the other large tent. The tents were donated to the Temple in part as thanks for the use of tables at the plant sale for several years. Ann agreed to pay \$50 for the tent at the last BOD meeting.
- b. Yard Art Booth at GMGA Conference – Shirley Bohm.
 - i. The GCMGA Yard Art Booth and the GMGA Conference made \$125 (Plant Sale Account Code on budget), mostly on the sale of used gardening books. They were very popular. Robert Schofield and Mary Lockett worked the booth.
 - ii. If you have any unused garden books or see any garden books at garage sales, put them aside for the next Plant Sale.
- c. Koi Club/Plant Sale – Shirley Bohm
 - i. The Koi Club contacted Shirley to see if we wanted to partner with them by doing a plant sale during their annual sale and meeting. This was in conflict with the GMGA Conference.
- d. Trainee Notebooks – Ann Bonislowski
 - i. Materials for the 2018 MG Trainee notebooks have been purchased and receipts sent to Wes for reimbursement.
 - ii. The notebooks have been assembled by Ann and Pat Harper with the exception of printed materials to be supplied by Kathy Parent.
- e. Outstanding IOU from 2017 Plant Sale – Wes Nettleton
 - i. A lady left an IOU for \$75-100 worth of plants at the last plant sale. She said she didn't have a check and we didn't accept credit cards. She was contacted but didn't respond. She did not pay her membership dues for 2017. We should pursue this.

11. New Business

- a. Aprons for New Master Gardeners – Wes Nettleton

- i. It was previously decided to give aprons to new Master Gardeners who have completed their 50 hours and have joined GCMGA. Kathy said we have 19 interns, 17 of 19 have joined GCMGA. Wes has 7 aprons and we need to order more. (Discuss in EC meeting)
- b. Complementary GCMGA Dues
 - i. Jackie explained that when she was President of GCMGA, they had only \$5000 in the bank and still paid GCMGA and GMGA dues for new MGs. That emphasizes that we are not a garden club and will involve them in Master Gardening at the county and state level.
 - ii. Carole responded that GMGA gives free memberships to new trainees although there is a privacy issue about sharing contact telephone and email. GMGA will contact each county agent to ask for the contact information.
 - iii. Jackie made a motion and Virginia seconded it to give complimentary association (GCMGA) membership to new trainees – unanimously approved. This could be presented at the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.
 - iv. Jackie made a second motion and Virginia seconded it for the Board of GCMGA support GMGA to facilitate free GMGA membership to trainees. (8 approved and 2 did not approve). There was much discussion: this is not our organization, this opens up another channel for collaborating with other MGs, they can pick up new ideas from other MG organizations and bring them back to GCMGA.
 - v. Additional discussion focused on keeping an eye on new MGs and mentoring them, welcoming them to the organization. Robert is really chair of the Trainee/Mentoring Committee which would encompass this thought. He agreed to assume responsibilities for developing a mentoring plan. This could also be part of the Strategic Planning section in the By Laws. The Hospitality Committee could also make a special effort to welcome new trainees and engage them in conversation, etc.

12. Calendar

- a. The Executive Committee will meet directly after the BOD meeting today, Nov. 9.
- b. The Holiday Party will be held at Bethesda on Monday Nov. 20.
 - i. Jessica reminded everyone that elections would be held then.
 - ii. Virginia said she would handle the Door Prizes.

13. Adjournment

- a. Shirley moved and Wes seconded a motion that the meeting be adjourned at 11:40 am, Nov. 9.

Respectfully submitted by
Shirley Bohm, GCMGA Secretary