

Gwinnett County Master Gardener's Association
Board of Directors Meeting
November 8, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

ATTENDEES

Present: Virginia Schofield, Lynda Pollock, Jack Bolton, Ann Langley, Wes Nettleton, Gervasio Cubenas, Becky Wolary, Shirley Bohm, Susan Kosenka, Martha Whitman, Becky Panetta, Alice Verner, Linda Bolton

Absent: Robert Ayer, Aaron Tulin, Tixie Fowler, Susan Varlamoff, Lori Prosser, Deborah DeSalvo, Freda Steward,

Guests: Tim Daly, Lisa Klein, Kim Fritz, Margaret Molyson, Karen McGinty

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Minutes of the August 10, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting were approved. (MSC)

Treasurer's Report – Jack Bolton

We are finishing the year with \$4200 in our checking account and \$10,000 in savings. We started 2020 with \$2500 in our checking account so we are ending the year in better shape. At the beginning of the year, we anticipated dipping into our savings account but we did not have to thanks to a hugely successful garden tour, the plant sale which generated some income despite being cancelled and, therefore, incurred no expenses, and our reduction in expenses due to the cancellation of in-person meetings.

Membership – February was our last in-person meeting. As most people renew at our meetings, our membership has been down for the year. Typically, we have just under 200 members. A \$15 fee does not seem significant but with 200 members it generates nearly \$3,000 which covers our scholarships. Currently, we have 166 members, 9 are free trainee members and 157 are paid members.

The 2021 membership form is on the website. It would be good to attach a copy of membership form and paragraph in next few emails.

There was some discussion about paying dues online. Dues may have to be \$16 online instead of \$15 to cover fees. Lynda Pollock, our 2021 President, will recruit the chair for membership committee and refer the matter to them and the Website Committee.

Vice President's Report - Lynda Pollock

The Executive Committee is established for 2021. Lynda Pollock will be President. Margaret Molyson will be Vice-President. Karen McGinty will be Secretary. Jack Bolton will serve again as Treasurer and Virginia Schofield will be Past-President.

Sam Landes will speak at the January 2021 meeting on mushrooms. He is open to topics he should cover for us.

President's Report - Virginia Schofield

I do appreciate everybody's help and support. It has been a year of challenges.

In September, we had an opportunity to support an outdoor classroom for the Paul Duke STEM high school in Peachtree Corners/Norcross, a \$100 donation for a table with our logo. We have received a thank you letter from the principle. Students built the table. We have been invited to tour space. This was an excellent opportunity to support an area (Peachtree Corners/Norcross) where we wanted to have an impact.

Our non-profit corporation status is still pending. It will have to be refiled because dates are outdated, and the signatures need to be witnessed. Perhaps this can be addressed at the same time the new Executive Committee members go to the bank for new signature cards.

Past-President's Report – Wes Nettleton

Wes is finishing his 5th year on Executive Committee.

Thank you for the support over past 5 years. It's been an interesting time. It's been good. I wish the new Board the best.

EXTENSION REPORTS

Tim Daly

Thank you for all the good work despite the crazy circumstances with COVID-19. I sent an email today to Master Gardeners to make sure their volunteer hours are recorded in the MG Log. Gwinnett Master Gardeners are one of 3 counties in the state with the highest numbers, 7,000 hours.

The Master Gardener training for 2021 is tentatively scheduled for next fall. We hope to have a Master Naturalist class next fall. The application period will be sometime next summer. There are also UGA Extension evening classes on the website. We may try to hold a course for the Journeyman Farmers Certificate, but it is hard to plan with unpredictable future. Stay safe.

Lisa Klein

The Master Gardener Training course will start after Labor Day. Applications will be accepted after first week of May, Extension will make a selection by end of May, then we will start the process of background checks. The classes will be held in conjunction with Cobb and DeKalb at the Extension Office in DeKalb.

Kim Fritz will host a teacher Master Gardeners class online in June with four labs. That would also open up the course to those who are still working.

The Awards Ceremony was virtually held. All the certificates will be mailed. We hope to have 2021 Awards at an in-person meeting on Wednesday, May 19.

Our 2020 trainee class will receive T-shirts. They may also offer shirts to current Master Gardeners for purchase separately.

We plan to have a Drive-Through Plant Sale and will need help unloading and pulling orders. That way we will only need a skeleton crew the day of the sale. There is a great demand for native azaleas and Lisa has found a nursery that supplies only native azaleas, many varieties of native azaleas.

Harvest Gwinnett – Our County Community Gardens. Lisa will help gardeners who are leasing plots. There are three gardens at Graves, Lenora and Lawrenceville. They plan to add six more including one at Vines. They are in desperate need of help from Master Gardeners to come help weed and water the community beds. Any produce will be donated for the food insecure. Anyone can to help, not just Master Gardeners. Brandon See currently overseeing.

Many Garden clubs would like to hold online meetings. If anyone is interested in volunteering, let Lisa know.

Kim Fritz

The Teacher Master Gardeners Course will be held in June, which may prove difficult to get background screenings, February through April 15.

We currently have 16 graduates of Teacher MGEV training. Three have started projects. We currently have 25 total school projects – 8 food gardens, 4 ornamental gardens, 2 pollinator gardens, and 10 are a combination of gardens. We started a greenhouse project at Wesleyan school in Peachtree Corner. More opportunities are trickling in. There are three new volunteer opportunities for a pollinator gardens at Berkley Lake Elementary. Barbara Geier and Margaret Bergeron will help with that project. At Riverside in Suwanee 9 Girl Scouts are building a nature trail for their silver award. We also want to create indoor and outdoor gardens for special needs children. There is a concern about garden projects that lay fallow so we are scheduling workdays for adults only as a safeguard response to COVID-19. There is also virtual programming outside school hours.

Kim could use help with finding new grants. Also, the Army Corp of Engineers needs help at Lake Lanier with a pollinator garden.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Website – Becky Wolary

Member directory still not available on website. We can get much of same info at MGLog. We would love to hear more about pandemic gardening. The Website is stagnant at this point.

Bethesda Senior Center is slowly opening. They will host a boxed Christmas luncheon in all three ballrooms with limited seating of 50 people or less. Perhaps we could ask for those arrangements for next year's meetings.

Hospitality – Alice Werner

The Committee on hold until the threat of infection from COVID-19 is past.

Trainee Breakfast – Robert Ayer

Still waiting on instructions for future training.

Field Trips - Gervasio

Despite the threat of COVID, the committee hosted a report from Scott McMann regarding his trip to Southeast Asia. They have forwarded tour ideas that individuals can take on their own.

Workshop – Deborah DeSalvo

The Committee on hold until the threat of infection from COVID-19 is past.

Photo Contest – Ann Langley

Rules for the 2021 Photo Contest will be published soon.

Garden Tour – Linda Bolton

No report. We are done!

Plant Sale - Lynda Pollock/Susan Kosenka

We will talk to the Lilburn Library in January about using their parking lot April 24. We need to renew our live plant certificate and find another chair for the Dig Committee. We will let Soil³ have a vendor booth. Perhaps we will sell tickets to observe social distancing. We will space the tables farther apart and everyone will need to wear masks.

Grants - Martha Whitman

We have received receipts 7 of 9 grants; others are getting them in. We budgeted \$4500 for the year. We have spent over \$3000. We need signs to post at site regarding Master Gardener funding.

Kim Fritz with the County Extension is also looking into signs for MG projects. Signs are \$15. We need a new sign for Bethesda.

Historian - Freda Steward

I have been working on a PowerPoint presentation for our November 16 meeting. I did receive a few more pictures and write-ups for inclusion in the deck following Virginia's email of last week. It is a great showcase, a good mix of initiatives. Many thanks to all who took the time to help document our Association's history during the pandemic.

I will coordinate with Becky Wolary to add these additional pics and stories to our pandemic section on the GCMGA website.

Newsletter - Shirley Bohm

One of our members wrote a book. She has sent a review of her book to be included in the newsletter. As Master Gardeners are not to benefit financially in their role as Master Gardeners, the Executive Committee has taken this issue under advisement.

The fall issue of the GCMGA newsletter, *Bit of Dirt*, was issued October 15, 2020 by Mail Chimp.

The table of contents included:

- From the Editor's Desk
- Message from the President - Fall into Autumn
- The GCMGA Website
- What's Your Favorite Garden Show?
- Beautification Gives Hopkins Elementary a Face Lift
- Volunteering 2020
- Tim's Demo Garden
- UGA Extension Office Awards for MGEV
- Growing Amaryllis in the Garden
- Bit of Sunshine

Linda Bolton was the only winner of "Garden Riddles" in the Bit of Sunshine. The answers, in case you couldn't figure all of them out were:

1. Sends a yearly tax notice - iris
2. Crazy pickle - daffodil
3. Royal tatting - Queen Anne's lace
4. Sparring shrub - boxwood
5. He wanted her answer, so he - aster
6. A friendly greeting to Cynthia - hyacinth
7. Tired of sitting, she - rose
8. Someone lonely may - balsm, pine
9. Sleeping flowers - bedding plants, flower beds
10. Depressed fruit - blueberries

The deadline for submitting articles for the Winter issue will be December 31, 2020 with a publication date of January 15, 2021.

Articles, ideas for articles, helpful hints and garden jokes are welcome. Please don't send anything in pdf. Mail Chimp doesn't like it very much.

Seed Library and Weed 'n' Feed – Becky Panetta

We do not have many seeds. Susan Smith has seeds to donate. The Extension office is not currently open to the public; however, they can leave seed packets on the table outside the office. Kim Fritz will send Becky Panetta a list of what is available at Extension. We will put a call out for donations and publish a list.

Publicity - Tixie Fowler

We need to recruit new chair or co-chair to assist Tixie.

Linda Bolton agreed to design a brochure for the Association.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Soil3 not be able to do fundraiser in October or November because their supply was depleted. The goal is to have fundraiser in February/March 2021. It is a two-week program. As most Master Gardeners do not need a cubic yard perhaps we could include smaller bags in the sale as well.

Ann Langley has agreed to chair the Media Committee for 2021.

Board meetings for 2021 TBA.

Meeting adjourned 11:58 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Langley

Approved at the Feb 2020 BOD Meeting