

Gwinnett County Master Gardener's Association
Board of Directors Meeting
November 8, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m by Lynda Pollock

ATTENDEES

Present: President Lynda Pollock, Vice President Margaret Molyson, Past President Virginia Schofield, Treasurer Jack Bolton, Secretary Karen McGinty, Committee Chairs: Alice Verner, Ann Langley, Becky Panetta, Jessica Miller, Martha Whitman, Shirley Bohm, Susan Hanson, Susan Kosenka
Absent: Aaron Tulin, Becky Wolary, Freda Steward, Lori Prosser, Robert Ayer,
Guests: Tim Daly, Lisa Klein

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Minutes of the August 9, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting were read. Question was raised on what crop intake was, it was explained by Tim Daly. The minutes were then accepted by Jessica, seconded by Ann, and approved with no objections.

Treasurer's Report – Jack Bolton

Transferred the \$2000 from savings to checking to cover expenses.

Grants: We have about \$1083 outstanding.

Membership: We have 168 paid members for 2021. Started accepting 2022 membership dues. Online payment of membership is now available.

Account Balances:

Checking Account \$3,848.55

Savings Account \$8,021.82

Report accepted by Virginia.

President's Report – Lynda Pollock

Holiday Party - After much discussion, concerning servers, gloves, masks, sneeze guards, box meals, comfort of MG's, time remaining, dessert bars, wrapping food to serve, potluck. It was decided to have each individual bring a brown bag dinner, and hospitality would provide desserts and drinks, and decorations. It was decided that desserts would be doughnuts.

Computer – We need a computer for recording and projecting meetings. A small 15-inch laptop would run about \$500-700 for next year's budget. Our projector that we already purchased is great. We would also need an audio system, and cloud storage.

Still in need of a VP for next year. I challenge each committee chair to add one new person to their committee, so people have a vested interest in our association. Rotate committee chairs, among the committee.

Vice President's Report – Margaret Molyson

- I asked 12 members to be vice president and received 12 “no’s,” but did get two possibilities for the following year and a treasurer. If you were not asked and are interested, I apologize; I got discouraged. Let’s talk.
- Nominating Committee members are: Dick Kennedy, Amber Malloy, and Lori Prosser
- The handbook is finished and posted in our “Members Only” section of our website under “Documents.”
- Grant gardens: visited St. John Newman, an article published Nov 7. To see Vines on Nov 9
- 2022 Speakers Calendar:

Jan 17 – Bet Sobon – Greater Gwinnett Rose Society – General Rose Care – using roses in mixed borders – incorporate them in a garden, not as a display piece or monoculture – some that attract bees, some that can handle some shade

Feb 21 – Dr. Tim Smalley, retired Horticultural Professor UGA, Title of Talk: Georgia’s Heritage of Trees - Compilation of Horticulturally and Historically Significant Trees of Georgia to be coordinated with a field trip to Athens in late March. We need a Field Trip Chair.

March: open

April: Harvest Gwinnett - by their request

May: Photo Contest

Discussion: Jessica noted that publicity that was required 3 months out is no longer available, Georgia Gardening is no longer a magazine. Southern Living won’t publish it, and Walter Reeves who was 60 days out is no longer publishing.

EXTENSION REPORTS

Tim Daly – The office is open, seeing people in the lobby using maintaining Covid protocol. Current 2021 MGEV class will be finishing up in a couple of weeks, there are 12 interns. Agents are discussing the best venue for the class for next year as well as time of year.

Master Naturalist class finished up last Tuesday, no test, no service hours, but hours are encouraged. Possibly make a project under Master Gardeners to capture hours.

Lisa is working on the extension plant sale. Hoping to have Farmer’s Markets Exhibits for next summer, we will need some captains for that, Cindy Lubowicki will be in charge and will need volunteer help. Kim Fritz finished up her Teacher’s MGEV class and hoping to do it again next year. I am doing Homeowner’s Programs and trying to build up Speaker’s panel again.

Lisa Klein – Our plant sales will start after January 1st with orders being taken to March 4th, pick up will be in mid-March. We have a nice selection of ornamentals and edibles. And we’ll have some native azaleas for the middle of the ring. Working on marketing materials now. Plant sale will be processed the same as 2020. After unloading on Tuesday, the orders will be put together, and placed in stalls, attaching order, for easier loading on Thursday.

We need volunteers for Harvest Gwinnett speakers, you can talk about whatever you want, they would just like to hear about gardening. Ten, fifteen minutes of speaking. Community gardens have a lot of

inexperienced gardeners that are in desperate need of guidance in all areas of gardening, including pollinators as well as edibles.

We have a new veteran's program, GEM, Grow, Eat, and Move which is an online series. Gwinnett is working on the Grow part. Low key, looking for speakers for January and February, Wednesdays at 11, 45 minutes, then 15 minutes for questions. Everything is written, power point if you want. Program for veterans, about 5 – 10, who used to be homeless now in a home situation. Others online include an agent who will help you, MG's from other counties, you may also log on to watch. I am finding it difficult to find volunteers to step up, fortunately the new classes have been very helpful.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education/Workshops – Jessica Miller

20 people had signed up for the Hypertufa workshop. The format of doing the instruction, followed by the execution was excellent. Going forward, looking at ideas for next year.

Discussion about an organic hemp farmer in North Carolina. Is this something we would want to offer the membership. Interest would be in her program, her farm, and use of products. Appalachian Growers in Franklin, NC. Possible program in the summer.

Facebook/Digital Information – Ann Langley

Social Media committee has added Becky Wolary to their committee. Becky is in the process of making documentation on How to Make a Post on Facebook Using Your Computer, How to Make a Post on Facebook Using Your Phone and will post on the web-site. Dolores Stewart has resigned, she was a big contributor to Facebook

Challenge to the Social Media Committee as well as the BOD to post a picture of your garden and write a blurb about it.

Would love to do Facebook live as a preview for the Garden Tour.

Would want to add a person on Social Media who would help set up equipment at the meeting.

Ann will give recruiting information for set-up person and for Instagram person to Lisa and Lynda to send out to new class and existing MGs for new volunteers.

Field Trips – No chair

Garden Tour – Susan Hanson,

The theme for the 2022 Garden Tour for May 14th, will be Garden for Beauty and the Environment.

Suggestions will be gardens with: vegetables in with flowers, pollinators gardens, and plants for birds.

Previous Garden Tour had a lot of material, people who could take reservations online.

Would like it to be educational for the visitor, including list of plants.

Gardens need to be a Friend or Member of the Association. Please give your suggestions to Susan.

Grants – Martha Whitman

Nine of the eleven grants have submitted receipts. \$3928.81 has been paid out. \$1083.59 remains of the budgeted amount of \$5012. (Two grants have small amounts remaining in their balance - about \$133). Three reports have been received. Emails have been sent to all project managers to turn in reports by November 15. Posters will be due by April 1 to be displayed at the plant sale. Posters could also be displayed at in person meetings.

The committee is updating the Grant Guidelines and Application for 2022.

Becky organized getting signs made. They indicate that the project is part of GCMGA. Signs are being distributed to all current projects and others as requested.

The Georgia Piedmont Land Trust Grant Project built over 30 bluebird houses this summer. Emails went out to all current Grant Projects and all School Projects, offering them a Bluebird House. So far, 8 have been requested from the Georgia Piedmont Land Trust Grant Project. These are being delivered to the project or to the Extension Office where Kim Fritz will oversee them until they are picked up.

Historian – Freda Steward

Working on year-end PowerPoint. Many thanks to those who have provided pictures and accompanying descriptions.

Hospitality – Alice Verner

See president's report about the Holiday Party.

Newsletter/Bit of Dirt – Shirley Bohm

- Fall 2021 Bit of Dirt newsletter was issued on October 15th.
- 191 subscribers in Mailchimp were deleted because they were not paid members after being warned in the last issue that only members would receive the newsletter in the future.
- Current subscribers in Mailchimp total 171.
- 63% open rate for the newsletter (what can we do to encourage people to read the newsletter?)
- Suggestions for contributors or topics for the next issue would be very welcome.
- Next issue will come out January 15th with deadline for contributions by December 30th.

Discussion, Shirley will give Lynda the e-mail address of who sends Bit of Dirt and will pass on to membership for those who may have it blocked or sent to spam. Also, please increase the font size, so that it can be read on the phone. Please give her topics for next issue.

Photo Contest – Lori Prosser

There have not been any rules or guidelines set up for the 2022 photo contest.

I stated in my August report that I would not be able to chair the contest next year.

We need to find a new chair. I've asked some members and did not have luck finding anyone to commit.

If we don't have anyone interested in chairing, perhaps we should skip the contest next year.

Even though people enjoy it, we only have 20 something members that participate & submit photos.

I know Anne Langley and I would be happy to pass along information for the new chair.

Except for a few category changes, the rules & guidelines do not change much from year to year.

I'll try to reach out to some more members for the chair position.

Discussion, let people know this position is open, and a possible photography workshop.

Plant Sale – Lynda Pollock, Susan Kosenka

Shirley has potted up strawberry plants. We had a successful plant dig at the Krause's, Tim Mullens and Lynda are currently babysitting those plants.

Now is the time to dig plants.

The Plant Sale will be held April 30th at the Lilburn Library.

Announcement at the November meeting.

Publicity – Jessica Miller

I need 30 days' notice for publicity. I will help with Plant Sale and Garden Tour publicity; but the committees need to have a publicity person on their committee. I will work with the point person.

Trainee Breakfast – Robert Ayer, absent, this came in after the meeting,

The trainee breakfast committee has no new business to report. The MG training classes were cancelled due to COVID restrictions; therefore, our committee also became inactive. We await the lifting of restrictions for our committee to become active again.

Webmaster – Becky Wolary, absent.

Weed and Feed/Seed Exchange – Becky Panetta

Seed exchange - working on an inventory of the seeds, will discard non-viable seeds. Would like to make an announcement at the meeting if people are collecting seeds, they can let me know and I can make plans to get them. My granddaughter can repack any bulk seeds.

Weed & Feed needs a chairperson.

Without any more business, Lynda adjourned the meeting at 11:47 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen McGinty,
November 11, 2021

Addendum from November 15th general meeting.

Election of 2022 officers. Slate of officers was presented as Lynda Pollock, President; Margaret Molyson, Vice-President; Jack Bolton, Treasurer; and Karen McGinty, Secretary.

Suzi Chaapel made a motion to vote, Susan Kosenka seconded. No discussion. The officers were voted in unanimously.

Submitted January 9, 2022
Karen McGinty