

Gwinnett County Master Gardener's Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
July 11, 2022

Meeting was called to order at 10.00 a.m by Lynda Pollock. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

**ATTENDEES**

Present: President Lynda Pollock, Vice President Margaret Molyson, Treasurer Jack Bolton, Past President Virginia Schofield, Secretary Karen McGinty, Asst. Treasurer Amber Malloy. Committee Chairs: Alice Verner, Becky Panetta, Becky Wolary, Freda Steward, Jessica Miller, Shirley Bohm, Susan Hanson, Susan Kosenka  
Absent: Aaron Tulin, Dolores Romero-Stewart, Jane Trentin, Martha Whitman, Robert Ayer, Sonya Lee, Tabitha Potter  
Guest: Lisa Klein

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Minutes** of the April 11<sup>th</sup>, Board of Directors Meeting were approved with no objections. Jack motioned to approve, Becky W. seconded, followed by no discussion.

**Treasurer's Report – Jack Bolton**

Account Balances:  
Checking Account \$10,113.54  
Savings Account \$8,022.35.

We are in good shape for the year. Our revenue on the plant sale far exceeded what we expected, the revenue for the Garden Tour not quite as successful financially.

Expecting \$705 from Soil3, check mailed June 30<sup>th</sup>.  
Still expecting Plant Sale table rental deposit.

Scholarship money to Gwinnett Tech needs to be dispersed this July. Gwinnett Tech selects recipients. Lisa will check with Gwinnett Tech horticultural committee to see who and how receives funds.

Membership – 174 members, paid and complimentary.

Received \$95 from Georgia State MG for rebates for Gwinnett members. Lynda said that the state conference for 2022 web-site is now up.

Becky Panetta moved to accept the treasurer's report; Freda seconded. All were in favor.

**EXTENSION REPORTS**

**Lisa Klein** – Harvest Gwinnett Community maybe a good place to recruit new members. Several gardeners have shown interest in being an MG. Current MG's can give presentation to gardeners and then talk about being a Master Gardener.

Still playing catch-up with Tim leaving. Many calls on disease and bugs issues.

Trying to get the class of 2022 with a possibility of 14 students. Classes will be held from August 24<sup>th</sup> through November 16<sup>th</sup> with Dekalb County at Gwinnett Tech at the Food Services building. No plans have been made yet about Intern Breakfast participation. She will reach out to Dekalb county and talk to Sarah about plans for the class.

Kim has her Teacher MG class going on now.

Cindy is working hard on Farmer's Markets. She still needs volunteers, some dates were cancelled for lack of volunteers. Suwanee is providing a tent and table.

Mary Black's job, Gwinnett County UGA Extension Director has just been advertised. Tim Daly's job, Gwinnett County ANR Agent, has not been advertised yet.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS, continued**

### **President's Report – Lynda Pollock**

September Meeting Picnic – September 19, will book shelter at McDaniel Farm. The dinner will be the same as last year as that worked out well.

Discussion: from later in the meeting. Picnic time was changed to 6 o'clock. A tour will be offered, dependent on weather. A one for one plant exchange will be take place. Karen and Lynda will pick up food from the Blue Rooster.

Closer to the end of the year will talk with Bethesda about booking for meetings for next year. New contact at Bethesda, Holly.

I received the following e-mail from Marlysa Raye-Jacobus:

*Just so you know, on Tuesday morning (7-12) , Sheri Dorn will be Zoomed into the NFMG membership mtg. She has been invited to be our 'guest speaker' (instead of a guest lecturer or program) to answer any questions/ concerns about the upcoming new mandated changes/ notifications. She was happy to join us. I will let you know if there are more updates from Sheri. I personally want to order the new MG handbook, and don't know from what source I may order it.*

*Additionally, on Friday (7-8), I received a request from the Executive GMGA Board to ask from all my 7 MG organizations (in 4 counties) TWO new items from the Presidents/ leaders:*

*1) GMGA wants each local MG group to pledge a \$100/year amount toward the current UGA Foundation MGEV Scholarship Fund. They feel that this fairly new fund would gain more interest and grow much quicker, AND help cement a more permanent relationship btwn. GMGA & each local group. I need to know whether GCMGA would consider contributing to this fund annually. Please discuss this at your meeting tomorrow- I need an answer within the next couple weeks.*

*2) GMGA is considering restructuring the Association, and being more efficient. In possibly doing so, I need a list from GCGMA of your current activities that your MG organization provides to your communities where you serve. I need that list by 7-25, please. It is due to the GMGA president by 7-31.*

*If you have any questions/ comments, please call me.*

One change will be updating the Continuing Ed component to a required 10 hours a year, in line with other Master Gardeners nationally. These hours would include speakers at meetings, conferences (state, national, international), webinars, and possibly workshops.

Lynda would like to see upcoming changes presented more positively than in the past. She will continue to remind members about the change coming for Continuing Ed.

Discussion: \$100 for UGA Foundation MGEV Scholarship Fund. Some questions for GMGA, who can apply, how many can receive, which students can apply, which colleges involved, in-state only recipient? We are looking at adding it to our budget for next year but we have some questions concerning the scholarship itself.

Discussion: List of activities and communities that we serve. Karen and I can look at list of current and active projects.

### **Vice President's Report – Margaret Molyson**

Calendar for the remainder of 2022:

July 18: Photo Contest Results – Eric Bowles

August 15: John Magyar from Universal Aquatics – All Things Water Features  
(Our previously scheduled speaker, Danna Cain, canceled.)

September 19: Member Appreciation Picnic

October 17: Olivia Menard, retired engineer – Mason Bees

November 21: Holiday Party

December: No meeting

Nominating Committee: Margaret Molyson, Amber Malloy, Diane Krish, Karen McGinty

In preparation for next year, we are looking for a VP and Membership and Field Trip chairs.

I would also like to know if the current committee chairs are willing to continue in their present positions or if they would like co-chairs. If they already have someone they want to work with, just let Lynda or me know. If we need to find someone to work with or replace you, please let me know at [mmolyson@hotmail.com](mailto:mmolyson@hotmail.com) or 478-960-3612.

Discussion: We invited about 20 people to come today to see what the Board Meeting was about, no one came. Virginia volunteered to be the last member of the nominating committee.

We need a VP, Margaret will be President for only one year!

Possible inviting above group early to the meeting on Monday to talk about opportunities.

**Past President** – Virginia Schofield

Just waiting for checking from Soil3.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Education/Workshops** – Jessica Miller.

Spoke to Susan Varlamoff about her incredible trip to Africa. She has said that she and Ivan will do a power point presentation about the Serengeti as an educational workshop but not before September. But it may be better as a speaker at a Monday night meeting?

I saw in the minutes about a discussion on a gourd workshop. First, I heard about it, but we would need a source for gourds. I have information about having a gourd workshop from Carole Teja.

Discussion: Lynda will ask at meeting, who took the gourd seeds and if they are growing them. Shirley will ask in her newsletter. It would be better if the gourds were uniform and if they were all cleaned out and ready to paint. Lynda has an attachment to clean out gourds. Becky W knows a someone who can paint. Let's do this for the fall.

Discussion: Susan Varlamoff presentation, should be a speaker at a meeting as more people would be able to see it. Looking at January or February as a possible date.

Jessica willing to set-up field trip to the Monastery in Conyers to look at the bonsai that are there. Lynda will get back about an intown bonsai shop having a workshop, will get info to Jessica and Margaret for possible workshop or speaker.

**Field Trips** – No Chair.

**Grants** – Martha Whitman absent, (Becky Wolary will represent our committee at the Board Meeting this month.)

The Grant Committee has received reimbursement requests from just three projects and they are all partial reimbursement:

Discovery High School, Tabitha Potter for \$432.21 Vines Gardens, Susan Kosenka for \$290.00 Vines Harvest Garden, Becky Wolary for \$45.71

That is a total of \$767.92 reimbursed of the \$4195 awarded leaving \$3427.08 for reimbursement.

Submitted by

Martha Whitman  
2022 Grant Committee Chair

Discussion: Becky W, it has been great to have this money as we were able to get tomatoes in the time frame that we would like to have it.

**Web-site** – Becky Wolary

The web-site is up to date. Still after Aaron to redesign the web-page. It is on our radar and I am thinking about using the budget to update web-page theme.

**Garden Tour** – Susan Hanson

Have written up notes to give to the new chair.

Some things to note:

Ticket sales, this year 72, last time 250.

Online ticket sales, this year 16, last time 100.

Out of the 72 tickets sold, about 25 were sold by Jane Matthews.

Volunteer participation was low. Plant Sale and Garden tour were too close together.

The Garden Tour is an educational event and because fewer people attended, they received a higher educational value.

Discussion: The Garden Tour followed too closely to the Plant Sale to get enough volunteers. Changing the tour to either June or September. We were fortunate that the tour in 2020 was right after the state opened up from the pandemic and people were flocking outdoors.

Lynda said that the Garden Tour was a great success. Becky said she would like to post Susan's notes on the member only section as a resource for the next chair.

The new garden chair for the tour in 2024 should be found in 2023 and form a committee to find gardens in a locale in Gwinnett.

Further Discussion: The Bus tour of Gwinnett Gardens was cancelled. No one but the regular volunteers showed up at Bethesda. There is a possibility of a bus tour of Community Gardens later in the summer.

**Historian** – Freda Steward. Nothing to report. Send her pictures!

Discussion: Have Kim Fritz give list of school awardees for pictures on the web-site. Have links of pictures of the school garden awards as well as pictures from the MG awards posted on web-page.

**Hospitality** – Alice Verner.

We lost 2 volunteers but 3 new ones have started.

Discussion: Our Friend volunteers need to send their hours in an e-mail to Lisa, so we can recognize the efforts that they are performing for our organization.

**Photo Contest** – Sonja Lee, no report.

**Plant Sale** – Susan Kosenka and Lynda Pollock

Plant sale went well, next year we need to have tables for native plants for sun and shade.

Discussion: Different years different types of plants sell well. Books will no longer be sold, there is so much info now available online, and they are cumbersome to carry over, year after year.

**Publicity** – Dolores Romero-Stewart, no report.

**Trainee Breakfast** – Robert Ayer, no report

**Weed and Feed** – no chair.

Discussion: A good idea, but if no one is in charge, nothing will happen. Amber brought a good point about someone being unable to garden, but has to feed people. Maybe a better name would be Helping Hands. The feed should not be a requirement. Freda volunteered to be the new chair with the new name **Helping Hands**.

**Seed Exchange** – Becky Panetta

There are a few seeds, mostly native perennial that need stratification. There are no vegetables, and no annuals except for grasses.

Discussion: We need to start advertising for people to start saving seeds. Our vegetable seeds in the past were donated from the Smith's through SE Co-Op. Family Tree used to donate seeds, contact Dana Pike.

**Newsletter/Bit of Dirt** – Shirley Bohm

The last issue of the GCMGA newsletter, Bit of Dirt, was issued on April 15, 2022 to 182 subscribers with a 74% open rate.

The committee is doing the final proofreading now in preparation for publication on July 15th. A final check to see if any new members were added after April 1<sup>st</sup> still has to be done.

Please forward meetings, workshops, field trips or other content for the "Coming Events" section of the next newsletter to me by September 30th. If you have any ideas for articles, are willing to write something or want to share news with our members, please let me know.

**Facebook/Digital Information/Social Media** – Tabitha Potter, no report.

**Old Business** –

**Raising the membership dues** - After much discussion it was decided that the dues should be raised to \$20 each. Lynda proposed to raise the dues to \$20 for the year beginning 2023, Becky Wolary, seconded it. All were in favor. Vote passed. Dues raised.

Discussion: We have 2 squares available for use for in-person payment. Paypal also has a reader to attach to phone, it would allow one less element for the treasurer to track. This should be discussed amongst Jack, Amber, and Becky W.

**New Business** –

Car sticker logo - Becky Wolary has a sticker on her car of our logo. It is an open sticker for the outside of the car. Becky will ask about particulars and get back to the board.

LL Bean Yeti Style Cup - Lynda would like to have a logo engraving for yeti style cup from LL Bean. Set-up would be \$75. It was decided to see if there was interest among the general membership before ordering.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:19.

Next EC Meeting will be following this meeting.

Next BOD Meeting will be October 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room, extension office.  
(Meeting date was changed to the 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the September 12<sup>th</sup> EC meeting)

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen McGinty,  
July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022