**Coweta County MGEV Business Meeting**

**13 January 2022**

Execute Board in Attendance: Patty Ellis, Colleen Stephens, Carol Fuller, Shanna Campbell, and Donna Dietz.

22 Master Gardeners were in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 10:05, followed by the pledge of allegiance and an inspirational message by Sonjia Lambeck.

The previous business meeting minutes were approved.

**Officer reports**

\*President- Mark Hess- not present due to death in family

\*President elect- Patty Ellis- lead the meeting

\*Vice President- Carol Fuller- no report

\*Secretary- Shanna Campbell- no report

\*Treasurer- Colleen Stephens- no report

\*Past President- Donna Dietz- no report

**Committee reports**

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* Education- Nancy Coats spoke on the previous inactivity of the Speakers Bureau with Covid Environment. She is going to review the brochure of Speaker topics and confirm which MGs are willing to deliver and promote public education.
  + There was discussion about possible public workshops being held in 2022. Workshops on turf, pruning and integrating native plants into your landscaping are all being considered for public workshops outside.
  + Continuing Education hours for MGEVs was discussed. 10 hours per year is going to be required.
    - Available CE training opportunities:
      * Thoughtful Thursdays in MGLOG
      * Georgia Native Plant Society 2022 Symposium
      * 6 Program series offered by North Fulton MG
      * In Future: GA State MG Meeting (delivered remotely)
  + Sonjia Lambeck raised the idea of bringing back CE post business meetings. Nancy will work on this for future meetings.
  + Nancy is open to any suggestions or MGs that would like to participate in the Education committee.
  + Allen Summerlin suggested that the filming of BYA that is posted on Youtube, ties in with promoting the speakers bureau
* BYA-Allen Summerlin thanked Jerry Allen for fixing computer issues and filming Tuesday’s BYA. (there will be a delay in the recording posting to Youtube, it will post once edited) With the absence of an ANR to assist in set up, the BYA team is having to relearn all the details to execute the programs. There was good attendance for a January BYA with a higher percent of new attendees.
  + The BYA schedule has been set through June. Second Tuesday of every month, except December.
  + BYA will be holding a meeting near February looking for new MG participants to assist with the programs. The committee is missing Melanie Landrum’s program coordinating skills and could use additional support from the MGs. There are many different tasks from scheduling speakers, promotion, and a lot of behind-the-scenes work.
  + February’s program will be on Damselflies and Dragonflies
  + March Morning glory program on Mushrooms will be on 03/22 (this is in addition to the regular March BYA)
* Media/Publications- No updates. There is good engagement on the Facebook page
* Market Day- Starting the first Saturday in April
* Nature Trail- Per Audrey Harrelson, they continue to work on eradicating invasives. There are several structures being evaluated on the Yellow Trail, that are currently unstable.
* Demonstration Garden- Kathy Olmstead reported, waiting for spring planting to bloom. Minor deer damage. It will look beautiful once in bloom
* Greenhouse- Jerry Allen reported, first seeding of the year was 01/11. There are over 400 pots seeded. The misting system is on at 9am in the Greenhouse. Looking into purchasing soil due to a fire ant issue in the current soil. There is a tentative schedule for all other tasks. Sign up Genius will be utilized for upcoming workdays.
* Plant Sale- Spring Plant Sale is scheduled for 04/09/2022. There will be workdays on Apri 6th, 7th and 8th.
  + January 25th will be a workday filling pots at the greenhouse. These will be utilized for potting your transplants at home.
  + First in take day will be 02/16 from 2-4 pm.
    - No bare root plants- all need to be in standard greenhouse pots
    - All pots should be labeled, including the color of the bloom
    - 5 plant minimum, ideally 10 of each type which is best for the sale
* Scholarship- Applications are online. The deadline is March 31st. Jennie Adcock will follow up on the dates being changed on the application.
* Help Desk- Help desk is slow with some pruning questions. A hybrid model with remote coverage and someone in person a half day on Fridays is being established. The in-person coverage will increase, as demand increases.
* Sunshine- Melanie Atkinson shared that Ed has made great progress. He is attending physical therapy and tentative dates are being discussed for his return home. Melanie and Ed are very thankful for the thoughts and prayers that have been shared with them.
* Newsletter- Submissions to Pat Farmer at [patfarmer100@gmail.com](mailto:patfarmer100@gmail.com) by the 24th of each month.
  + A request was made to add a calendar back into the newsletter. Discussion indicates that it has been missed and is a good resource, even if a digital calendar is successfully established.
* Fundraising- Diane Cook will be meeting with Stephanie to discuss fundraising options in times of Covid.
* Boys and Girls Club/4H- no updates
* Volunteer hours/awards-Patty Ellis read an email from Sheri Dorn sharing the importance and impact of logging our hours. This message will be included in the next newsletter.
  + Due to how the MGLOG system records notes and runs reports, Patty has requested that we DO NOT INCLUDE NAMES in the notes field when we record hours. This creates discrepancies in reporting.
  + Currently in MGLOG Coweta County is #10 in reported hours. The competitive MGs among us would love for us to climb back toward the top of the list. (This information can be seen on your MGLOG homepage)
* Garden Tour- no activity
* Project Facelift- Cathy LeBar is speaking with Stephanie to establish process with the incoming class to take over the maintenance and development of the existing gardens. All MGs are welcome to participate.

**Old Business**

* Weekly Zoom MGEV meetings with Stephanie on Mondays at 230 PM will continue until the ANR position is filled. The position will be posted this week.
* Rooting for Newnan- Tree pick up day is scheduled for Arbor Day, 18 February 2022.
* Please pick up your awards, milestone recognition certificates, pins, and badge sleeves!
* The 2021 Holiday party was well attended, and the food and fellowship were phenomenal! A huge thank you to the hospitality committee for all their hard work. Ed Atkinson was named the 2021 MGEV of the year. All food pantry donations were brought to Bridging the Gap in Newnan, and they were very appreciative (there were two carts full of donations).
* The board, along with Dale Senko, is working on getting the old MGEV handbook updated. We should have something fresh this coming year.

**New Business**

* We continue to see scheduling overlaps for MGEV events. Tuesday there was BYA, a board meeting, seeding in the greenhouse and a workday.
  + Patty Ellis and Stephanie are attempting to establish a digital calendar that would be visible to all MGs and accessible for committee leaders to add events. Currently, it is not working.
  + Adding a calendar to the newsletter has been considered
* President Mark Hess has posed the question, “What would we like to do better as a group?”
  + It was requested we consider bringing back some of the MGEV social events that we have had in the past. These would increase fellowship and build connection that has been missing in the time of Covid. Outdoor events such as a summer picnic will be considered, Covid precautions permitting.
  + Pre-Covid workdays were open to everyone, now they are limited to a small number. This has decreased transparency among group projects and individual MGEV relationships. Any suggestions on actions that can improve this interaction are welcome.

**Upcoming business meeting dates for 2022:**

-**Wednesday** 9 March (note the change to Wednesday!)

-Thursday 12 May

-Thursday 14 July

-Thursday 8 September

-Thursday 10 November

Meeting adjourned at 11:14

Minutes prepared by Shanna Campbell