**Coweta County MGEV Volunteer Meeting**

**March 9th, 2023**

Executive Board in Attendance: Patty Ellis, C. R. Phillips, Colleen Stephens, Pat Lincoln

48 Master Gardeners were in attendance as well as Dana Selementi, ANR Program Assistant.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00, followed by an inspirational message by Sonja Lambeck and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Pat Lincoln.

The previous Volunteer Meeting Minutes from January 12th, 2023 were approved.

**Officer reports**

* President- Patty Ellis- Introduced new ANR Program Assistant, Dana Selementi
* President Elect- Open Position
* Vice President- C. R. Phillips – None
* Secretary- Pat Lincoln - None
* Treasurer- Colleen Stephens- See Financial Report Below
* Past President – Mark Hess – Not Present
* ANR Program Assistant – Dana Selementi - Ms. Selementi gave a brief background history and talked about her ties to Georgia.

**Financial reports**

* Treasurer Colleen Stephens, presented the current financials.
  + Beginning Balance $29,175.19 Ending Balance $24,745.41.
  + Introduced new report format and explained side notations on the report.

**Committee reports**

* Ask the MGEV/Market Day – Amy Barnes - First Market Day was held on March 4th this year.
* BYA – Melanie Landrum:
  + March 14th at 10:00 AM, Mike Cunningham, Country Gardens, will give a presentation on Small Space Gardening. There will not be an evening program this month.
  + We will be selling small bags of Soil3 for $15 each. MGEV receives $5 for each bag sold. We have 36 bags.
  + In April, the program will be Garden Vocal Points.
  + In June, we will have a Morning Glory Program.
* Boys and Girls Club – Rebecca Gibson – They meet every other Wednesday. During the next session, the children (approximately 16) will be planting seeds.
* Communications – Patty Ellis – An article entitled “A Garden in Recovery” was written by Donna Dietz and Dale Senko and appeared in Coweta Magazine. C. R. Phillips’ poems, “Garden Poems” also appeared in the March Coweta Magazine. Pictures of the MGEVs working in the Green House as well as the flyers for the Spring Plant Sale and Soil3 have been posted on Facebook. Patty encouraged members to follow the Coweta County Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Facebook Page. Currently there are 1305 Followers, 12 Likes, 38 New Followers and Reached 2,360. The more followers, the more the algorithm likes us which helps with advertisement
* Demonstration Garden – Kathy Olmsted and Amy Keller – They have been cleaning up the garden and identifying which plants survived the freeze.
* Education- Cathy LeBar and Paula Hyatt – After the meeting, Paula Hyatt will be presenting a CE program on Vermicomposting. The Program Great Grow Along March 10-19 has CEs totaling over 60 hours which are available to all MGEVs. (www.greatgrowalong.com)
* FPS/SPS – Kathy Olmstead and Kim Magyar – A lot of plants were lost from the freeze. However, the new plants are looking great. They asked members to help as they prepare for the April Plant Sale. They want to have some house plants available for the sale and asked MGEVs to bring any house plants the week of the sale. In the future, they would also like to offer some unique plants at the sales.
* Fundraising/Garden Tours- Diane Cook- The Workshops this year have been more educational. They are finishing up the work on the Garden Tour which will be held May 20th rain or shine. The brochures will be ready shortly. Both the Demo Garden and Nature Trail are on the tour list and there is a need for some help in preparing those gardens. There will be an orientation for volunteers working the tour. Sunday from 1-4, there will be an “after party”. Gifts will be available at the Nature Trail for those that bought their tour tickets early.
* Greenhouse – Barb Schwartz/Ros Johnson – They are looking after the plants and watering them. There are lots to do and they really could use the help. They asked MGEVs to come to work days. No sign up is needed.
* Help Desk – Patty Ellis – We are continuing with the Remote Help Desk; however, we do need volunteers to work the In-Person Help Desk on Mondays and Friday. There are two shifts: 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM and 12:30 PM – 5:00 PM. Training is available and takes about one hour.
* Hospitality – Amy Sharpe –Thanked the 4H Club for providing meeting refreshments. Nothing else to report.
* Nature Trail – Melanie Atkinson – They are preparing the trail for the Garden Tour. They meet on Mondays from 1:00 PM until 3:00 PM. If you aren’t able to help work on the trail, please visit and see the work that has been performed.
* Scholarship – Patty Ellis for Jennie Adcock – The applications are now on the website and are due March 31st.
* Speakers Bureau – Dan Gentry – We currently have three requests for presentations: Wesley Woods, Arbor Springs Garden Club and a Fayette County Club.
* Sunshine – Sara Hansen – Recent sunshine requests for Marci Moore and Beverly Maddox have gone out. Staying in touch with Lynn Matthews and Ann Rouse. Sara explained to the MGEVs that permission must be obtained before any information can be sent out which often results in a delay after she has received a request.
* The New Leaf – No Report
* Volunteer Awards – - Patty Ellis – Cathy LeBar has 100 Hours. We are in 3rd place in the state for volunteer hours. Patty reminded everyone to log their hours. She also noted that time spent on Continuing Education should be logged.

**Old Business**

* Colleen Stephens will work with Committee Chairs to get descriptions of their committees’ duties and responsibilities. This information will be added to the updated version of the MGEV Handbook. Chairs will also be asked to outline basics of expenditures for their committee.
* The New Registration and Design System are now in use. The MGEVs that have used the systems said it was easy to use and the design system was very intuitive.
* Reminder for everyone to wear their name tags to meetings and events.

**New Business**

* Deberah Williams said that Carol Fuller has been helping her with Market Day but that she needs someone else to head this up. She will do a write up of the duties and provide that to whoever replaces her.
* Volunteer Meetings will be held on the following dates:
  + May 11th
  + July 13th
  + September 14th
  + November 9th
* Recent MGEV publications in the Newnan Coweta Magazine:
  + Donna Dietz and Dale Senko wrote an article about Donna’s garden and their journey after severe tornado damage. Donna’s garden will be one of the featured gardens in the upcoming garden tour.
  + CR Phillips had four original poems published.
* We will have a new MGEV class starting in January 2024 and will be looking for people to help guide the class. Some board members have volunteered to help lead the committee that will oversee the class logistics and we will need other folks to help as well as to be present during the class. It is very early and applications have not gone out yet, but we have more than 50 people on the waiting list to get applications. There are typically 15 to 20 people in each class.
* Melanie Landrum stated Coweta County MGEV Day at Petals will be April 26th at 10:00 CST. She said it’s a two hour drive from Newnan. Jason of Petals will be conducting a tour of the gardens. To make it worth his time, we need to have about twenty people going. Email or text Melanie Landrum if you are interested.
* Super Sod grand opening on March 25th from Noon to 2 PM. We will have a table there demonstrating how we use Soil3. Door prizes will be given out throughout the day.
* At the end of the meeting, drawing for The Whole Seed Catalog from Baker Creek Seeds will be held. Vicki Sewell won the drawing for the catalog.
* After the meeting, there will be mini catalogs and seeds available for the taking.

**Upcoming Volunteer Meeting dates for 2023:**

-Thursday May 11th at 10am

Meeting adjourned at 11:45

Minutes prepared by Pat Lincoln