**Coweta County MGEV Volunteer Meeting**

**May 11th, 2023**

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

37 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 March 9th, 2023 were approved.

**Officer reports**

* President- Patty Ellis- No Report
* President Elect- Open Position
* Vice President- C. R. Phillips – No Report
* Secretary- Pat Lincoln – No Report
* Treasurer- Colleen Stephens- See Financial Report Below
* Past President – Mark Hess – Not Present
* ANR Program Assistant – Dana Selementi - Ms. Selementi stated the Communications Team is working on starting the video taping again. However, before a tape can go on line, it must be edited. The team needs a volunteer to edit the video.

**Financial reports**

* Treasurer Colleen Stephens, presented the current financials.
  + Beginning Balance $29,175.19 Ending Balance $41,668.52

**Committee reports**

* Ask the MGEV/Market Day – Harley Stewart - Julie Bull is going to take over the Ask the Master Gardener duties that Deberah Williams was doing and Carol Fuller will be assisting. Carol teaming up with Julie is the perfect solution since BYA uses the same display board and often the same publications.
* BYA – Melanie Landrum:
  + **June** – David Brown – Houseplants 101
  + **June 27th** – 10 AM Morning Glory – Ashley Frasca – Green and Growing with Ashley (WSB Radio Garden Show Host)
  + **July** – Linda May – Creating Backyard Habitats (Outreach Coordinator – Wildlife Conservation) (Hoping she will be able to bring a garden snake and turtle)
  + **August** – Trecia Neal – Native Plants
  + **September** – JoHannah Biang – Fall Vegetable Gardening (Horticulture Manager - Hills & Dales)
  + **October** – Gabrielle LaTora – Insect Allies: Predators and Parasitoids in the Garden (ANR Agent North Fulton County – Entomologist)
  + **October** – 10 AM Morning Glory – Jason Powell – Party with Petals plus a plant sale (Petals From the Past) Will be held at the Fairgrounds
  + **November** – To Be Determined
* Boys and Girls Club – Rebecca Gibson – Thanked everyone that volunteered and helped.
* Communications – Patty Ellis – The Spring Plant Sale generated a lot of interest. Currently have 1,400 Followers on Facebook. She has setup to have two automatic daily postings on facebook.
* Demonstration Garden – Kathy Olmsted and Amy Keller – They will be laying mulch and continue the garden cleanup.
* Education- Cathy LeBar and Paula Hyatt – C. R. Phillips will present the after-meeting CE session today. The committee has been talking about changing the time of the CE presentations to 9:00 because many of the committees have indicated they would like to meet after the meeting with their teams.
* FPS/SPS – Kathy Olmstead and Kim Magyar – The Plant Sale was a major success. Total gross receipts were $21,823 with expenses of $6,781 giving us a total profit of $15,052. We are looking at ways to make the sale better and improve the flow so we don’t have the bottle necks we experienced this year.
* Fundraising/Garden Tours- Diane Cook – The Garden Tour is a week from Saturday. She has a Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet and asked that volunteers do so by Monday. She has posted flyers all over town. The tour will occur rain or shine. Tickets can be purchased the day of the tour at for $6 for each garden visited. Volunteers will have a list of names of individuals who pre-paid. A history of each garden will be given. Water will be provided at the various gardens. Some of the gardens will also provide lunch. Tickets, brochures and directions to the gardens will be sent out via email. 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 – We will continue to water the plants. We have filled pots with soil to get ready for the plants that will be sold this fall. Ros Johnson will no longer co-chair due to other commitments. We need two additional co-chairs.
* 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 – Nothing to report.
* Nature Trail – Audrey Harrelson presented on behalf of Ed & Melanie Atkinson – They meet on Mondays from 1:00 PM until 3:00 PM. Have not been getting the number of volunteers needed to keep up the trail. Please come if you can only stay for a short period of time.
* Scholarship – Patty Ellis for Jennie Adcock – Five scholarships were decided on and letters have been sent out. The recipients are:
  + **Jaret Webb** – Pat Clayton Memorial Scholarship – Newnan High
  + **Thomas Zamora** – Landmark School
  + **Mason Glover** – University of Georgia
  + **John Monnin** – Abraham Baldwin College
  + **Catherine Year** – Abraham Baldwin College (This is the daughter of Ashley who works at the Extension Office Front Desk)
* Speakers Bureau – Dan Gentry – Have been asked to give presentations to the following:
  + Three presentations for the Piedmont Newnan Hospital Employee Wellness Program starting in May.
  + Veggie Planting for Beginners for Pathways Center for outpatients’ exposure to activities providing emotional/mental enjoyment and purpose (Substance Abuse, Mental Health Rehab Facility).
* Sunshine – Sara Hansen – Lynn Matthews is remains on the Sunshine List. She recently had surgery and is now home.
* The New Leaf – Pat Farmer - No Report
* Volunteer Awards – Patty Ellis – Cathy LeBar has 250 Hours; 100 Hour Awards go to Diane Cook, Patty Ellis, Kim Magyar, Kathy Olmsted, Barb Schwartz and Amy Sharpe. 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.
* 2024 Class – There are currently 70 people on the list for next year’s class. Applications will go out in July/August and selections made. The 2024 Training Class Committee consists of the following: Amy Barnes, P. Funk, Pat Lincoln, Cathy LeBar, and C R Phillips.
* Melanie Landrum said 27 people visited Petals From The Past. A 10% discount was given for purchases.
* Reminder for everyone to wear their name tags to meetings and events.

**New Business**

* We need more members to take on Leadership Roles such as chairing committees.
* Our primary means of communicating with members is by email.
* The Garden Tour needs about 25 volunteers. Please sign up and help.
* The Nature Trail has not been getting the turn out needed to keep up the trail. Please stop by and help even if it’s just for short periods.
* Dana Selementi is going to reach out to the inactive members to see if she can get them involved again. Dana would like to know what other interests Master Gardener Volunteers have and suggestions as to how we can get more Master Gardeners involved.
* At the end of the meeting, drawing for a clemitis elephant ear plants was held. Marge Cox won the clemitis and Cathy LeBar won the elephant ear plant.

**Upcoming Volunteer Meeting dates for 2023:**

-Thursday July 13th at 10am

Meeting adjourned at 11:15

Minutes prepared by Pat Lincoln