

**Coweta County MGEV Volunteer Meeting
March 14, 2024**

Executive Board in Attendance: Diane Cook, Jennie Adcock, Kathy Olmsted, Chuck Olmsted, Stephanie Odom, **Patty Ellis**

Thirty-seven (37) Master Gardeners were in attendance as well as Stephanie Butcher, Extension Officer, and Dana Selementi, ANR Program Assistant.

The meeting was called to order at 10:05, followed by an inspirational message given by **Sonjia** Lambeck and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Chuck Olmsted.

The previous Volunteer Meeting Minutes from January 11, 2024 were approved.

BOARD MEMBER	TITLE	PRESENT	NOT PRESENT	REPORT
Diane Cook	President	X		X
Jennie Adcock	President Elect	X		X
Kathy Olmsted	Vice President	X		X
Stephanie Odom	Secretary	X		
Chuck Olmsted	Treasurer	X		X
Patty Ellis	Past President	X		X
Stephanie Butcher	Extension Officer		X	
Dana Selementi	ANR Program Asst		X	

Financial reports- Chuck Olmsted- Reviewed current financials ending balance \$32,068.31

Committee reports

- Ask the MGEV/Market Day – April Market Day is on April 6th and we are promoting the Spring Plant sale. They will also have a booth at SPS.
- BYA- Melanie Landrum-Melanie & Deborah reported the following:
 June 11th - Rose Guerra (Hummingbirds)
 July 9th - David Brown (Floral arrangements) waiting for confirmation
 July 23rd - 10am Morning Glory
 Josh Fuder - Growing fruits (waiting for confirmation)
 Aug 13 - Gabriella LaTora (Pollinators)
 Sept 10 - Clint Waltz (All things Turf Grass)
 Oct 8th – TBD
 Oct 22nd - 10am Morning Glory will be “Party with Petals” with Jason Powell
 Including Tracy Britnell from Just Dig It Farms
 2 speakers Tracy (Potager Gardens..maybe??) Jason (Fall Gardening) + Petals Plant Sale
 The above event will be held at CC Fairgrounds
 Nov 12 - Sally Bethea - author of “Keeping the Chattahoochee”
- Boys and Girls Club – Dana is taking over for Rebecca. However, no one new can join the committee at this time because the training/approval process isn’t available until next year. Contact Dana for more information.

- Communications/social media – Jerry Allen- Jerry continues to need help with closed captioning the recorded BYA presentations. This must be done at the office due to connectivity and security issues. Patty Ellis- We continue to have at least two posts per day on Facebook and try to post a few times per week on Instagram. You can help increase our reach on both platforms by going to our page, following, liking, and sharing posts. You can also help with content by sharing photos and information about workdays and projects with me. Just email me the info and I will get it posted!

As we approach the SPS, engagement on Facebook is increasing, which has been the same trend over the past few years. I am still learning Instagram and trying to figure out if and where similar data exists there. In the last 28 days on FB:

Page reach increased 172%.

Links clicked increased 15%.

Interactions increased 44%.

Page visits increased 30%.

Followers increased 175%.

Also, I can't be on social media 24/7, so if you see something that doesn't look quite right, like a rude, abusive, or ranting comment, please reach out to me by text, phone, or email so I can look into it further. If you can take a screenshot of the questionable content that would be helpful.

- Demonstration Garden – Kathy Olmsted and Amy Keller – Name changed to Inspiration Garden. Preparing for the statewide MG demo garden tour June 1, more info to follow. The Inspiration Garden supplied 300 soft wood cuttings to the greenhouse to prep for The Spring Plant sale.
- Education- Cathy LeBar –No update due to the MG 2024 class.
- Extension landscape – Workdays on Mondays and Wednesdays @ 10am to whenever
- FPS/SPS – Kathy Olmsted April 13 Plant sale please use sign-up genius. We have 4000 plants ready, check Diane Cook's weekly calendar for further work days. Also a question to have plants for sale at BYA?
- Fundraising/Garden Tours – Cathy LeBar – COWETA2024 Soil Cub is still a fundraiser as of this year.
- Greenhouse – Marge Cox- We are watering every day and need assistance. We are still taking plants in for plant sale
- Help Desk – Patty Ellis- We are cruising right along and continue to have remote and in person volunteers. We are always looking for volunteers to help with in person follow-up of soil test reports, which is a great way to get your feet wet and learn how the help desk works. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out and we can schedule training.
- Hospitality – Amy Sharpe – We are 3 months out on sign up for the extra cookies. Please bring boxes for pass along plants. Sign up for dishes for MG2024 graduation.
- Nature Trail – Ed Atkinson – Controlled burn rescheduled until next year. Refer to Cook's weekly calendar for work days.
- Scholarship – Jennie Adcock – Applications are available online and the last day for accepting applications is March 29. We only have 2 currently, so we would like more applicants.
- Speakers Bureau – Patty Ellis- Thank you to Dan Gentry for all of his work on the speakers bureau over the past decade or so. We have had a couple of requests recently, including the Newnan Carnegie, and are working to schedule those.

- Sunshine – Sarah Hansen- We will continue with compassion. If you would like her to reach out, she will contact the person to see how much information she can share with the group. It was suggested to put Sunshine in the New Leaf.
- The New Leaf – Pat Farmer – Going along great thanks to all for the input.
- Volunteer Awards – Patty Ellis
1000-hour attainment in 2023: Cathy LeBar
100-hour attainment in 2024: Cathy LeBar and Kathy Olmsted.

So far in 2024 we have logged 1120+ volunteer hours and 210 CE hours!
In 2023 Coweta County MGEVs logged 9353 volunteer hours, for 5th place in the state, and averaged 105 hours per volunteer, for 3rd place in the state!

Old Business

- We are finalizing the new edition of the MGEV handbook and hope to have it ready shortly.
- Don't forget to log your volunteer and continuing education hours in MGLOG!
- Please check your email for program updates and upcoming workdays.
- Be sure to check your emails as there will be a lot of workdays coming up soon.

New Business

- Please try to attend the new MGEV class graduation on Thursday, March 21st and bring pass along plants to welcome our new MGs.
- We are starting a Social Committee. Look for an email with more info after Spring Plant Sale.
- Extension updates- I don't remember if there were any updates from Stephanie or Dana?
- The next volunteer meeting will be held May 9th, 2024, in the DMMR

Next Volunteer meeting will be held, April 11, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 10:51AM
Minutes prepared by Stephanie Odom