

**Coweta County MGEV
Volunteer Meeting Minutes
May 9, 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.

The meeting was called to order at 10:04, followed by an inspirational message given by Sonjia Lambeck and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Chuck Olmsted.

The previous Volunteer Meeting Minutes from March 14, 2024 were approved.

Financial reports- Chuck Olmsted- Reviewed current financials ending balance \$32,068.31. Also, net income from Plant Sale \$18,406.01.

Committee Activities/Reports:

- **Ask MG/Market Day** – Harley reports the following:

Market Day is going strong. We have many visitors with questions or sharing their experiences. Have plenty of help to staff the booth. I have seen it advertised on Facebook. I am not sure how it affects the number of booth visitors but I'm sure it doesn't hurt.

- **BYA** – Melanie reports the following:

Not a whole lot to update on BYA. Everything's going great! David Brown will now speak in October so that leaves July open. Every slot is filled except July.

June 11th - Rose Guerra (Hummingbirds)

July 9th - (open)

July 23rd - 10am Morning Glory

Josh Fuder - Growing fruits

Aug 13 - Gabriella LaTora (Pollinators)

Sept 10 - Clint Waltz (All things Turf Grass)

Oct 8th - David Brown (Floral arrangements)

Oct 22nd - 10am Morning Glory

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 – this BYA will be held at Fairgrounds

Nov 12 - Sally Bethea - author of "Keeping the Chattahoochee"

- **Boys & Girls Club/Youth Ed** – Dana Selementi reported the following:

Boys and Girls Club is proceeding along nicely with Cathy and Jerry doing a Pollinator class next and then one more final class for the year

- **Communications** — Jerry Allen reported:

The Communications Team is continuing to work on getting the Close Captioning completed on the BYA presentations and hope to have some on our YouTube channel shortly. There will be a meeting

later in May – if anyone is interested in joining this Committee or wants to find out more about what is involved, please contact Jerry or Dana.

- **Education:** Cathy LeBar reported:

The Educational component after the Volunteer meeting will be a review of the gardening tips we got from the “Tip Jar” at our last meeting and a discussion on Yarrow – with some yummy Yarrow snacks.

- **Speakers Bureau:** (Patty Ellis reports the following)

Dale Senko did a presentation on Herbs 101 at the Newnan Carnegie on May 7th at 11am. There were 36 attendees and they got a free herb plant or packet of herb seeds.

- **Extension Landscape:** Cathy LeBar reported:

Landscape Extension Team is in full swing with approximately 5 or so members from the new class joining the existing team of 3-4 rather regularly for their workdays. They have been hard at work on a shade garden along the fence using accent boulders as well with the help of County officers.

- **Ext. Support/MGEV Help Desk:** Patty Ellis reported the following:

We've had a few folks from the new class express interest in working the help desk and they are doing training to get started. Everything else continues as usual.

- **Fundraising:** Committee inactive at this time. Will reactivate should the need arise. Melanie Landrum reports the following for our Soil3 sales:

\$885 for the first quarter, plus an additional \$480 earned at the Spring Plant Sale for a total of \$1,365!!!

- **Garden Tour:** Nothing to report – no Tour planned until 2026

- **Greenhouse:** Barb Schwartz reported the following:

After a very successful workday last week, the team cleaned and disinfected hundreds of empty pots of various sizes. All accumulated pots have been stored in the shed. We are now ready to start taking in more empty BLACK pots. We are looking for the pots from plant sale purchases - particularly 2 and 3 gallon pots. Black pots only. They can be left on the table outside the shed. We'll schedule another pot scrubbing day sometime in May.

Shade cloth is on the greenhouse. Plants we are currently tending to in the greenhouse stand a better chance of surviving and not being cooked. Heat will not go on unless temp is below 50.

All coleus plants have been moved outside to the shade area.

All plants that need to be in the shade have been moved. Plants needing sun have also been moved. We will be scheduling “digs” and subsequent potting in May as soon as we find out what is available and what can be used for the FPS.

We anticipate that hardwoods will be ready to be transported sometime within the first two weeks of June. Date TBD.

Daily watering continues (as required) for all plants.

- **Hospitality:** Amy Sharpe reported the following:

A big thank you to everyone that helped clean the food booth (before AND after the sale), shop, prepare, loan their crock pots, and serve lunches for the SPS.

We have a sign-up sheet for our upcoming BYA's, Morning Glories, etc. – all the help we have been getting is greatly appreciated.

- **Help Desk:** Patty Ellis reported the following

We've had a few folks from the new class express interest in working at the help desk and they are doing training to get started. Everything else continues as usual

- **Inspiration Garden (formerly known as Demonstration Garden):**

Kathy Olmsted & Amy Keller reported the following:

We are busy preparing the IG for our Open Garden Day on June 1st. Beds and paths have been weeded - an ongoing task, veggies have been planted, perennials have been trimmed and a few new annuals have been added. We potted 50 plants to be given as gifts for our visitors. We've received Stephanie's approval for the great signage that was created by Deborah so we can move forward to have a sign printed. The county will not have the funds for our new sign until 2025. We've had several members of the new class participate in our work days which has been fun and a great way to get to know them.

We will be hosting the Boys & Girls Club on May 24th.

- **Nature Trail:** Ed Atkinson reported the following:

We are still somewhat in shock over the loss of about 130 pine trees due to the infestation of pine beetles. There are still more dead trees that will likely need to be removed in the future. It will take some time to finish the clean-up and see what has survived and what we will discover that was not apparent prior to the disturbance.

On a positive note, we have had several really good workdays and great participation from the 2024 class. We have been working on the Red Trail so that it will be in good shape in time for the June Garden Tour of the Inspiration Garden. There is still a lot of work to be done and we could use your help on May 6th and 20th, from 9:00 – 11:00. We are at a loss when trying to plan projects to pursue when we never know how many workers to anticipate. Please let us know if you plan to be a somewhat regular volunteer at the Nature Trails. We have a volunteer ready to adopt the fern areas, learn more about ferns, and work to maintain and enhance the areas. We have several areas started for pollinators that will be more viable with more sunlight due to the removal of the pines. If that is an interest of yours, we would love to have you adopt the areas, maintain and further develop them. At one time, we had an inventory of plants, but that is far out of date, especially where the pines were removed and the whole area disturbed. We could use someone that would like to inventory the plants and create/update a data base. Another suggestion was to create a handout to let visitors know what plants are at the center and when to see them at their best. Perhaps you have other thoughts or interests and we would love to hear them and explore them to make the trails even better than they have ever been.

- **New Leaf:** No report.

- **Plant Sales:** Kim Magyar and Kathy Olmsted reported the following:

Kathy & Kim thanked everyone for the tremendous support given the Spring Plant Sale this year, the Greenhouse team for making sure we had plants to sell, the volunteers who helped at various work days, plant inventory, moving day, spa day and of course the day of the sale! Plus, our great Hospitality team for keeping us well fed! Special thanks also go out to Deberah Williams for all her work on our advertising graphics throughout the years.

This Spring Plant Sale saw our highest profit ever:

Gross Sales	\$28,277.00
Expenses	<u>(9,870.99)</u>
Net Profit	\$18,406.01

That is more than \$4,000 higher than our previous top year (2023)!!

Kim & Kathy are stepping down as Co-Chairs of the Plant Sales, but will be there to support the new Chair/Chairs. We will be having a General Plant Sale 2025 Committee meeting on May 20th. All are welcome to attend to find out more about the Plant Sale Committee.

- **Scholarship:** Jennie Adcock reported the following:

We met and selected five recipients from 19 applicants. Three from local high schools, and two Coweta County residents attending college. We won't release names until after the scholarships have been presented.

- **Social Media:** Patty Ellis reported the following:

We currently have 1810 Facebook followers (increased 25% over the past month) and 104 on Instagram. As expected, the reach of our posts has decreased since the SPS, but not by too much, and actual content interaction has increased by 15% over the past month.

- **Sunshine:** Sarah Hanson read an update from Rhett McCorkle.

- **Volunteer Awards:** Patty Ellis reported the following:

As of 5/6 Coweta has logged 2951 volunteer hours (4th place) and 356 continuing ed hours (7th place). As of 5/6 these are the hours attainment recognitions.

100 hours: Diane Cook, Patty Ellis, Kim Magyar, Barb Schwartz, Nan VanPatten

250 hours: Cathy LeBar

OLD BUSINESS:

- The new edition of the MGEV handbook is in its final review stages and we 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

NEW BUSINESS:

- We are starting a Social Committee to explore outings for our group to attend. The first meeting will be held May 22nd 1:00-3:00 in the kitchen.

EXTENSION UPDATES: Dana Selementi reported the following:

- We are looking for volunteers for the 4-H Day Camp. Please contact Dana if you are interested in helping out with this activity.

- We also need some willing and enthusiastic volunteers to attend 4-H Summer Camp with us June 24-28 at Rock Eagle. We have opportunities for at least 1 female volunteer to go and 2 male volunteers to be on stand-by if some of our other adult males can't make it. Coweta County is taking our biggest camping group ever with over 260 campers, adults, and teen leaders. It will be an unforgettable week!

Responsibilities at camp include overseeing a cabin of around 20 campers (4th-6th grade age) with another adult, attend rotation schedule of classes, and enjoy the excitement of 4-H Summer Camp. There is also downtime scheduled so you can take a break if needed. If you are interested, please contact Bill Hammond, 4-H Extension Agent.

The next volunteer meeting will be held July 11th, 2024 in the DMMR.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50.