

**January 9, 2025
MGEV Volunteer Meeting Minutes
Submitted by Nancy Coats**

Jennie Adcock called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

Chuck Olmstead let the Pledge of Allegiance

Sonya Lambeck provided the Inspirational Message.

Sonia's message was Christmas/post-Christmas based on the Christmas carol; God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman. The last verse contains the point. The time between the Christmas busyness and the return to our normal activities is a reprieve - a time of rest. It's a time to find comfort and joy in the work of our Master Gardener events and be merry with true love and companionship in all of our members. Once refreshed, find a new opportunity in our program.

The November 14, 2025 meeting minutes were approved.

Officer Reports

President: Jennie expressed her gratitude for being here and she is looking forward to another successful year with a great Master Gardener group.

President-Elect: Kathy Olmstead – Nothing to report

Past President: Diane Cook – Not present due to an unexpected emergency

Secretary: Nancy Coats – Requested all members speak clearly to help ensure a good quality meeting recording.

Treasurer: Chuck Olmstead – End date 12/31/2024. We started the year with \$37,976 brought in \$43,309, Spent \$27,702, Net Income: \$15,607 Ending Balance \$53,584. It was a successful year.

Vice President: Nan Van Patten – Not present

Committee Reports

Ask the Master Gardener/Market Day – Harley Stewart – They have a good crew that is looking forward to another good year. They are there every Saturday, starting in April/volunteers work one Saturday/month. Anyone who is interested in joining, please contact Harley. He is thinking about taking a laptop and logging the questions they are asked.

Boys and Girls Club: Rebecca Gibson – Thanks to everyone for those who reached out to her during the last year. Boys & Girls Club I Can Garden Club is going through a transformation. The creek that runs along the back of building has eroded the garden to the point where it is not safe for the children. The City of Newnan donated the use of the lot on the other side of the building for a new garden. It's larger and is much sunnier than the old

garden site. Two Master Gardeners, Bonnie Umberger, who is involved in landscape design and Keith Brady, a Master Gardener who works with the I Can Garden Club, along with the I Can Garden Club Committee who have been planning for that space. They are looking forward to new plants coming in, raised beds, starting this year. Rebecca advised people not to visit the new garden site now, but wait for warmer weather when more work can be done. The new garden site will be large enough to allow for some community gardens as well as the I Can Garden Club space. Rebecca extended an invitation to anyone who is interested in working with the children at Boys & Girls Club to contact her. In addition to the City's help, sweat equity by Master Gardeners will be needed for this project.

BYA: Melanie Landrum – Cliff Brock will be the presenter at BYA next Tuesday. Bring any questions you have to this very knowledgeable man. Next Month Jeremy Oxford, who used to be with Hills and Dales will be the BYA speaker. February 25th is the first Morning Glory with Keith Robinson, who is at Dunaway Gardens, and will speak about bulbs as well as what's happening at Dunaway Gardens. Our goal is to have 11 BYA meetings and 2 or 3 Morning Glory meetings. A few months are still open and there's the possibility of adding another Morning Glory meeting. Please contact Melanie if you know someone who you think would be a good BYA speaker.

Communications: Jerry not present. Dana – Barbara Gingerich, from the Class of 2024 has joined the Committee. Hopefully, she, Patty Ellis and Jerry will have snippets from events to post on social media.

Social Media: Patty Ellis – Thanks to Chuck for doing the Close Captioning. Having the videos available is very helpful. The goal is to have at least 2 daily posts on Facebook, intermittent postings on Instagram. Patty requested that anyone who has videos or other information for her to post email them to her. She started doing a regular feature called "Soil Sunday" where all posts will provide information about different aspects of soil. Right now, it's on the first Sunday of each month and might expand. There's always cartoons/funnies.

Education: Cathy LeBar – Rhodes Shell will talk about Orchids after the meeting. Email Cathy with any topics you think might be of interest for the post-meeting programs.

Landscape Extension Team: Cathy LeBar: Great team this year, we can always use more help. Melanie Landrum and Kim Magyar are taking over the responsibility of caring for the large pots.

Fundraising: Soil³ – No code yet

Greenhouse: Barb not here. Marge Cox: 1/16 – Salvia and Lemon grass propagation. 1/31 – Hardwoods, 1/12 (Sunday) – Pot 100 seedlings plus a variety of trees.

Help Desk: Patty Ellis

The help desk is starting 2025 with 5 remote volunteers who do weekly shifts in addition to the in-person volunteers who work on Mondays or Fridays in the office. According to our spreadsheet, we responded to 499 client questions and soil test follow ups in 2024! If anyone is interested in learning more about working the help desk please contact Patty Ellis for some required training.

Hospitality: Thanks to Amy & Susan for Co-Chairing the past two years. They are stepping down at the end of 2025 and new Co-Chairs are needed. They are willing to train the new Co-Chairs.

Inspiration Garden: Diane Cook – IG looking really good this Fall with Fall flowers in bloom. A few veggies have been planted. The IG will provide cuttings for the Propagation Workshop.

Nature Trail: Audrey Harrelson: Monday, January 20, workdays start again. We are kind of in a holding pattern.

Plant Sale: .

Scholarship: Jennie – nothing to report.

Speakers Bureau: Patty Ellis - This is a rebuilding year again for Speakers Bureau. CR Phillips has agreed to join the group to do two different topics- Gardening Roundtable discussion and Pruning. Other current speakers are Dan Gentry (Lawns), Dale Senko (Herbs 101, Composting, Gardening 101), Deberah Williams (Growing Herbs), Bonnie Umberger (Color design), Pat Farmer (Bird gardening). If anyone has a topic that they are especially well versed in and would like to discuss being a speaker, contact Patty Ellis!

Sunshine: Sara is keeping up to date with the people we should keep in our thoughts.

New Leaf: Pat not present

Volunteer Awards: Patty Ellis – Cathy LeBar has 3,500 cumulative hours.

Extension Update: Dana would like all hours entered by 3rd week of January, even though January 31st is the cutoff date. Please record hours as you do them.

Directory inserts are available, please pick yours up.

Lost and Found: Patty will post a photo of a pair of Fendi Rx sunglasses on Social Media platforms.

Thoughtful Thursdays start February 13. This is a good way to get CE Hours. Diane Cooke will continue to distribute weekly updates.

Richard Haupt and Dawn Treacy have their 50 hours. Dawn had to move to Jacksonville, Florida, & is hoping to transfer to the St. John's County MGV program.

Please send items you would like to see in our Pop-up store.

Social: Diane Cooke not present

Old Business: Jennie – Enter your volunteer hours.

New Business:

Jennie adjourned the meeting at 1:05 PM

