

COWETA COUNTY MASTER GARDENER
VOLUNTEER MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 13, 2025

Jennie Adcock, President – called the meeting to Order at 10:04 a.m.

Chuck Olmsted led the Pledge of Allegiance

Sonjia Lambeck gave an inspirational message from the book *Bloom & Grow*.

January 2025 minutes were reviewed by the Group – Rhodes Schell motioned to approve the minutes. Chuck Olmsted seconded. The minutes were approved.

Officer Reports:

- President - Jennie Adcock – No report
- President Elect – Kathy Olmsted – No report
- Vice President – Nan Van Patten – No Report
- Past President – Diane Cook – No Report
- Secretary – This position is presently unfilled – No Report
- Treasurer – Chuck Olmsted reviewed the attached financials – No questions at this time.

Committee Reports:

- **Ask the MG:** Nothing to report – it was noted that Market Day on the Square begins April 2nd and will run the first Saturday of each month through November.
- **Boys & Girls Club:** Rebekkah Gibson reported the following:
 - The group started back up in January and have lots of volunteers.
 - They are collaborating with the City of Newnan to create a new garden spot for the group. Previous garden area is no longer viable. The new garden will also be used as a Community Garden in addition to the Boys & Girls Club Garden. A special thank to Keith Brady for all his work to make this garden happen. There will be a dedication of the garden later in the Spring. Rebecca will keep us posted.
 - On Tuesday, the 12th they had a Beekeeper speak to the group.
 - Special thanks to Amy Keller and Cathy LeBar who will be giving a presentation to the group shortly.

- **BYA:** Not present – Melanie Landrum reported in absence, that there is only one open date for speakers remaining this year and they have a lead to fill that opening.
- **Communications:**
 - Jerry Allen reported: The videos are up on our YouTube channel. Thank you to our dedicated volunteers who are doing the tedious, close captioning work necessary to get these videos posted and to Dana who is coordinating the crew.
 - "Snippets" – short videos are going to be filmed for our YouTube channel and will also be used for posting on our Social Media pages.
 - Social Media: Patty Ellis, in absence, reported the following: We continue to have at least 2 posts every day on Facebook and occasional posts on Instagram. Please follow our social media for event updates. Friday Funnies, and Soil Sundays the first Sunday of each month, as well as lots of science-based information about gardening and horticulture. Like and share our posts to help get our information out to your friends and neighbors! Send Patty your photos and videos to share on our platform.
- **Education:** Cathy LeBar reported the following:
 - After the Volunteer meeting we will be reviewing a good portion of the plants that will be available at the Spring Plant Sale. There will also be handouts available so that all can become informed about the various plants we will be offering and can advise our customers better on the day of the sale.
- **Extension Landscape:** Cathy LeBar reported the following:
 - The Landscape Extension Team continues to work on the Extension office landscape each Wednesday. Currently have been maintain and mulching the area. Have started by clearing out ½ of the pollinator habitat – will be clearing out the other ½ around April 1st.
- **Garden Tour:** Keith Brady and Rhodes Schell reported the following:
 - We will be having a Garden Tour in 2026!
 - The day for the Tour will be **Saturday, May 9th** (Mother's Day weekend).

- A sub-committee is being set up to work on which gardens should be selected for the Tour. Will have 5 MG gardens as well as the Nature Trail & Inspiration Garden on the Tour.
 - The sub-committee will be reviewing possible candidates during the month of May to ensure that we will have a variety of interesting, educational gardens on the Tour.
 - Main focus of the Tour is educating the public – if we raise some money as well, that is a bonus.
 - Anyone interested in working on the Committee or having their garden on the Tour, should reach out to Rhodes & Keith.
- **Greenhouse:** Barb Schwartz reported the following:
 - A big "Thank You"! to all who have helped down at the Greenhouse – everything looks great but there is still more to do!
 - We have a big need for perennials, ground covers, grasses, etc. for the SPS. So please get digging MG's.
 - Will have intake Days on March 15th & 20th.
 - 22nd & 25th – Will repot tomatoes as needed, general plant care.
 - April 9th, 10th, 11th – Prep for SPS – Ag building set up, plant xfer, Spa Day, etc.
 - Don't forget to pick up your Mother plants – it's getting crowded.
 - Any help in getting boxes for the SPS is greatly appreciated.
- **Help Desk:** Patty Ellis, in absence, reports the following:
 - Things are starting to get busier at the Help Desk as gardening season really gets going. There are several new in person volunteers that have trained recently. If you want to do in person help desk not only will you learn how to respond to soil test results and client questions, but there are also office activities to be completed to help Dana. If you'd like to find out more, contact Patty Ellis.
- **Hospitality:** Amy Sharpe reported the following:
 - As always thank you to all who help us out!! Please be on the look out for sign-up sheets for SPS – the food doesn't need to be just cookies – any portable snack is good.
- **Inspiration Garden:** Kathy Olmsted reported the following:
 - The Inspiration Garden is starting to wake up from the Winter. The cold stratification Winter sowing looks great!

- The IG has a core group of volunteers and they decided that this year each volunteer would have their own individual raised bed to tend to, add different plants to etc. Should be interesting to see how each bed takes on its own personality!
 - During a recent storm, a tree came down and fell on the shed at the garden. They were able to break up the tree with chainsaws and the County did some work on the shed – but it is still a little wonky (perhaps unsafe). So, the County will be looking at that again.
 - The Inspiration Garden will be hosting a Garden Tour for all MG's (not just our County) at the end of May – more details to follow.
- **Nature Trail:** Audrey Harrelson reported the following:
 - Work continues at the Nature Trail with general clean-up/maintenance duties.
 - Their workdays are the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month and either in April or May they will move their workday start time to 10:00 – as the weather warms.
 - Audrey as well as Melanie and Ed are looking for MG's to take over as Chair/Chairs for the Nature Trail. All 3 have been chairing this Committee for several years and would now like to take more of a mentorship role at the Nature Trail. If you are interested in learning more about chairing this Committee please don't hesitate to contact them.
- **New Leaf:** Nothing to report – please be sure to get all photos and articles to Pat Farmer no later than the 24th of each month!
- **Plant Sale:** Cindy Irons and Mary Pat Geoffrion reported the following:
 - Thank you to the Inspiration Garden for all the cuttings they have provided for the SPS.
 - Even with the extensive help from the Inspiration Garden we are still short on perennials for the SPS. So please get digging MG's!
 - Be on the lookout for the Sign Up Genuis for the SPS set up days and day of SPS assignments.
 - They are working on finalizing the Soil3 participation in this year's SPS.
 - The Fall plant sale has been moved to **October 11th (one week earlier)** due to a scheduling conflict.

- **Scholarship:** Rhodes Schell and Jennie Adcock reported:
 - Applications for this year's scholarship are being accepted through March 28th – so please be sure to get the word out!!
- **Social Committee:** Diane Cook reported the following:
 - Our first outing will be **March 21st** to the Atlanta Botanical Garden to view their Orchid Daze exhibit. Dana will be sending out a SignUp Genuis to coordinate those who wish to ride in the County vehicle.
 - Other outings we have set up for this year:
 - Friday, June 13th – we will be going to the Lavender Festival at Wild Daisy Farm in Molena, GA.
 - A fall outing is in the works – perhaps to Gibbs Gardens, details to follow.
 - Friday, December 3rd – we will be going to Hills & Dales Estate to have a Holiday Tour of the home as well as the gardens. Details to follow.
 - These outings are social only and may not be counted towards educational or volunteer hours.
- **Speakers Bureau:** Jennie noted the following:
 - Dale Senko recently gave a lecture on Herb Gardening at a local school.
- **Extension Updates:** Dana Selementi reported the following:
 - Spring Plant Sale Volunteer T Shirts are available to be ordered. Deadline to order is 3/21. They are a charcoal grey, unisex shirt with the standard UGA Coweta MGEV logo on the front and Spring Plant Sale Volunteer with MG symbol on the back. Cost is \$20 plus shipping, handling, tax, etc. Look for an email with a link to order this afternoon.
 - 4H Adventure Day Camp 2026 – will be the **Wednesday** after Memorial Day this year (5/28). 2, 45-minute sessions. Need volunteers for presentation based on this year's theme "Space" (Gardening/Science). If you are interested in participating, please email Dana.
 - The following MG's from the 2024 class have achieved their 50 hours of Volunteer time and are now Master Gardener Extension Volunteers:
 - Barb Gingrich
 - Dick Viall
 - Patricia Morris
 - We now have 21 MGEV's from the 2024 class!!!

- **Old Business:** Jennie Adcock noted:
 - We are still in need of a President-Elect for 2026.
 - We are in need of a Secretary to complete the 2025 Term.
- **New Business:** Jennie Adcock noted:
 - Next Board meeting is May 1st, next Volunteer meeting is May 8th. Please put these dates on your calendars.
 - A quick break will follow this meeting and then we will begin the educational talk on the SPS Plants.
- **Meeting adjourned: - Jennie Adcock at 10:53 a.m.**