

The Prairie Mud

A Publication of Capital City Master Gardener Association
Montgomery, Alabama

Volume 9, Number 12 December 2007



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON and SILENT AUCTION. The December 11 meeting of CCMGA will be the annual Christmas Luncheon and Silent Auction. This festive affair will be at the Wynlakes Country Club. Members and Interns may bring sale items at 10 a.m. in order to provide plenty of time for bidding before lunch at 12 noon. This event is one of the biggest fund-raisers for CCMGA, as well as a time of fellowship. Items for the auction could include garden-related equipment, books, or plants; holiday-themed decor or gifts; handmade crafts; or baked goods. There is usually a wide range of items and prices. This is also the occasion where the Master Gardener Interns from the Class of 2007 will receive their certificates and badges. Come and support them and get to know these new members. Reservations for the luncheon are required and the deadline has passed. If you plan to attend and have not made a reservation, contact Cathy Maddox immediately and send a check in the amount of \$16 to Jane Shalhoop, the treasurer. We look forward to seeing you at the December meeting and have some special activities to share with you. Also, remember your membership fee (\$15) and annual volunteer hours (2007) are due this month.



CCMGA Officers

President-Mary Eleanor Hines
Vice President-Karin Carmichael
Secretary-Dianne Bush
Treasurer-Jane Shaloop

Newsletter Staff

Betsy Coley- Editor
Lisa Lenox- Assistant Editor

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CCMGA Minutes

November 27, 2007

President, **Mary Eleanor Hines**, called the monthly CCMGA meeting to order at 10 AM at the Vaughn Park Church of Christ. **Maggie Stringer** offered the invocation. **Mary Eleanor** asked that everyone keep **Betsy Coley** in their thoughts and prayers, as her Granddaughter, Madeline, was in critical condition. Additionally, fellow master gardener, **Chris Brown** was scheduled for a surgical procedure.



Judy Grey, an Elmore County Master Gardener, was introduced as a guest. **Paula Weiss, Suzanne Reeves** and **Cookie Ruth** were thanked for providing the "Brunch" fare.

The October minutes were approved as printed in the Prairie Mud. **Jane Shalhoop** gave the treasurer's report and it was approved.

Old Business:

Suzanne Reeves reported that the Governor's Mansion garden looked very nice for the Mansion Open House. **Mary Eleanor** reported that she had labeled all of the plants that she could identify in the garden.

Suzanne Reeves reported that she had received 22 responses to the Help Line Survey and that overall, respondents felt that their Help Line experiences had been positive. Some expressed a need for better organization of materials. There was also an expression of the requirement to have a qualified horticultural specialist present on CCMGA assigned work days.

Suzanne also reported that the 2008 Master Gardener Class was scheduled to begin the third week in January, and would be limited to 15 students this year due to lack of space in the ACES offices.

Carol Gietl reported that she had extra CCMGA hats available, and that she could order additional shirts if there was membership interest.

Anna Owen stated that the new membership forms were available, and should be completed along with the 2008 dues payment. Discussion of refinement of the form followed.

Nell Copeland announced that the 2008 MG bus trip would be on May 13. The Trip Committee decided to go to Wilkerson Mill Gardens, near Palmetto, Georgia. Located in the Chattahoochee Hill County, this nursery specializes in hydrangeas (visit www.hydrangeas.com). The second scheduled stop will be a visit to the Hills and Dales Estate in historic Legrange, Georgia (www.hillsanddales.org). Plans for this trip will be firmed up after the first of the year.

Sandra Thompson asked that all MG have their volunteer hours recorded by 31 December. She asked that members bring their recorded hours to the December luncheon, so that she could complete her Reach for the Stars program in a timely fashion.

Cathy Maddox asked that members be at the December Christmas Luncheon at the Wynlakes County Club by 10:15 AM on December 11th. All members should bring items for the silent auction, our annual major money-making event. These items could include seasonal Christmas decorations or gardening items, but were not limited to these categories.

New Business:

CCMGA winners at the October Alabama National Fair included: **Karin Carmichael** (10 ribbons), **Yvonne Evans** (12 ribbons), Anita Ward (2 ribbons), **Ken Whitaker** (14 ribbons), and **Judy Youngblood** won the Award of Merit, and the Designer's Choice Award. Congratulations to all!

Mary Eleanor read a note of appreciation from the Labrechts, owners of the Oakview Farms Granary.

Cookie Ruth, Chairperson, Nominating Committee, announced the following slate of 2008 officers: President – Karin Carmichael, Vice President – Maggie Stringer, Secretary – Jan Gill, Treasurer – Jane Shalhoop. With no nominations from the floor, a motion to accept this slate was made and seconded, and approved by a majority show of hands.



Cathy Maddox announced that members were needed to start planning and working on the state MG conference, that CCMG will host in 2010, at the Marriott Convention Center in downtown Montgomery. Cathy passed sheets, with committee descriptions, and asked members to volunteer for various committees.

Karen Weber announced that members had one last opportunity to volunteer at the Shakespeare Garden. Members were asked to bring their own rakes, as raking leaves would be the order of business for the day (Wednesday, 9 AM).

Jackie Buck was awarded her bronze star. Jackie, Director of the Central Alabama Red Cross, spoke about the 8

REPORTING YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS:

TURN IN YOUR ANNUAL SUMMARY OF ALABAMA MASTER GARDENER ACTIVITIES FORM TO THE ACES OFFICE AT Two East Office Center 400 Eastern Blvd, Suite 107 Montgomery, AL 36117-2043 OR TO MARY ELEANOR HINES ON DECEMBER 11 AT THE LUNCHEON.

EMAIL SANDRATHOMPSON YOUR TOTAL HOURS FOR 2007 by DECEMBER 15 AT Sandra12@comlinkinc.net or phone her 334-541-2851

Requirements for earning stars and badges are as follows: Bronze star - 100 - 299; Silver star - 300 - 499; Gold star - 500 - 900; Gold Name Badge 1,000 - 1,999; Platinum Name Badge 2,000+ hours

