

December 2014 Prairie Mud

THE
• **P r a i r i e M u d** •

January 7th - Lunch & Learn

Tree Planting, Pruning and General Maintenance

January 26 - CCMGA Monthly Meeting

9:30 Social, 10:00 Business Meeting, no program. Please make plans to attend as we plan for the new year. Your input is important.

April 15th - CCMGA Plant Sale at Frazer. Pots and soil needed.



President's Message

Thank you to all my friends in CCMGA for making my two years as President so easy. A special thanks to my fellow officers, Terese, Janine and Jan for performing your duties so well. All committee chairs and board members did an awesome job. I admit, I think the talent assembled in all leadership positions is unsurpassed anywhere. Thanks to you all for everything you have done this year.

Now it is time for many of us to step aside and give our new leadership a chance to do things their way. We have many new members and we all need to be involved as best we can in areas that interest us.

Best wishes to Margaret Cully and our new officers for 2015. Several important committees are now vacant and there are many spots that need to be filled. Members please don't hesitate to offer your time, talents and services in 2015. We have more people, more money and more talent than ever before. Please get involved!

Thank you Jerry Belcher for five wonderful years as editor of The Mud. A very big thank you to Eileen Webb for agreeing to be our new editor. Years from now when others look back at 2014, I think they will see that we had an incredible year. Let's have an even better 2015!

Tom McLemore

Welcome to our 2015 Officers



L-R Margaret Cully - President, Janine Koslofsky - Vice President, Jan Gill - Treasurer and Brenda Coleman - Secretary.

CCMGA Christmas Luncheon, December 9th, 2014

Congratulations Class of 2014 with 100% Graduation Rate



Awards Presented:

Top Hours of the Year - Laurice Goorley - 437 Hours, top left photo

Catharine Maddox Lifetime Hours - Suz Anne Reaves -2832 Hours, top right photo

Outstanding Intern of the Year - Janice Jackson - 266 Hours, bottom left photo

We also had a special guest at our luncheon, Evelyn Watkins, a charter

member of CCMGA who held the first CCMGA meeting in her home in Jan. 2000. She is a delightful lady at 96 years of age shown in the bottom right photo.

Two New CCMGA Projects Approved for 2015

"Children in Nature Project" at the MPS Arboretum and The Montgomery Botanical Garden have recently been added as official CCMGA projects. Below is a complete list of approved projects for 2015.

PUBLIC GARDENS

Blount Cultural Park Gardens

Shakespeare Garden and MMOFA Entrance Garden

Chair, Karen Weber

Montgomery Botanical Gardens at Oak Park

Chair, Cathy Maddox

SCHOOL GARDENS

Lily's Garden at Forrest Ave. Magnet

Co-chairs, Maggie Stringer/Ann Oldham

Children in Nature Project at MPS Arboretum

Chair, Terese Goodson

OLD ALABAMA TOWN GARDENS

Rose-Morris House Garden

Co-chairs, Karin Carmichael and Cathy Maddox

NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY GROUNDS

Habitat for Humanity

Chair, Suzanne Reaves



All About Birds -at Lilly's Garden and Outdoor Classroom -November 10, 2014

Our November activity at Lilly's Garden introduced Forest Avenue School's kindergarteners to the sounds and habits of the birds in our area. One session at a time, six kindergarten classes filed into the garden, to learn about birds. Master Gardener volunteers greeted them on what was the perfect day to hold classes outdoors. We were joined by a couple of our parent volunteers.

Once seated, the students were asked to listen quietly to the chirping sounds of song birds. They sat wide-eyed and speechless as they gazed toward the trees to attempt to identify the source of the songs. Little did they know that one source was the voice of one of our own MG's.

Later, our volunteers introduced the students to the birds often found in our area, including our state bird. Wild bird habitats, the nature of migration and the feeding habits of the birds were discussed. Following the lesson, the children made bird feeders from whole grain cheerios and pipe cleaners—a few for the garden, and one for their own backyards.

The children, their teachers and parents, and our MG volunteers enjoyed a very

busy, but fascinating day in the outdoor classroom at Lilly's Garden.

Anna Oldham

The Committee for Lilly's Garden

CCMGA Business Reports

CCMGA Nov. 2014 Minutes by Janine Kozlofsky

- Tom McLemore called the meeting to order.

Gail Cotney read an excerpt from 'Simple Abundance' for our invocation.

- Anne Hamner brought her husband Reggie as a guest.

- The minutes and treasurer's report from October were approved. Our yearly scholarship of \$500 to an under-graduate student of Horticulture at Auburn has been included in the treasurer's report.

- Thank you to Eileen Webb for her work on 'The Mud'.

- Terese Goodson introduced our speaker Sandee Ferguson and her helpers Ginger Gammon and Elaine

Barron. Sandee gave us plenty of exciting ideas and how-to tips with her presentation 'Decorating for the Holidays'.

- The approximate profit on the sales at the Pike Road Arts & Crafts Fair is between \$400 and \$500 with 30 percent of sales being processed on the phone square for credit cards. Anna Owen and Ginger Gammon have retired from the Pike Road Project for next year. If anyone is interested in continuing it, please let the Board know.

- Karin Carmichael requested that all volunteer hours be recorded by November 30th for CCMGA awards. Hours for the state will continue through December 31, 2014. Interns should have their hours recorded by November 21, 2014.

- Cathy Maddox made a motion to adopt the 'Children at Nature' as an official CCMGA project. This is part of the MPS Arboretum activities and helps to introduce children to nature, gardening and fishing. Terese Goodson seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

- Cathy Maddox announced the Holiday Luncheon at Wynlakes on December 9, 2014. The cost is \$20 and covers your meal, tea, coffee and dessert. Please pay Jan Gill by December 5, 2014. Bring auction items around 10am.

- Suzanne Reaves announced that we have about 100 members who have paid their dues for 2015.

- Suzanne Reaves and her nominating committee member Erica Clark (Richard Deneve had to leave early)

announced the slate of officers for 2015: Margaret Cully, President; Janine Koslofsky, Vice President; Brenda Coleman, Secretary; Jan Gill, Treasurer. Tom McLemore called for any other nominations and then the membership voted.

The Board was voted in as presented by the committee.

- If you won a raffle item in November, please bring an item to donate in January.

- Tom McLemore adjourned the meeting.

There were 71 attendees.

CCMGA Nov. 2014 Treasurer's Report - prepared by Jan Gill, Treasurer

IF YOU HAVE PAID YOUR 2015 MEMBERSHIP DUES, PLEASE DISREGARD THIS MESSAGE

While we have received many membership applications there are some who have not responded. I know these are busy time but it you will take a few minutes to fill out the application, write your check and mail to me before the end of the year I, as well as the Board of Directors, will appreciate it.

After January 1st, names of people I have not heard from will be turned over to the Board of Directors for further consideration. By the end of January work on the 2015 Membership Directory will begin and only the people who have paid memberships will be included.

I don't want to leave you out of the directory if you wish to remain a member, but time is running out. A membership application has been attached for your convenience which contains my mailing address.

Suzanne Reaves, Chair

A Trip to Patsie DeMo's Goat Farm



The two impromptu goat milk soap making classes turned out to be SO MUCH FUN! The morning session group milked goats while the afternoon CCMGA members fed bottles of milk to the "kids"! We didn't know that would be included in Soap Making 101, but no one was complaining.

We learned about safe methods of handling lye and saw the entire process of soap making in action. The various scents added to Patsie DeMo's soaps really added to the activity. We wanted to try a batch of each fragrance, but it would have taken days to do that. We settled on just a few of our favorites.

Now that the 21 day curing process is over, each of the participants will be able to give soap away as gifts, if they can bear to part with any of the bars. Patsie has suggested we host a few more classes in January. Any takers on the offer?

By Terese Goodson

Welcome Home from the Hospital Chris Henderson

A recent note from Chris:

I am still not very mobile but am improving every day. I still have to use a walker and someone to assist me. This luncheon and the silent auction is one of my favorite meetings. I hope to be there for the January or certainly the February meeting.

Hope you all had a great luncheon. And Merry Christmas!

Chris

Master Gardeners at work

Blount Cultural Park and The Governor's House





Prime Magazine Gardening Articles

Thank you to Andy Jackson for his article on Sheet Composting submitted for publishing in the Dec/Jan Prime Magazine edition. Also thanks to Caroline Lawson for her article in the November edition on Lenten Roses.



Thank you to Mac McLellan, Janice Jackson and Carolyn Love Dorsey for taking photographs as well as the many contributors for write-ups for this edition. It is greatly appreciated. - Eileen Webb, Editor

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