

COBB COUNTY RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

April 21, 2008

The monthly meeting of the Cobb County Retired Employees Association was held on Monday, April 21, 2008 at the West Cobb Senior Center with 64 members in attendance. Co-President Roswell Story called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

Invocation was given by James Daniel followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Story welcomed new member Janice Barbini. The following were acknowledged as being absent because of illness: Harry Ingram (pneumonia), Helen Dodson (broken hip and knee), Carolyn Landers (broken wrist), and Dorothy Barfield. Ted Barrett was welcomed back after a long absence. The death of Mary Louise Rhey (Library System) was reported.

SPEAKER: Steve Brady of the Cobb County Extension Service, was the guest speaker. Jane Whittle from the Extension Service also attended. Mr. Brady spoke to us about water efficient landscaping. He stated that established plants were the most tolerant. He gave us handouts with ways to cope with drought in the landscape and other good information.

Mr. Brady stated that the planting hole preparation and size is very important. He stated we should prepare the entire site instead of the individual planting hole and soil amendments should be worked into the entire area. We should buy plants that have nice bright root systems and should tease the roots out before planting to keep them from being root bound in the ground. Planting deeper is not better. A water ring around new plantings gives the plant time to get roots. The ring can be raked away after 2-3 months.

Plants need a good level of oxygen and not too much water in order to thrive. Usually watering once a week is sufficient. One inch of water per application per week should be sufficient. Measure by using a rain gage or cans. If the water puddles, stop and let it soak into the ground before continuing.

Mulch a wide area around trees and shrubs. If possible mulch at least twice the size of the branches. This helps keep the moisture in the soil. Mulching materials can be pine straw, leaves, bark, wood chips (used as top level) and gravel. Gravel does hold heat and should only be used around heat tolerant plants. Mulching

should be 3-5 inches after settling. Water logged areas should not be mulched.

When landscaping break the area into 3 areas: high water areas (small areas having high visibility and needing more water); moderate water use areas (need watering occasionally) and low water use areas (once established needs little water).

For more information go to www.cobbextension.com.

TREASURER: Ruby Lowry reported a balance in the treasury of \$2,755.42. She also asked the anyone who had not paid dues, please do so. Motion was made by David Hilton with a second to approve the report. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Motion was made by David Hilton with a second to approve the minutes of the March meeting as printed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Mike Ball and Danny Padgett were commended for the work they do on the new web site: www.ccrea.us.

President Story asked for comments about the new Advantage insurance plan. The only feedback was that with home health care there is a co-pay charge for each visit and therefore could cost more than the other plans.

RECOGNITION COMMITTEE: President Story will appoint this committee to develop a recognition program for members who have made exceptional contributions to this association. The appointments will be made at the next meeting.

ADDITIONAL CALLER: Kathleen McNulty will be a caller to remind members of meetings, etc.

MEALS: We have 3 meals per year. It was decided that a cookout will be held at the May meeting, the barbecue will be at the August meeting and the traditional Christmas lunch will be in December.

ANNOUNCEMENT: It was announced that firefighters get together at Howard's on the first Wednesday of each month at 12:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Cookout on May 19 at 11:00 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Martha Watson, Secretary