

Chilton County Master Gardener association meeting minutes

May 10, 2016

Pat Farmer opened the meeting at 10:00 AM

Michele Thomas hosted the meeting/Plant swap at her home. Pat Farmer thanked her for doing so.

Kimberly Lyn, Secretary asked for a motion to accept the April meeting minutes. Rick Miller made the motion, Anne Moore seconded. All approved.

Jackie Hickman made the treasurer's report. Opening balance was \$5159.66, ending balance was \$4113.08. Jackie asked for a motion to approve the report. Harriet Jackson made the motion, Alice Broome seconded. All Approved.

New Business:

May birthdays announced.

Old Business:

Pat announced the LaFayette Master Gardener visit was cancelled for lack of participation.

Antiques in the Garden netted approximately \$655.00. However, there are still items for sale. Sondra announced that several gardening books are for sale, hod baskets, Adirondack chairs, hypertufa planters, etc.

Demo Garden: Sondra announced it is almost complete. The Eagle scouts will be putting in the floor of the pergola next week, some lattice work, and swings (one donated, one CCMGA paid for) will complete that project. Turning Point Ministries came to assist with gravel installation and will help with sod. Harriett Jackson is in need of native Milkweed for the butterfly garden. Linda Hayes is working on the Herbal tea garden. Paula Blevins Russell is working on a Don't Bug Me garden. Miscellaneous tasks need someone to handle.

Sondra was asking for anyone with an Auburn University connection or an Auburn Alumni to support an Eagle for the top of the spiral staircase.

Gay West needs a speaker for the June 7, 2017 Maplesville Homemakers club. A topic of your choice, for about 20 minutes is all that is needed. Contact Gay West at the extension office to volunteer.

Pat thanked everyone that contributed to conference silent auction basket. A special thanks to Sarah Saunders for her leaded glass contribution.

Door prizes were distributed.

Skip Coulter facilitated an "Ask a Master Gardener" session.

Q: Is high fructose sugar added to local honey? A: "Sometimes", so it's best to buy honey within 5 miles of your location, know the maker to ask the same question. Also, buying locally will help with your allergies.

Q: What do people feed their tomatoes? A: Calcium, Tums, Black Cow, horse manure compost.

Q: Do you prune your tomato plants? A: Yes. Prune the bottom branches to keep off the ground.

Q: What to do with an apple tree with fire blight? A: Kill the tree to avoid spreading to other trees if extreme, or severely prune if disease is contained. Sterilize your cutters in between each prune.

Q: How do you keep birds off your blueberries? A: Hologram tape. The tape can be found at garden centers.

Q: How do you get large onions? A: Don't fuss with them. Just let them grow.

Q: Has anyone heard of a not hot Jalapeño Pepper? A: Yes, Garrisons has a variety called Coolopenia.

Q: Is it too late to prune pear trees? A: Yes, prune between November and February.

Q: Why didn't some pear trees bear fruit? A: A possible lack of chill hours, or sometimes Pear trees are productive every other year.

Bob Bates mentioned he has large black berries right now. Call him if you want to pick.

Pat adjourned the meeting at 11:00.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2016 at the Jemison City Hall room.

June meeting theme is Hawaii. Anyone that can contribute to the theme, see Anita.

Plant swap was held after the meeting.