

CHILTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION  
Meeting Minutes  
January 14, 2014

Sondra Henley, President, opened our meeting by wishing everyone a happy 2014. We had several guest and interns to be present and she introduced, welcomed and thanked them for coming. Pictures were taken of all our guest.

Lanell Baker, Secretary, recommended we accept the minutes as posted on our web site. A motion to accept the minutes as posted was made by Harriet Jackson and seconded by Jackie Hickman. The minutes were approved as posted.

Margaret Goolsby, Treasurer, had a very good report for the end of 2013. She read the report and ask that it be accepted as read. Peggy Harris made a motion to accept the report and Audrey Giles seconded the motion. Motion was accepted.

Old Business: There will be no 2014 Master Gardeners class this year. There were only 8 people that signed up and we need at least 15 people to hold the classes.

New Business:

There are soil sample kits on the table for anyone wanting to do a soil test of their property. Each sample cost \$7.00 and one test can cover up to 10 acres. When you get your soil test on the computer you can change what you are planting or wanting to plant and the test will change and show the different type of amendments you need to add or change.

There are several 2014 Service Project Sign Up sheets on the table. Please look at the sheets and sign up for the project you would like to help with. There are many opportunities for you to get hours through these projects.

Charity Battles, Extension Office, needs help washing, chopping and bagging vegetables. Call the Extension Office at 205-280-6268 to volunteer.

There will be a Water Festival in March teaching children how to conserve our water supply. Master Gardeners are needed to help with the children and to put together bracelet bags for the Festival.

Steve McAnally is our new representative at The State Advisory Council Meeting. The January meeting was cancelled because of bad weather and has been rescheduled for February 7, 2014 at the Alabama Power Company building at 10:00 AM. Anyone is invited to attend.

Audit Report: Jackie Hickman and Linda Hand reported that everything looked good. Proper procedure was followed and there were no problems.

We had a special report from Margie Robertson on Food Safety from harvest until you consume it. She attended a program on November 12, 2013 about Food Safety for farmers and how the food is handled and taken care of until it is sold to the consumer. There are over 3000 deaths a year due to improper handling of food. One out of every six people get sick from some type food disease. One out of every three people have parasites. The parasites can cause health problems as kidney failure, arthritis, stroke, etc. Eating Black Walnuts can help get rid of the parasites. Never eat lettuce that is not fresh! If it's

brown or turning brown – DO NOT EAT IT! Always soak lettuce in salt water before eating. Organic gardeners should wait 90 days before putting manure around a crop that doesn't touch the ground (tomatoes, peppers etc.) and 120 days for plants that do touch the ground ( squash, cucumber, etc.). You should have your pond water checked yearly. Pecans picked up should be heated at 150 degrees for at least 13 seconds before eating. Any produce, organic or otherwise, can be contaminated from harvest to market.

Mr. Dick Whisner sent his thanks for all the support and love the MG gave him and his family in the death of "Miss Sam".

Thanks to Jimmy and Mildred Knowles for the food and all you do to make our MG meetings enjoyable.

Trisha Williams, Volunteer Hours Coordinator, gave the following 2013 Volunteer Hours Report. Sixty CCMGs earned 820 hours of continuing education, volunteered 7308 hours and made 30,198 contacts. Top hours volunteers were Sondra Henley, Trisha Williams, Audrey Giles, Margaret Goolsby, Steve McAnally, Pat Farmer, Lanell Baker, Ann Baker, Margie Robertson and Bettye Glass.

Star Awards:

Bronze: Bob Bates, Alice Broome, Linda Hays, Jackie Hickman, Harriett Jackson, Ginny Rawls, Margie Robertson, John Sanders, Wayne Short, Lee Walters, Wally Walters, Dick Whisner and Tamela Wingard Walters.

Silver: Lanell Baker, Gail Foster, Bettye Glass and Rick Miller.

Gold: Joan Davis, Margaret Ennis, Bonnie Hairrell, Jimmy Knowles, Mildred Knowles, Jane Mason, Ben Matthews, Steve McAnally and Patty Sallis.

Those earning Badges were:

Gold Badge: Pat Farmer

Platinum Badge: Sondra Henley

Ruby Star for her Badge: Trisha Williams

These Stars and Badges will be presented to these members in February or March. Trisha reminded everyone to please keep their hours up to date. Auburn University uses the hours we report to make sure we are doing the things we should to make us a valid MG Association.

Committee Reports:

Cards: Jane Mason. Jane wasn't present at the meeting but sent word if anyone needs a card to please contact her with the information and she'll send a card.

Demo Garden: The Redesign Committee will meet at 11:45 AM today following our MG meeting. If you didn't sign up but would like to help please stay for the meeting.

Fig and Vine Cuttings: Bill Hairrell reported they will start taking cuttings the last week in January, time to be announced. We would like to have more vine cuttings this year to make wreathes for the Swedish Fest.

Fund Raising: Alice Broome reported that final plans haven't been made for all the fund raising events for 2014.

Hospitality: Jimmy and Mildred Knowles stated they appreciate the food people bring. There are still some empty spaces for February and she ask for you to sign the sheet if you could help with February or March.

Program and Tour: Pat Farmer reported she had programs and tours secured for the first seven months.

January: Gay West on Recycling in Chilton County.

February: Steam weed killing.

March: Herb Farming

April: Soap Making and after lunch a tour at Petals from the Past. If you want Petals to fix you a boxed lunch for \$12.00, let Pat know by the March meeting. You can bring your own sack lunch.

May: Plant Swap. Place to be announced.

June: Sandra Hooker, table scapes.

July: John Sanders, making organic Sauerkraut.

Pat is working on the other five months and will let us know about those later.

Scrapbook/Photography: Audrey Giles is working on the Pictorial Directory. She is trying to have them ready by our February meeting. If you like scrapbooking or photography and would like to help Audrey please contact her.

Web Team: Steve McAnally was not present at our meeting but there will be a meeting this afternoon at 1:30 PM at the Extension Office. If you are interested in working with or know how to make a web site and keep it up they would love to see you at this meeting.

In December we had our first Awards Ceremony and there were four people that could not attend. Sondra presented those Awards to them at our January meeting.

Friends of Master Gardeners Award went to Emily Beckett. She was presented a Key Plaque and a certificate. She works with the Clanton Advertiser and helps us keep the Master Gardeners in the public's eye.

In Appreciation certificates went to Gay West, Nelson Wynn and Jim Pitts. They work with the Auburn Extension Service in different areas and are always very willing to help the Master Gardeners with any project or problem that may come up.

Pat Farmer introduced our speaker for the day, Gay West.

Gay gave a very informative program on the new Grant Program on Environmental Management for the counties of Bibb and Chilton. Gay stated that the only natural recycling is that of gardening. We need to learn how and what to recycle to keep so much out of our landfills. Prisoners in these counties pick up the trash and separate it into the different categories. She gave us a brochure entitled "Recycling 101". They will not take everything just the items listed in this brochure. She explained how to identify the items they will take. On most plastic bottles, bags or cartons there is a triangle on the bottom or side that has a number inside it. This number has to be a #1 or #2 for the Bibb-Chilton Recycling program to accept it. Other items are aluminum cans, metal cans, newspaper, NON-waxed cardboard, shredded paper and paperback books. She strongly suggested that you rinse out all milk containers before recycling them. The caps on the milk or water bottles are not recyclable. You can bring all the water bottle tops to the Extension Office to be used in some children's projects. She had posters for anyone to take to place in stores and shop windows to help get the word out about the program. Our main center in Clanton is on Furniture Avenue. There are several drop off centers located in Clanton, Jemison, Thorsby and Maplesville. For more information call the Chilton Extension office at 205-280-6268 or the Bibb Extension office at 205-926-4310.

We had seven door prizes to be given out today. The winners of these prizes were Lindy Helton, Sarah Saunders, Jimmy Knowles, Bill Hairrell, Julie Soileau, Diann Clapp and Linda Turnipseed.

Betty Knight is in charge of getting door prizes for the year. She sent a sheet around for anyone that would bring a door prize to please sign the sheet and put the month down you want to bring one.

Jackie Hickman needs help with the Fairy Tale and Children program. It is February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup> at the Jemison Library. They have fairy tale stories, crafts, gardens etc. and she would like to have some new ideas. There are many stories that can be related to the garden – like Jack and the Beanstalk. Whatever character you would like to be you can dress up like that character. The children love it and it was a big hit and success last year.

Sondra ask for those that bring plants to share or sell to please put them on the grass outside or keep them in your vehicles. Do not put them on the side walk and make a mess and not clean it up. If you bring plants and no one takes all of them, TAKE THEM BACK HOME WITH YOU! Do not leave them for someone else to take care of.

If you had rather put \$12.00 in the pot for the year that will be fine or you can do \$1.00 each month. This money goes into the treasurer to help offset some of our cost.

CCMGA Board will meet Monday, January 27, 2014 at the Little House in Thorsby 10:00-12:00. If you have a service project, fund raising, ideas, etc. please put them in writing and give them to a Board member to be reviewed.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

There was a total of 44 present. Members, Guest and Interns to be.