

CHILTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION  
Meeting minutes  
February 11, 2014

Sondra Henley, President, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone for coming out on a cold rainy day. Our guests that were present today were the grand children of Imogene Bresse, Sarah Saunders and Katie Moon. Sondra stated that three of the Interns that had signed up for the CCMG class were going to start classes in other counties since we did not have enough to have a class. They are Teresa Bennett, Sarah Saunders and Katie Moon. Sondra also told the members if they needed our announcements sent out by regular mail to please make a check mark by your name on the sign in sheet. Otherwise you will get them through emails.

Lanell Baker, Secretary, asked for a motion to accept the minutes as posted on our CCMGA web site. Trisha Williams made a motion to accept and a second was made by Barbara McAnally. All were in favor of accepting the motion.

Margaret Goolsby, Treasurer, was not present today due to the flu. Sondra Henley gave the report in her place. After the report was read Harriett Jackson made a motion to accept and it was seconded by Pat Farmer. The motion was accepted as read.

Our new directories are available for pick up. If you have not already got yours please stop by the table and pick it up. We are asking for a \$3.50 donation for the book to cover some of the cost of the notebooks. Sondra ask for all the members to stand that had worked so diligently in putting this book together. She thanked everyone for their hard work. If there are any questions or suggestions about the book please write them down and hand them to her. This book should last us two years. It is designed to correct, delete and add to during the year if any changes need to be made.

Sondra gave an updated report on Ben Matthews. He has been moved to the Nolan Center. This is on the third floor of the Shelby Hospital, in Alabaster, Room 350, phone number 620-8641. For those that don't know, Ben fell 30 feet before Christmas and broke his neck in two places, broke ribs and sustained other injuries. He had to have a tracheotomy put in place so he could breathe. He has been moved to the Nolan Center to wean him off the tracheotomy tube and also to get him closer to home because of his wife's health. She has COPD and their sons have been taking care of them both. He can have visitors and as far as we know there are no set visiting hours. He can't talk much but would love to have cards and encouraging notes.

We drew for our first door prize and Lee Walters won it.

Committee Reports: Sondra reminded the committee chairmen that they needed to get a co-chair and turn the names in to her.

Cards – Jane Mason reported she had already sent Ben Matthews a card and she is going to send him one weekly until he is home. She is going to send Margaret Goolsby one because she is sick.

She ask if there was anyone else she needed to send a card to please let her know.

Jane also ask for volunteers to work with the Chilton County Water Festival. This event is March 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM thru 2:00PM at the Jefferson State School Facility. There will be Fourth graders from all the schools in the county participating. Please sign the work sheet or let Jane know if you can help.

DEMO Garden – Alan Reed stated that the committee had met and discussed the redesign of the Garden. Several changes have been made this year with others to come in 2015. Sign up for flowerbeds will begin at the March meeting. Jim Pitts has given us the use of the pump house for MG tools and garden needs. A shelving unit is needed. If you have one to donate contact Alan Reed.

Door Prizes - Bettye Knight reminded Martha Gothard and Linda Hays they are responsible for the door prizes in March and Imogene Bresse, Bob Bates and Diane Clapp are responsible for the door prizes in April.

Fig and Vine Cutting – Bill Hairrell reported that they would be cutting Figs and Vines on Thursday, February 13, 2014 at 8:15 AM. There will be a meeting of this committee when our CCMGA meeting is over. Please bring the tools you need for taking the cuttings.

Facebook – Barbara McAnally stated she tried to monitor our facebook page several times a day. Anything that is not related to gardening will be deleted. If there is any profanity, dirty jokes etc. she will take it off the site and if it persists she'll defriend that account so those people cannot get on the site. We do not want anything political on it. Anything related to gardening or cooking is good. If you should see anything she has missed please let her know ASAP.

Finance – Margaret was not present but it was reported that she is still working on the paper work for our 501(c)3 status. It has not yet been filed.

Fund Raising – Alice stated that Diane Clapp was in charge of the Maplesville Plant Sale. Diane said there would be a sign up sheet in March for those wanting to volunteer to help with the sale. She also told us to be potting up and getting plants ready for that sale. It will be April 12, 2014 in the streets of Maplesville.

Logo Items - Barbara McAnally is in charge of Logo items to sell. A 16 oz. travel mug will be for sale at our March meeting. It has the CCMGA Logo on it and it will hold hot or cold beverages.

Retention – Harriett Jackson gave a very active and lively presentation as to how to recruit new members. Her goal is to turn away people from the new classes because we have too many signed up. She gave a charge to each MG member to recruit their friends and family to take the MG class and become a MG. There is a form in your new directory. Get them to fill out all the information and turn it in to Harriett.

Website/Advisory Council – Steve McAnally ask Sondra to give the report since she went with him to the Advisory Council. Sondra was very impressed as to how much our Association was in compliance the AMGA guidelines compared to other counties. The Advisory Board has counties from all over Alabama come together and discuss their problems and concerns as well as their needs. She is working with Nelson Wynn about sharing a class with Shelby County. You can be a MG member in any county you choose. It doesn't have to be the same county where you took the class.

Hours – Trisha Williams informed us that we were not counting our contacts correctly. We cannot count other MGs that are at our meetings. She understands why we have been doing it, but we need to start just counting people that we come in contact with outside of MGs. Like people we talk with at the EXPO or one of our yard sales or other such events. She also reminded us to keep our hours up to date so we would not forget anything.

Sondra Henley and Trisha Williams presented Awards to the following Master Gardeners:

Bronze Stars: Bob Bates, Alice Broome, Linda Hays, Jackie Hickman, Harriett Jackson, Margie Robertson, Wayne Short, Lee Walters, Wally Walters.

Silver Stars: Lanell Baker and Bettye Glass.

Gold Stars: Bonnie Hairrell, Jimmy Knowles, Mildred Knowles, Jane Mason and Steve McAnally.

Gold Badge: Pat Farmer

Platinum Badge: Sondra Henley

Ruby Star for her badge: Trisha Williams

There are others that have earned new stars and badges but were not present to receive them.

After the Awards were given out and pictures were taken we drew for three more door prizes. The winners were Mildred Knowles, Steve McAnally and Bonnie Hairrell.

Pat Farmer introduced our Speaker for the day, Randy Tipton. He did a program on ***Steam Kill Weeds the Green Way***. This is a service provided by ACTION ENVIRONMENTAL GREEN INITIATIVE SERVICES (AEGIS) a relative new business and way of weed control. The SteamKill is an alternative way of killing and eradicating bugs and weeds without using chemicals. He had the SteamKill machine set up outside for anyone to look at and ask questions about. It has been good for killing invasive weeds in many of the experiments that have been conducted at Birmingham Botanical Gardens and Aldridge Gardens. This is not for the home yard as it will kill the grasses along with the weeds. The machine is not selective as it kills anything under the steam spray both on top of the ground and the root system under ground. It is also used to sterilize soils. It is a very mobile machine with two applicators, each on a separate 100 foot hose. They have used it to treat soil for nematodes, ground pearl infestations and even fire ant mounds. The hoses are connected to a nearby water faucet or can be connected to a portable water tank. It does not work well on climbing vines because it has to be capped over the plant to work properly. It can be used to do organic cleaning. These include cleaning old chewing gum off concrete, stadium seats, patios and many other cleaning problems. He gave a slide presentation showing the effects of SteamKill and what a good job it does. The advantages of SteamKill shown in his brochure are no chemical residue, can be used on windy days without drifts into unwanted areas and rain will not wash away the treatment, environmentally and earth friendly, not harmful to soil or ground water, weeds and pest will not build up resistance, no worries about human or pet exposure, treated areas are safe for children and pets immediately and it does not harm the food chain. If you would like to contact Mr. Tipton call 205-777-0350 or Mickey Thomas, Marketing Coordinator at cell #205-529-6083. They are located at 600 Century Park South, Suite 200 in Hoover, AL 35226.

Sondra reminded the CCMGA Board members that the next meeting is February 24, 2014 at the "Little House" in Thorsby. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

There were 36 members present and 4 visitors. Total 40