

CHILTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2014

Sondra Henley, President, opened our meeting and welcomed everyone. She said it was good to be back after missing last month's meeting and back into her normal routine. She announced that the signup sheet for our May Plant Swap is being passed around and for us to sign as what we are going to bring to eat. This is a covered dish lunch and it will be at the Jemison City Park on May 15, 2014, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Bring you plants to swap, enjoy fellowship and lunch and the Park. Also, there is going to be a class on Word tomorrow at the Extension Office, 9:00 – 12:00 if you are interested and a class on Excel on April 23 at the Extension Office, 9:00 – 12:00. Please sign the sheets if you are interested in either of these. There is a limit of 15 for each of these classes. She welcomed our new guest, Robert Johnson, from the Union Grove community to our meeting today.

Lanell Baker, Secretary, made a correction to the March minutes. The Fig and Vine section should have read Bill Hairrell and Rick Miller not Bill Hairrell and Jerry Farmer. With this correction a motion to accept the minutes as posted on our web site was called for. Peggie Harris made the motion to accept and it was seconded by Audrey Giles. The Motion was accepted.

She also read a very nice Thank You note from the Clanton Intermediate School Principal, David Seal and Secretary, Terri Williams for the beautiful work the Master Gardeners did. The MG landscaped the front of the school by having drain pipes installed, top soil placed in the bed, adding weed barriers and soakers hoses, planted shrubs and added mulch.

Margaret Goolsby, Treasurer gave the following report:

Balance Last Statement	\$4,124.57
Checks written, #144, #149, #150, #151, #152, #153 #154, and #155 totaling	- 1,055.46
Deposit	+ 239.00
Ending Bank Balance	\$3,308.11
Check #156 not cleared	- 189.00
Actual Balance	\$3,119.11

Tammy Walters made a motion to accept the report and Jackie Hickman seconded it. The motion was approved.

Barbara McAnally gave a report on Ben Matthews and his condition. He is still improving, slowly, likes to have visitors but please no live flowers. He cannot tolerate the pollen as it makes his breathing worse. There are two cards on the table for everyone to sign. One will be sent this week and the other next week and she even ask us to send a personal card so he will not feel like he is being forgotten.

There were pictures of some of our special projects coming up. We will landscape the Cedar Ridge Veterans Home in the Collins Chapel Community, Friday, April 11 at 8:30AM until we have finished. Bring all the proper tools you'll need to work with. If you have chains saws please bring those to limb up the trees with. Tammy Walters lives across the street from the home and she is going to maintain it this summer, checking for watering needs and keeping it weeded.

Lee Walters had surgery yesterday on April 7. Not sure how he is doing, no one has heard from him.

Sarah Saunders reported on the "Ask a Master Gardener" event at Garrison Farms on Saturday, April 5, 2014. She said it was a lot of fun and they got to talk to many people about the Master Gardener Program. She got several name of prospects for next year's class.

Katie Moon ask how to get rid of the horn worm. Stated she had an abundance of them and nothing seemed to help. There was a discussion of several remedies such as pulling them off and smashing them to the parasitic wasp that lays their eggs on their backs. If you see a green horn worm with white bags hanging on it back, don't smash it or you'll kill the wasp also. You can take it off you plant or leave it on you plant because as the wasps grow they eat the worm from the inside out. The worm will stop feeding after the wasp lays the eggs.

Sondra discussed the new design of the DEMO garden at length. Stating everyone needs to get involved in this project in some way because this is a community project for all members not just a few. The sheet to sign up for a plot was passed around and if you have not yet signed up to work please do so. If you need water in your plot, let Alan know. He is redesigning the irrigation system and if you need water to a certain area now is the time to let him know. She discussed how the plots will be judged and on what criteria they will be judged.

We need two people to work the Helpline this Thursday, April 10, 2014. Pat is out of town and we need two people to volunteer to work.

There is a sheet on the table if you are interested in going to Eagle Roost Herb Farm in Rockford and doing a tour of the Farm and eating at their restaurant please sign up. We'll only do this tour if there is enough interest.

Don't forget the tour of Petals from the Past following today's meeting. If you ordered a lunch it will be ready at 12:00 noon and the tour is at 1:00 PM.

April 22, 2014 we will be planting Clanton's planters downtown. Please meet at the park in the center of town around 9:00 AM.

April 24, 2014, Thursday, we will be planting Jemison baskets and pots. There are 13 pots, 6 planters and 62 baskets. Bring your tools to plants with, park in the Jemison City Hall parking lot and walk over to the City Maintenance Dept. building for there. We will start at 9:00 AM rain or shine because we'll be inside the building.

Skip Coulter suggested that we have a question and answer period at our meetings to cover question you might like answered. Since this was our first time doing this he started with a couple of question he would like some help on.

Question: 1. Tomatoes are the favorite veggie for many of us. What are some advanced tips for raising great tasting, healthy tomatoes?

Answer: Some suggested raising them in containers. Another suggestion was to raise early varieties that are indeterminate and as vine or plant grows to loop them over the top of a cage so you can reach them.

Question: 2. Raised beds seem like wonderful things but also seem pretty expensive. How about some tips for building/making long-lasting, deep, inexpensive raised beds?

Answer: One answer was to use Creole Rock on ¼" foam board, landscape cloth and to interlock them. Another suggestion was to go to our Master Gardeners Website and check out our face book page or goggle container gardening.

Jackie Hickman needs more help for the Fairytale Garden Booth at the Maplesville Heritage Day Plant sale. Please see Jackie if you can help out during the hours of 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Bill Hairrell still has fig cuttings to be rooted. Please take some home or some more if you already have some to root for the EXPO.

Barbara McAnally has the order form online if you are interested in ordering any Logo items. We also still have mugs for sale at \$8.00 each.

Diane Clapp is in charge of our Maplesville Heritage Day sale. Our booth is down close to the Town Hall on the left. If you did not bring your plants today have them in Maplesville by 7:00 AM.

Mildred Knowles stated that she still needs help with refreshments for June thru November. She also stated that we would be signing up for Christmas in June. She read the list of Birthdays for the month of April.

Harriett Jackson thanked everyone for all the names that had been given to her for prospects.

We drew for three door prizes. Barbara McAnally won the first prize, Mildred Knowles won the second prize and Steve McAnally won the third prize.

Audrey Giles introduced our guest speaker and program for today. Allison Chappell of Montevallo, Al. owner of Luralu's Handmade Soaps. Allison got into the Soap making business because of her daughter. Her daughter had eczema as a young child and was put on steroids. She did not want her daughter living on steroids so she starting researching. Allison found that most soaps contained detergents. She started looking for another type of soap that didn't have the drying and damaging effects that over the counter soaps have. That is when she started experimenting with soap making. Olive oil is the main ingredient in most of her soaps. She also uses coconut oil because it suds up. Her soaps are made like Grandma's soap only better. Grandma did not have a way to measure what went into her soaps but these days we do. She can measure the correct amount of the ingredients she uses for a much better quality of soap. Some of the oils she uses are Olive, Coconut, and Avocado and there are others but without the oils the soap would be harsh. She does use some tallow, beef, pork etc. in some of her soaps. Being a gardener she also incorporates some of the flowers into her soaps. When using flowers in soaps you have to make sure they are completely dry and have no moisture in them. Otherwise they could mold and ruin the soap. She uses different flowers to make different colors of soaps. Some flowers, like Loofah, can be used as an exfoliate. Jewel Weed oil has medicinal properties that can be used. The Spearmint, German Chamomile and Alfalfa Power can make the green color in soaps. When drying plants she suggest you use small bundles so they will dry completely. She uses the saponification process to dry her plants. She sells her product out of her home and online at orders@luralu.com. She also has booths at different events around this area. She can also be reached by phone at 1-205-936-1590.

Reminder of the CCMGA Board Meeting, Monday April 22, 2014, 10-12 at the Little House in Thorsby and the AMGA Conference April 28-30 in Daphne, AL

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Members present 35; visitors present 3: Total present 38