

CHILTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2014

President, Sondra Henley, welcomed each one of our members, guests, Nelson Wynn and Paula Pierson, interns, Treasia Bennett, Katie Moon and Sarah Saunders to our annual plant swap and luncheon. She announced she was taking an order for Kombi Shovels, trowels etc. If you are interested in purchasing one, the order form is on the table. Mark the item(s) you want and she is going to place the order next week. No money is due now. She'll add shipping and taxes and divide the amount by the number of people ordering and you can pay her when your items come in.

Lanell Baker, Secretary, asked for a motion to accept the minutes as posted on our web site. Harriet Jackson made a motion to accept and Pat Farmer seconded the motion. The motion was accepted.

Margaret Goolsby, Treasurer gave the following report:

Balance last statement	\$3,308.11
Deposits	+ 295.50
Checks #156,157,158,159, and #160	- 376.69
Balance	\$3,226.92

She also stated that the 990 tax form had been sent in and accepted.

Lanell Baker made a motion to accept the report as written and Jane Mason seconded. The motion was approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sondra stated that two areas in the DEMO garden needs someone to claim them and plant them. The area around the fence has been cleared out and Okra and Sunflowers will be planted there. Vinca will be planted along the front of the long bed in back.

When attending the AMGA conference, Sondra Henley, Alice Broome and Harriett Jackson visited a Day Lily Farm and Antique Shop. It is off I65 at exit 31. They stopped to look but the owners, finding they were Master Gardeners, started asking question about their own plants. They didn't know what many of them were. It was a fun time for all.

We are very proud of our web site committee. They were recognized and mentioned at the AMG conference as how to create a good Masters Gardeners Web site.

Each group that participated in the planting of Clanton and Jemison planters and baskets were recognized and thanked for their hard work. Pictures of each group will be taken after the meeting.

The Cedar Grove Veterans Home project was a success and it looks very nice. Tammy Walters lives across the road from the home is keeping check on it for watering, fertilizing and weeding.

Garrison Farms wants anyone needing hours to work on Saturdays helping their customers with plant question and ideas. This would be under the "Ask A Master Gardener" sign.

Sarah Saunders has removed all plants at the Chilton County Extension Office Building. Workers are needed next Wednesday to clean approximately 200 bricks that have been donated to line the flower beds to hold the soil. Then we'll begin clearing grass, weeds, etc. from the beds, properly install rain barrels and plant the beds the last week of May.

Phase one of re-furbishing the DEMO garden is almost complete.

Jim Pitts asked us to please spruce up the “Little House” at the Experiment station. He would like all azaleas and shrubby trimmed, take out dead shrubs and limbs, weed and whatever else that needs doing to clean up the beds.

There is another craft day on June 4th to finish the craft projects started for the Swedish Fest.

We have two red, large, pots and three hanging wire baskets that needs to be planted and ready to sell at the EXPO in August. Rick Miller, Ann Stocking and Lanell Baker took the baskets and Jackie Hickman and Wally Walters took the pots to plant.

Skip Coulter asked if anyone had a question for our Q&A time.

Question - How do you graft a Norfolk Pine?

Answer – Almost everyone agreed that you cannot graft a Norfolk Pine. The suggestion was make that maybe you could pinch a twig off below a node and try rooting it that way.

Question – What is the best way to keep birds and squirrels out of your Blue Berry bush?

Answer – Camouflage netting is good at keeping birds and squirrels off your bushes. Also scare tape was recommended.

Question – How to plant and care for a Clematis Vine.

Answer – Plant your Clematis where it gets full or almost full sun on top of the plant, but make sure the roots are mulched or covered in some material that will keep the roots cool. Keep roots moist, NOT WET, during the summer months. At the end of the season you can cut them back but it is not necessary.

Other discussion about plants was that the Althea and Rose of Sharon are the same plant. Also Bamboo shoots make very good tomato stakes.

There were several door prizes given out during the meeting. Jimmy Knowles, Sondra Henley, Jackie Hickman, Alice Broome, Imogene Breese, Joan Davis, Mildred Knowles, Treasia Bennett, Harriett Jackson and Tammy Walters were the recipients of these prizes.

Jane Mason, Card Committee, reported that the only card sent was to Nelson Wynn. He is much better and present at our meeting.

Barbara McAnally, Fund Raising, has shirts that people have ordered ready to pick up. Also, she'll place another order in a few weeks if anyone is interested. Call or e-mail her for more information.

Alan Reed, DEMO garden, reported that beginning June 1st work will begin at 8:00 AM since weather is getting hotter. All irrigation is ready and working.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jim Pitts would like to erect a shade garden in the DEMO Garden Area during our redesign phase. This will be done after the EXPO in August. He will supply the poles and shade cloth but he has asked the

CCMGA to supply the connectors at an approximate cost of \$200.00. The connectors will give the structure more stability and strength. This will be the first time for a shaded area in the DEMO garden. Sondra asked for any questions or comments. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Tammy Walters and seconded by Linda Turnipseed to pay the \$200.00 for the shaded area. The motion was approved.

Another project and fund raiser that was brought before the CCMGA members was the idea of "Gardens of Chilton County" in 2015. This would be a garden tour of MG and other homeowner's yards/gardens in Chilton County. Historical sites, the CCMGA DEMO Garden, the bird watching trail, would also be included on this tour. Two MG would volunteer to help a homeowner put final touches on their yards/gardens the week before. Also, two MG would be stationed at each home the days of the tour to sell tour tickets and plants from MG. Sponsorships would be sold to help defray the cost of advertising and printing expenses. The benefit of such a project is that it would be a major fund raiser and bring publicity for Chilton County. The approximate date of this project would be the weekend after Mother's Day in 2015.

Sondra asked for questions and comments. There was a fairly lengthy discussion and maybe confusion about the work to be done and how it was to be implemented. Members asked that they have time to think it over and table it until our next meeting.

The National Extension Agents Conference will be held in Mobile, July 19th and 20th, 2014. Extension Agents from all over the country will be present. CCMGA has been asked to have a display and /or presentation showing how AMG are involved with Food and AG in Alabama. Kerry Smith has asked all MGA to create displays/presentation that focus on food. CCMGA would like to present their involvement with Chilton County Research Center's Farm, Home and Wildlife EXPO. Jim Pitts will help with information and supply fruit etc. to be displayed at the conference.

Approval is needed for gas, hotel and meals for two people to represent CCMGA at the approximate cost of \$300.00/350.00 for this involvement.

Participating in this conference will show that CCMGA cares, it will bring recognition to CCMGA and exposure to other AMGA and national focus on CCMGA involvement with the EXPO.

After a brief discussion, Linda Turnipseed made a motion to approve the monies to send two people to the National Extension Agents Conference in Mobile. It was seconded by Barbara McAnally and the motion was approved.

We've been asked to work with Thorsby High School in their culinary garden and the youth that participate in that program.

Mildred Knowles read the birthdays for the month of May. She also stated there was still help needed with refreshments for June and July.

Thanks to Steve McAnally for getting our new web site up and going. It is really working well.

At the AMG conference Pat Farmer was awarded a Gold Badge, Sondra Henley was awarded a Platinum Badge and Trisha Williams was awarded a Ruby Star. Congratulation ladies, a job well done.

Last year we were #10 in the state to enter our hours – this year we were #11. Please enter all your hours and keep them up to date.

Next year the AMGA Conference will be held in Blount County on March 23, 24 and 25, 2015. Start making your plans to attend. It's a lot of fun and very educational.

Other tidbits to share: Fairhope, AL replants and replaces approximately 26,000 plants in a 2 1/2 month period. They have their own greenhouses and grow all their plants.

Daphne, AI uses all of their refuse and recycles it into compost. They separate the solid from the liquids and microwave it to sanitize it and make it into usable compost.

Ben Matthews has been moved to Avondale and seems to be doing better. Will send out address when available.

Our next meeting will be on June 10th, 2014 at the Jemison Municipal Complex. Our program will be on tablescapes with Sallie Hooker.

There being no further business, Mildred Knowles blessed the food and food, fellowship and fun was enjoyed by all.

After we ate, we swapped plants we had brought.

There were 37 present: 2 guest, 3 interns and 32 members