

CHILTON COUNTY MASER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2014

Pat Farmer, Vice-President, opened our meeting by welcoming our members, guests and interns.

Lanell Baker, Secretary, asked for a motion to accept the minutes as posted on our web site. Trisha Williams made a motion, seconded by Bonnie Harrell. The motion was approved.

Margaret Goolsby, Treasurer, gave the following report.

Balance last report	\$3,292.35
Deposits	+129.00
Checks written #165, 166, 168, 169, 170, totaling	-345.27
Bank Balance	3,076.08
Checks not cleared, #164 and 171	- 50.92
Actual Bank Balance	\$3,025.16

She ask for a motion to void check # 164 and reissue check #174 to Alice Broome. The first check was accidentally washed in her pants pocket. Motion by Linda Turnipseed and seconded by Linda Hand. The motion was approved to reissue the check.

There were no other questions and a motion to approve the report was asked for. A motion to approve the report was made by Ann Baker and seconded by Lanell Baker. The motion was approved.

Old Business:

Questionnaires have been given to certain people. If you got one of these please return it to Sondra Henley, President. Everyone will get one so please fill it out and give it to Sondra. This information is used to write an article about our members and feature them on our web site home page.

Sondra asked if anyone knew who the feature article on our web site was about this month. The answer was Jerry Farmer and Alan Reed. Julie Soileau gave the correct answer and won the prize.

Criteria for the DEMO garden beds as to how and when they will be judged has been handed out. If you have any questions please see one of the committee members or let Sondra know. She showed the different ribbons that will be awarded.

New Business:

If you have taken any on the plants from the DEMO garden home with you please pay for them.

August 4th, 9:00AM – 1:00PM, Josine Walter, 4-H Extension Agent, needs help at Minooka Park with approximately 40 to 50 YMCA kids ages 5-13. They will be hiking, fishing and making leaf imprint bookmarks. She also needs someone to take the children from one activity to another. If you can help please let Josine know. She can be contacted thru the Extension Office at 205-280-6268.

The trip to Eagle Roost Herb Farm has been canceled due to lack of interest in going as a group.

Rose Utendahl, one of our MG, has a U- Pick Blueberry farm. The Berries are ready and you only pay for what you pick.

Q & A segment:

Question: Why are my tomatoes dying?

Answer: No one really had an answer but almost everyone echoed the same problem. Is it too much rain or hot weather? No one had an answer but the discussion was very informative.

Question: Why are my figs still small and green?

Answer: Due to the late winter we had it has set all crops back almost three weeks.

We had several door prizes to give out today. The names drawn were Barbara McAnally, Margaret Ennis, Linda Hand, Jerry Farmer, Sondra Henley, Jackie Hickman, Lee Walters, Treasia Bennett and Charlotte Word.

Belita Fowler and her husband own a business in Maplesville. She brought flowers that had not sold and donated them to MG to repot and revive for sale at the Expo. August 2nd. Please take some of these plants home and get them ready for our sale.

Jerry Farmer reported on the DEMO Garden. It is in very good shape and just needs finishing touches added a few days before EXPO. The berm looks really well with all the Vinca filling in. The Shepard Hooks are for hanging baskets at the EXPO.

Wally and Lee Walters stated they needed many more workers for the EXPO! Especially the workers to pick figs that morning. Every shift from 11:00AM-5:00PM needs more helpers. Jim Pitts has also ask the MG if we could handle all the vendors' lunch tickets. Volunteers, vendors and exhibitors only are to be given free tickets for lunch. Those at information stations need to get a copy of the events and familiarize yourself with where and when all events are taking place. Pat thanked Lee and Wally for all their hard work on the EXPO. This is a very difficult job to get organized.

Ann Baker is heading up the plant sale for the EXPO. She ask that everyone with plants for the sale to bring them on Friday, August 1, between 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM. Make sure they are labeled correctly, watered and ready to sell. The tents should already be up and ready for the plants.

If you are interested in going to Dothan, Alabama, to the Botanical Gardens, please let Margaret Goolsby know.

Mildred Knowles read the July birthdays and wished each one a Happy Birthday. There are still spaces open on the refreshment list for October and November. Please sign up if you can help. Also another reminder that these are the last four months before Jimmy and Mildred turn over the hospitality committee to someone else.

A report on Ben Matthews was very encouraging. He is now eating solid food, can talk and loves company. He is still at Arlington Center Rehab. Room 235. This is out past Princeton Hospital in Birmingham, AL.

Pat Farmer introduced Sondra Henley, President, as our guest speaker for the day. Another program had been scheduled but due to a conflict was canceled. Sondra, known "lovingly" as the Compost Queen, graciously filled in and gave us a very impressive power point presentation and program on composting. She became interested in vermiculture and vermicomposting several years ago. You take a

plastic container, drill several holes in the sides and top so the worms can get enough oxygen to live and thrive. Place a layer of shredded paper on the bottom of the container then add a layer of Black Kow on top of the paper. Red worms are the best to start with. When you get your worms keep them in the refrigerator to keep them dormant until you have your bin/container ready. When the bin or plastic container is ready put food scraps on one half of the Black Kow on the opposite side from the worms. As the worms wake up and start to feed they will crawl over to the food scraps leaving fertilizer along the way.

Another quick way to compost is to put left over scraps in your blender. Never use any meat, grease or bones in your composting. Also, never use your first grass cutting clippings because of all the winter seeds. Add water to the blender and scraps and liquefy. This makes a quick liquid fertilizer for your plants, inside or outside.

On a larger scale of composting we need to use all of the waste we make each day. Start by putting a strainer in the sink and gallon bucket under your sink to catch your waste. The average Alabamian produces approx. 4.5 lbs. of waste a day. The Carbon to Nitrogen ratio is 30 to 1. That is 30 buckets of carbon (leaves, chipped wood, paper, cardboard boxes, small twigs etc.) to 1 bucket of nitrogen (manures, green grass clippings, kitchen scraps, nitrogen fertilizer etc.). It needs to reach a temperature of 130 – 150 degrees to kill all seeds and bad organisms. Temperatures higher than that will kill all the microorganisms that are essential for microbial decomposition. It is necessary that it gets plenty of air and moisture. To make sure you have a good oxygen level you need to turn the pile often. Too little oxygen and you'll get a very smelly mess. Just think of the space in the landfill we would save if we composted all of our waste. The finished product is uniform, moist not wet and looks like soil. Sondra stated that she never has to buy soil because she makes her own from their home waste. She gardens in raised beds and uses her composted material to fill them. A very eye opening program on how we can help save our Mother Earth.

Barbara McAnally has the shirts ready to pick up that were ordered.

There will not be a CCMG Board meeting this month.

See everyone at the EXPO on August 2, 2014, 11:00AM-5:00PM and remember to sign up and help.

CCMGA's next regular meeting is September 9, 2014, 9:00AM-11:30AM, at the Jemison Municipal Complex.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

There were 33 members, 2 interns and 3 visitors for a total of 38 present.