

CHILTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 12, 2014

Sondra Henley, President, opened our meeting welcoming members Teresa Davis and Rick Miller. They have not been able to be with us for several months. Also, our guests, Jimmy and Linda Langston and Gerry Champagne were welcomed along with all members present. As she opened our meeting she announced that Tammy McGriff has the Angel Tree ready for you to adopt a child for Christmas. See Tammy after the meeting if you would like to help.

Lanell Baker, Secretary, asked for a motion to accept the minutes as posted on our website. Jackie Hickman made the motion to accept, seconded by Barbara McAnally. The motion was approved.

Margaret Goolsby, Treasurer, didn't make a treasure report today. She mistakenly left it at home. She'll make two reports next month.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sondra reported that the landscape project for the Jemison City Hall was about half finished. The area next to the drive thru has been planted but the area around the fountain cannot be completed until the City finishes reworking the fountain and gets it installed. It looks good and the employees really appreciate it.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Advisory Council announced conferences in 2015 and 2016. The registration fee is \$125.00 which is all inclusive, meaning meals will be included. Any workshops you may want to attend, T-shirts or other items you may want to purchase are not included. The March conference is March 23, 24 and 25, 2015, in Cullman, Alabama. Make your plans now to attend. There are new ideas, tools and other valuable information to be learned at these conferences.

Nominations for the 2014 Service Project Award and the Dedication and Service to CCMGA Award are due now. Please give your nominations to Skip Coulter.

Our Christmas luncheon will be December 9, 2014. If you have not already listed how many you will bring please do so before you leave. On the sign in sheet there is a place beside your name to list how many you are bringing. If you are not bringing any guest with you just put one beside your name so we'll know you are coming. We are having a planned menu this year and we need to know how many to prepare for. Only those staying after the meal to play Dirty Santa needs to bring a wrapped gift.

President, Sondra Henley, has appointed Steve McAnally, Sarah Saunders and Bonnie Hairrell as her Audit Committee.

Our door prize winners were: Audrey Giles, Jimmy Knowles, Steve McAnally, Jerry Farmer, Wally Walters, Jimmy Langston and Alice Broome.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Cards: Jane Mason reported that she has not needed to send any cards this month.

Demo Garden: Alan Reed asked Sondra to make the report. Sondra reported that the Demo Garden will be staked and laid out this afternoon after our meeting. The shade area will be put in this month. Anyone wanting or willing to help please show up.

Also on November 11, Sondra Henley and Jerry Farmer installed the rain barrels at the Chilton County Extension Office. We are waiting for the gutter company to install the gutters so the job can be completed.

Hospitality: Mildred Knowles asked for those that haven't yet signed up to bring a dish for the Christmas Luncheon please do so. There is a signup sheet for the luncheon and also for table decorations. If you can come help decorate the tables or have a table decoration we can use, it would be appreciated.

Our Birthdays for this month are Rick Miller, Martha Gothard, Sondra Henley and Lindy Helton.

She reminded us that November 4 would have been Ben Matthews's birthday.

She also announced that Imogene Bresse and Betty Knight will be our Hospitality Committee for 2015.

December 9th will be our Christmas Luncheon at 10:00 AM. Set up at 10:00 AM, Awards Ceremony 11:00 AM and serve meal at 12:00 noon. There will be no snacks that day so leave the desserts alone! After the meal if you bring a wrapped gift and want to stay and play Dirty Santa you may.

Fund Raiser: Alice Broome reported that our Christmas Home Tour Tickets are doing well. She stated that she needs at least 6 hostesses at each home or a total of 24. We need lots of greenery to decorate the homes and there is a signup sheet in back. Cut the greenery one day before delivery, wash it, clean it up and place in a bucket of water and deliver it to Ann Baker's home on December 10. All instruction for greenery types and directions to Ann's home are on the table in back.

Membership and hours: Trisha Williams reminded us to please get our hours recorded before November 30 for hours worked recognition on December 9. Otherwise you have until December 31. She also reminded us that our dues are due by November 30, 2014. After that date there will be a \$10.00 late fee added.

Website/Adv. Council: Steve McAnally, reported that he had purchased everything to set up our own computer system for the price of \$650.00. As chairman of the Audit Committee he also stated that they were going to ask the help of other counties to audit our books and we will also help them audit theirs. We have also purchased a file cabinet to be kept at the Extension Office just for Master Gardener files.

Nominating Committee: Our nomination committee is Skip Coulter, Linda Hand and Ann Stocking. Skip, Chairman, recommended these people as our new officers for year 2015.

President – Pat Farmer, Vice-President – Jackie Hickman, Secretary – Margaret Ennis, Treasurer – Steve McAnally. There being no opposition or nomination from the floor a motion was called for.

Peggy Harris made a motion to accept the committee's recommendations, seconded by Harriet Jackson. The motion was approved.

More door prize winners: Diane Clapp, Peggy Harris, Alan Reed and Teresa Davis.

Our next CCMGA Board meeting has been changed to November 17th. We will meet at the Chilton County Extension Office from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. If anyone has something they would like to see improved on or just have a suggestion for 2015, please come to the meeting and present your suggestions.

Nelson Wynn, stated that we need to use the new applications when enlisting new members. Auburn has made some changes. The back ground check is different on the new forms.

Audrey Giles asked us to go to our Facebook page and like it and send it to all our friends. This is a fast and easy way to get information and news out.

Pat Farmer will announce her Board and Committee Chair Persons at the December 9th meeting.

Pat Farmer introduced our speaker for the day, Josh Elmore. Josh is our Regional Agent for Animal Science and Forage. He gave a very interesting and informative program on FIRE ANTS. Josh covers a seven county area and works mostly with beef cattle, but he does cover other animals like goats, horses, etc. How do you know you have Fire ants? This was his opening question that got a lot of laughs and groans at the same time. Everyone in this area has lots of mounds in the yard or field. He gave some early history as to why we have these pests. In the early 1900's they came in through the Port of Mobile from South America. Now they have spread throughout the Southeastern US over to Texas. There are a few colonies now showing up in California. There are red fire ants, black fire ants, and now they have mixed and we also have red and black fire ants. There is just one queen in every colony. They are a true insect with very bad eyesight and use their antennas to move about. Ants chew and suck juice from whatever they are feeding on. They are a big problem in agriculture. They damage equipment, sting workers, seeds and seedlings and they are a danger to newborn animals.

How do they spread? Human transport, soil, nursery stock, turf grass, vehicles and during a flood a ball of fire ants can float for long distances, these are a few ways they spread. The most unique way they spread is the way they mate. The queen and male have wings and mate in the air. The male then dies and the female will find a spot of ground and lay about 1000 eggs to start another mound.

If fire ants get on you, don't panic! Brush them off gently. Don't start stomping and don't try and wash them off. They are found in open sunny areas, around sidewalks, patios, anywhere there is plenty of water and food. How do you control them? There is a biological method. The Phorid fly, also from South America, is a natural predator of the ant. It lays eggs on the ant, kills it and the eggs hatch for more flies. Products such as Extinguish, Amdro Pro and Excede found at your local Seed and Feed stores are baits to use if you have a field of them or want to treat a large yard. Use 1 to 1.5 lbs. per acre for best results and follow the directions on the label. The worker ant takes the bait back to the queen she eats it and dies and so does the colony. Read the warnings and directions on the label for effects on garden or animals. For more information go to Extension.org website or go by your local Extension Office and get pamphlet ANR-0175-A. You can never kill all the fire ants but you can control them using one of these methods.

After reminders to sign all sheets and to turn your nomination into Skip the meeting was adjourned.

With members, interns and guest there were 39 present.

