

Chilton County Master Gardeners  
October 13, 2015  
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Pat Farmer. She welcomed and recognized guests. Marie Updike from Central Alabama Master Gardeners Association was a visitor, as well as some family members of members.

Marie Updike told about the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Flower Show to be held in Montgomery in conjunction with the Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs. Two types of competition are available—flowering and non-flowering. Information is available on the Fair website. Booklets and forms are available at this site. She urged our members to enter the horticulture division. She was available to answer questions. She is a member of the Montgomery Area Day Lily Society. There are 72,000 register day lilies. She brought two day lilies to be given as door prizes.

Margaret Ennis asked for a motion to accept September minutes as posted on the web site. Lanell Baker made the motion and Jackie Hickman seconded it. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Steve McAnally, Treasurer, said last month was a very successful month. We received \$1065.49 from AMGA as our part from the Seminar proceeds.

Beginning Balance	\$9250.06
Checks & payments	6922.96
Deposits & credits	3467.19
Uncleared transactions	10.90
Ending Balance as of 8/30/15	5783.39

Trisha Williams made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Don Burdette seconded it. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

**New business**

Pat recognized members with October birthdays. They are Anita McGhee, Joann Peacock, Jerry Farmer, Jim Day, Harriet Jackson, Teresa Davis, and Michele Thomas.

Pat Farmer commended members who have worked on the Demo Garden as well as Sondra Henley for soliciting and receiving many donations for the Demo Garden. She said that there is \$700 left in the budgeted money for the Demo Garden, and that the Board has approved (with approval by members) matching that amount. A motion was

made by Rick Miller to add \$700 to the Demo Garden funds. It was seconded by Jackie Hickman. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Pat said the Christmas Home Tour is rapidly approaching. A budget has been submitted by Alice Broome. After discussion the Board voted to raise the amount from \$350 to \$400 (money for decorations from \$50 to \$100, to be used only if needed). A motion was made by Jackie Hickman with a second by Sarah Saunders. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

The Board would like to move the award ceremony (Top Hours, Master Gardener of the Year, Project of the Year, and Top Help Line Hours) from the December meeting to the February meeting. This will allow including December hours. The Friends of Master Gardeners will still be given at the December meeting. A motion was made by Linda Turnipseed with a second by Dianne Clapp. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Pat said we will play “Dirty Santa” at our Christmas luncheon/business meeting. The price on the gifts is \$10.00.

Pat said, regarding the Jemison planting, that we pay for fall plants and the City of Jemison pays for spring plants. They allow Master Gardeners to use the auditorium as a meeting place at no cost to us. Jason Powell will assist this year. The budget needs to be raised to \$350.00, if needed. Rick Miller made a motion to this effect and Julie Soileau seconded it. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Trisha Williams had a hand-out for members regarding changes to CCMGA Standing Policies. The changes are:

**Expenditures.** Expenditures must be pre-approved by the Board of Directors either in the operating budget, per project, or as needs arise. All projects must have a Board approved budget and any expenditure above the amount set must be preapproved.

**Reimbursement of Out of Pocket Expenses.** Reimbursement will be made only for expenses pre-approved by the Board of Directors if funds are available. Receipts are required, attached to a Request for Payment Form (found on the CCMGA website), and given to the President for signature. Request for reimbursement must be made within 60 days or expenditure will be considered a donation.

**Donations.** Donations may be earmarked for specific item or project. Out-of-pocket expenditures may be donated, receipt needed—see treasurer.

All other items of the Standing Polices remain as in the past. A motion to accept the changes was made by Jane Mason with a second by Bill Hairrell. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Pat recognized the 2016 Nominating Committee members. They are Walley Walters, Lee Walters, Rick Miller, and Alice Broome. They will give us their recommendations at the November meeting and we will vote on them.

Gaye West asked that Pat tell the members about the Walk in the Park to be held at the Confederate Park.

### **Old Business**

Don Burdette reported on the Forestry Tour, saying there were 55 in attendance with 15 helpers. Something like this will be planned again. It was very informative and enjoyable.

Margaret Goolsby urged all to help with the Thorsby Swedish Fest. Many items are for sale—craft items and plants. She said we need to make sure MGA groups in surrounding areas are aware of it.

Jackie Hickman introduced the speaker: Mark Gothard, known as “The Gourd Man.” He was very knowledgeable. He said the first domesticated plant was the gourd. He discussed many areas of gourd raising and gourd preservation. He had several on display and answered questions from the audience about gourd seeds, planting, space needed, how some gourds need to be elevated, and how to clean the mold off them. He said it takes 180 days from planting to maturity. The seeds can be started inside and then moved outside since it takes such a long time for them to grow. It then takes a year for them to dry. Moisture makes them rot, so it is important that the drying process has special attention. There are three kinds of gourds—hard shelled, ornamental, and loofa. Many questions were asked, indicating interest in gourd growing. He participates in a number of shows and displays his gourds, some plain and some decorated.

Pat Farmer said Anne Stocking has lost her directory and if anyone sees it, make sure it is returned to Anne.

Pat mentioned the possibility of having a plaque prepared, with a brass plate naming Outstanding Master Gardener of the Year. It would be displayed at the Extension Office. Pins would not be given for this award. This will be discussed at a later date.

Diane Clapp sent cards to the following: Trisha Williams, Barbara McAnally, Jimmy Knowles, Jerry Giles, Peggy Harris, Ed Simmons, and Ann Baker.

Sondra said work is done at the Demo Garden on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday mornings. This will soon be changed because of shorter days, day light savings time, etc. She said they are waiting on the irrigation system placement. Allen plans to pull the electrical line Monday, the 19<sup>th</sup>. A trailer load of manure has been donated. She

has been approached by an Eagle Scout who wants to do Phase 3. Jim will bring filler soil. Treasia discussed what a knot garden is and how it is planned. It is a formal garden, containing boxwoods, bulbs, ornamental cabbage and kale, a tall bird house, a bench, and walking paths. Sondra said the one-of-a-kind arbor has been completed. A gate and extra rebar have been added to the staircase for safety.

Sondra brought pans to be used for food at the Christmas luncheon. Recipes for dessert were available. She asked members to make sure they have signed to bring food. The Christmas luncheon will be on the regular meeting date in December.

Door prizes were given to Sarah Saunders, Trisha Williams, Paula Blevins-Russell, Imogene Bresse, Bill Hairrell, and Pat Farmer.

Linda Turnipseed said the Clanton planting will be the October 27<sup>th</sup>, 10 am. Lunch will be available after the planting. Rescue of some perennials in current planters will take place on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Meet at Corner Park in Clanton and bring black pots for repotting of plants. Sondra said we will then meet in Jemison at 1 o'clock to remove plants from baskets. Planting will be done in Jemison on the 27<sup>th</sup> at 1 o'clock.

Alice Broome said plans are underway for the Christmas Home Tour in Clanton. It is set for December 13. This year, the houses will be in close proximity, hoping to create a warm, cozy atmosphere. Greenery of a certain type is needed for decoration. Trisha Williams will provide a list of desirable greenery which will hold up for several days. Details will be announced at the November meeting.

Trisha Williams is now collecting dues, which are due before November 30. They are subject to a late fee after that time. She said membership dues are \$25.00, state and local. State lifetime fees are available for \$100.00. Local dues are \$15.00 each year. At age 80 local dues are waived and the AMGA dues are \$10 per year.

Lanell Baker said the help line went well this year. She expressed her thanks to all who worked.

The next meeting will be November 10 and Rick Miller will be our speaker.

There were 33 in attendance.

There being no further business, President Farmer adjourned the meeting.