

MINUTES, April 14, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Pat Farmer.

Pat stated that Wilma Simmons, a former member died yesterday. Wilma and Ed are remembered as faithful, diligent members. She asked that Ed and the family be remembered.

Margaret Ennis, secretary, asked that a motion be made to approve the March minutes as posted on the web site. The motion was made by Margaret Goolsby and seconded by Harriet Jackson. A vote was taken and carried.

Treasurer Steve McAnally displayed the Treasurer's Report on the screen and discussed each item. He pointed out that the total includes grant money received for the Demo Garden.

Beginning Balance	3,954.51
Cleared transactions	
Checks & payments-8 items	-2,865.98
Deposits & credits – 6 items	3,373.86
Total cleared transactions	507.88
Cleared balance	4,462.39
Uncleared transactions (2 items)	-70.00
Ending Balance 3/31/15	4,392.39

A motion was made by Paula Blevins-Russell to accept the report and Sarah Saunders seconded it. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

President Farmer recognized members having April birthdays: Bettye Glass, Wayne Short, Wally Walters, Lamar Giles, and Ginny Rawls.

## NEW BUSINESS

Annual Plant Swap—Jackie Hickman said the annual plant swap will be held at Higgins Ferry Park. She said she has a map and it can be e-mailed to all who desire it. Let her know. She asked that all who will be in attendance sign the sheet so adequate seating and arrangements can be made. She suggested that each person bring a chair and that she has some tables and power strips which can be used. Mr. Grady Wayne Robinson will give a tool sharpening demonstration. He will also be available to sharpen tools for members who bring their items to be sharpened. He will receive a plant in recognition of his presentation. The demonstration will begin at 10 o'clock. The swap will actually begin at 9 am and will wrap up after lunch. Jackie will check with the forest ranger who is in charge of the facility to confirm available equipment. Those who are able to walk across the road are asked to park on the other side road from the pavilion. The ranger has asked Jackie to ask the group to make some suggestions regarding possible plants for the facility.

Don Burdette, chairman of the Chilton County Forestry Planning Committee told about a demonstration tour to be held April 24 from 9:30 am until noon. Participants should meet at 9:30 at the Maplesville City Park Walking Trail/Birding Trail on Shanks Drive. Topics will be Landowner Objectives & Perspectives by Allen Bearden; Longleaf & Loblolly Pine Management by Brian Smith; Prescribed Burning & Fire Breaks by Don Burdette; Native Ground Cover & Planted Food Plots by Josh Elmore; and, Cost Share Assistance for Soil, Water, Forest & Wildlife Management. Attendees will park and car pool to site and then board trailers for the tour.

Sondra Henley said the last intern class meeting was April 8<sup>th</sup>. This has been a working class and members have accrued many volunteer hours because of their participation in activities. Pat said we are glad to see those members present at today's meeting.

Pat said the Jemison Library Fairytales presentation will be the 24<sup>th</sup>. It will be "The Princess and the Pea." She asked participating MG members to meet with her after today's meeting.

Pat said Maplesville Heritage Days plant sale was fun and that \$244 was collected from plant sales. The crowd was not as large as in the past. Plants left from that sale were available for purchase at this meeting. Pat recognized those members who participated and thanked them for their help in making it successful.

Pat mentioned the Spring AMGA Conference and asked those who attended to stand and be recognized. Treasia Bennett stated there were many good speakers and she attended a terrarium workshop which was informative. There were several vendors as well. Pat said there were several good ideas for our fall seminar. Harriet Jackson said the last speaker was Carol Reese and her topic was "Just Do It." It was very motivational and inspired people to get busy and do things rather than putting them off.

Peggy Harris said the Clanton Water Festival was very successful. Mr. Littleton said the help of the Master Gardeners was appreciated. Pat said that the presenter for one session did to show up and Master Gardeners were asked to fill in, which they did gladly.

Jackie Hickman said a forestry tour/hay ride is being planned for October.

Sarah Saunders said the "Ask A Master Gardener" at Garrison Feed and Seed has begun and there were many people there last week. The hours are 8-10 and 10-12 on Saturday morning and there is a need for more volunteers.

Door Prizes were awarded to Wayne Freeman, Margaret Ennis, Leslie Abdo, Steve McAnally, and Ann Baker.

Jackie Hickman introduced Sue Webb to present the program on Native Plants and butterflies. Sue is a Jemison native who spent her early years playing and exploring the woods. She pursued a career in micro science and at retirement she returned to Jemison. She states that the woods are very different now than they were when she

was a child and she is quite concerned about the changes, especially in the birds. 60 species of birds have decreased by 95% over the last 40 years. It is frightening as to how the change will continue during our childrens' lifetime. The reason for this decline is due to habitat loss. Many wooded areas have been cleared and there are more people. Sue gave statistics regarding how the plants are so necessary in the development of the butterflies—from cocoon to caterpillar to butterfly. They prefer native plants. We can help remedy the problem by planting more native plants. She named many native plants which are hosts. Among the plants are: Butterfly Weed, Stokes Aster, Golden Rod, Blazing Star, Cardinal Flower, Black-eyed Susan, Phlox, Coneflower, Swamp Sunflowers, Coreopsis. Shrubs include Sweet Pepper bush, Spicebush, Sweet Shrub, Strawberry Bush (Hearts-a-bustin'), Bottlebrush Buckeye, Witch Alder, Beautyberry, Wild Hydrangea, Oakleaf Hydrangea, Mountain Laurel, and native azaleas. Viburnums include Arrowwood, Black Hawk, Rusty Black Hawk, Maple Leaf. Hollies are Possumhaw, Yaupon Holly, American Holly. Trees are Bradford Pear, Southern Crabapple, Chickasaw Plum, Oak trees, Redbud, and Dogwood. During the question and answer time she was asked to name available literature. She named Amazon (on line); Bringing Nature Home by Doug Tallamy; Noah's Garden by Sasraah Stein; and Native Plants of the South East by Gill. She has a handout concerning these items and will make it available by e-mail request.

Dianne Clapp sent cards to Paula Blevins-Russell and E. C. Lewis.

Sondra Henley reported that the construction continues on the Demo Garden. The next step will be to use the Ditch Witch to prepare for underground wiring. Weather will greatly determine progress.

Rick Miller discussed fig and vine cutting. Eight people helped and it took about two hours to complete the project. The use of chain saws was a great help. He had fig cuttings for members to take home to root to have for plant sales. He showed the correct way to do these rootings. These sell well and is a good way to raise money.

Barbara McAnally said there was a display of logo items for sale in the back of the room. She gave information regarding spring tee shirts and said there was an order blank on the back table. Colors selected by the Board are: short sleeved—pistachio, azalea, and royal; long sleeved--kiwi, azalea, and royal: ladies v-neck short sleeved – pistachio, azalea, royal: ladies v-neck  $\frac{3}{4}$  length—pink, teal: ladies rainwear/windbreaker—ultramarine, red, blue: men's rainwear/windbreaker—ultramarine, yellow, graphite.

Plant-a-plot at the hospital, call Greg Nobles.

Lanell Baker said the help line is going well and that there is a need for sign-up for the last month.

Linda Turnipseed said the planting for Clanton is scheduled for April 21. Meet at 10 o'clock at the corner park. Bring gloves, trowels, etc. Lunch will be at Main Street Café at completion of planting.

Sondra Henley said planting for Jemison is scheduled for April 22 and 23 at 9 am. Meet at the Jemison Maintenance Shop. There is a need for two days due to the fact that planters must be prepared. 16-20 people are needed to complete this project. Bring tools to work with.

Sondra also said that work needs to be done at the little house at the Experiment Station, but a date cannot yet be set because shrubs, etc., are still blooming. There is a need for variegated monkey grass to be planted at the Extension Office, and she asked if anyone had some they could donate.

Trisha Williams announced star awards: Dianne Clapp received a silver star. Steve McAnally received a gold badge. Margaret Goolsby received a platinum badge.

Margaret Goolsby thanked all for the support she has received during the illness of her husband.

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