

Minutes January 13, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Pat Farmer. She welcomed guests and recognized Jimmy Fretwell.

A "pass the gavel" ceremony recognized past president, Sondra Henley, and new president, Pat Farmer. Sondra was given a Weasel Claws and a Petals From The Past gift card in appreciation of her services to the club.

President Farmer said there would be no established program at this meeting--just a time of reflection, current status, and fellowship. There will be no major projects in 2015--just core projects. Core projects are: Water Fest, Clanton and Jemison plantings, Demo Garden Redesign, Fig and Vine cutting, Expo, and Jemison Library Fairytales. The core fundraisers are Maplesville, Expo, Swedish Fest Plant/Craft sales, and the Christmas Home Tour.

Lanell Baker asked that a motion be made to approve minutes of last meeting as posted on web site. Margaret Goolsby made the motion and Harriett Jackson seconded it. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Margaret Goolsby gave the December 2014 Treasurer's Report

Beginning balance	\$3097.21
Total Deposits	1680.74
Total Expenditures	923.50
Bank Balance	3854.45
Outstanding checks (3)	219.34
Actual Balance	3635.11

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Jackie Hickman with a second by Lanell Baker. A vote was taken and passed.

President Farmer recognized members having January birthdays: Linda Hand, Peggie Harris, Lee Walters, Imogene Bresse, Belita Fowler, Margie Robertson, and Linda

Turnipseed.

NEW BUSINESS

2015 Fall Conference--We have approval to use the Clanton Conference and Performing Arts Center at Jefferson State, at no cost. Thanks go to Mary Mell Smith and Billy J. Driver, mayor. The theme for the conference is "Season's Ending or Just Beginnings." Some topics under consideration are Permaculture Basics; bulbs; tubers and corms; sex in the garden (pollination); saving seeds and propagation; landscaping with color year round. Proposed dates are September 22 or 29 (one day for conference). Date to be selected by Kerry Smith at Auburn University. Pat asked for a consensus of opinion as to member attire so all Chilton County members would be recognizable. A show of hands confirmed that members would be willing to pay for their own shirt/vest. Discussion about vest, but question was just on paying for t-shirts.

Jane Mason discussed the Clanton Water Fest. Peggie Harris and Jane Mason are on the committee this year. This is a program for 4th graders in Chilton County. Over 500 students will be attending this event which is held at Jeff State. It will be held March 13 from 9 am to 1 pm. Seventy volunteers are needed to conduct this educational experience for the students. There are many areas of service available. Master Gardeners have been very supportive of this in the past. Gay West will need volunteers to help with the beads. Any questions should be directed to Jane Mason or Peggie Harris.

Alice Broome reported on the Christmas Home Tour. 171 tickets were sold. Comments from participants indicated they thought this was a very successful Tour. There were no negative comments received,

Sondra Henley reported that a 2015 Master Gardener class will begin January 14 and will be held at the Chilton County Cooperative Extension Office in Clanton. We are

very excited about having a class this year and look forward to welcoming a new group of volunteers/members for our association.

Jackie Hickman, vice president, said that she would like to do some programs using our members. She asked that people let her know what their specialties are--to share with the group. She requested suggestions to help her line up programs that are meaningful and beneficial to our group.

Pat stated that to make the door prize program fair and equitable, winners will be exempt from winning for the next three months. This will give more opportunity for all people to win. She asked for a show of hands indicating approval. There were no dissenting votes.

Door prize winners for this meeting were Lanell Baker, Diane Clapp, Essie Edel, Margaret Ennis, Jackie Hickman, Mildred Knowles, Jane Mason, Alan Reed, Lee Walters, and Wally Walters.

Diane Clapp reported that she sent three sympathy cards and four thinking-of-you cards. If you know of anyone who should receive a card, please let her know

Sondra Henley reported we will receive a tourism grant for \$1500 for updating the demo garden. We have \$1700. The work is set up to be completed in three phases. She has just sent an AMGA project funding request with an estimated total cost of \$5400.00, asking for \$2000 from them. This request did not include phase three. She thanked Sarah Saunders for her help in preparing this request, she is looking at two other possible grants. The goal is to complete this project without using local funds. A spiral staircase has been donated by Wayne Short and will make a nice addition to the landscape. It must be concreted in and water and electricity run to it. Water and electricity to the garden will be an added asset for the future as well as the present.

Lanell Baker reported on the Help Line. Interns must work twice and require a certified Master Gardener be with them. The Help Line starts the end of March or the first of April. Members were urged to participate. Award pins were given for service in 2014 and this will be done yearly. For working three days a bronze pin is given; four or more days a silver pin is given; and a gold pin is given to the chairperson. Those receiving pins this year are: Bronze, Jerry Farmer; Silver, Lanell Baker, Bonnie Hairrell; and, Gold, Pat Farmer.

Pat Farmer reported that she will be doing the hospitality for a few months, with help from members. February will be headed up by Sondra Henley.

Trisha Williams gave a report on volunteer hours for 2014. We had a total of 7816.08 hours and 585.5 continuing education hours. She gave a synopsis of the top 10 clubs (for hours) in the state. Number one was North Alabama. Chilton County ranked number eight, which is considered to be good when considering total membership of other clubs. Star awards will be given at a future meeting. She asked that members not go back into past years on the computer to try to update hours. It creates a problem. If hours were left out of 2014, they can be added in 2015.

Steve McAnally told us about an independent, internal audit which took place in December, conducted by two AMGA members--one from Jefferson County and one from Russell County. The results were good and the auditors were very complimentary. Recognition was given to Margaret Goolsby for the good work she has done in the past. He then gave a presentation on our new bookkeeping software--Quick Books--showing many of the reports available and emphasizing the ease, speed, and accuracy available. After Board approval, financial reports will be available on our web site. The cost was \$45.00 for the software.

Pat said that because we sometimes have receipts turned in late, a new ruling is being established. We have 60 days after purchase to submit receipts for reimbursement.

Any time longer than that means a donation has been made.

Lanell Baker asked for consideration for 2015 Christmas Home Tour that houses be available to members on Saturday afternoon, thereby giving members a chance to see all homes.

This year's Expo will be August 8. The planning meetings will be either in late February or early March.

Rick Miller discussed fig cutting/rooting/grape vine trimming. We need more participation this year. He and Harriet Jackson also discussed grape vine wreath construction. This will be used as a fund raiser.

A craft day will be planned to make sale items.

President Pat Farmer stated that the next AMGA State Advisory Board Meeting will be held on February 3, 2015, at the Power Company.

Our next meeting date is February 10 at the Jemison City Hall.

With no further business, President Pat Farmer adjourned the meeting.