

CHILTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
MONTHLY MEETING
July 14, 2015

President, Pat Farmer, called the meeting to order. She noted that pictures of work in progress at the Demo Garden had been on display on the screen.

Secretary, Margaret Ennis, requested a motion to accept the June meeting minutes as posted on the web. A motion was made by Alan Reed to accept the minutes as posted with a second by Jackie Hickman. A vote was taken and the motion approved.

Steve McAnally presented the Treasurer's Report for June.

Beginning Balance	\$4336.49
Total deposits	171.00
Total expenditures	181.44
Cleared balance	4326.05
Outstanding checks (5)	474.22
Deposits & credits	100.00
Ending Balance	3951.83

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Harriett Jackson with a second by Lindy Helton. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Trisha Williams presented new badges and certificates to interns who have completed required hours. They were Ira Jones, Don Burdette, Jerry Giles, Katie Moon, Michele Thomas, and Karen Giles.

Pat Farmer recognized members with July birthdays. They are Barbara McAnally, Alice Broome, Rose Utendahl, Jimmy Knowles, Jane Mason, and Charlotte Word.

Jackie Hickman said 18 members have signed up for host/hostess duty for the Fall Seminar.

Pat Farmer said Kerri Smith suggested that members bake muffins for the morning before the Seminar begins. A discussion followed. After discussion, it was decided that members bake two dozen muffins each. It

was decided that all would make the same kind of muffins, using the same recipe. A sign-up sheet was available.

Treasia said decorations would consist of table decorations being a container of flowers, wrapped in burlap, sitting on either a round piece of wood or on a piece of burlap. A similar decoration will be on the registration table. Stage decorations will be corn stalks, ferns, and a display of vegetables.

Harriett Jackson said information regarding the Seminar will be in the Southern Living magazine calendar of events. It will be announced on the local radio station as well as television station local events and in the local newspaper community calendar. Information can also be found on our Master Gardener web site.

Pat said required liability insurance has been obtained for \$253.00.

Door prizes were given to Bob Bates, Pat Farmer, Steve McAnally and Jimmy Fretwell.

Pat Farmer said we welcome door prizes for the Seminar. They should be in the \$10-\$20 range and can be left at the Extension Office. Tell Elaine that you are leaving them. They are due before August 24. Goodie Bags for the Seminar will contain a folder of information. Door prize winner tickets will be attached to random folders. Door prizes will be placed down the hall from the registration desk and can be claimed whenever the recipient desires. A volunteer will be available to assist them.

Jackie Hickman introduced our speaker for the day. He was Don Driggers from Vincent, Alabama, and his topic was Hydroponics. He has a shop located in Vincent across from the high school. He provided information about growing plants hydroponically, which is defined as being without soil. He had some examples of his plants for viewing. He has two buildings approximately 18' by 24' (for winter growth) in which he keeps the plants and uses containers containing an 80/20 mixture of vermiculite and perlite and gives them regular fertilizer. Although plants can be grown in a process using water and food only, he prefers the vermiculite/perlite

method. He said that this is the water/food system is the same system as when one takes a cutting and places it in water to root, noting that it will root but needs food to grow. He said that the salt from plants must be monitored. This is indicated by a leaf's turning brown around the edges. The Ph level needs to consistently around 7. He mentioned that the Jay Sparks farm in Gurley, Alabama, has the largest facility of this kind in Alabama. He invited the group to visit his facility and was available to answer questions after his presentation. It was noted that Garrison's Farm Supply in Thorsby has a set-up like this, using a solar panel.

Dianne Clapp said she sent cards to the following members: Peggy Harris, Sarah Saunders, Charlotte Word, Peggy Harris, Joanne Peacock, Treasia Bennett, and Margaret Goolsby.

Pat said that on each table there were copies of the instructions for the Expo plant sale. She urged everyone to get a copy and read it carefully. If anyone has questions, they should call Rick Miller.

Alan Reed said that progress is being made on the Demo Garden project and that it is taking shape. By the Expo there should be visible results. Much hard work has gone into this and there is a great need for support from the members to help with it every day.

Barbara McAnally said a decision has been made for volunteers to purchase and wear blue tee shirts for the Seminar. The cost is \$12.00 and should be ordered and paid for today. Pat urged all volunteers to participate in this.

Lanell Baker said the help line has three vacancies and a need for sign up for August 27, September 3, and September 17.

Harriett Jackson said ice cream for the Expo will be made this week. Peeling and slicing of peaches will take place in the Kitchen this afternoon, and ice cream will be made at the Experiment kitchen on Wednesday.

Margaret Goolsby reported on a tour she recently made of the Master Gardener Demo Garden in Escambia, Florida.

Pat expressed appreciation for Audrey Giles' and Trisha Williams' help in today's meeting.

Trisha Williams said members could count 1 hour for continuing education and 1 hour for meeting. Travel time can be counted because we participated in continuing education.

There were 43 members present, 9 interns, and two guests (Jimmy Fretwell and Leslie Abdo).

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