

CHILTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
MEETING MINUTES
February 13, 2018

President Sondra Henley called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

She welcomed all Master Gardeners; especially those that have not been able to attend lately, and guest that were present.

She asked us to check the activities board and sign up for the tours and other activities we are interested in. Also, if there is something you would like to do or somewhere you would like to tour please let Susan Cleckler know.

The Chilton County Extension Office is offering education classes on March 2, 2018. The morning will offer Quick Book from 9:00 – 11:00 AM and Word from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Excel and Power Point will be offered in the afternoon. Kevin, EO employee, will be teaching these courses. Publisher and Photos will be offered at a later date. If you are interested and have not signed up already today is your last day. These courses are opened to Shelby Co. and Autauga Co. Master Gardeners and there is a limit of only 20 people for these classes.

Joyce Lawson, our hospitality chairman, stated she has a sheet on the table for you to sign to bring food for our March meeting. If no one volunteers any food then we will have water and coffee.

Lanell Baker, secretary, asked that the minutes from our December meeting be approved as posted on our web site.

Elizabeth York made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Diane Clapp. Motion was approved.

She also asked for a motion to approve the minutes from our January meeting as posted on our web site. Audrey Giles made the motion, seconded by Larry Jones. Motion was approved.

She also read a very nice Thank You note from Larry Jones for the prayers and concern during his heart surgery.

Pat Farmer, treasurer, stated our ending balance on January 31, 2018 was \$3,698.10. She read the full report and gave details of business transactions during the month of January. She asked for a motion to accept the treasurer report as read. Bob Bates made the motion, seconded by Larry Jones. The motion was approved to accept the report as read.

Susan Cleckler, Vice-President, introduced our speaker and program for the day. David Doggett, a Jefferson County Master Gardener, is also a guide at Aldridge Gardens in Birmingham. During some of his tours at Aldridge Gardens he became interested in a certain azalea they have growing. He was told that it was an Aromi Azalea. After much research and study, he discovered that the plant was named for the man that developed them, Dr. Eugene J. Aromi (1925-2004). Dr. Aromi was a professor at University of South Alabama by day but in the afternoons and other times he was experimenting with azaleas. Some of the ancestors of these plants date back to 1825 when the first hybrid was known as the Japanese azalea. In 1920 the Rothschild's came up with the Exbury azalea. A hybrid group designed for their flowers. In order to grow another plant you had to take a cutting or a root cutting. Dr. Aromi used our native azaleas in the Mobile and Florida area and the Exbury azalea for his experiments. Over a period of 30 years he did 1045 crosses. He had a very meticulous bookkeeping system so he could keep up with his work. These azaleas were developed for their fragrance and flowers so the plant themselves are not very pretty and need to be planted with other groupings to cover the tall leafless stems. Since he had no way of marketing these plants, Maarten Van der Giessen, at Semmes Nursery, Semmes, AL. is trying to keep some propagated. The Mobile Botanical Garden has an area designated for these plants called Aromic World. Birmingham Botanical Gardens and Aldridge Gardens has some growing and will probably be in bloom in April. After so many hours and time donated to the development of these plants it would be tragic if they were lost. This was a very interesting and detailed program with many pictures of the beautiful flowers that he created. There was a brief Q&A time after his presentation.

Skip Coulter, awards chairman, presented several awards for jobs well done in 2017 and for nominations for Master Gardener of the Year and Project of the Year.

Project of the year Award nominations were:

Habitat for Humanity Project and Phase 4 at the Chilton County Extension Office landscape and irrigation to flowerbeds.
The winner of the Project of the year: PHASE 4 AT THE CHILTON COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE LANDSCAPE AND IRRIGATION TO FLOWERBEDS.

Master Gardener of the Year nominees was:

Alice Broome and Lee Walters

The Master Gardener of the Year winner is ALICE BROOME.

Top Ten Volunteers: HOURS

First place was tied with Harriett Jackson, 305 hours and Alice Broome, 304.25 hours

Second place was Alan Reed, 237.5 hours

Third place was Audrey Giles, 227.75 hours

Others in the top 10 hours are:

Sondra Henley

Pat Farmer

Trisha Williams

Joyce Lawson

Lee Walters

Top Intern hours:

Susan Cleckler, 258.75 hours

Star Awards:

BRONZE:

Donna Babin, Susan Cleckler, Faye Collins, Skip Coulter, Lattie Hardy, Spencer Hardy, Joyce Lawson, Sherry Ray, Elaine Webb and Elizabeth York

GOLD:

Anita McGhee and Ann Moore

EMERALD:

Sondra Henley

Badge Awards:

GOLD:

Imogene Bresse, Jimmy Knowles, Mildred Knowles

Lanell Baker, helpline coordinator, thanked those that worked the helpline in 2017 to make it a successful year.

There were two pins given out for working more than two days at the helpline:

Debbie Housner and Larry Jones received a Bronze pin for working three days at the helpline.

Lanell Baker received a Gold pin for being the coordinator.

Debbie Housner was recognized for winning the Chili cook off at Senior Connection.

Susan Cleckler reminded us to check the events board. She also reminded us that our tour of Wright's Nursery in Plantersville is March 8th and we'll eat lunch in Maplesville afterwards.

Pat Farmer introduced a payment plan so it won't be hard on anyone to pay their 2019 AMGA conference fee. Cost is approximately \$150.00. Beginning in March you can make a \$15.00 payment until cost is covered.

We have 21 workers at this time but could use more help. Let Pat or Sondra know if you can help.

Harriett Jackson was at the Advisory Council meeting but sent word about the 2018 AMGA silent auction. Instead of a basket she wants to do a wheelbarrow full of items. We need donations or if you don't have anything to donate you can give money and she'll shop for items.

Faye Collins stated that she has mailed cards to: Larry Jones, Skip Coulter, Jane Mason, Roy Sallis and Alan Reed. Please contact her if you know of a card that needs to be sent.

Lee Walters, fund raiser chairman, announced the tentative date of April 21st for our Yard/Plant sale at the EO. Advertise as much as you can. If you need a place to store your items for the sale let Sondra Henley or Judy Cobb know. They have rented some storage space in Thorsby. Rick Miller is in charge of getting the plants. Let Rick know what plants you want this spring and purchase them thru our sale.

Jane Mason needs help with the Water Festival. It is March 16th at the Jefferson State Community College. This is where 4th graders come from all over the county to learn how to use water

wisely.

There will probably be around 600 students and all you have to do is usher them to the proper locations. CCMGA is donating \$200.00 to the festival and a local company will provide breakfast.

Arbor Day is February 20, 2018 in the Clanton City Hall Parking Lot located next to the EO. If you can help give out plants it would be appreciated.

The next CCMGA Board meeting is March 1, 2018 @10:00 AM at the Little House.

Several door prizes were given out during the meeting. The names drawn for door prizes were: Bob Bates, Alice Broome, Faye Collins, Skip Coulter, Larry Jones, Jimmy Knowles, Steve McAnally, Lee Walters and Wally Walters.

There being no further business or comments the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM

Members present: 30

Visitors: Teresa Freeman, Nelson Wynn and David Doggett

Total present: 33