

CHILTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2018

Susan Cleckler, VP, opened the meeting at 9:30 AM. She explained that Sondra Henley, President, was not present because her daughter was having surgery. There were no visitors. She welcomed our guest speaker, Mike Rushing to our meeting.

Lanell Baker, secretary, asked for a motion to accept the minutes as posted on our web site. Harriett Jackson made the motion, seconded by Pat Farmer. Motion was approved.

Pat Farmer, treasurer, read the treasurers report with an ending balance 2/28/2018 of \$3,385.57. She asked for a motion to accept the report as read. Harriett Jackson made the motion, seconded by Debbie Housner. Motion was approved.

Pat Farmer also explained the payment plan for the 2019 AMGA conference meeting. The cost will be approximately \$150.00. You can start today paying \$15.00 a month until the amount is payed. She has set up a chart of account just for this fund. If there is an over payment you will be reimbursed.

Pat also stated that she has the sign-up sheet for the help line. Since we do not have a class this year we need every one that can work to sign up.

All March birthdays were recognized.

Susan Cleckler, VP, introduced our speaker for the day, Mike Rushing. Mike has been a Jefferson County Master Gardener since 2007. He is a retired large animal veterinarian. He volunteers at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens and refers to himself as one of the "Dock Old Guys". This is a group of older, mostly doctors, that volunteer at BBG. Their main task is to prune, plant and maintain trees and shrubs, Hulsey Woods and the Japanese Gardens. He stated that he is the only one that can climb a ladder. He quoted Thomas Jefferson, "Though I am but an old man, I am a young gardener." He had a very interesting program and shared 7 steps on how to garden as an older gardener. Not only do we get older so do our gardens. We need to change with our gardens and our gardening habits. One step was to re-evaluate your garden with maintenance as a priority. Most of us can no longer stoop, kneel or bend as we like. Older gardeners need to accept their limitations and adjust their gardens accordingly. Forgive yourself for getting older and make your garden space one you can still enjoy even though it may not be as big as it once was. He suggested getting a soil test for your garden to make sure the plants you choose are healthy. This was a very interesting, informative, humorous and enjoyable presentation.

Elizabeth York gave a report on the tour of Wright's Nursery in Plantersville, AL. She stated they do not sell to Big Box Stores they only sell to Mom & Pop stores. They do not sell to the public as all their sales are wholesale. They have approximately 20 employees. They start all their plants from seed and they have their own label, Alabama Grown. They have a special incubation room to grow these seed in. They also produce 22,000 hanging baskets a season. Very interesting tour.

Susan Cleckler stated the work with Hollywood Gardens has been tabled until Rick Miller gets back.

Jane Mason reported that 31 has signed up to help with the Water Festival on 3/16/18. Glenn Nelson should get in touch with each of you. There will be a work day to show what to do on Thursday, 3/15/18, between the hours of 12:00 – 4:00 PM. Still need one more to set up for water bracelets.

Harriett Jackson announced the theme for our 2019 AMGA conference is “Party in the Garden”. She is working on an auction basket for the 2018 AMGA conference from our Association. She needs items like garden tools, gloves etc. by our next meeting or donations and she will purchase the items.

A donation box is in the back for Jim Pitts and Elaine Densmore. Jim is retiring and we would like to present him with a nice gift certificate for all the help he has been to the CCMGA. Elaine is a big help to us and has asked for help with a monetary donation to help with the EO Support meeting she is hosting May 16-18. She has also asked us to help set up, decorate, serve food and give tours of our DEMO garden.

Judy Cobb stated there is still storage available if anyone needs it to store items for the yard sale.

Autauga County Master Gardeners has invited us to tour their DEMO garden. Also, one of their members has invited us to tour his private garden on April 11, 2018. We will need a head count by March 26, so they will know how many to prepare for. We will meet at Clanton City Hall parking lot and go in a group or you may go on your own. Directions are on the board in back.

Faye Collins stated she sent one sympathy card to Kimberly Lyn for the death of her father.

Lee Walters asked for racks and hangers for the yard sale. Probably April 21st is the date for our sale.

The door prizes were given to Robin Cagle and Jackie Hickman.

The EO Garden report: Back bed has been edged with stone, gutters are in place and we are getting the plant list ready.

We are waiting for the weather to break so we can get started working in the DEMO garden.

Alice Broome stated the shirt order forms are in back and you can pick the design and pay with cash or check. Coral is the color that has been chosen for those going to the AMGA in May.

Please sign up for hospitality for April, sheet is on table in back.

Mildred Knowles brought lemons from her trees and asked everyone that would like some to take them. No chemicals has been used on them.

Susan reminded us of all upcoming tours and to please sign up so she would have a head count.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM

Members present 26, guest speaker 1

Total present 27

