

Chilton County Master Gardeners Association  
Meeting Minutes  
January 8, 2019

President, Susan Cleckler, called our meeting to order at 9:30 AM. She welcomed everyone to our first meeting of the year. She especially welcomed Tracy Britnell our program speaker for today. She also opened our meeting with a discussion of the CCMGA conference we are hosting in May along with the upcoming events and fund raisers we will be hearing more about during the year.

Lanell Baker, secretary, asked for a motion to accept the minutes as posted to our website. Skip Coulter made the motion, seconded by Trisha Williams. The motion was approved.

Audrey Giles, treasurer, stated the treasurer report will be given at our next meeting when she has closed out our books for the year.

Alice Broome announced that the registration form for the AMGA conference is now online. You can go to [Alabamamg.org](http://Alabamamg.org) and follow the instructions to register online or there will be a hard copy in The Pathway if you want to mail or hand it in. Early registration (Jan. 7 – Feb. 15) enters you into a drawing for FREE registration.

Some have already registered for the conference. Pat Farmer has a spread sheet showing those that have paid.

Harriett Jackson, VP, introduced Tracy Britnell to our meeting. Tracy has worked at Petals from the Past for 10 years. Her studies are in interior design and landscape design. What is permaculture? It's permanent agriculture using solar energy, water conservation and landscape design in your garden or orchards. This method of gardening was introduced in 1970. She has a permaculture farm that the MG's toured last year. She stated that it took approximately a year to get her soil ready to start her plants. The method of permaculture is that you plant different types of plants around the produce and or fruit trees you are planting. Plants that confuse pest, draws birds and good insects to the area to create a garden without having to use any chemicals. Guild is the process of intermingling fruit trees with grape and berry vines and plants like comfrey to help fertilize the area. Cut the leaves of comfrey and put it down as a mulch. She suggested and named numerous plants that could be used in permaculture. She also suggested that we research plants to be used in our personal gardens. She wants her farm to be used as an educational farm. She is building a blog for her farm so everyone can use her information. This was a very detailed and interesting program.

There were two door prizes given out: Audrey Giles and Nelson Wynn

Susan Cleckler, President, asked if there were any questions or discussion about the budget. There being no discussion Audrey Giles made a motion to accept the 2019 budget and seconded by Sondra Henley. The budget was approved.

Trisha Williams, Board of Director, advised that the Board has suggested three changes to our "Standing Policies".

1. To be reimbursed for out of pocket expenses they have to be pre-approved by the BOD if funds are available. In order to be reimbursed the Check Request Form (CCMGA Website) with the original receipt showing CCMGA purchases ONLY must be given to the President for signature. Reimbursements will be

issued at CCMGA monthly meetings. Request for reimbursement must be made within 60 days or expenditure will be considered a donation.

2. Christmas Party: Will be changed to read: The Christmas Party will be at site of Directors choice.

3. Hospitality: Provide your choice of coffee. There will be no juice offered.

Sondra Henley made a motion to accept these changes seconded by Jerry Farmer. The motion was approved.

In place of the EXPO this year there is a field day planned in August. CREC personnel and some of the ACES personnel will be involved. There are 5 or 6 small events planned over the year. Others counties will be invited to these events to display products from their counties. There will be tours of the DEMO garden during the conference.

Edgar Vinson is doing more types of fig trees and needs help with this. Harriett Jackson will let us know when it's time to take cuttings and root them for the field day planned in August.

Community Projects: Look around the neighborhood for projects to do. Fill out the project form and turn it in if needed.

Fund Raisers: Some suggestions are Cake sale, Boston butt sale and the Christmas Home Tour.

Hospitality: Larry Jones and Debbie Housner have taken this committee. Larry stated there would not be a sign-up sheet. If at least 3 people would come to him or Debbie and let them know they will prepare food for the next month will be good. The coffee and water will be provided.

Linda Hays is in charge of sending cards this year. If you know of anyone needing a card please let her know.

There's a sign-up sheet for the Bee Keepers Symposium in the back. This will be at the Clanton Conference and Performing Arts Center on Saturday February 2, 2019, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM. Registration fee is \$35.00 prior to January 19 – after that date the fee is \$50.00 at the door.

The Chilton Area Peach Production meeting is January 29, 2019, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. There is a sign-up sheet in back.

Trisha Williams announced there will be a Master Gardeners Class starting January 23, 2019. There is a sign-up sheet in back to help with lunch and snacks. There will not be mentors this year but if you can encourage these class members it will be appreciated.

The membership sheet is on table in back. Go by and make sure your information on the sheet is up to date and correct. If not please mark through it and make corrections and she'll re-do the sheet.

Trisha also stated she still needs more door prizes and silent auction items for the conference. The silent auction committee needs to come to the next advisory council meeting on February 5 at Petals from the Past. We are working on getting local storage for these items.

Sondra Henley gave a 2019 AMGA conference update. There is a meeting for all conference workers at Petals from the Past on January 31, 2019 at 10 AM – 12:00 PM. Pictures of all the conference workers will be made in March at the Conference Center. There are about 50 or 60 conference workers.

Pat Farmer thanked Alice Broome for all the work she has done on our conference forms. The registration form is now online and you can start registering.

Sondra also announced some other dates to be aware of:

February 14, 2019, DEMO garden meeting at 10:00 AM

May 15, 2019, tentative date to put dirt in Jemison Planters. Time to be announced.

May 23, 2019, follow up and evaluate the AMGA conference. 10:00 AM and place to meet will be announced later.

The Water Fest is March 15, 2019. There will be more information on this in February.

Give your Awards nominations and Service Project reports to Skip Coulter. Skip stated that you need to put as much information about the person you are nominating as possible so judges will get a better idea of the person. The awards will be given out at our next meeting on February 12, 2019.

We were reminded that we do not have to be on the DEMO garden committee to work at the DEMO garden. Everyone is needed.

There being no further business or comments the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM.

Members present: 26

Visitors present: Nelson Wynn and Tracy Britnell

Total present: 28