

CHILTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2019

Susan Cleckler, president, called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM.

Larry Jones asked all members to bow their head for a moment of silence then led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

Susan welcomed our guests, Chris Meyer and CeCe Bresse to our meeting as well as all interns and members.

Lanell Baker, secretary, asked for a motion to accept the minutes as posted to our website. Elizabeth York made a motion to accept seconded by Alice Broome. Motion approved.

Audrey Giles, treasurer, read the financial report ending February, 2019 with an ending balance of \$6065.51. She also stated that \$1400.00 of this balance will be paid out to Mr. Majors after he completes the problems with the shade cloth in the DEMO garden he installed. A motion to accept the report as read by Sondra Henley and seconded by Skip Coulter. Motion approved.

March Birthdays: Trisha Williams, Judy Cobb, Margaret Ennis and Lola Patterson were recognized.

Harriett Jackson introduced our speaker and program for the day, Dr. Edgar Vinson. Edgar has worked with peach crops mostly during his career but has been working with figs for 3 years now. He has plans to start a new fig plot at CREC as soon as he decides where to plant them. A company, Agri-Starts, has donated 100 plants, 15 different varieties, for this new plot.

When you buy or plant a new fig tree make sure it is adapted for this area. The varieties he suggested for this area are Brown Turkey, Chicago Hardy and Celeste. He stated that taking cuttings for propagation is better taken from older wood growth.

He is going to experiment with taking both older wood cuttings and new growth after fruiting to see which propagates the best.

Use a good loose aeriated soil with a root hormone to help with the development of roots. To make sure they have all chilled hours needed to root you can place them in the refrigerator before rooting. When you fertilizer do it at beginning of bud break using an all-purpose 10-10-10- or 8-8-8 formula. He also stated that figs were becoming a production crop like peaches, blueberries, strawberries and other fruits because of their good nutritional value. This will be an ongoing project at CREC for years to come. Good program, very informative.

Harriett Jackson announced a tour of the Governor's Mansion on June 6, 2019 at 11:00 AM. The final sign-up sheet will be at our May meeting. Everyone going will meet at the EO office at 9:15 AM and leave at 9:30 AM. There is a gift shop if you want to shop. We will eat lunch after the tour and if you know of a good restaurant in the Montgomery area let us know.

Susan led a discussion on some fund raisers. The first was a spring 2020 plant sale. She stated that she wants this to become a signature sale that will be ongoing for years to come. She asked each member to dig up and plant at least 10 plants from their gardens this spring or fall and have them ready to sell around middle to end of April 2020. If you have extra pots to share bring them to the garage storage shed at the back of the carport here at the Little House and people can pick them up if they need them.

We are looking for plants you cannot buy at nurseries or Wal-Mart. If you can take a picture of the plant while it is blooming to show what it looks like would be great. We will need a very explicit description of the plant for the tag. She asked for a motion to have the plant sale. Rick Miller made the motion and seconded by Harriett Jackson. Motion carried.

Harriett Jackson is going to ask Edgar about fig cuttings to root for sale.

The next fund raiser we discussed was the Christmas Home Tour. We didn't have it last year because everyone was working on the conference and we took the year off. However, we do not want some other club or association to take it away from us. It takes a lot of work from everyone, especially Alice.

We need homes to tour so if anyone knows of homes we could tour please let Alice know. This was a good money maker for us. Do we want to continue it? Sondra Henley made a motion to have the Christmas Home Tour seconded by Elizabeth York. Motion carried.

Alice Broome announced we have 194 registered at this time. If you haven't registered yet please do so because the deadline to register is April 12, 2019. You do not have to be a Master Gardener to register. If you have a friend that would like to come all they have to do is pay their registration fee. We are giving a grocery tote bag full of goodies as well as a free t-shirt. There are about 30 or so vendors signed up now.

Sondra Henley gave an update on the conference. She stated she appreciates each one that has worked so tirelessly getting this conference ready. The whimsy packages are ready to go and if you have signed up to do the whimsy class just get a package and don't complain if you don't get what you want. This is a learning time and you can go home and make whatever kind you want. We still need more dishes for the whimsy packages.

The DEMO garden will be visited while people are waiting on their tours of the orchards. The DEMO garden committee has been working hard to get the garden weeded and updated for the conference.

Mr. Majors will be at the DEMO garden today at 2:00 PM to hear our concerns over the shade cloth he installed. Hopefully he can get those problems corrected today so we get pay him the balance due. She also stated that some sections of the garden need someone to take them and work them. Anyone that wants to be a part of the DEMO garden committee is welcomed.

Trisha Williams asked if you have any door prize items for the conference please bring them to the April meeting. The silence auction items are OK.

Treasia Bennett can still use small baskets, flower vases and galvanized containers for decorations. She read over a long list of greenery she needs for the arrangements. Have the greenery at the EO by 10:00 AM on May 7th so they can put the arrangements together. Have the greenery cut and ready to use. She needs you to bring all the containers to our April meeting.

Call, email or text Treasia for the list of greenery needed.

Jane Mason needs help on Thursday, March 14, 2019, 2:00 PM to put together totes for the Water Festival. We will have to be out of Jeff State College by 4:00 PM which should not be a problem.

Friday, day of the festival, you need to park and meet at the front door at 7:30 AM. Sondra's family is providing breakfast for all volunteers. There are two forms you have to fill out in order to work the festival so see Jane and sign up if you can help. The event is over at 12:00 PM and you can eat pizza for lunch and clean up and be gone by 12:30 PM.

Helpline starts the last week of March and Ask a Master Gardener at Garrison Farms will start April 6 thru May 6.

Our Master Gardener comedian and punster, Mr. Skip Coulter, made our Awards Ceremony and Presentation very entertaining and fun. He told a few jokes on and about many of our members that was very enlightening. After his opening statement he recognized the top hours earned during 2018.

Top Hours: First place was Harriett Jackson with 580 hours
Second place was Alice Broome with 440 hours
Third place was Audrey Giles with 407.50 hours

Helpline pins given to those that worked the helpline 3 days or more in 2018.

Pat Farmer, chairman, worked 5 days and member Larry Jones worked 7 days. They received a gold pin for working more than 5 days.

Lanell Baker worked 4 days and John Wallace worked 3 days. They received a silver pin for working 3 days or more.

Susan Cleckler earned CEU top hours for 2018 with 43.50 hours.

The service project of the year: two nominations.

First nomination was the Gardens of Clanton project. A garden was completed at the assisted living home by Audrey Giles and Trisha Williams. The garden included vegetables and flowers in pot on the patio for the patients to enjoy.

Second nomination was the Chilton/Clanton Library Adult Summer Program. This project was a four week program with different MG's presenting programs on different aspects of gardening each Wednesday of June, 2018.

The winner was the Gardens of Clanton project.

The 2018 Master Gardener of the year had two nominees. Alan Reed has been a MG for 19 years and accumulated over 1900 hours during these years. He was instrumental in getting our DEMO garden laid out and did most of the irrigation and electrical work.

Alan is always ready to help and do what he can for our association.

Lee and Wally Walters, a husband and wife team, was also nominated for this honor. Their tireless work on our fund raisers and in the Demo garden and any other project we have going is worthy of this honor.

Lee has served and is now a board member of our Association.

Wally was chairman and put together the EXPO for two years.

They are always ready to help and their ideas for projects are priceless.

The winner and Master Gardener of the Year 2018 is Alan Reed.

The Judges that chose the Project of the Year and Master Gardener of the Year are Director of Library, Director of Volunteers and Direction of Education at the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham.

Trisha Williams awarded the volunteer hours.

Bronze badge: Debbie Housner, Larry Jones, Judy Cobb and Robin Cagle.

Silver Badge: Elizabeth York

Gold Star: Susan Cleckler and Joyce Lawson

Gold Badge: Diane Clapp, Lee Walters, Wally Walters, Rick Miller and Jackie Hickman

Ruby Star: Pat Farmer with 4000 hours

Emerald Star: Trisha Williams with 6000 hours

Our next meeting will be at the Jemison Municipal building, April 9, 2019.

There being no further business or comments the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM

Members present: 28

Interns present: 7

Visitors present: 3

Total present: 38