

CHILTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
Meeting minutes
April 9, 2019

Susan Cleckler, president, opened our meeting at 9:30 AM. In the absence of Larry Jones she led us in a moment of silence and the pledge of allegiance to our flag. Also, she welcomed all visitors, interns, and members and thanked them for being present.

Lanell Baker, secretary, asked for a motion to accept the minutes as posted on our website. Harriett Jackson made the motion, seconded by Sondra Henley. Motion was approved.

Audrey Giles, treasurer, read the financial report and reported a balance of \$5,867.85 at the end of March, 2019. She stated that \$1,400.00 will come from this balance as soon as we get the shade cover at the DEMO garden corrected. Joyce Lawson made a motion to accept the report as read, seconded by Faye Collins. Motion was approved.

Birthdays for the month are: Lamar Giles, Wally Walters and Larry Jones

Harriett Jackson, vice-president, introduced our speaker, Debbie Boutelier. Debbie is an Herbalist, Alabama Advanced Master Gardener, past President of Herb Society of America and is now the President of the Autauga County Master Gardeners. She started by asking "What is an Herb"? She said the best answer she has is: Any plant you can cook with, garnish a salad with, use as a medicine, use to make beauty products, make cleaning products etc. Everything she makes is organic. She was told when she began she would not be able to grow organic herbs here because of our clay soil so she grows everything in raised beds. She has had many failures and successes but she highly recommends growing organic foods. There are two things you need to grow herbs. First allow for lots of sunshine and second good drainage. Over 80% of the world's population still uses herbal medicine and 74% of today's herbs have been used for over 1000 years. She brought some of her herbs to display and show how the herbs are used. She had a very extensive power point presentation showing many herbs and how and what they were used for. Herb books for the South she recommended are anything written by Dr. James Duke and Rosemary Gladster. She stated she would come back at another date and discuss anything we wanted to talk about. Very interesting and detailed program.

Susan Cleckler, president, recognized Alan Reed as the CCMG of the year for 2018. He was not present at our recognition service last month to receive his award.

Susan reported the results of all the volunteer hours that were recorded last year. We had 5530 hours recorded for our association at the cost of \$24.69 per hour at a value of \$136,535.70 for the Chilton County Extensive Service. This is why we really need to keep up with our hours and report them. This is one way the Extensive Service justifies our program, it also helps us get good speakers for our MG programs and classes. If you need help reporting your hours call Trisha Williams.

Harriett Jackson reported we have two tours coming up: May 21st a tour of Hosta on the Hill and in June the tour of the Governor's Mansion.

Susan reported that, Christina, a counselor for the 3rd grade classes at Thorsby has contacted her and wants the Master Gardener's to show the children how to plant beds at the school. They have a grant for the project and this will be an ongoing project. After the beds are planted they will take care of them during the summer. This will have to be done before May 17, 2019 before school is out. There will be no cost to us and the beds are already ready.

After a discussion about the project, Jackie Hickman made a motion to go with the project, seconded by Harriett Jackson. Motion carried.

Ask a MG at Garrison's Farm need two more workers. If you can help contact Pat Farmer.

Sondra Henley reported we have 257 registered for our AMGA conference as of today. We have extended the registration thru April 30th. However, anyone that registers after April 12th will not get a free shirt or goodies bag. She stated how much she appreciates all the work that everyone has put into making this conference a success.

There are copies of the greenery needed for decorations on the table in back and instructions as to where and when to bring it.

Trisha Williams stated the silent auction has 100 items and the door prizes are good.

Sondra Henley will talk to Steve Langston and get a date as to when to plant the Jemison baskets. Tentative dates are May 20 or 22.

Our May meeting will be at the home of Susan Cleckler. This will be our annual plant swap and lunch.

There is a sign-up sheet going around for you to tell what you are bringing to eat. Also, bring a nice plant, either from your yard or bought, to swap and a lawn chair. Make sure your plant is properly labeled. If you have plants you would like to share bring those also. This meeting will start at 10:00 AM with a short business meeting then we will fellowship, eat and swap plants. Susan will send out directions to her home later.

There being no further business or commits the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Members present:	28
Interns present:	7
Visitor:	1
Total present:	36