

CHILTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION  
Meeting Minutes  
August 13, 2019

President, Susan Cleckler, opened our meeting at 9:30 AM. She welcomed all members and visitors.

Larry Jones asked for a moment of silence and reflect on what we are thankful for. He stated he was thankful to be a part of the Master Gardeners where he has learned so much. Also, Larry led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

Minutes from our July meeting were accepted as posted on our website.

Audrey Giles, Treasurer, reported the beginning balance on July 1, 2019 of \$6390.70 and after payments and deposits there is an ending balance on July 31, 2019 of \$4943.88. We still have the outstanding balance of \$1400.00 on our shade cloth that will be paid when the job is completed. Report accepted as read.

August Birthdays are Joyce Lawson, Bob Bates, Linda Hays and Skip Coulter.

Susan introduced our speaker for the day: Extension Agent Josh Elmore. Josh gave an informative program on Fire Ants. He stated these are amazing creatures, and explained how they raised and lowered their beds to save their babies. They came to the United States from South America on boats through the Port of Mobile and have spread across the Southeastern United States and some are showing up in the Western States. There are Red and Black Fire Ants but you cannot tell the difference by just looking at them. It depends on where they came from as to which color they are. They have a very keen sense of smell and use their antennas for smelling. They have very poor eyesight so they depend on smell to find food. They are omnivorous and can live on anything. The only good thing they do is eat the Pine Beetles that damage our Pine trees. A mature colony can have up to 400,000 sterile female workers. A Queen can lay up to 1000 eggs day and live up to 17 years. In order to get rid of a colony you have to kill the queen. The best method of control is Integrated Pest Management. An application of Extinguish Professional Fire Ant Bait in late or early fall works to help control them. Just read the label to use what you need for your area. The natural enemy of the Fire Ant is the Phorid Fly and it is being introduced in this area to help control them. It stings the Ant on the head and makes the Ants head fall off. You can only control them because the Queen flies off and mates in the air and then comes back to earth and sets up another colony. This was a very interesting program.

Susan passed around the damaged leaves of the Knockout Roses from the Extension Office to see if anyone knew what it was or if they were having the same problem. She stated she was going to Petal from the Past and ask Jason if he knew what it was.

Mayor Reed thanked the Master Gardeners for the beautiful flowers in Jemison. Thank you notes have been received from residents in the area.

Trisha Williams was not present, so Pat Farmer presented three of our interns with their Master Gardener Certifications. Karen Mims, John Higginbotham and Sarah Justiss have completed all studies, hours and helpline duties to earn their Certification. Congratulation and welcome to the CCMGA.

Wally Walters gave out the schedules for each worker for the CREC Showcase in Agriculture this Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup>. She asked if there were any questions, there were none.

We will set up for the CREC Showcase in Agriculture this Friday at 3:00 PM. We'll set up the tables, banners and price the plants. Please bring your plants and have them named and labeled.

Susan announced there will be an AMGA Fall Seminar/Blount County Fall Conference on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. All information for this event is on the table in back.

Sondra Henley, DEMO Garden chairman, reported the garden looks good and it is a joy working together. She stated that it is much easier to maintain the garden.

Lanell Baker, EO DEMO Garden chairman, thanked each one that came out and helped pull weeds, trim roses, tied Clematis on arbor etc.

Alan Reed is going to work on the watering hose at the EO when it gets cooler.

Sondra Henley has accepted the position as Chairman of the Advisory Council. This is a committee that has a representative from each county. Kerry Smith with ACES gets to hear information or questions from this committee that all counties have. There were 26 counties represented and 90 members present. Anyone is invited to attend. These hours are charged to AMGA.

Wally reminded those working the fruit sampling tent to please bring a cutting board and knife.

No other questions or comments the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Members Present:	24
Interns Present:	10
Guest Present:	3
Total Present:	37