

Chilton County Master Gardeners Association
Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2019

Susan Cleckler, President, opened our meeting at 9:30 AM.

Larry Jones led us in a moment of silence then we recited the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

Susan welcomed everyone, members and guests, to our meeting.

There were no corrections or additions to our minutes. They were approved as posted on our website.

Audrey Giles, Treasurer, read our financial report. Beginning balance was \$15,888.95. After transactions during the month were added and taken off the ending balance on October 31, 2019 is \$15,878.21. There being no questions the report was approved as read.

Our November birthdays: Rick Miller, Faye Collins, Sondra Henley and Robin Cagle.

President, Susan Cleckler, introduced our speaker and program for the day, Dr. Charles Mitchell "The Camellia, Celebrating the State Flower of Alabama". Dr. Mitchell retired in 2016 from the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Science at Auburn. He also served 32 years as a Soil Specialist working with County Agents. He grew up in Marengo County, AL on a cattle and cotton farm. Today he is very active in the Auburn-Opelika Men's Camellia Club. He introduced his wife, Peggy, who is a Lee County Master Gardener. This is the 60th anniversary for the Camellia as our State Flower. He reported that the Camellias pretty much takes care of themselves. They were brought into Alabama in the early 1800's about the same time Alabama became a state. There are approximately 20,000 varieties of the Camellia. The Camellia japonica is the most widely grown as an ornamental plant and makes a great hedge. The Camellia sinensis is an important species because it is known as the common tea plant. Dried leaves makes black tea and fresh leaves makes green tea. The Camellia sasanqua is another widely grown species. The Camellia olifera variety is grown for the seed oil. This oil is used in several cosmetic products. He discussed the many ways you can propagate this plant such as grafting, air layering, root cuttings and from sowing the seeds. The months of November and March are the best months to plant Camellias and plant them in semi- sun/shade. There is no fragrance in the blooms but there are many different type of blooms. They are single, double, solid and variegated blooms as well as all different sizes. Plant them high on the soil and make sure you keep them watered good for at least the first two years because the root system is very shallow. He had many varieties on hand to show making this a very interesting and informative program.

Alice Broome, Nominating Committee Chairperson, nominated the following people to fill our offices for the 2020 year from the committee. President – Susan Cleckler; Vice-President – Charla Doucet; Secretary – Elizabeth York and Treasurer - Audrey Giles. She asked for other nominations from the floor. There were none. Pat Farmer made a motion to accept the nominations from the committee seconded by Skip Coulter. The motion was approved.

Alice, also chairperson of our Christmas Home Tour, has tickets for us to sell and posters for members to pick up and place in businesses. Members get two tickets for \$5.00 each. Monies for all tickets and tickets not sold has to be turned in by December 4.

Skip Coulter reminded us to turn in our nominees for Master Gardener of the Year and Project of the Year. These are to be turned in by January 1, 2020. He stated that the judges do not know our Master Gardeners so write a very detailed report about the person or project so they will have lots of information to judge them on. There is a list of information and form on our CCMGA web site.

Harriett Jackson, Advisory Council Representative, reported that Kerry Smith wants to see more return on investment results from our MG activities, like what did we teach, who did we help etc. She invited anyone to come to the meetings and stay informed of all of Alabama Master Gardeners work. The meeting dates for 2020 are:

February 4, 2020. A Round table discussion, Dues Tracker – Mary Howe and a Crock pot lunch. You have to sign up for the lunch.

May 5, 2020. Michael Thomason – AMGA

August 4, 2020. TBA

November 4, 2020. TBA

They meet at Petals from the Past, on Tuesdays at 10:00 AM.

Sondra Henley is chairperson for the Advisory Council.

She also reminded us of the 2020 Conference in Mobile, AL to be held at the Renaissance on the River Walk and the 2021 Conference in Calhoun County.

Susan Cleckler, President, read a very nice note from Wayne Freeman stating how much she misses her MG friends. Her balance has been very bad and she has been through therapy most of the year. It's some better but she misses not being able to work in her yard and garden.

Susan also stated that Jane Mason has had a hip replacement and is doing well.

Sondra Henley, DEMO garden chairperson, reported on both the CREC and EO gardens. The Nut grass at the EO has been treated and paper put down to help deter the Nut grass from coming back. Also, the outside closet has been cleaned out and straightened up, so if you get something out of it please put it back as you found it. All chemicals that were in the MG room is now stored inside this closet. The EO bed is good for the winter. If you are interested in any of the ground cover that was taken up see Gay West at the EO and make a donation.

The CREC garden has been divided up into sections and we need people to step up and take the areas that have not already been adopted. You need to commit for at least a year. She read a thank you note from Jerod Cleckler, the Boy Scout that completed his Eagle Scout Project, for workers taking their time to help and also those that donated materials for the project.

Sondra asked for help setting up and taking down tables for the Crock Pot Lunch on February 4, 2020 at the Advisory Council meeting. If you can help let her know.

Nelson Wynn could not be with us today so he ask Trisha Williams to present Sondra Henley with her Advanced Master Gardeners Certification in Composting. Congratulation Sondra for all the hard work toward this certification.

Trisha also told us that our dues need to be in ASAP as we have to get them to the AMGA. She also reminded us to enter our hours before the end of year. Record your drive time for CEU's and meetings in the new box on the volunteer record site. Continue to add travel time to other activities as usual.

Pat Farmer reminded us that our Christmas Luncheon will be our next meeting, December 10, 2019, at Petals from the Past. We'll have a short business session beginning at 10:30 AM, then we'll eat and play dirty Santa. Bring a gift valued at approximately \$10.00 for Dirty Santa. There is a sign-up sheet going around for you to list food you are bringing. She asked for volunteers to decorate tables, if you can come early that morning and decorate please see Pat.

Susan Cleckler, asked for a volunteer that would start doing our Scrap Booking. Audrey Giles has done this for several years but she is now our treasurer, bookkeeper and keeps our web site up to date. She needs someone to take over doing the Scrap Books.

Cards were sent to Jane Mason and Lindy Helton.

Alabama Fruit and Vegetable growers are meeting November 21st and 22nd and need a couple more volunteers.

There being no further announcements or business the meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM

Members Present:	31
Interns Present:	10
Guests Present:	3
Total Present:	44

Lanell Baker, Secretary