

CHILTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2020

Susan Cleckler, President, called our meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

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

There were no corrections or additions to our minutes so they were accepted as posted on our website.

Audrey Giles, Treasurer, read our financial report for the month of December, 2019. Our ending balance was \$8,824.39 after purchasing an \$8000.00 certificate. There were no questions or corrections. The financial report was accepted as read.

Birthdays for January: Linda Hand, Lee Walters and Imogene Breese

Charla Doucet, Vice-President, introduced our speaker and program for today Mr. Mack Gothard. He is president of the Alabama Gourd Society and treasurer of the Chilton Arts Council. He grows many different types of Gourds but the Martin Gourd, as he refers to it, is the main Gourd he grows. Gourds have been around for 1000's of years as far back as Bible times. They are very easy to grow and can grow just about anywhere except in sandy soil. There are many different sizes of Gourds and it depends on size you want as to how much space you need. If you are growing the long handled types they need to be on a trellis. They need full sun and keep them watered in dry weather. It can take up to 180 days for them to mature. He not only grows Gourds but he is also an artist and decorates them. He had many samples of his work on display. He suggested painting the Martin Gourds white to keep them cooler for the birds and the hole should be 2" in diameter with a hole drilled in bottom for drainage. They should be at least 12' off the ground and will last about 3 years. This was a very detailed and interesting program.

Charla announced our program in February will be on fruit trees with Gary Gray. Also we have a tour on February 28, 2020 to the Tulip Farm at the American Village. Admission will be \$10.00, and lunch will be on your own. We will leave Jemison City Hall at 9:00 AM. A signup sheet is on the table if you would like to take this tour.

April 6, 2020 there is a field trip to Southern Organic in Columbiana scheduled. More information will be coming later but there is a signup sheet if you are interested in this trip.

Susan Cleckler, President, read her letter to the Association about the accomplishments we made during 2019 and all the opportunities we have for 2020. She stated her appreciations for everyone's participation and hard work.

Susan asked if everyone had looked over our 2020 budget and if there were any questions. There was a discussion about amounts listed under "Office Supplies" and the "DEMO garden". After a short discussion and explanation of these amounts Alice Broome made a motion to accept the budget as presented, seconded by Harriett Jackson. The motion and budget was approved.

Our 2019 volunteer hours were 7,962 valued at \$25.43 per hour for a total of \$202,473.66. This total was thru the middle of December.

The Bee Symposium is Saturday, February 1, 2020 at the Chilton Performing Arts Center. Pat Farmer gave information that volunteers needed to know. Those signed up to register need to be there at 7:00 or 7:30 AM to get everything set up and the shuttle drivers need to be in place by 7:30AM. Lunch will be served around 11:00 AM. Wear your Blue Master Gardeners shirt.

Jane Mason gave details on the Water Festival to be held on March 13, 2020. This is the 7th year we have helped with this event. She will give more complete details and information at our February meeting. There is a signup sheet if you would like to help.

Elizabeth York has requested some items for our 2020 Plant sale. She needs 3 – 1”X8’ metal pipes, 3 gallon, 1 gallon and 4” pots. If you have any of these you can share, please bring them to our meeting in February. There will be a plant sale committee meeting next month after our MG meeting.

Thorsby Spring Planting: April 22, 2020 at 8:00 AM plant raised beds and ground plot. May 6, 2020, at 8:00 AM we will do container gardening for those who want to take them home. We need 5 gallon pots, if you have some you can donate please bring them to Susan next month. Susan would like to add another raised bed.

Trisha Williams reported there are several applications out and we should know by end of week if we’ll have enough for a class. She is hopeful we will have a class and is passing a signup sheet around for volunteers to bring food for the class lunch on January 22.

Charla Doucet thanked Ron Herbster for making the pens that will be given to our guest speakers this year.

Linda Hayes will be sending our cards again this year. If there is a need for a card to be sent contact Linda by telephone.

Larry Jones and Lynn Webb will be in charge of hospitality this year.

Selvis Wallace, class of 2000, passed away. Trisha will send her address for those who would like to send a card to the family.

Bob Bates is doing well after heart surgery. He is in Rehab at Charlton Place in Wetumpka.

Debbie Housner announced that it is time to fertilize and spray your Blueberry Bushes with a fungicide. She recommended a 12-4-8 formula fertilizer and F-stop sulfurix fungicide.

Sondra Henley stated that Calhoun County wants us to come to their council meeting. This will be March 11th and it will last all day. We will leave from the Jemison City Hall Parking lot. If you are interested let Sondra know.

February is awards month. Don’t forget to turn your nominations into Skip Coulter.

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

Member present:	39
Guests present:	3
Total present:	42

Minutes submitted by Lanell Baker in the absence of Secretary, Elizabeth York.