

CHILTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2020
Little House at CREC

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.

Susan Cleckler welcomed interns and guests

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

Audrey Giles, Treasurer reported Checkbook balance beginning of \$8798.39 and an ending balance of \$8779.39

She also reported on the results of the Associations Audit conducted by Jackie Hickman and Debbie Housner. No deficits were found, and the audit passed and will be filed. There were no questions or corrections. The financial report was accepted as read

There are no February Birthdays.

Harriet Jackson, Advisory Council representative, gave report on this month's AC meeting. She stated that Kerry Smith gave a 2019 report on the MG Home Grounds division. We are all representatives of the Extension Service every time we speak to the Public. Our ROI (Return on Investment) was \$12:1. We had 425 MG Interns that were trained. 1372 MG are maintained and supported in AL. 172,240 hours were reported for 2019. There are teaching gardens in 17 counties. They produced almost 25,000 lbs. of produce to those in need in surrounding communities. That equals about 98,000 servings of vegetables. Approximately 4 Million dollars is the value of our volunteer hours. The Advisory Council then broke up into round table discussions. Harriett participated in Long Distance training for Master Gardeners and Interns, Fundraising Programs other than Plant Sales and How to Work with Other MG in Other Counties. Discussions were held and a report of these discussions from the Advisory Council will be sent out to all the Associations later. May 5, 2020 is the next AC Meeting at 10 am at Petals from the Past.

Charla Doucet, Vice President Welcomed our Speaker Gary Gray, Regional Extension Agent, Commercial Gardening, based at Birmingham Botanical Gardens. A side note, Gary was the one who started CCMGA. He spoke on "Easy, Healthy Fruit You Can Grow". He mentioned why we grow our own fruits is because it has better flavor, is nutritious, for preserving and canning and to attract wildlife. The next Field Days held at CREC, is August 8, 2020. Many of the fruits that are grown in Alabama will be available for tasting. All fruits require some care. Some are easy and others are high maintenance. PawPaws are our largest native North American fruit. They are usually found on wet creek banks. Passion fruit or May Pops have flowers that attract the Gulf Fritillary Butterfly. Cultural problems can occur with fruits like a late spring frost, drought, weeds and wildlife damage. Some fruits are self-pollinators like peach, strawberry, blackberry, fig, bunch grapes and citrus. The rest of the fruits require pollination and you need more than one variety for those. Site selection for fruits should have good water drainage, air, soil test, lime if needed, full sun and irrigation. He discussed Persimmons and Muscadines. Muscadines need to be trained and pruned on a Y trellis. Blueberries of the Rabbit eye variety are the best for this

area. Use pine bark mulch with blueberries. Blueberries are susceptible to iron deficiency. This will occur if the Ph of the soil is not acidic enough. It will show up on new growth. You can add sulfur or an acidic fertilizer. Remove 1-2 canes annually after 7 years growth. Trim out any stem blight and always sterilize your pruners before using on other plants. He also mentioned figs, apples, crabapples, brambles, like blackberries. For Pecans, you need to fertilize and choose disease resistant varieties, particularly pecan scab resistant.

Charla Doucet spoke about our March 10 meeting. David Doggett will be speaking on Japanese Maples in Jemison. We have several Field trips that are upcoming: 2/28/2020 American Village Tulip Farm in Montevallo. We will meet at 9 am at Jemison.
4/6/202 is Southern Organic's Hydroponic Vegetables

Susan Discussed Demo Garden. The Demo Garden Committee will have a meeting on Monday Feb. 17 to discuss garden priorities. A workday is scheduled for March 2, 2020 at 9 am. On March 11 (Wednesday), there will be a Demo Garden Tour with the Intern Class.
April 17 is CREC Field Days from 9-2. We need 5 volunteers to help with the Clanton preschoolers.
Thorsby School update: Raised bed boxes are made and will be delivered to the school on Saturday Feb. 15. Meet at 9 am in the Thorsby school parking lot.
Please save your empty Tea and Milk Gallon jugs and bring them to the next meeting.

Elizabeth York gave a Plant Sale update and will meet with the Plant Sale committee after today's meeting.

Skip Coulter gave Service Project of the Year Award and Top MG of the year Awards.
There were 2 nominations for Service Project of the year.

1. Demo Garden Addition: Monkey Bar Pole Garden by Jared Cleckler, Eagle Scout Service Project (Winner)
2. Thorsby Elementary School Project: Two 3rd Grade classes participating in planting and growing a pollinator garden and fall vegetable garden

There were 2 nominations for MG of the Year

1. Debbie Housner
2. Lee and Wally Walters (Winners)

Trisha Williams gave out 2019 Top Hours Awards for Volunteers who are not Officers

There being no further announcements or comments the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM.
Member present: 32 Guests present: 2 Interns Present 8 Total present: 42
Minutes submitted by Secretary, Elizabeth York.

