

CHILTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
March 10,2020
Jemison Municipal Building

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

Lee Walters 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 \$8798.39 and ending balance of \$7999.53.

March Birthday's are Margaret Ennis, Trisha Williams and Judy Cobb

Program: David Doggett, Jefferson County MG on Landscaping with Japanese Maples

Mr. Doggett mentioned that about 18 years ago, he developed an interest in Japanese Maples. He originally had 347 Japanese Maples that he had grafted in pots. Since that time, he has scaled back some and has learned a lot about Landscaping with Japanese Maples (JM). JM include Acer palmatum and Acer japonicum.

There are several landscape considerations. 1. What type of JM you choose. 2. Where you choose to place it. 3. What you choose to plant around it.

Do you choose to plant it near or far? Some JM you want to plant close up so you can see the lace leaf leaves or the variegation in the leaf or enjoy the fall color. Some JM grow big and tall and you do not want them close to your home. Any JM should be planted at least 9 feet away from your home and most should be planted in a bed or berm. Do not plant in the middle of your yard. The roots compete with the grass and lawn equipment can damage the tree trunk.

Know the variety you are planting. Is it an upright or a weeper? Is it for spring color or fall color? Are the leaves going to get missed or lost at a distance?

Consider the effect of sunlight. Sunlight will show more color in the leaves. Shade will fade the color or turn to green. The tree structure will also not be as robust in the shade. The hot Alabama sun can hurt the tree. Make sure it has a small amount of shade in the late afternoon sun during the summer months.

When planting for fall color take into consideration the placement of the sun on the tree. Is it a spotlight effect or a stained glass effect where the sun shines from the back of the tree and the colors of the leaves are reflected differently.

"Sanyo Kanu" is a JM that is known for its golden fall leaves but also has a coral bark that gives a pretty red structure in the winter. There is also yellow bark and green bark varieties, "Bihou" and "Aoyagi". Fire glow is a good red leaf variety. It grows up to 10-12'

Think about the color of your house when placing a JM nearby. You do not want a red tree with a red house being the backdrop. Choose a gold or green color.

Also think of companion planting colors. Do not plant a red JM in the middle of your pink azaleas. There can also be a color clash in the fall. A good companion planting to the red JM is dwarf leaf hydrangeas, fothergilla and winter Thur virburnium.

"In the Pink" is a good 8' variety. Crimson Queen can be pruned to shape.

There are some JM that do well in pots. "Pygmy", "Cynthia's Crown", and "Jewels Orangeola".

"Red Dragon" gets 8' wide. Be sure to place it in its own spot.

Groups of 3 JM are really the best companion plantings. Use 3 different different shapes, heights and colors.

3 mass plantings of "Aka shigitatsu sawa " provides a large screen in all seasons except winter.

Examples of 3 JM companion planting is:

1. "Sango Kanu" "Bloodgood", "Viridis"
2. "Emperor 1", "Crimson Queen", "Sango Kanu".
3. "Rhode Island Red", "Winter Flame", "Beni otake"
4. "Sekimori", "Bihou", "Elizabeth"
5. "Murasaki kiyohime", "Fireglow", "Emerald Lace"

"Tamuke Yama" is a weeper that will spill over a wall. "Viridis" is a good weeper with a water feature. "Shishigashira" is a good JM to use as a terminator point.

Some JM found in Miniature gardens are "Koto-no-ito", "Tamyke Yama", "Pygmy".

JM "Butterfly" can be planted in the center of Pieris, Hosta, Hydranges, Winter Daphne and Gumpo Azalea.

To brighten up a Shady Spot consider "Orange Dream" and Acer shirasawanum "Aureum".

Selection based on form, consider "Trompenburg" and "Sango Kanu" (Coral Bark).

Attractive branching structure use "Shishigashira"

Soil requirements are not necessary. The roots are fairly hardy, thin and fibrous. Ambrosia beetle seems to be the biggest pest. JM is hardy to -20 degrees even in pots. They are long living, up to 50-75 years. Use good mulch. The roots are shallow. If you find seedlings, they do not come up true to the plant because the cultivars are crosses or a result of being genetically unstable. Grafting is used to propagate in order to get a clone. He uses green seedlings for root stock for grafting.

Can purchase locally at the BBG Plant Sale, April 18, 2020, at The Leaf and Petal in Birmingham, Hanna's Garden Center off of 280, Warren's Nursery in Leeds. There is a grower in Cullman. Online sites are Maple Ridge out of GA, and Mr. Maple in NC.

Charla Doucet mentioned our April Meeting is with speaker Jessica Kelton, on "The Hype About Hemp".

April 6 is our Field Trip to Southern Organics Hydroponics. Time will be announced later.

Our last field trip was to the American Village Tulip Festival in Montevallo. Not many of the Tulips had come up, but people who bought them and planted them said they came up and were beautiful. They then toured the American Village.

She is working on a field trip for June.

Pat Farmer gave an update on the Water Festival to be held this Friday the 13th, at CPAC. Setup on Thursday at 2:30pm and for Friday, arrive at 7:45am. Wear a CCMGA shirt and your badge. Sondra Henley has gotten us a biscuit breakfast and Pizza will be for lunch after the kids leave around 12:20pm.

Alice Broome Presented a new vendor for our CCMGA Logo T-shirts. Unisex Gildan T-shirts. 4 colors for short sleeve at \$15,, and 2 colors for long sleeve at \$18.. Alice will place an order for the Association on Friday 3/13/2020. Interns will get their own shirts through the intern class. Alice will bring the. Shirts for our April meeting. Contact Alice before Friday if you want to order.

Elizabeth York updated everyone about the plant sale. The setup time on April 18 is 6:30 am at Goose Pond Park. Everyone who brings plants needs to also include a 8x10 color picture of your plant in flower, for example, picture of a Purple coneflower. All plants need to be dropped off at Susan Cleckler's house on Tuesday or Wednesday, April 14 or 15, labeled and watered. Please hand out the flyers and or post in public areas.

Susan Cleckler gave an update on the Demo garden. Pruning and mulch was done. Azalea's removed due to them sitting in to much water.

Thorsby school update: Monday March 16 we will be preparing the new raised beds with soil and compost, a general clean up is required as well as pruning and weeding. Meet at 3:15 pm behind the gym. On April 22, we will plant the pollinator bed and some veggies.

Still need about 40 more gallon jugs. Trisha Williams gave a demonstration on how to cut them.

Jemison plantings will be at the city maintenance shop at 8 am on Thursday April 30. Friday May 1 at 8 am also if we don't finish on Thursday.

Our next meeting will be on April 14 in Jemison.

Members Present were 36

Guests 3

Interns 4

Total 43

Minutes submitted by Secretary Elizabeth York