

CHILTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION  
Meeting Minutes February 9, 2021  
Alabama National Guard Armory – Clanton Alabama

Pat Farmer, President, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Pat Farmer welcomed members, interns and guests.

Larry Jones led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

Pat Farmer introduced the 2021 Board members and project leads.

Board members

Pat Farmer, President

Charla Doucet, Vice President

Treasia Bennett, Secretary

Audrey Giles, Treasurer

Trisha Williams, Membership Lead and Advisory

Susan Cleckler, Advisory and past president

John Higginbotham, Advisory

Jim Rabey, Advisory

Clem Clapp, Advisory

Team Leaders

AMGA Advisory Council Rep: Harriett Jackson

AMGA Advisory Council Alternate Rep: Audrey Giles

Demo Garden Maintenance: Harriett Jackson, Trisha Williams, Audrey Giles, Sharon Hosch, Joan Crocker and Alan Reed.

Extension beds maintenance: Gail Brooks

Facebook page: Audrey Giles/Trisha Williams

Grow More-Give More Ambassador: Kathy Martin

Helpline: Jackie Hickman

Hospitality: Lyn Webb

Membership Lead: Trisha Williams

Scrapbook: Diane Clapp

Website/Photos: Audrey Giles/Trisha Williams

Due to Covid-19, there was not a meeting held in January 2021; therefore, there were no minutes to be approved for January 2021.

Audrey Giles, Treasurer, reported a beginning checking balance of \$8,569.34 and ending checking balance of \$7,904.26.

Program: **Hype About Hemp** by Jessica Kelton, a Regional Extension Agent in the Wiregrass area, Southeast Alabama. Jessica's program areas are Agronomic Crops, Farm and Agribusiness Management. Hemp was grown in Alabama in 2020. Hemp is cannabis sativa, hybrid. It is a cousin to marijuana. Hemp is same species as marijuana but different property. Hemp looks and smells the same as marijuana. 2014 and 2018 Farm Bills defined limitations to growing and use of Hemp and increased acres for growing. 46 States have Hemp license. Hemp is .3% or less of THC limit. THC is the ingredient which gives people a "high" like the use of marijuana. Hemp is not regulated by the FDA but is grown, distributed and sold for CBD supplements

and oils used for pain relief, arthritis, ED, Epilepsy. Hemp is also grown for fiber and grain. There is money in all of these byproducts. Hemp can be grown from seed, clones and seedlings. It is usually grown from seeds because seedlings are expensive at \$4.00 - \$5.00 per plant. There are male and female plants. The male plants are not good and usually thinned or removed because the male plant makes concentration content to go down. The female plant is a bushy plant and easily distinguished from male plant. The plant is harvested and hung upside down for drying to harvest buds which are sticky and amber color. The plants are usually organically grown because cannot use herbicides, pesticides and metals in soil can be pulled up into the plant. The demand for Hemp has gone down slightly and the future for Hemp is unknown at this time.

Pat Farmer reviewed the proposed 2021 budget with the membership and asked are there any revisions. There were no additions or revisions, so Pat asked for a motion to approve the budget. Harriet Jackson made a motion to vote along with a second motion. The membership voted and approved the 2021 budget.

Ask A Master Gardener – This project will be held at Garrison's from February 27 through April 10, 2021 from 8-12 a.m. Jerry Farmer and Faye Collins are leads for this project. They provided signup sheets for volunteers to work. Hollywood Gardens may also participate in this project later in the spring after Garrison's. We have signs to display at each event.

Pat Farmer had nomination forms for Master Gardener of the Year. The nominee must have 100+ volunteer hours in 2020 to be nominated. She asked the membership to complete the form by Friday, February 12, 2021 and submit to her or send to the ACES office. Pat will secure judges to review forms and decide on the recipient. The award will be presented at the March CCMG Membership Meeting.

Pat Farmer discussed the PLANT SALE to be held at Goosepond Park in Clanton on April 16 for setup and April 17 the SALE from 8:00 – 2:00. If it rains, a rain date is April 23 and 24. Pat asked members to start potting plants for the sale. A sheet was passed around for members to indicate the number of plants and types they plan to donate for the sale.

Harriett Jackson gave an AMGA Advisory Council Report. The 2021 AMGA Conference scheduled for April 21-23, 2021 in Anniston, Calhoun County, has been cancelled due to the spread of COVID-19. The fall conference is to be decided. 2022 AMGA Conference will be held in Montgomery, Alabama. 2023 AMGA Conference will be held in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

All AMGA members are asked to go online and follow the link sent by Kerry Smith to complete a survey 2020-2021 Strategic Assessment and Planning for the Master Gardeners program. Four volunteer hours are awarded to each participant. The AMGA Annual Business Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 21 at 10:00 am and is a ZOOM meeting. All Master Gardener members are encouraged to attend.

Jackie Hickman will have HELPLINE signup sheets at the March meeting for volunteers to sign up.

Peggy McGraw, intern, will call and communicate meetings and any necessary information with members who do not have internet access.

Pat Farmer adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Members Present:

36 members

1 intern

37 Total

*Minutes submitted by Secretary, Treasia Bennett*