

CHILTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes March 9, 2021

Clanton Recreational Building – Clanton Alabama

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

**Pat Farmer** welcomed members, interns and guests. February belated birthday wish to Sarah Justiss. March birthday wishes to James Talley, Jim Rabey, Susan Cleckler, Trisha Williams, Judy Cobb and Linda Church.

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

**Charla Doucet** introduced speaker, David Doggett, Jefferson County Advanced Master Gardener. The subject was Hydrangea Winter Pruning and Propagation. David issued a handout on the subject. Pruning is late winter or early spring. You can propagate cuttings from the pruning. Why prune: 1) control growth and size, 2) increase blooms, 3) better shape, 4) dead head, 5) increase health and vigor and 6) rejuvenate an aged plant. Types: Oakleaf, Panicle such as “Limelight”, and Smooth such as “Annabelle”. How to prune depends on whether the hydrangea blooms on old wood or new wood. Old wood blooms are Oak Leaf and Smooth Leaf. Panicle and smooth hydrangeas bloom on new grown. David advised preparing cutting for propagation soon after you pruning. Cut the top of each cutting just above a pair of leaf nodes and the bottom just below leaf buds. Dip bottom in water, then rooting powder, and insert cutting into a pre-made hole about 1 inch deep. Keep cutting in a pot outside in a shady place and keep soil moist. By late March there should be new leaf formation. You can re-pot each plant after 4-5 months. Keep in shady place and wait to apply fertilizer the following year.

**FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES** – given by Treasia Bennett with highlights of February meeting. No additions or changes were made. Minutes accepted as posted on CCMG website.

**Audrey Giles**, Treasurer, reported a beginning checking balance of \$7,932.26 and ending checking balance of \$7,874.26 as of February 26, 2021.

**AWARDS** – Trisha Williams presented the following awards:

Bronze Star – Charla Doucet

Silver Star – Larry Jones

Gold Star volunteer hours – Debbie Housner

**Badge Level:**

1000-1999 – Lyn Webb

2000-3999 – Lynell Baker

4000 – 5000 – Harriet Jackson (Ruby Star)

**Certifications:**

Top hours:

Lyn Webb, 600.50 hours

Harriet Jackson, 447.5 hours

Sondra Henley, 425.5 hours

Top Intern: Gail Brooks 33.45 hours

Top CEU: Lyn Webb, 171.5

**Master Gardner of 2020: Susan Cleckler**

**PROJECT LEADS REPORTING:**

- Grow More, Give More – **Kathy Martin**. This project promotes planting more food source items and sharing with food banks, family, friends, and food insecurities.
- Community Cleanup – **Susan Cleckler** – April 10, 8:00 - noon, meet at City Hall at 7:30 a.m. to volunteer for cleanup litter, wear Master Gardner shirts, bags for litter provided, biscuits for first 100 volunteers.

- Extension Office Beds – **Gail Brooks** - need weeding in front and back beds, put in pine straw, and prune. Gail, Harriet Jackson and Alice Broome worked on Monday. Gail would like to have Monday at 8:00 workdays until beds are controlled. Gail would like to teach how to prune Hawthorns. David Doggett advised how to prune hydrangeas.
- Demo Garden – **Sharon Hosch** – scheduled workday Wednesday, March 10 from 8-10. The team will review garden and decide what needs to be done along with workdays.
- Seed Library – **Rae Ann Wright** – Rae Ann presented project to membership and described what is involved for a seed library. Food producing seeds such as green beans, tomatoes, squash, zucchini, peppers, etc. are distributed to people to grow along with growing instructions. Once plants produce vegetables, seeds are collected and returned to committee for packaging and distribution for the next growing season.
- Plant Sale – **Pat Farmer** – List on website of committed plants. April 16<sup>th</sup> prep and 17<sup>th</sup> is sale day. If sale is rained out, the alternate date is April 23 & 24. Delivery of Plants are due at Goosepond Park on April 16 from 8-10 with each plant labeled as to name, perennial or annual, shade, sun or partial shade, etc. Committee will price the plants. Trailers are needed to load plants for transporting. Pat asked membership to be saving grocery bags and boxes for the plants as sold. This is a big event and many volunteers are needed each day, April 16 and 17. Wear master gardener T-shirts for advertising our organization.
- Help Line – **Jackie Hickman** – This project is on Thursday of each week from April 1 – August 26. Two people are needed for each shift at the ACES office to record/log calls and questions.
- Ask A Master Gardener – **Jerry Farmer** and **Faye Collins** – This project at Garrison Farm and Home Center began February 27 and will continue each Saturday morning from 8:00 – Noon through April 10. A table is setup with Master Gardener information. This project is also scheduled at Hollywood Gardens for three Saturdays beginning April 3, from 8:00 to noon.
- Hospitality – **Lyn Webb** – CCMG Board members provided packaged snacks for the meeting. The membership agreed to a bucket for donations to buy packaged refreshments until further COVID restriction are lifted. Lyn asked for recommendations for snacks.
- Open Discussion – **Pat Farmer**
  - **Jerry Farmer** and **Alan Reed** will be at The Peach Outdoor event held at Mahindra Tractor on Saturday, March 13. Come out and support our guys.
  - **Diane Clapp** has 2020 Scrapbook for viewing at the sign in table. Diane has done a great job on the book. If members would like to see previous years books, they are in the Master Gardener room at the ACES office.
  - **Trisha Williams** spoke about the next Intern class as a ZOOM class in August. If you know of anyone interested, get their name to the ACES office so an invitation can be extended. Fee is \$150.00.
- Pat Farmer adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

Members Present:

32 members

2 interns

1 speaker

35 Total