

CHILTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes April 13, 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. April birthday wishes to: Julie Garris, Bettye Glass, Joan Barber, Lamar Giles, Wally Walters, and Larry Jones.
- **Larry Jones** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.
- **March MEETING MINUTES** – given by Treasia Bennett with highlights of March meeting. No additions or changes were made. Minutes accepted as posted on CCMG website.
- **Audrey Giles**, Treasurer, (reported by Pat Farmer for Audrey Giles) reported a beginning checking balance of \$7,884.26 and ending checking balance of \$8,181.19 as of March 31, 2021.
- **Charla Doucet** introduced speaker, Mollie Smith, Auburn University. Topic – Aquaponics: System Components (fish). This topic is raising fish for selling and using fish water as fertilizer. Auburn University has greenhouse, tanks containing 25,000 gallons of water and growing tilapia twelve months a year. They capture waste to grow and fertilize vegetables then water is moved for use in watering vegetables. Auburn stocks 20,000 little fries of tilapia and are grown to 1-1.5 pounds at full growth. 250 pounds is harvested weekly from September - May. There is a market in Opelika that buy the fish along with Tiger Dining at Auburn University. There are four things to be monitored in raising the fish: water, food, oxygen and a way to eliminate waste. Approximately 5% of water is replaced each day. The water has to be clean and non-chlorinated. Fish are fed food that is uniform in size according to their size, free of dust and floating. Food needs to float to observe fish are eating. Aeration is dissolved oxygen. The more air the happier the fish and lower algae. Solid waste is removed using air-lift technology that is spread out to dry out and composted. The greenhouse plants use liquid fraction of fish water. Crops are vining plants such as tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and melons. Dutch buckets and trellises are used for planting the vegetables containing perlite, pine bark, or clay pebbles. Vegetables are grown from September to June.
- Plant sale update – Pat Farmer. Plants and country store items should be delivered on Friday, April 16 from 8-12 at Goose pond Park in Clanton. Need lots of volunteers on Saturday morning to put out plants from trucks and trailers and also to work the sale on Saturday, April 17, at Goose Pond Park in Clanton, Alabama. Plants will be priced by color code.
- Demo garden update – Sharon Hosch, presented by Trisha Williams: Tuesday from 8-10 a.m. is designated workday at garden except CCMG meeting week. Trisha welcomed any weed pulling in rock and native garden areas.
- Extension office landscape – Gail Brooks: grit is in, dug up monkey grass.
- Helpline – Jackie Hickman: The program has changed from one day a week each month to a week service each month from April – November. Signup sheets are available each meeting for volunteers to sign up.
- Upcoming board survey – Pat Farmer: We are service organization, and the board is mailing a survey to members to complete and return at the May meeting. The board wants to know how the membership views volunteering, projects, programs, tours, expectation of organization, what is right/wrong about organization. We need feedback to move forward.
- Plant swap (May meeting) – Charla Doucet: May 11, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at Higgins Ferry on Lake Mitchell. “Give a great plant – Get a great plant”. Bring a snack lunch, hand fan, and chair. Drinks will be provided. There will also be plants for sharing.
- Open discussion:
 - Joan Crocker – received certificate and master gardener badge
 - Lanell Baker – door prize, flag

- Kaylee Doucet – door prize, garden gloves
- Jackie Hickman – door prize, visor
- Adjournment: Pat Farmer adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Members Present:

30 members

4 interns

1 guest

1 speaker

36 Total

Minutes submitted by Secretary, Treasia Bennett