

CHILTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes July 13, 2021

Clanton City Hall

- **Pat Farmer**, President, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
- **Pat Farmer** welcomed members, interns and guests. Pat recognized July birthdays: **Kathryn Martin, Alice Broome, Lyn Webb, Jimmy Knowles, Clem Clapp, Gail Brooks, Patty Frye** and **Charlotte Word**.
- **Jerry Farmer** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.
- **June Meeting Minutes** – given by Treasia Bennett with highlights of June meeting held at Petal from the Past. The program was on Herbs presented by Betsy Smith. We heard from project leads, report on AMGA grant received for 2021, and discussed Gay West’s retirement gift. No additions or changes were made. Minutes accepted as posted on CCMG website.
- **Treasurer Report** – given by Pat Farmer. Audrey Giles still not feeling well. Beginning balance \$10,033.28 + \$00.00 deposits – \$205.26 cleared and uncleared checks and payments = \$9,828.02 Ending Balance.
- **Pat Farmer** introduced speaker, Anthony Yarborough, Autauga County Master Gardener since 2009. Program on Destructive Garden Insects. Autauga is hosting fall seminar on September 30, 2021. If you wish to identify an insect, take a picture and send to him. Anthony has thirteen hours of course study in Entomology and Row Crop Farming at Auburn University. Insects are a dominant group and have ruled the earth. There are greater than one million species. Humans have aided in proliferation of insects with Colorado potato bug, fire ants, alfalfa weevil, etc. Insects can be beneficial and destructive. Destructive insects are aphids, get into flour, and can spread diseases like mosquitoes and flies. Beneficial insect are bugs on the water that feed the fish, etc. the metamorphosis can be complete or incomplete. **Complete** metamorphosis has four stages: egg, larva, pupae and adult such as flies, butterflies, wasps, and ants. **Incomplete** metamorphosis has three stages: egg, nymph and adult such as stink bug, aphids, grasshopper and cockroaches. There are two types of insect feedings. Chewing is small holes on leaves such as a beetle. Piercing/sucking is where juice is sucked out of leaves like a stink bug. Controlling insects can be done by keeping plants healthy, have soil sampled, keep garden weed free, using pesticides, picking off insects from plants and planting companion plants. A good documentary on Netflix, “Kiss the Ground” advocates if enough can change agricultural practice, we can control global warming.
- Gay West’s retirement gift – Pat Farmer. Membership voted to donate the proceeds to 4-H in Gay’s honor.
- Demo Garden by Pat Farmer, Trisha Williams and Sharon Hosch – The committee need ideas on how to make it a teaching garden again. The purpose of the demo garden is for its usefulness, teaching, lunch-n-learn, and perhaps self-guided tours. Please let Sharon Hosch know of any ideas. The workdays are now on Tuesday or Wednesday. Normally work from 8-10 but can begin work at 7:00 before it gets so hot. Please help whenever you can. If you do not know if weed or plant, please ask.
- Extension Garden by Gail Brooks – This project needs some help in weeding, pruning and getting the gardens in good order. The group works each Monday from 8-10.
- Plant Dig by Harriett Jackson & Rick Miller – First dig used all gallon pots. It is a wonderland of roses, day lilies, iris and more. Volunteers are digging and potting plants to grow off for a plant sale. Dig and pot each Thursday in July beginning at 7:00 am. Volunteers may keep 20% of the plants for their own personal use. A vote was taken and passed to have a fall plant sale.
- Seed Saving by Trisha Williams for Rae Ann Wright – Time to start saving seeds from summer vegetables such as squash, tomatoes, corn etc. Dry the seeds, place in envelopes and label for packaging and distributing next spring gardening.

- Grow More Give More – Trisha Williams ask to report hours spent in planting, growing, harvesting and sharing of donated vegetables to anyone. Also count pounds donated, i.e., Walmart bag = 12 lbs.
- Anniversary Party by Pat Farmer – AMGA 40th anniversary celebration will be held at Auburn University on Monday August 30, 2021. Our organization will celebrate with them with a zoom session at 1:30, food and fun at the “little house” at the CREC. Ham and chicken fingers will be provided and asking attendees to bring picnic items to go along with meat.
- Open discussion:
 - Chilton County High School by Susan Cleckler gave update on consulting and design for this project and asked for volunteers to sign up to help.
 - Milk jugs for planting projects are no longer needed.
 - Nelson Wynn gave an update and pamphlets on the virtual intern class beginning August 12 orientation, followed by training classes August 19th through November 11th. Online open enrollment deadline is August 6. He also talked about the Alabama Smart Yard programs on zoom on Wednesdays from 1-2. Participants may ask questions.

- Adjournment - Pat Farmer dismissed the meeting at 11:00.

Members Present:

26 members

1 intern

2 guests

1 speaker

30 Total

Minutes submitted by Secretary, Treasia Bennett