

**CCMGA MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 14, 2023**  
**CLANTON RECREATION CENTER**

**CALL TO ORDER** – President Jerry Farmer called the meeting to order at 9:34am and welcomed all members, interns and guests.

**PLEDGE TO FLAG** – Skip Coulter led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS** – Amelia Bloomfield, Tammy Gentry, Susan Parkerson, Amy Steakley

**MINUTES** – Kerry Rush reported that the January 2023 minutes were emailed to the membership. With no corrections or additions to the minutes, a motion was made to accept as posted (Lynne May) and was seconded (Harriet Jackson).

**FINANCES** – Kerry Rush, for Lyn Webb, gave financials for January 2023:

\$8,492.02      Beginning Balance

7912.34      Ending Balance

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\$0.00      Deposits

50.00      Withdrawals

407.00      Checks

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\$24.00      Checks Outstanding

24.00      Total Outstanding

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\$7,912.34      Net Balance Checking

100.00      Cash Box Reserve

8,146.81      Small Business CD

\$16,159.15      TOTAL

Pending Grant:    \$2150.00      Spent:    \$ 996.24      Ending Balance:    \$1,153.76

**PROGRAM** – Leslie Durham introduced guest speaker, Karen Mitchell, a Jefferson County Master Gardener member. Mrs. Mitchell’s presentation, *Got Sun, Grow Food . . . Growing Where Sun and Space Permits*, was focused on container gardening. Karen identified multiple advantages to container growing (fresh produce, exercise, fun) while emphasizing that saving money was not usually an advantage. Suggested types of containers included pallets, pots, grow bags, 5-gallon buckets and window boxes. Drainage and portability were just two considerations when selecting types of containers. Traditional containers versus self-watering containers were reviewed. Mrs. Mitchell emphasized the abundance of literature and online support while identifying two resource authors, Mel Bartholomew and Edward C. Smith. Additionally, Karen recommended multiple ANR guides and referenced ACES.com for research-based information.

**ANNUAL CCMGA AWARDS** – Jerry Farmer and Leslie Durham presented the 2022 annual awards to the members of the association.

-Help Line

Silver Pins (4+ days): Lanell Baker, Lynne May, Kerry Rush

Bronze Pins (3 days): Sally Moore, Susan Parkerson

Chairman Pin: Hugh Nichols

-Annual Volunteer Hours

Top Annual Hours: Harriet Jackson (575 hrs), Lanell Baker (187 hrs), Ron Herbster (184.5 hrs)

Top CEU Hours: Lyn Webb (84 hrs)

Top Intern Volunteer Hours: Hugh Nichols (204.5 hrs)

-Lifetime Volunteer Hours

Bronze Star (100-299 hrs): Victoria Brady, Chip Durham, Leslie Durham, Lynne May, Hugh Nichols, Kerry Rush

Silver Star (300-499 hrs): Cheryl Herbster, Ron Herbster, Ruby Moberg

Gold Star (500-999 hrs): Gail Brooks, Skip Coulter, Betsy Smith

Platinum Badge (2000-3999 hrs): Lyn Webb (awarded at AMGA Conference)

Emerald Star (6000-7999 hrs): Pat Farmer (awarded at AMGA Conference)

-Project of the Year

Clanton Recreation Center Landscape, Phase 1: Amy Baker, Amelia Bloomfield

-Chilton County Master Gardener of the Year

Gail Brooks

Congratulations to all recipients and a big thanks to those who submitted nominations.

**ALABAMA MASTER GARDENER ADVISORY COUNCIL** – Harriet Jackson attended and reported on last quarter’s Advisory Council meeting. Harriet shared that the meeting was well attended and provided an opportunity for associations to share their local participation in ACES programs, seminars, demonstrations, and children’s programs. Harriet also provided a brief review of the council’s local, national and international significance. Skip Coulter and Lyn Webb serve on the Steering Committee. Currently, this committee is reviewing the volunteer hours reporting process. Any comments or suggestions may be submitted to Harriet, Skip and/or Lyn. Harriet communicated that the quarterly meetings were held at Petals from the Past and were open to all members and attendance is encouraged.

**HOSPITALITY** – Judy Cobb reported that a sign-up sheet was available for members to provide refreshments for the monthly meetings. For the benefit of new members and interns, Jerry Farmer shared that prior to the COVID pandemic, refreshments were provided on a rotating volunteer basis and that this was a return to that practice.

**DEMONSTRATION GARDEN/EXTENSION OFFICE/RECREATION CENTER** – Lynne May, Gail Brooks and Amy Baker respectively announced each location was being monitored for damage from December’s multi-day freeze. Each team leader adheres to the recommendation to “wait and see” prior to altering any landscape. Lynne May (Demo Garden) requested suggestions for “Talks in the Garden” topics.

**MASTER GARDENER HELPLINE** – Leslie Durham, for Hugh Nichols, solicited via a sign-up sheet to cover the monthly needs for the MG Helpline. As communicated previously, Hugh has created a detailed procedure document to assist with the online system. Additionally, Hugh is available and very willing to meet face-to-face with anyone to learn the system. Participation can be in full day increments (9-4:00) or in half day increments (9-12:30; 12:30-4:00).

**WATER FEST** – Pat Farmer thanked the membership for the call to volunteer for this March 17, 2023 event. This is a collaboratively-sponsored school program (Chilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, Chilton Natural Resources Council, Alabama Forestry Commission) for all Chilton County Schools 4<sup>th</sup> graders. The event takes place at the Jefferson State Clanton campus. Lucy Edwards shared that volunteer t-shirts will be provided. The t-shirt design will highlight a chosen student’s art work depicting the water fest’s theme and mission. Pat encouraged any member, volunteering or not, to attend.

**ARBOR DAY** – Pat Farmer shared that the MG Class of 2023 has volunteered to work this February 21, 2023 event. Trees will be distributed from the Clanton City Hall parking lot.

**ANNUAL CCMGA PLANT SALE** – Jerry Farmer reviewed the date and location for this year’s plant sale (Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> with a rain date of April 29<sup>th</sup>; Goose Pond Park Pavilion). Pat Farmer and Jackie Hickman volunteered to co-lead this event. Once again, concerns with the December freeze were shared. All members should assess and be mindful of a possible shortfall in available plants. Jane and Jim Rabey brought pots available for all members.

**CHRISTMAS HOME TOUR** – Jerry Farmer reiterated the financial significance of this fundraiser. A team leader/co-leaders was again solicited without a commitment. Leslie Durham encouraged the membership to consider this important position and shared that a detailed step-by-step document was available for guidance. All members were asked to consider and submit possible home site candidates.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION**

**PLANT SWAP** – Jerry Farmer reviewed this event’s date and location (May 9, 2023; Goose Pond Park Pavilion). Members are encouraged to bring a plant to swap and a covered dish to share for lunch.

**EXTENSION OFFICE INFORMATION** – Lucy Edwards emphasized the importance of reporting all MG volunteer hours as it relates to filling the position previously held by retired agent Nelson Wynn. The active participation of Master Gardeners, as evidenced by reported volunteer hours, supports this position at the Chilton County Extension Office.

Lucy Edwards also expressed appreciation for the member volunteers at both the Alabama Bee Symposium and the Jemison Library Fairytale events. Review of both events are underway and plans for next year are in progress.

Information regarding assistance to assemble Water Fest participant bracelet kits will be forthcoming.

Information regarding the April 20, 2023 “Classroom in the Forest” will be forthcoming.

Information regarding a “Farm Day” with Clanton Elementary’s preschool program will be forthcoming.

Appreciation is extended to the Hospitality Committee’s beautiful and bountiful Valentine’s Day table arrangement. Thanks to Gail Brooks for donating the day planner door prize and to Jimmy and Mildred Knowles for contributing home grown Kumquats and Meyer Lemons for door prizes and member enjoyment.

Jerry Farmer adjourned the meeting at 11:13am. The March 2023 member meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.

## **ATTENDANCE -**

Members: 31

Interns: 2

Guests: 3

Speaker: 1

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TOTAL: 37