

CCMGA MEETING MINUTES
January 10, 2023
CLANTON RECREATION CENTER

CALL TO ORDER – Vice President, Leslie Durham, presiding in the absence of President Jerry Farmer, called the meeting to order at 9:32am and welcomed all members, interns and guests.

PLEDGE TO FLAG – John Higginbotham led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS - Linda Hand (2nd); Jane Rabey (9th); Katrina Crandell (11th); Lee Walters (13th); Leslie Durham (15th); Imogene Bresse (16th)

MINUTES – Kerry Rush reported one change to the December 2022 CCMGA minutes (board member listing) and asked for any additional changes or corrections. None were addressed so minutes stand as changed and posted.

FINANCES – Lyn Webb gave financials for December 2022:

\$9,110.86	Beginning Balance				
8,492.02	Ending Balance				
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\$725.00	Deposits				
535.83	Withdrawals				
808.01	Checks				
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\$122.68	Checks Outstanding				
122.68	Total Outstanding				
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\$8,369.34	Net Balance Checking				
100.00	Cash Box Reserve				
8,146.81	Small Business CD				
\$16,616.15	TOTAL				
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Pending Grant:	\$2150.00	Spent:	\$ 996.24	Ending Balance:	\$1,153.76

□ **PROGRAM** – Leslie Durham introduced guest speaker, Sherry Carter, from the Chilton and Bibb County Extension Offices. Sherry is an Agent Assistant I for SNAP-ED (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education). Mrs. Carter spoke to the membership about her position and responsibilities regarding nutritional education to school age children. Sherry’s emphasis is to help students and families make sound nutritional choices that complement household incomes. Her position places her in schools across both counties where she facilitates learning opportunities that combine nutritional information with games, hands-on activities, and food samples. Sherry provided multiple examples of volunteer opportunities for Master Gardeners, especially for those in need of hours that are not as physically demanding (prepare student folders, prepare and bag food items, etc.). Additionally, Mrs. Carter detailed her partnership with “The Gathering” food pantry located in Clanton. This outreach meets every Tuesday and volunteers are needed to assist with food distribution, food sampling and subsequent recipe distribution, and demographic data collection. If interested in volunteer opportunities contact Leslie Durham.

MASTER GARDENER AND MG PROJECT OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS - Trisha Williams reviewed that nomination forms were shared via membership email and were available in hardcopy form at the meeting. All nominations may be submitted electronically or by postal mail (jerry.patfarmer@hotmail.com; Pat Farmer, 5185 Co Rd 24, Billingsley, AL 36006). Nominations are due by Friday, January 13, 2023. A review committee (non-MG members) will be established to select the 2022 MG of the Year recipient. Presentation will be at the February

meeting.

2023 FINALIZED BUDGET – Lyn Webb presented the CCMGA 2023 budget for approval. Hugh Nichols made a motion to accept the finalized budget with Pat Farmer seconding the motion. The motion was carried by the attending membership.

PAST PRESIDENT APPRECIATION – Gail Brooks recognized the hard work and dedication of our CCMGA Past President, Pat Farmer. Pat was presented with a card of appreciation signed by the membership and containing a gift card from Petals from the Past.

TEAM LEADERS – Leslie Durham reviewed the current list of team leaders.

Demonstration Garden: Trisha Williams, Lynne May

Extension Office: Gail Brooks, Alan Reed

Clanton Recreation Center: Amy Baker, Amelia Bloomfield

Helpline: Hugh Nichols

Hospitality: Joan Barber, Judy Cobb, Cheryl Herbster, Jane Rabey

Scrapbook: Lynne May (requesting assistance)

Webpage/Facebook: Audrey Giles/Trisha Williams

Volunteer Team: Leslie Durham, Pat Farmer

Public Relations: TBD

Plant Sale: TBD

Christmas Home Tour: TBD

Ask a Master Gardener/Garrison's Farm Center: TBD

DEMONSTRATION GARDEN/EXTENSION OFFICE – Trisha Williams and Gail Brooks respectively announced alternating workdays beginning in late February/early March (1st & 3rd Mondays/Demo Garden; 2nd & 4th Mondays/Extension Office; 5th Monday TBD on an as-needed basis). December freeze damage at both locations was discussed with the recommendation to “wait and see” before any removal or replacement occurs.

Margariette Hoopes, leader for the Knot Garden, proposed its replacement with a “Cutting Garden”. Membership participating in the Demo Garden were asked to stay after the meeting to review shifting funds toward this endeavor.

SPRING 2023 MASTER GARDENER INTERN CLASS – Trisha Williams shared that 5 individuals and possibly 1 additional were registered for the Spring MG class with an orientation start date of February 2nd. A request for snacks (cheese cubes, fruit, etc.) for this date was made. Additionally, Trisha requested and distributed a sign-up sheet to provide a soup and dessert lunch to our interns on February 9th.

MASTER GARDENER HELPLINE – Team Leader, Hugh Nichols, reviewed a previous post request to fill the helpline monthly needs. Hugh emphasized the significance of Chilton County’s participation in this outreach (CCMGA is only one of five associations out of 30 to participate). 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).

MAPLESVILLE OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS – Diane Clapp and Gail Brooks reported on last month’s very successful event. This event supports the MG outreach mission as well as promotes participation in the MG organization. The CCMGs prepared and bagged a total of 492 flower bombs for the event. Discussion supported next year’s participation and members are encouraged to save seeds.

CHRISTMAS HOME TOUR – Several members shared information in support of returning this fundraising event for December 2023. Leadership and a support team was solicited. This is a project that requires months of planning and lots of volunteers. Leslie Durham reiterated President Farmer’s request that the at-large board members begin talking to membership to gain interest in volunteering and finding host homes and sponsors. Trisha will provide a document with the planning and procedures for this project at the February board meeting where the board will have a full discussion of this fundraising project.

JEMISON FAIRY TALE PROGRAM – Pat Farmer reviewed the past participation in the JFT Program. This year’s event, held at the Jemison City Hall, is scheduled for February 3rd (6-8:00pm) and the fairy tale focus is Beatrix Potter’s Peter Rabbit. The Herbsters have graciously volunteered to serve as Mr. McGregor and Peter Rabbit. Volunteers are need in multiple capacities thus providing additional opportunities toward annual volunteer hours. Contact Pat Farmer for participation.

28TH ANNUAL BEEKEEPERS SYMPOSIUM – Pat Farmer (for Lucy Edwards) shared information on the CCMGA’s participation in the annual event held at the Jefferson State Community College Clanton Conference and Performing Arts Center. Volunteers are still needed in the following areas:

Friday, Feb 3: **Exhibit Hall Set Up (12:00-3:00pm) and Registration Set Up (1:00-4:00pm)**

Saturday, Feb 4: **Extension Publication Table (7:30-11:00am and 11:30-3:00pm) and Lunch Setup/Serving/Cleanup (11:00-3:00pm)**

WATER FEST – Pat Farmer reviewed the past CCMGA participation in a collaboratively-sponsored school program (Chilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, Chilton Natural Resources Council, Alabama Forestry Commission). This program is presented to all Chilton County Schools 4th graders. The program will be held on March 17 at Jefferson State. A sign-up sheet for the much-needed volunteer opportunity will be forthcoming.

2023 AMGA CONFERENCE – Pat Farmer and Trisha Williams reviewed details regarding this year’s conference. Registration and payment for the conference “Homegrown in Alabama” (Tuscaloosa, April 3 - 5) can be made online (preferred) or via postal mail. The online link was shared with members via email. Early Bird registration has been extended to January 31st (\$160) and regular registration closes February 28th (\$170).

ANNUAL CCMGA PLANT SALE – The date for this year’s sale is Saturday, April 22nd with a rain date of April 29th. Location will again be at the Goose Pond Park Pavilion. This event will be on Saturday only with an early morning set up. Concerns with the December freeze were shared. All members should assess and be mindful of a possible shortfall in available plants. Contact Gail Brooks (leniorgail@yahoo.com) if you need pots. Leadership for this event is needed.

OPEN DISCUSSION –

-Volunteers are needed for the Chilton County 4-H Peach Pals after school program (10-12 yr. olds) to assist with Blue Bird House construction/assembly. This is tentatively scheduled for February 7th, 3-5:00pm at the Clanton Extension Office. If possible, please bring an electric drill and star bit and contact Ron Herbster for additional information and participation.

-An updated membership listing was provided to all attendees.

-A Beginner’s Beekeeping class, presented by the Chilton County Beekeepers Association is scheduled for four consecutive Tuesdays (Feb 14th, 21st, 28th and March 7th) at Jemison City Hall. More information will be posted on the CCMG website.

-MG Cheryl Gritton shared that she will be moving to her home state of Iowa at the end of February. We will miss her and, in her efforts, to prepare for the move, she gave away several of her gardening books that are southern-state based.

Thanks to Gail Brooks for contributing this month’s door prizes. Leslie Durham adjourned the meeting at 11:31am.

ATTENDANCE -

Members: 31

Interns: 2

Guest: 1

Speaker: 1

TOTAL: 33