

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

**CALL TO ORDER** – Vice President Leslie Durham called the meeting to order at 9:37am and welcomed all members, interns and guests.

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

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS** – Susan Cleckler, Judy Cobb, Jim Rabey, Trisha Williams.

**MINUTES** – Kerry Rush reported that the February 2023 minutes were emailed to the membership and were posted on the CCMGA website. There were no corrections or changes so the minutes stand as posted.

**FINANCES** – Lyn Webb, gave financials for February 2023:

\$7912.34	Beginning Balance
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\$7312.34	Ending Balance
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\$0.00	Deposits
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\$0.00	Withdrawals
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\$624.00	Checks
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\$ 0.00	Checks Outstanding
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\$ 0.00	Total Outstanding
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\$7312.34	Net Balance Checking
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\$100.00	Cash Box Reserve
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\$8146.81	Small Business CD
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**\$15,559.15 TOTAL**

Pending Grant:   \$2150.00       Spent:   \$ 996.24       Ending Balance:   \$1153.76

Lyn also reported that the CCMGA 2022 Financial Audit was conducted on March 7, 2023. The association's financial records were noted for "Great Bookkeeping" and only included one recommendation to add account codes to budget categories on the yearly budget report.

**PROGRAM** – Leslie Durham introduced guest speaker, CCMG Trisha Williams, who shared the presentation “*Native Plants in Grandmother’s Garden*”. Trisha began with a clarification between native plants and naturalized plants, and followed with why native plants should be used in our gardens . . . adaptation, low maintenance, and benefits to native bees, butterflies and wildlife. Trisha shared many native plant species with corresponding photos that included, but certainly not limited to, Bird’s Foot Violets, Columbine, Foxglove Beardtongue, Tall Ironweed and Red Buckeye. Tips on how to get started included researching conditions (sun/shade, soil type, pH, temperature range, rainfall needs, etc.), mature size, and care and maintenance. Trisha reminded the membership of the 1973 Endangered Species Act regarding the harvest of natives from the wild, recommending the use of reputable nurseries instead. A handout with information and resources on plant natives was provided.

**ALABAMA PLANT CONSERVATION ALLIANCE** – Hugh Nichols shared with the membership the potential adoption and participation in a plant conservation project in collaboration with the APCA. Hugh, along with Gail Brooks, Trisha Williams, Alan Reed and Betsy Smith were to participate in a ZOOM meeting (March 20<sup>th</sup>) to learn more about the opportunity, its requirements and commitment, and will then report back to the membership.

**FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE** – Leslie Durham lead a discussion addressing the need for the association to create a Fundraising Committee. This committee would be charged with reviewing and reporting to the membership the viability of potential fundraising opportunities. Discussion among the membership followed and solicitation of volunteers for this committee resulted in the following members’ willingness to serve: Victoria Brady, Skip Coulter, Harriet Jackson, Rick Miller, Jane Rabey and Amy Baker. This committee has been asked to review and report to the association the potentiality of the Christmas Home Tour fundraiser.

**PROJECT REPORTS** – The Demonstration Garden and Extension Office workday schedules were reviewed. Each project has begun spring clean-up and freeze damage assessment. The Rec Center will begin Phase II on April 6<sup>th</sup> with preparation of the beds along the south side of the building. A planting goal of April 13<sup>th</sup> is scheduled thereafter.

#### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES –**

-Water Fest 2023, Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Set up, March 16<sup>th</sup> after 3:00pm. Friday volunteers to report at 8:00am.

-Master Gardener Helpline, March 20-24 and April 24-28; whole or half-day increments. Sign-up sheet was distributed or contact Hugh Nichols.

-“Ask a Master Gardener”, Garrison Farm Center, Saturdays from 8:00 am until noon, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Sign-up sheet was distributed.

-Classroom in the Forest, Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. Sign up sheet was distributed or contact Ron and/or Cheryl Herbster.

-Spring Plant Sale, Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Consider “General Store Items” as well as plants for sale. Contact Betsy Smith and/or Lynne May for questions regarding the General Store.

-Thorsby Farm Day, Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed for a booth for a pre-K – 6<sup>th</sup> grade activity. Contact Pat Farmer for additional information.

## OPEN DISCUSSION

**ALABAMA SMART YARDS** – Harriet Jackson and Hugh Nichols, along with the lead of ACES’s Dani Carroll, shared a research opportunity under the guidance of the Alabama Smart Yards educational program. Participants are being solicited for home vegetable variety trials. Some of the vegetables include basil, okra, bush beans, zucchini, and Malabar spinach. Participants will be provided seeds and will participate in collecting data related to plant date, quantity planted, emergence date, flowering date, first and last yield date, etc. Potential MG participation and additional information will be forthcoming.

**THANKS** - Appreciation is extended to the Hospitality Committee’s St. Patrick’s Day table decoration and the volunteers’ coordinated food snacks. Thanks to Betsy Smith for donating the Rosemary Sugar Cookie-filled coffee mug door prizes.

We appreciate Audrey Giles’s work for this year’s Plant Sale flyers.

Leslie Durham adjourned the meeting at 11:26am. The April 2023 member meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.

## ATTENDANCE -

Members: 28

Interns: 4

Guests: 2

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TOTAL: 34