

CCMGA MEETING MINUTES
April 11, 2023
CLANTON RECREATION CENTER

CALL TO ORDER – President Jerry Farmer called the meeting to order at 9:31am and welcomed all members, interns and guests.

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

APRIL BIRTHDAYS – Joan Barber, Lamar Giles, Wally Walters.

MINUTES – Kerry Rush reported that the March 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 March 2023:

\$7312.34	Beginning Balance
-----------	-------------------

\$7219.06	Ending Balance
-----------	----------------

\$0.00	Deposits
--------	----------

\$65.72	Withdrawals
---------	-------------

\$27.56	Checks
---------	--------

\$ 0.00	Checks Outstanding
---------	--------------------

\$ 0.00	Total Outstanding
---------	-------------------

\$7219.06	Net Balance Checking
-----------	----------------------

\$100.00	Cash Box Reserve
----------	------------------

\$8146.81	Small Business CD
-----------	-------------------

\$15,465.87 TOTAL

Pending Grant: \$2150.00 Spent: \$1082.26 Ending Balance: \$1067.74

PROGRAM – Vice President, Leslie Durham, introduced the April guest speaker, Chilton County Extension Coordinator, Lucy Edwards. Lucy is a member of the A.L.F.A. (Agricultural Leaders for Alabama) Class V cohort. Sponsored by the Alabama Farmers Federation, A.L.F.A. participants are selected through an application process

and receive training in agricultural policy, industry leadership, effective communication and organizational involvement through a two-year course. As part of the participants' training, international agriculture experience is included. Lucy's presentation was a summary of her cohort's agriculture tour to England. She included lots supporting photos and snippets of ag life in the United Kingdom. During the groups' 5-day trip they experienced agriculture at the farm level visiting such producers as Jim and Joe Dufosse's organic beef farm and Rob Addicott's Manor Farm row crop operation. At the retail level the leadership team visited the famous Borough Market. The Borough Market is one of the largest and oldest food markets in London, dating back to at least the 12th century when at one time it adjoined the end of London Bridge. Interestingly, the market vendors are almost exclusively required to be the actual growers and/or makers. The group also visited Smithfield Market which is the largest wholesale meat market in the UK and one of the largest of its kind in Europe. Located at the same site for over 800 years, renovations and restructuring are underway to include a new 42-acre wholesale megamarket, combining the meat market with wholesale fish, fruit and flower markets. A tour of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and the US Embassy, both located in London, were the focus of another tour day. DEFRA is responsible for environmental protection, food production and standards, agriculture, fisheries and rural communities in the United Kingdom. Lucy noted that UK agriculture is highly regulated. Another agricultural opportunity was the groups' tour of the Rothamsted Research Facility. Previously known as Rothamsted Experimental Station and then the Institute of Arable Crops Research, Rothamsted Research is one of the oldest agricultural research institutions in the world (1843). Lucy noted soil samples dating back to 1826 were on display. In addition to the agricultural field trips, the group was fortunate to tour many of the famous sites in and around London such as the Churchill War Rooms, London Eye, Tower Bridge, the Roman Baths, Stonehenge, Windsor Castle and St George's Chapel.

PLANT SALE – Trisha Williams, filling in for Pat Farmer, reviewed all details regarding the April 22 CCMGA Annual Plant Sale. Details and volunteer sign-up included plant labeling, arriving time and location, pricing, table set up, etc.

MAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING/PLANT SWAP – Jerry Farmer reminded the membership of the Tuesday, May 9th event at Goose Pond Park. The event starts at 10:00am and a sign-up sheet of lunch items was distributed. Members are encouraged to bring a plant to play "Dirty Plant Swap".

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE – Harriet Jackson, serving as the spokesperson for the Fundraising Committee (Victoria Brady, Skip Coulter, Rick Miller, Jane Rabey), reviewed 3 options for fundraising opportunities:

1. Plant Sale Change of Date: the committee recommended moving the annual plant sale to May, in order to increase the growth opportunity for sellable plants.
2. Plant Sales added to Friday Fruit Sales: the committee communicated with the CREC (Chilton Research and Extension Center) regarding their Friday Fruit Sales held during seasonal harvest times. The committee recommended the CCMGA provide plant sales simultaneous to the fruit sales.
3. Fall Plant Sale: the committee recommended consideration of a fall plant sale, possibly joining the Thorsby Swedish Fest (October).

CONSERVATION EXPLORATORY COMMISSION REPORT – Hugh Nichols, speaking on behalf of the membership's Exploratory Commission, reviewed the CCMGA's participation commitment to form our own Conservation Group. This group of volunteers (Hugh Nichols, Amelia Bloomfield, Chip Durham, Leslie Durham, Audrey Giles, Lynne May, Rick Miller, Alan Reed, Trisha Williams) will extend the APCA's (Alabama Plant Conservation Alliance) mission and has identified 3 goals: to educate and promote conservation awareness; to collect and report data of endangered or threatened plants; and, to propagate plant material to be placed in the wild or shared with

others to plant. The CCMGA will begin with the APCA’s recommendation to work with the Mohr’s Barbara Button species, currently a federally threatened plant.

PROJECT REPORTS – The Demonstration Garden and Extension Office workday schedules were reviewed. Each project continues with spring clean-up and bed preparations. The Rec Center will continue with Phase II preparation of the beds along the south side of the building. A planting goal for April 13th was scheduled and volunteers were solicited.

OPEN DISCUSSION

LIFETIME MG PINS – In lieu of badges, pins for Lifetime Membership are available for \$10. See Lyn Webb for details.

EXTENSION OFFICE – Lucy Edwards identified the following volunteer opportunities; contact the extension office if you are able to assist or attend:

- 4H Judging, Tuesday, April 25, 9:00am-2:00pm (arrive at 8:00am), Walnut Creek
- Strawberry Jam Workshop, Tuesday, April 18, Extension Office
- Summer “Clover Bud” Program, June & July, 5-8 yr. olds, every Tuesday, 9-11:00am, Extension Office

Thanks to Dianne Clapp for providing this month’s door prizes (awesome succulents in teapots). The April winners were Cheryl Herbster, Lynne May and Jane Rabey.

Jerry Farmer adjourned the meeting at 11:28am. The May 2023 membership meeting, luncheon and annual Plant Swap is scheduled for Tuesday, May 9th, 2023, at 10:00am, Goose Pond Park.

ATTENDANCE -

Members: 30

Interns: 2

Guests: 2

Speaker: 1

TOTAL: 35