

CCMGA MEETING MINUTES
July 11, 2023
CLANTON RECREATION CENTER

CALL TO ORDER – President Jerry Farmer called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

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

JULY BIRTHDAYS – Gail Brooks, Clem Clapp, Jimmy Knowles, Claire Sluyterman von Loo, Lyn Webb.

MINUTES – Kerry Rush reported that the June 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 reported that Pat Farmer finalized this past year’s CAWACO grant and upon the reimbursed deposit, the financial report looked good! Lyn thanked all who made that process work. The financials for June 2023 were presented as follows:

\$8,106.45	Beginning Balance
\$10,013.18	Ending Balance
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\$2,170.00	Deposits
\$0.00	Withdrawals
\$263.27	Checks
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\$ 0.00	Checks Outstanding
\$ 0.00	Total Outstanding
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\$10,013.18	Net Balance Checking
\$100.00	Cash Box Reserve
\$8,231.74	Small Business CD
\$18,344.92	TOTAL

PROGRAM – Vice President, Leslie Durham, introduced the July guest speaker, Mr. Henry Lucas, from the Capital City Master Gardener Association. Mr. Lucas led a presentation on “*Square Foot Gardening*”. A focal point of Mr. Lucas’s presentation was the advantages of using 1-foot increments in raised beds as opposed to traditional row gardening. The advantages Mr. Lucas identified were growing more in less space with less waste, less weeds, and

less work, while promoting reusing, reducing, and recycling. His suggested reading, “All New Square Foot Gardening”, 3rd edition (local bookstore) and an online course at www.squarefootgardening.com were highly recommended. These resources provide basic principles, building suggestions, planning worksheets, and “Do’s and Don’ts” of SFG.

DEMONSTRATION GARDEN/EXTENSION OFFICE/RECREATION CENTER – Trisha Williams reported that the Demo Garden was in full bloom, especially regarding the new “Cutting Garden” and encouraged all members to visit and/or participate in the Monday bi-monthly workdays. Gail Brooks also encouraged all members to participate in the Extension Office Monday workdays opposite the DG. It was noted that the Extension Office, as well as the Demo Garden, offer more than just volunteer hours. Fellowship and learning from one another, along with multiple hands, make for fun and quick accomplishments. Pat Farmer shared and complimented all members who have signed up for the weekly waterings at the Rec Center. As part of the CAWACO grant, representatives will visit the grant recipient sites and the association wants to make certain the project looks its best.

HOSPITALITY – Judy Cobb requested and provided a sign-up sheet for refreshments for the August membership meeting.

FRIDAY PLANT SALE/RESEARCH CENTER FRUIT SALE – Harriet Jackson reported on the first CCMGA Plant Sale coordinated with the Research Center’s Fruit Sale. Harriet shared that the public is requesting shade plants. The membership is asked to provide healthy plants in one-gallon pots (please, no Daylilies or Irises). Volunteers are needed to facilitate this fundraiser which is open to the public on specific Fridays beginning at 1:00pm. Please contact Harriet if you can assist.

SHADE HOUSE/CAWACO GRANT – Jerry and Pat Farmer provided an update on this project. Pat will apply for an approximate \$6000 reimbursable grant (which, upon awarded receipt, will need a quick reconciliation). The structure will serve as an 18’ x 20’ propagation and shade house and will be located at the Demo Garden.

MG HELPLINE – Pat Farmer, speaking for Hugh Nichols, shared that members would be receiving an email from Kerry Smith (Auburn University) with updated changes to the MG Helpline. Members are encouraged to participate in the Helpline volunteer capacity which can be utilized from home using Internet access.

ALABAMA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION FALL CONFERENCE – Pat Farmer announced that the CCMGA has been asked to assist with this September 15th and 16th event (Jeff State Community College Performing Arts Center, Clanton). Volunteers will be needed for registration and other needs.

CCMGA CONSERVATION GROUP – Speaking for Hugh Nichols, John Higginbotham encouraged all members to consider the use of the iNaturalist app. This app is a popular nature and plant identification app available for all devices. The app uses a GPS locator and encourages participation for all nature enthusiasts and includes the opportunity for data collection research purposes. Like all apps, users are encouraged to thoroughly read the iNaturalist Terms of Service and Privacy Policy.

OPEN DISCUSSION

-Landowners Tour: Pat Farmer shared that this event will be coming up and volunteers will be needed.

-Master Gardener Fall Seminar: Harriet Jackson for Lyn Webb shared that the fall seminar will be held at the Huntsville Botanical Gardens. Part of this conference will include the naming of the Transformation Garden's path (to be named by the Alabama Master Gardeners). Both Lyn and Harriet serve on the state committee.

Congratulations to Mildred Knowles as she was the recipient of a Grow Bag door prize.

With no new or old business, Jerry Farmer adjourned the meeting at 11:09am. The August 2023 membership meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at 9:00am at the Clanton Recreation Center.

ATTENDANCE -

Members: 21

Interns: 2

Guests: 2

TOTAL: 25

Submitted by Kerry Rush