

CCMGA MEETING MINUTES
August 8, 2023
CLANTON RECREATION CENTER

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

PLEDGE TO FLAG – Rick Miller led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS – Bobby Atkinson and Skip Coulter.

MINUTES – Kerry Rush reported that the July 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 – Judy Cobb presenting for Lyn Webb reported the July financial status below:

Beginning Balance	\$10,013.18
Ending Balance	\$10,007.74
Total Deposits	\$ 65.00
Total Withdrawals	\$ 0.00
Total Checks	\$ 70.44
Checks Outstanding	\$ 53.18
Total Outstanding	\$ 53.18
 Net Balance Checking	 \$ 9,954.56
Cash Box Reserve	\$ 100.00
Small Business CD	\$8,231.74
 Total	 \$18,286.30

PROGRAM – The association was afforded the opportunity to learn from one of our own, Mr. Skip Coulter, who presented this month on “What the Amish Can Teach Us About Gardening”. With Skip’s ties to Ohio and his appreciation of the Amish culture, he shared a perspective of their beliefs and lifestyle as they relate to gardening. Beginning with a brief history of the Amish emergence and migration to North America, Skip then shared the main beliefs of the Amish (humility, family, and community) and how their beliefs show a humbling artistic expression as well as a purposeful ingenuity. Skip provided samples of Amish quilting, gardening tools,

and kitchen wares, which all demonstrate their high-quality craftsmanship without the “Hochmut” . . . rejection of what the Amish consider pride, arrogance, and haughtiness.

With regard to gardening, Skip shared four contributions the Amish culture emphasizes based on their religious beliefs:

-Earth Value: The appreciation of the creator as seen in crop rotation, manure and organic fertilizer, insect attraction, and field plowing (see Leviticus 19:9-10).

-Kitchen Garden Importance: Again, the Amish community cultivate their gardens under the spiritual teachings that they should be stewards and protectors of the Earth. Planting times and pairings of flowers are driven by nature. The Amish are highly observant and use those observations to yield bounty and beauty.

-Garden Time: The time spent in the garden is not seen by the Amish as a chore but more as a spiritual time to observe and appreciate.

-Garden Community: In reference to the Amish belief of family and community, the garden serves as a source of socialization and stewardship. Gardening is a productive and wholesome activity that involves the whole family.

-Garden Tool Respect: Purpose and quality drive the Amish tool making. They integrate utility and beauty.

Thanks Skip, for your willingness to fill a need and to share an obvious interest and passion.

DEMONSTRATION GARDEN/EXTENSION OFFICE/RECREATION CENTER – Trisha Williams shared that the CREC is hosting two upcoming events (Chick Chain and a dog show) and thus made a request for volunteers to help with preparing the Demo Garden for potential visitors. Gail Brooks stated the Extension Office beds were in good shape for now but that many hands will be appreciated for anticipated fall work. Pat Farmer reported that the Rec Center is still in need of weekly volunteers for watering, especially with the heat and the effort to establish new plantings. Pat also shared the Facebook posting regarding the Rec Center’s CAWACO grant and the role of the CCMGA in that grant.

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

ALABAMA MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION ADVISORY COUNCIL – Harriet Jackson reported on two topics from the AMGA Advisory Council. The first topic pertains to the council’s review of a new format for entering volunteer hours. The new online format differs in the organization and selection of volunteer categories and is intended to be more user friendly. Additional information will be forthcoming. The second topic pertains to the continued process of naming the pathway at the Transformation Garden in Auburn. Harriet and Lyn Web serve on the naming committee and highly encourage participation. Suggested names for this pathway should be emailed to committee’s chair, Michael Thomason (mg2023mbt@gmail.com). The top earning suggestions will then be decided upon by the AMGA Board who are targeting to announce the pathway name in March 2024.

MG HELPLINE – Hugh Nichols shared that the CCMGA is now scheduled to cover the Helpline on Fridays 9:00am until noon. By logging in at the Service Report site (<https://www.acesagmg.site/>), volunteers can click on the Helpline Calendar tab to see needed shift coverage.

ALABAMA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION FALL CONFERENCE – Pat Farmer reviewed the previous month’s announcement that the CCMGA has been asked again to assist with this September 15th and 16th event (Jeff State Community College Performing Arts Center, Clanton). Volunteers will be needed for registration and meal serving. Volunteer sign-up sheets were distributed among the association. Please contact Pat if you can volunteer (jerryfarmer@hotmail.com; 205-955-3090).

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – Jerry Farmer shared that local home builder, Rick Mims, contacted the CCMGA for assistance with plant selection and planting for a Clanton Habitat for Humanity home. Plant selection is for the front of the home. Information about this volunteer opportunity will be forthcoming.

CCMGA CONSERVATION GROUP – Hugh Nichols shared that Patrick Thompson from the Alabama Plant Conservation Alliance (APAC) will be our September guest speaker. Hugh also communicated that a meeting for the members of the CCMGA Conservation Group will be planned and scheduled for the last week in August.

PLANT SALE COMMITTEE – Jerry Farmer solicited input regarding this committee. Association members Gail Brooks, Skip Coulter, Hugh Nichols, Rick Miller, Jane Rabey and Trisha Williams have volunteered to review this fundraising event and plan to meet on August 14, 2023.

OPEN DISCUSSION/NEW BUSINESS

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE – Jerry Farmer solicited leadership for this committee and requested all ideas pertaining to fundraising be forwarded to him (jerryfarmer07@gmail.com).

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - As past president, Pat Farmer, serves as the lead on this committee. The following association members will serve on this year’s committee with her: Joan Barber, Diane Clapp and Jane Rabey.

Congratulations to Lanell Baker, Skip Coulter, Mildred Knowles, Micky O’Neal, Harriet Jackson, Trisha Williams and Hugh Nichols for winning this month’s door prizes. Prize donors included Lyn Webb (hanging signs), Rick Miller (gloves) and Margaritte Hoomes (Demo Garden flower arrangement).

With no further discussion, Jerry Farmer adjourned the meeting at 11:20am. The September 2023 membership meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 9:00am at the Clanton Recreation Center.

ATTENDANCE -

Members: 25

Interns: 0

Guests: 1

TOTAL: 26

Submitted by Kerry Rush