

CCMGA MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 12, 2023
CLANTON RECREATION CENTER

CALL TO ORDER – President Jerry Farmer called the meeting to order at 9:27am.

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS – Lanell Baker and Alan Reed

MINUTES – Kerry Rush reported that the August 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 the August financial status below:

August 2023

Beginning Balance	\$10,007.74
Ending Balance	\$ 9767.78
Total Deposits	\$ 0.00
Total Withdrawals	\$ 0.00
Total Checks	\$ 239.96
Checks Outstanding	\$ 0.00
Total Outstanding	\$ 0.00
Net Balance Checking	\$ 9,767.78
Cash Box Reserve	\$ 100.00
Small Business CD	\$8,231.74
Total	\$18,099.52

STANDING POLICIES CHANGES – Trisha Williams provided a highlighted handout with proposed amendments (see below). Lyn Webb made a motion to approve the highlighted amendments and Harriet Jackson seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the attending membership.

CCMGA Standing Policies

Approved by CCMGA September 12, 2023

Meeting Cancellation and Rescheduling

Cancellation and/or rescheduling of meetings due to inclement weather will be the decision of the President. Email notification will be made. Member list will be divided between officers for telephone/text notification.

Expenditures

Expenditures must be pre-approved by the Board of Directors either in the operating budget, per project, or as needs arise. All projects must have a Board approved budget and any expenditure above the amount set must be preapproved. Board may approve up to \$200 per expenditure outside of budgeted items without membership approval.

Reimbursement of Out of Pocket Expenses

Reimbursement will be made for expenses pre-approved by the Board of Directors if funds are available. In order to be reimbursed, Check Request Form (CCMGA Website) with original receipt showing CCMGA purchases only must be given to President for signature. Reimbursements will be issued at CCMGA monthly meetings. Request for reimbursement should be made in a timely manner (within 60 days if possible); all check requests for current year must be turned in by the December meeting or expenditure will be considered a donation

Donations

Donations may be earmarked for specific item or project. Out of pocket expenditures may be donated, receipt requested—see treasurer.

Hospitality

Chairman will purchase coffee related items, basic paper goods, cups, flatware and tablecloths with a budget determined by Board annually.

Refreshments volunteers duties:

- Arrive by 8:30 and start coffee first.
- Provide your choice coffee cakes, muffins, fruit, cheese.
- If a member wishes to provide decorative paper goods or decorations they are at the member's expense.
- Put supplies away and clean up tables.
- Find someone to take your place, if needed. Let hospitality chairman know.

Christmas Party

Held at site of Directors choice.

Menu or pot luck set by Christmas Party Committee and approved by CCMGA Board
CCMGA may purchase some menu items (Such as ham, turkey or other main dish item)

Dirty Santa: garden related gift \$10-\$20 value—watch for seasonal sales!

Volunteers needed for decorating and hospitality (set up, serving, clean up)

MG Classes

CCMGA member/s may serve as class coordinator/s in conjunction with CEC or REA. Coordinators will collect contact info on prospective class members, attend classes, take attendance, make copies, greet instructors, organize meals, etc. CCMGA officers will attend a class as designated by coordinator and members are encouraged to attend classes when is available.

CCMGA will provide lunch for meals as planned by coordinator.

Duties if members serve as Mentors: attend a designated class to meet and have lunch with Intern, contact Intern several times during class, encourage meeting attendance and volunteering.

Non Member/Non MG Volunteer Policy

- Should be paired with MG or under the guidance of a group leader
- Must sign a photo/video release
- May not represent self as MG
- May not wear MG logo items
- May not work Ask a Master Gardener table
- May not work with children on an MG project
- Should be encouraged to become a Certified MG
- Will receive emails about volunteer opportunities and regular meetings

Condolences

In the event of a death of *current member* a \$100 donation will be made to the MG Horticulture Scholarship at Auburn or as designated by board. Former members and immediate family of current members will be sent a card if CCMGA is notified.

AMGA Conference

CCMGA will pay \$200 for conference expenses, if funds are available, for the President to attend. If President cannot attend \$200 will go to another officer to attend.

CCMGA Project Proposals

Projects proposed to CCMGA must be submitted to the President or V President on the Project Request Form (found on the CCMGA website). Projects will be screened by Board of Directors, if approved, brought to the membership for approval.

CCMGA On-going Projects

CCMGA Demonstration Garden maintenance
Chilton County Extension Office bed maintenance
Clanton Recreation Center (sign planter and beds)
Master Gardener Helpline

PROGRAM – Vice President Leslie Durham introduced this month's guest speaker, Mr. Patrick Thompson. Patrick is the Curator and Arboretum Specialist at the Donald E. Davis Arboretum located on the Auburn University campus. Patrick is also the Coordinator for the Alabama Plant Conservation Alliance (APCA). It is through the CCMGA's newly formed and committed Conservation Group, working under the guidance of APCA, that afforded the opportunity to have Patrick speak with our organization. Patrick shared general information regarding the relationship of AU's College of Science and Mathematics, the Department of Biological Sciences, and the Davis Arboretum. He included arboretum details such as the age, size, layout and the two nationally accredited plant collections (Oaks and Native Azaleas; [Donald E. Davis Arboretum Facts - Auburn University College of Sciences and Mathematics](#)). Moving next into the role of APCA, Patrick discussed topics such as integrated plant conservation (in situ = on site and ex situ = off site) and intelligent tinkering regarding supporting species survival. Patrick shared many photos and details of four recommended project plant species: Georgia Aster, Mohr's Barbara's Button, Owl's Eye Ginger and Alabama Canebrake Pitcher Plant (found only in Chilton and Autauga counties). Patrick's turnaround message for us is that Alabama, and more personally, Chilton County, has some unique and amazing plants that are very worthy of recognizing and saving and that Master Gardeners can play a vital role in that endeavor.

Following Patrick's presentation, Hugh Nichols, lead for the CCMGA Conservation Group, facilitated a Q&A opportunity between Patrick and the membership. Additionally, Hugh gave a brief review of the group's next goals: Consider CCMGA-CG representation at the APCA Fall meeting in December; Coordinate iNaturalist training to support plant ID; Propagate plant samples provided by Patrick to gain experience and proficiency; and to Develop a community education program. Any members interested in joining the Conservation Group can email Hugh (ghughnic@yahoo.com).

HOSPITALITY – If you would like to help provide refreshments for the October membership meeting, please contact Judy Cobb (jdycobb@gail.com).

TRANSFORMATION GARDEN PATHWAY NAMING – As a reminder, the Alabama Master Gardeners have are raising funds for the opportunity to name the path running through the Transformation Garden on the Auburn University Campus. Please take a moment to offer a suggested name by submitting electronically to the naming committee’s chair, Michael Thomason (mg2023mbt@gmail.com). While the pathway name will be decided by popular vote, it would seem fitting that it include “Master Gardener” in some capacity. Suggestions might include “Alabama Master Gardeners Way” or “Master Gardener Path”, etc.

MG HELPLINE – CCMGA assistance with the MG Helpline is a volunteer opportunity on Fridays 9:00am until noon. You can sign up by logging in at the Service Report site (<https://www.acesagmg.site/>) and clicking on the Helpline Calendar tab to see needed shift coverage.

Congratulations to Amy Baker, Harriet Jackson, and Betsy Smith for winning this month’s door prizes. Thanks to Lyn Webb who provided the garden flags and candle prizes.

With no further discussion, Jerry Farmer adjourned the meeting at 11:04am. The October 2023 membership meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 9:00am at the Clanton Recreation Center.

ATTENDANCE -

Members: 19
Interns: 2
Guests: 2

TOTAL: 23

Submitted by Kerry Rush