

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

CALL TO ORDER – President Jerry Farmer called the meeting to order at 9:31am.

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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS – Robin Cagle, Sharon Hosch, Sally Moore, Hugh Nichols, April Oakes, Rick Miller, Kerry Rush

MINUTES – Kerry Rush reported that the October 2023 minutes were posted on the CCMGA website. Two letters of appreciation sent to the association were shared with the membership. The Butterfly Bridge Children’s Advocacy Center thanked the CCMGA for the \$250 donation and the Indian Springs Village Garden Club shared their appreciation with a \$100 donation to the CCMGA upon visiting the Demonstration Garden in September.

FINANCES – Lyn Webb reported the September financial status as shown below. As a reminder, Lyn shared the \$5000 CAWACO grant that is reimbursed upon final completion and implementation of the new Demo Garden Shade House.

**Chilton County Master Gardener Association
Monthly Reconciliation
October 2023**

Beginning Balance	\$ 9626.95
Ending Balance	\$ 5045.98
Total Deposits	\$ 565.00
Total Withdrawals	\$4895.97
Total Checks	\$ 250.00
Checks Outstanding	\$ 113.44
Total Outstanding	\$ 113.44
Net Balance Checking	\$ 4932.54
Cash Box Reserve	\$100.00
Small Business CD	\$8,275.01
Total	\$13,307.55
Pending Grant	\$5000.00
Spent	\$4895.97
Available from Grant	\$ 104.03

PROGRAM – This month’s guest speaker, Dr Betsy Smith, was introduced by Vice President Leslie Durham. Upon retiring after 32 years in education, Betsy immediately interned and became a certified MG through our own Chilton County Association. She also became active in the Herb Society of America and is currently serving as its Vice President. After a quote from American Herbalist Rosemary Goldstar, Betsy began her presentation, *Open the Gift of Herbs . . . for Use and Delight*, with a very fitting herb definition:

*Herbs are defined as **plants** (trees, shrubs, vines, perennials, biennials or annuals) valued historically, presently, or potentially for their flavor, fragrance, medicinal qualities, insecticidal qualities, economic or industrial use, or in the case of dyes, for the coloring material they provide. (Holly Shimizu)*

Betsy identified the following 5 herb families by name, examples, and general uses:

1. **Lamiaceae-Mint Family:** Includes herbs such as basil, oregano, rosemary, sage, and thyme. *They are most known for their aromatic leaves and are used in a variety of dishes.*
2. **Asteraceae-Aster, Lettuce or Dairy Family:** Includes herbs such as chamomile, echinacea, and yarrow. *They are most known for their daisy-like flowers and are used for medicinal purposes.*
3. **Apiaceae-Carrot Family:** Includes herbs such as cilantro, dill, and parsley. *They are most known for their tap root and delicate leaves and are used in a variety of dishes.*
4. **Amaryllidaceae-Amaryllis Family:** Includes herbs such as garlic, leeks, and onions. *They are most known for their bulbous roots and are used in a variety of dishes.*
5. **Lauraceae-Laurel Family:** Includes herbs such as bay leaves, cinnamon and some avocado leaves. *They are most known for their aromatic leaves and are used in a variety of dishes.*

Betsy shared a chart identifying recommended growing conditions for each family of herbs. She also included details regarding the various parts of the herb plants that are used (whole plant, leaves, sap, bark, flowers, bulbs, etc.) Lastly, Betsy provided information about harvesting, cooking, and preserving herbs, and included some non-culinary herb uses such as air fresheners/potpourri, gifts, Fairy Gardens, and even when practicing some yoga . . . “Mr. Yarrow Posture Man”!

OFFICER NOMINATION AND VOTE – Nomination Committee Members Present, Diane Clapp, Pat Farmer. Upon the committee’s recommendation, the following members were nominated for the 2024 CCMGA officer positions: President, Skip Coulter; Vice President, Betsy Smith; Treasurer, Judy Cobb; Secretary, Kerry Rush. Lyn Webb moved the slate be approved as presented; Clem Clapp seconded the motion, and the vote was approved by the membership.

HOSPITALITY – Judy Cobb. Sign-up sheets were distributed among the membership in preparation for the December meeting and Christmas celebration. Sign-up opportunities include food items, decorating, set-up and take-down. Food should be delivered by 10:30am, the membership meeting will be at 11:00am, and the Christmas lunch and celebration will follow.

ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE – Harriet Jackson. Harriet shared the following AC agenda items:

- Membership Categories include Active, Inactive, and Alumna (new category)
- The new Service Report system will go into effect in January 2024. Previously presented ZOOM presentations detailing the system are currently being scheduled for additional review opportunities.
- New MG mission and vision statements, along with the 5-year strategic plan, were shared.
- The statewide MG Intern graduation will be in Auburn on December 15, 2024.

- The Alabama Master Naturalist program registration is currently open, and information can be found at www.aces.edu/blog/topics/forestry/alabama-master-naturalist-program/
- The next AC Board Meeting is December 5, 2023, and the next AC meeting is February 6, 2024. Both meetings are at Petals From the Past and all members are invited and encouraged to attend.
- The 2024 AMGA Annual Conference is set for Daphne, Alabama (Baldwin County), April 20-24, 2024.
- As a reminder, the Alabama Master Gardeners have raised 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 Avenue" or "Master Gardener Path", etc.

MASTER GARDENER/PROJECT OF THE YEAR – Trisha Williams. A new MG of the Year selection criterion was presented to the membership. The presented process will be a board compiled list of members based on volunteer hours, meeting attendance, and leadership participation. Membership will vote from the compiled list. The MG Project of the Year be similar in that a list will be compiled and the membership will vote. Harriet Jackson made a motion to approve the new processes, Diane Clapp seconded the motion, and upon membership vote the motion was approved.

PLANT SALE COMMITTEE – Trisha Williams announced the PSC has reconsidered the previously selected PS date and has selected April 13, 2024, with a rain date of April 20, 2024 for this upcoming year's Plant Sale date(s).

DEMO GARDEN/EXT OFFICE/REC CENTER UPDATES – Trisha Williams, Gail Brooks, Pat Farmer. The DG and EO will continue with alternating workdays through November. Membership email reminders will be sent for volunteer opportunities. Peggy McGraw, Jerry Farmer, Pat Farmer, Audrey Giles and Amy Baker were thanked for the winter planting of the Rec Center's sign bed. Volunteer opportunities continue for the Rec Center watering.

SHADE HOUSE STRUCTURE – Hugh Nichols. The shade structure has been delivered and a scheduled workday for assembly is Friday, November 18, 2024, at the Demo Garden. Volunteers are needed both for assembly and for lunch items.

CONSERVATION GROUP UPDATE – Hugh Nichols. Patrick Thompson (Alabama Plant Conservation Alliance) visited the Demo Garden and suggested an opportunity to grow the Alabama Canebrake Pitcher Plant in the garden. The location has been prepared for planting.

Congratulations to Diane Clapp, Pat Farmer, Sally Moore and Kerry Rush for winning this month's door prizes. Thanks to Skip Coulter who provided the jars of jams.

With no further discussion, Leslie Durham adjourned the meeting at 11:15am. The December 2023 membership meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at the Clanton Recreation Center. Food items should be delivered by 10:30am. The membership meeting will follow at 11:00am with lunch and the Christmas Celebration thereafter.

ATTENDANCE -

Members: 30; Intern: 1; TOTAL: 31

Submitted by Kerry Rush