

**CCMGA MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 12, 2024**  
**CLANTON RECREATION CENTER**

**CALL TO ORDER** – Vice President Betsy Smith called the meeting to order at 9:29 am.

**PLEDGE TO FLAG** – Hugh Nichols led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS** – Judy Cobb, Jim Rabey, Trisha Williams.

**PROGRAM** – This month’s program speaker, Dr Wayne Barger, was introduced by Vice President, Betsy Smith. After completing his education, teaching, researching and botanizing in several southeastern states, Dr Barger now serves at the State Botanist for the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR). Under the ADCNR’s State Land’s Division, and more specifically, The Alabama Natural Heritage Section, one of Wayne’s many responsibilities is maintaining a current and historic understanding of the natural wonders of Alabama. “*Plant Conservation in Alabama*” was the title of his presentation. Because of our state’s coast to coast land diversity, its plant species diversity, and its living species as a whole diversity, Alabama is among the highest ranked states in biodiversity in the nation. Along with this diversity comes a plethora of human efforts to identify, protect, propagate and celebrate for enjoyment now and in the future. Below are a few of those efforts Wayne highlighted:

\*Forever Wild Land Trust (FWLT)– This is Alabama’s only land acquisition program in the state. Since its establishment in 1992, FWLT has secured more than 287,000 acres for public use. The FWLT’s protection of natural resources extends to its financial resources protection as well, using no taxpayer monies for its funding. Instead, FWLT has a capped annual \$15 million funding, generated by offshore natural gas royalties, state license plate sales, and grant competitive proposals matching state funds to federal funds to support land acquisitions. For Wayne, he is involved in the development of a central plant depository for historic and current distribution records for Alabama plant species. He travels the state conducting vascular plant inventories and developing management plans for these state-owned properties.

\*Alabama Plant Conservation Alliance (APCA) - With our CCMGA already familiar with APCA and having since created our own Conservation Group, Wayne emphasized the important work of protecting plants, plant habitats and plant communities by facilitating specific project-based cooperative actions. CCMGA member, Hugh Nichols, commented on this partnership and its relationship with regard to Chilton County.

\*Alabama Natural Heritage Section Herbarium (ALNHS) – A herbarium is a collection of dried plant specimens and the ALNHS is part of the Alabama Herbarium Consortium (AHC), dedicated to preserving and documenting the state’s botanical diversity. Having founded the State Herbarium in 2010, Wayne as its curator, has fully imaged over 8,000 plant collections. Using plant presses and acid free paper, his collections are preserved, digitized and UPC-like categorized. He estimates approximately 87.5% of the native species have been categorized. The specimen data and images from ALNHS have already begun to be included in the [Alabama Plant Atlas](#). The Alabama Plant Atlas is a web-based publication and is a joint effort to provide a comprehensive searchable database of plants that occur in the state of Alabama.

\*Section 6 Grants – In reference to Section 6 of the federal Endangered Species Act, Wayne has worked to formalize a cooperative agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the ADCNR to provide funding for protection of rare plant species in Alabama. These grants have provided over \$600,000 in funding for research on Federally Endangered/Threatened/At-Risk plant species since 2018.

Throughout Wayne’s presentation, he provided photographs of rare and/or endemic plant species found in Alabama, for example . . . [Phlox pulchra](#) (Wherry’s phlox or Alabama phlox), [Sarracenia alabamensis ssp.](#)

[alabamensis](#) (Alabama Canebrake Pitcher Plant), and [Leptogramma burksiorum](#) (Alabama Streak Sorus Fern). In closing, Dr. Wayne Barger welcomed the membership to contact him with any questions or identification requests. He can be reached at 334.707.0754 or at [wayne.barger@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:wayne.barger@dcnr.alabama.gov). In all contacts, please be certain to identify yourself by name and by the CCMGA.

**GENERAL MEETING**

**MINUTES** – Kerry Rush reported that the February 2024 minutes were posted on the CCMGA website and emailed to members. With no changes or additions to the minutes they will stand as posted.

**FINANCES** - Judy Cobb shared the February 2024 financial report as listed below:

**Chilton County Master Gardener Association  
Monthly Reconciliation  
February 2024**

Beginning Balance	\$ 2972.78
Ending Balance	\$ 2537.92
Total Deposits	\$ 0.00
Total Withdrawals	\$ 0.00
Total Checks	\$ 434.86
Checks Outstanding	\$ 0.00
Net Balance Checking	\$ 2537.92
Cash Box Reserve	\$ 100.00
Small Business CD (w/ \$00.13 interest)	\$ 8361.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,999.91</b>

**CCMGA ANNUAL PLANT SALE** – Trisha Williams collected the plant info sheet from members and encouraged all those who have not submitted to please do so as soon as possible. You can send the information via a text or email to her ([trisha325@gmail.com](mailto:trisha325@gmail.com); 205-410-5074). Another copy of the sheet is included for your convenience. The following information pertains to the Plant Sale:

\*Saturday, April 13, 2024, with rain date of April 20, 2024; 9:00am to 1:00pm.

\*Goose Pond Park, Clanton, Alabama

\*Please arrive at 7:00am to assist and to drop off plants, Country Store items, supplies, etc.

\*Wagons are needed; please let Trisha know if you can provide one.

\*Save and bring cardboard boxes and plastic grocery-type bags for purchased plant transport.

\*BYOC and L (chair and lunch; coffee and morning food items will be provided for volunteers).

\*Distribute flyers to businesses, churches, etc., (copy attached).

\*Country Store items can be brought to next month's membership meeting (Tuesday, April 9, 2024).

**AMGA** – The state convention is April 22-24, 2024, in Daphne, AL. There is information regarding the registration process, on the [ACES Alabama Master Gardeners](#) site.

**WATER FEST 2024** - Volunteers were reminded of the March 15, 2024, event.

**CLOSING ACTIVITY** – Betsy Smith led the membership in a morning exercise and stretch. She reminded us of the three ways to stretch our backs . . . forward & backward, side to side, and twisting. Betsy also encouraged and challenged us to sit down and get up from the floor three times each day.

**DOOR PRIZES** – Thanks to Judy Cobb, Audrey Giles, and Betsy Smith for this month's door prizes. Winners included Barbara Patrick (MG hat), Chip Durham (fresh eggs), and Sharon Hosch (yoga stretch postcard).

**NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING** – Tuesday, April 9, 2024. Come early, 9:00am, for fellowship, followed by a 9:30am program and general meeting. If you can help set up chairs and tables, please arrive by 8:30am.

Betsy Smith adjourned the meeting at 11:20am.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Members: 21                      Interns: 1                      Guest: 1                      TOTAL: 23

Minutes submitted by Kerry Rush

