

Minutes for July 9, 2024 Membership Meeting

** Note: due to a strange configuration of July 4 holiday dates, no board meeting was held prior to this meeting. They will resume on August 5 for the August 13, 2024 CCMGA Meeting.

Number in Attendance: 20

Opening at 9:30: Clem Clapp led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Program: Trisha Williams was introduced as the speaker. She was raised in an Air Force family and literally lived from Maine to the West Coast. She was the first Master Gardener of the Year for CCMGA. Her topic was container gardens. She gave an engaging presentation which was enriched by some superb pictures of memorable container gardens. She had several main points:

1. Why container gardens? Trisha pointed out that they were great for people with limited space, limited time, limited mobility, for people with a desire to be creative. They were also great for people whose current gardening site was unsuitable.
2. What is needed to establish a good container garden? Trisha discussed types of containers, ideal potting mix, selecting plants, fertilizing, and watering.
3. What sorts of plants can thrive in a container? Trisha gave multiple examples of full sun flowers and shade flowers, as well as examples of vegetables and herbs that could be planted in a container.
4. Trisha gave examples of good containers which display a “thriller”, a “filler”, and a “spiller”. She pointed out that having all three in a container was not an absolute rule and that members should build container gardens that please them.
5. Trisha gave characteristics of plants, such as their color mix, their shapes, their forms, their heights, that could be considered by a member putting together a container with plants that were complementary.
6. Steps to the planting itself: select the number of plants, cover the drain holes, fill the container $\frac{3}{4}$ full with potting media, remove plants from nursery containers, tease the roots, place in the pot, and add potting media.
7. Fertilization: can use water soluble fertilizer at about a $\frac{1}{4}$ rate, use time release fertilizer, and remember that some plants come with fertilizer and need no extra.
8. Trisha offered tips for excellent containers such as:
 - a. Weather conditions
 - b. Staking tall plants
 - c. Hardening off propagating plants
 - d. Placing legs/saucers under the container to allow good drainage

Trisha closed her presentation with her assurance that it's the member's garden and that we should go out, plant some containers, and have fun with it. She ended her visuals with a great picture of a pickup truck filled with a container garden and filled with whimsical items from dramatically varied plants to yard art which illustrated the creativity and joy in container gardening.

After a break, Judy Cobb presented the Treasurer's Report during which she revealed a good budget balance of more than nine thousand dollars plus expenditures of under two dollars for the month.

Chilton County Master Gardener Association
Monthly Reconciliation
June 2024

Beginning Balance	\$ 9,350.73
Ending Balance	\$ 9159.16
Total Deposits	\$ 0.00
Total Withdrawals	\$ 0.00
Total Checks	\$ 191.57
Checks Outstanding	\$ 0.00
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Net Balance Checking	\$ 9159.16
Cash Box Reserve	\$ 100.00
Small Business CD	\$ 8405.01
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Total	<u>\$ 17,664.17</u>

The birthdays for July included Lyn Webb, Jimmy Knowles, Clem Clapp, and Gail Brooks. It was great to have Jimmy Knowles back in attendance.

Door prizes this month were from Ohio Amish country. Sharon Hosch handled the drawing, Skip brought the jam and apple butter from Ohio.

Hugh Nichols gave a report on the demonstration gardening, reporting that the workdays were averaging some 7 persons per day. He reported that Bobby Atkinson was heading up the extension garden work, and then applause was given to the host of persons who have helped brighten up the grounds of the Rec Center where CCMGA meets.

Hugh gave a report on the Conservation group's work and their having the privilege of presenting their progress to a state meeting in Arlidge Gardens this coming Friday, July 12.

Skip expressed hopes that someone would take the challenge to lead a seed-saving element in CCMGA. Discussion of the fun in sharing seeds and plant growing stories followed.

Sharon Hosch introduced a program designed to encourage members to ask friends to CCMGA meetings. Sharon also solicited ideas for serving the community better by communicating the activities of the group to the community. Many helpful ideas were written on cards and returned to Sharon.

The meeting closed with a patriotic trivia contest with the Loyalists winning a close match over the Patriots. Skip was faced with near mutiny over some of the humorous questions.

Skip Coulter adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Skip Coulter