

CCMGA MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 13, 2024
CLANTON RECREATION CENTER

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

PLEDGE TO FLAG – Clem Clapp led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

PROGRAM –The guest speaker for this month was Bionca Lindsey from the Autauga County Master Gardeners Association. The title of Bionca’s presentation was, “Let’s Learn About Hostas”, which was her area of concentration while earning her Advanced Master Gardener Certification. Bionca was as entertaining as she was informative, sharing interesting facts abouts the number one selling perennial nationally. Hostas are not native to the United States but originated in China and are considered shrubs that grow in the US hardiness zones 3-9. The plant varieties (of which there are over 11,000 cultivars) thrive in shade or part shade and require 4-6 weeks of below 42°F temperatures (dormancy), prior to their spring arrival. Backed by beautiful photos, Bionca shared the extensive variation hostas display in plant shape (mound, vase), color (green, yellow, blue, white, variegated), and leaf shape (heart, oval, lanceolate-long and skinny, cup). With regard to planting and maintaining hostas, Bionca emphasized the hardiness of the plant. She recommended dividing hostas in the spring or fall, selecting an appropriately shaded site, using manure in the planting hole, leaving the crown even with the ground, and watering in very well. Fertilization is best in the spring when new growth is emerging, using an organic, slow-release fertilizer (10-10-10 or 20-20-20). While relatively resilient, complete with two foliage cycles, Bionca shared that hostas do have their share of nemeses . . . heat, slugs, deer, voles and even a few viruses, to name a few. Bionca concluded her presentation with two recommended resources: Hosta Library (<http://hostlibrary.org>) and Hosta Dictionary (<https://americanhostasociety.org/hosta-dictionary>). If you have questions or would like to get in touch with Bionca, she can be reached at: bloveshostas@gmail.com.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS – Bobby Atkinson, Skip Coulter, and Linda Hays.

APPRECIATION NOTE – Betsy Smith shared an appreciation note from member Lyn Webb. Lyn expressed her appreciation for the texts, notes, cards, and calls she has received and for the concern for her husband, Kenny.

MINUTES – Kerry Rush reported that the July 2024 minutes were emailed to the membership and were posted on the CCMGA website. There were no corrections or changes so the minutes will stand as posted. Kerry also shared an opportunity to celebrate the upcoming wedding of our County Extension Coordinator, Lucy Edwards (Nov 2, 2024). A monetary contribution toward a wedding gift will be collected by Kerry through the September Membership Meeting (Sept 10, 2024), or you can Venmo her (@Kerry_Rush-2).

FINANCES – Judy Cobb shared the following financial report for July 2024:

Chilton County Master Gardener Association

Monthly Reconciliation

July 2024

Beginning Balance	\$ 9,159.16
Ending Balance	\$ 9159.16
Total Deposits	\$ 0.00
Total Withdrawals	\$ 0.00
Total Checks	\$ 0.00
Checks Outstanding	\$ 0.00
Net Balance Checking	\$ 9159.16
Cash Box Reserve	\$ 100.00
Small Business CD	\$ 8405.01
Total	<u>\$ 17,664.17</u>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY – Harriet Jackson shared an opportunity to assist Sherry Carter (Nutrition Education Agent) in preparing folders on Thursday, August 15, 2024, at 9:00am at the Chilton County Extension Office.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION – Trisha Williams shared the following information items:

-4H Mum Sale order date has been extended to August 21, 2024. Pick-up date will be September 16-20, 2024, at the CC Extension Office. Order forms were provided or may be completed at the Extension Office.

-The AMGA Fall Conference (Auburn University) is Thursday October 10, 2024. Registration information is available on the AMGA website located at: <https://rb.gy/d9hp0z>

-The Blount County Master Gardeners' Fall Conference is Thursday, October 3, 2024. The day's event is focused on native plants. Registration information is available on the AMGA website located at: <https://rb.gy/zz4um3>

-Rec Center water schedule is available for volunteer hours sign-up. Contact Pat Farmer (jerryatfarmer@hotmail.com) if you can assist!

-Update from Advisory Council meeting, August 6, 2024: The ACES website is transitioning to the AMGA website. More information and possible costs consideration will be forthcoming.

-The use of the word “Extension”, in conjunction with “Master Gardener” (as in, “Extension Master Gardener”) is being encouraged at the state level. The goal is to emphasize the relationship with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES), and to further the land-grant mission of research-based education and outreach.

REA JACOB TURNER – Jacob shared several Extension opportunities such as “Grow More Strawberries” (<https://rb.gy/54aeqn>), the Jefferson County MG Fall Flower Bulb sale (through August 21, 2024), and the pollinator plot development gathering (Alabama Power initiative) on October 30, 2024 from 2-6:00PM at Beeswax Park on Lay Lake. Feel free to contact Jacob if you would like more information (jzt0048@auburn.edu).

2025 AMGA CONFERENCE/SILENT AUCTION CONTRIBUTIONS - Betsy Smith, sharing from Skip Coulter, asked the membership to consider sending a monetary contribution versus a tangible contribution (themed basket for the silent auction) to the 2025 AMGA Conference. Additional input will be solicited at next month's meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION – Sharon Hosch shared the following items:

-Sharon attended the Board Meeting of the Humane Society where they have requested assistance with planning a front garden. More information will follow.

-The Clanton Advertiser will begin publishing short articles prepared by the CCMGA. The articles will be approximately 400 words in length and will be accompanied by a related photograph. If you have ideas for articles, please contact Sharon (sharon_hosch@yahoo.com)

CONSERVATION GROUP UPDATE – Betsy Smith and Hugh Nichols reported they had a positive experience speaking at Aldridge Gardens on behalf of our Conservation Group and along with members of the Alabama Plant Conservation Alliance (APCA). They shared the group’s community education efforts. Additionally, our CG is planning to apply for inclusion on the AMGA’s Speaker Bureau List and to apply for the “Search for Excellence” award presented by the AMGA.

The CG is proud to share that our own Amy Baker has been successful in germinating two Alabama Canebrake Pitcher Plants. As a reminder, this plant is found in only two places worldwide . . . Chilton County and Autauga County. Way to go, Amy!

SHADE HOUSE ACTIVITIES – Betsy Smith, from Skip Coulter, shared that upon the completion of the Shade House structure, inclusive of water and power (thanks, Hugh Nichols), the goal of using the structure for community service and education is ready to be fulfilled. Betsy communicated Skip’s desire to form a committee to explore, promote, and solicit the Shade House for this purpose. More information will follow.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Betsy Smith announced that member selection to serve on the 2024 Nominating Committee (for the 2025 year) is currently underway. If you have an interest in serving in any CCMGA office/capacity, please contact Skip Coulter (coul6577@bellsouth.net).

This month's door prizes were presented to Bobby Atkinson and Teresa Farmer (charms), Beverly Williamson (garden flag), and Lanell Baker (puzzle).

Congratulations to our guest, Debbie Houser, who was the recipient of our guest gift!

With no additional new or old business, Betsy Smith adjourned the meeting at 10:55 am. The September 2024 membership meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 9:00am at the Clanton Recreation Center.

Members: 25

Interns: 3

Guests: 4

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 32

Minutes submitted by Kerry Rush