

**CCMGA MEETING MINUTES**  
**OCTOBER 8, 2024**  
**CLANTON RECREATION CENTER**

**CALL TO ORDER** – President Skip Coulter called the meeting to order at 9:32am.

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

**PROGRAM** – Vice President Betsy Smith gave the introduction for this month’s speaker, Alisha Millican, whose presentation was titled “Fungus Among Us . . . Intro to Fungi for the Home Gardener”. Amazingly, Alisha became involved in the world of fungi simply by looking for an opportunity to meet people after a recent move. From that first encounter to today, Alisha provided an informative and thorough presentation on fungi, especially with regard to mushrooms. Her knowledge base has expanded so extensively that she is currently serving as the President of the Alabama Mushroom Society, is serving on the Executive Board of the North American Mycology Association, and is the Assistant Curator of Fungi for the University of West Alabama Herbarium.

Alisha’s presentation began with the taxonomic classification of fungi, which historically has varied over the years (originally placed in the plant kingdom; in 1969 was first recognized as a separate kingdom). Mushrooms, specifically, are defined as the fleshy, spore-bearing body of a fungus. Alisha shared several mushroom myths, such as, if an animal can eat it, humans can eat it . . . wrong! She also shared mushroom foraging etiquette and the importance of learning to forage via joining reputable groups for hands-on experiences.

Next, Alisha shared the importance of proper mushroom identification that includes capturing multiple photos of the complete base, caps, stems, cross sections, and surroundings. Smells are identifiers as well, and she cautioned not using just one photo when attempting to identify with available apps. Common edible mushrooms were next on Alisha’s presentation, and these were complemented with photos.

Alisha then focused on the garden positives of fungi presence such as removing nematodes in soil, breaking down mulch and woody debris, and eradicating too much water in container planters. On the reverse, Alisha identified several detrimental fungi often seen in home gardening such as corn smut (although edible), black spot rot on roses, and peach leaf curl (affects almonds, peaches, nectarines, apricots).

In closing, Alisha stressed the importance of having access to resources (for example, from Facebook: Poisons Help; Emergency Identification for Mushrooms & Plants) that specifically assist with poisonous ID of mushrooms and plants, because even the CDC needs more specific detail in an emergency!

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS** – Teresa Davis, Kaylee Doucet, Chip Durham, Jerry Farmer, Cheryl Herbster, Ron Herbster, Harriet Jackson.

**MINUTES** – With no corrections or changes, Kerry Rush reported that the September 2024 minutes emailed to the membership and posted on the association’s website would stand.

**FINANCES** – Judy Cobb shared the financial report below for September 2024:

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

Beginning Balance	\$ 9,074.45
Ending Balance	\$ 8,894.81
Total Deposits	\$ 0.00
Total Withdrawals	\$ 0.00
Total Checks	\$ 179.64
Checks Outstanding	\$ 0.00
<b>Net Balance Checking</b>	<b>\$ 8,894.81</b>
Cash Box Reserve	\$ 100.00
Small Business CD	\$ 8405.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 17,399.82</b>

**EXTENSION OFFICE/DEMO GARDEN/REC CENTER UPDATES** – Hugh Nichols shared that both the Extension Office and the Demo Garden were maintaining as the season of attendance will begin to wind down in November. Amy Baker shared that the addition of perennials at the Rec Center is forthcoming. Amy also provided a sign-up sheet and stated that volunteers were need for Rec Center watering.

**HUMANE SOCIETY UPDATE** - Sharon Hosch recognized the participation and passion of Wally and Lee Waters as they have led the revitalization of the Humane Society of Chilton County’s front entrance. Nine CCMGA members turned out for the September 30, 2024, workday. Both Wally and Sharon attended the HSCC’s board meeting on October 7, 2024, where plans for a new facility was announced.



**MG INTERN CLASS 2025 UPDATE** - Skip Coulter shared the following updates to the proposal and recruitment of a 2025 Master Gardener intern class:

- \*Classes will meet Jan 30, 2024, through May 1, 2024
- \*In-person class meetings will be Thursday evenings, 5:30-7:30pm, at the Clanton Extension Office
- \*A minimum of 10 participants is required
- \*Registration runs Nov1-Nov 30, 2024
- \*Cost is \$175 (\$25 discount if registered on or before Nov 15, 2024)
- \*Information is available at: <https://www.aces.edu/go/mgv>
- \*Current CCMGA members are invited and encouraged to consider mentorship
- \*Current CCMGA members are encouraged to participate in recruitment

**COUNTRY STORE/PLANT SALE** - Skip Coulter brought sample items that would be appropriate and have the likelihood to make a profit at this year's plant sale, which is scheduled for April 12, 2025. All garden and plant-associated items can be brought to the monthly membership meetings and will be housed at the Demo Garden storage shed until the time of the sale.

**CONSERVATION GROUP UPDATE** – Hugh Nichols shared that the group met two weeks previous. The group invited all members to attend a field trip on Monday, October 14, 2024, to The Recreative Natives nursery (Cropwell, AL). If you would like to be a part of the Conservation Group, contact Hugh to add you to the email list ([ghughnic@yahoo.com](mailto:ghughnic@yahoo.com)).

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**CCMGA PROMOTION** – Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 5:00pm members will be meeting at the Extension Office to assemble a tri-fold presentation board to be used for promotional purposes. This board is designed to sit table-top and will serve as an excellent backdrop for Ask-a-Master Gardener and other similar outreach opportunities.

**HOWLOWEEN FESTIVAL** – Hosted by The Wellness Group, LLC, the October 26, 2024 (11:00am-5:00pm) event is a fundraiser for the Humane Society of Chilton County. The CCMGA will have an Ask-a-Master Gardener" table. The event will be at Ollie Park in downtown Clanton.

**STEWARDSHIP EXPO** - The Alabama Power sponsored event will include a CCMGA-manned table from 2-5:00pm on Wednesday, October 30, 2024, at Beeswax Creek Park on Lay Lake.

## **MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION**

This month's door prizes were awarded to Teresa Freeman (plant), Pat Farmer (tools), Kathy Oakes (gloves), and Beverly Williamson (books).

Congratulations to our guests, David and Martha Wright, who were the recipient of this month's guest gift!

The winner of this month's trivia game, "Fall Gardening" went to the perennials!

With no additional new or old business, Skip Coulter adjourned the meeting at 11:22am. The November 2024 membership meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 9:00am at the Clanton Recreation Center. Invite a friend!

Members: 23

Interns: 3

Guests: 5

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 31

Minutes prepared and submitted by Kerry Rush