

CCMGA MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2024
CLANTON RECREATION CENTER

CALL TO ORDER – President Skip Coulter called the meeting to order at 9:28am.

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

PROGRAM – This month’s speaker from Capital City Master Gardener Association, Janell Diggs (ajdiggst23@yahoo.com), along with intern, Jane Ficquette, were introduced by VP Betsy Smith. The presentation’s title was *“Growing and Cooking with Microgreens”*. By simple definition, microgreens are versions of herbs and vegetables in their tiny sprout form. They are 5 times more nutrient dense than their full-size plant counterparts. Mrs. Diggs provided a hands-on opportunity, supported by her experienced and “how to” presentation, which consisted of three main points . . . Supplies, Process, and Cooking. Representative references regarding her presentation are listed below:

Supplies

- small, food-prep bowls with clear lids (<https://rb.gy/Otnkfq>)
- high water-holding capacity soil, fine (<https://rb.gy/rciiqi>)*
- coco coir brick soil amendment (<https://rb.gy/xjicsd>)*
- microgreen seeds from reputable supplier (<https://rb.gy/tunr1w>)
- light (indirect/windowsill, grow light, undercounter light)

*3/soil to 1/coir ratio (volume); use hot water to wet mixture to an almost “squeeze drip” capacity

Process

- fill containers to top with soil mixture; invert lid to gently press mixture down
- use seed density calculator to measure seed quantity (<https://rb.gy/qjccda>)
- hand-sprinkle to distribute seeds evenly across soil-filled container
- invert container lid and use weighted black-out method to germinate (<https://rb.gy/jgm1dj>)
- once greens have sprouted, poke holes in container bottom, place lid under container for bottom watering, expose to light source
- harvest seed variety when true leaves have fully expanded and reached characteristic shape

Cooking

- typically recommended to eat within 3 days of harvesting (refrigerate until using)
- use in scrambled eggs, sandwiches, salads, pizza topping, guacamole, etc. (<https://rb.gy/pv8v7u>)

At the request of the CCMGA, Mrs. Diggs also took time to discuss the role of her MG association's Education Committee. Apart from the traditional MG VP role of program development (monthly speakers), the Capital City MG Education Committee commits to approximately 3 annual outreach and educational opportunities per year. The committee selects topics based on interests surveys and assessments. The team sets short-range and long-range goals and divides the planning and preparation based member skill sets. While their association's membership is significantly larger than ours, Janell provided insight for start-up efforts to increase our community presence and to provide horticultural-based learning opportunities.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY – Lanell Baker

MINUTES – With no corrections or changes, Kerry Rush reported that the August 2024 minutes emailed to the membership and posted on the association's website would stand. Kerry also shared that a final opportunity to make a monetary contribution toward a wedding gift for our County Extension Coordinator, Lucy Edwards, would extend until the end of the monthly meeting. Proud update: the CCMGA collected \$230 toward this gift. Kerry, on behalf of the association, will deliver the Lowe's gift card to Lucy.

FINANCES – Judy Cobb shared the financial report below for August 2024. Judy also reminded the membership of the importance of using the donation form (located on the CCMGA website>About CCMGA>FORMS>CCMGA Demo Garden Donation).

Chilton County Master Gardener Association

Monthly Reconciliation

August 2024

Beginning Balance	\$ 9,159.16
Ending Balance	\$ 9,074.45
Total Deposits	\$ 0.00
Total Withdrawals	\$ 0.00
Total Checks	\$ 84.71
Checks Outstanding	\$ 0.00
Net Balance Checking	\$ 9,074.45
Cash Box Reserve	\$ 100.00
Small Business CD	\$ 8405.01
Total	\$ 17,579.46

EXTENSION OFFICE/DEMO GARDEN/REC CENTER UPDATES – Bobby Atkinson reported that the Nut Grass battles (thanks to spraying by Lee Waters, Hugh Nichols, and Bobby Atkinson) were slowly winning the war. Later in the fall the call for pruning will provide a volunteer hours opportunity. Hugh Nichols shared the average weekly DG maintenance crew was 4-6 members. Irrigation has been mostly adequate during these rainless weeks. Plans for potting days in preparation for our spring Plant Sale will be forthcoming. Pat Farmer/Audrey Giles thanked the membership for Rec Ctr watering sign-up. Shrub pruning will be forthcoming, too.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

HUMANE SOCIETY – Sharon Hosch/Wally Waters updated the membership regarding the HS's request for garden and walkway updating. Two shaded areas, approximately 3' x 12' each, need attention. Sharon stressed to the HS that the CCMGA would be willing to facilitate and volunteer for this request, but it would not assume a maintenance role. Prior to this project, the Humane Society will need to complete specific clean up needs.

CHICK CHAIN SHOW AND AUCTION – Pat and Jerry Farmer are looking for a few more volunteers to assist with this event on Saturday, September 14, 2024.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION –

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

-A Celebration of Life for member Rick Miller will be on Saturday, November 2, 2024, at 3:00pm at Higgins Ferry Park, Clanton.

REA JACOB TURNER – Jacob shared several Extension opportunities such as “Grow More Strawberries.” (<https://rb.gy/54aegn>), the pollinator plot development gathering (Alabama Power initiative) on October 30, 2024, from 2-6:00PM at Beeswax Park on Lay Lake, and a Hydroponics workshop in Pelham on November 7, 2024. Feel free to contact Jacob if you would like more information (jzt0048@auburn.edu).

This month’s door prizes were awarded to Sally Moore (gloves), Imogene Bresse (eggs), and Lee Waters (crossword puzzle book).

Congratulations to our guest, Cynthia Donna, who was the recipient of this month’s guest gift!

The winner of this month’s trivia game, “Do You Know Your Members?” went to the perennials!

With no additional new or old business, Skip Coulter adjourned the meeting at 11:30am. The October 2024 membership meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 9:00am at the Clanton Recreation Center. Invite a friend!

Members: 23

Interns: 2

Guests: 7

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 32

Minutes submitted by Kerry Rush