

Chilton County Master Gardeners Association Meeting

January 14, 2025

Clem Clapp opened our meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag at 9:30 AM.

President, Skip Coulter, started our meeting with a slide show prepared by Audrey Giles honoring Jerry Farmer. Many members added their thoughts of how they loved working with him on many projects. Jerry will truly be missed.

VP, Hugh Nichols, introduced our speakers. Master Gardeners are an extension of the Extension Office. We had Sherry Carter, the SNAP agent, Lucy Ellington, Extension Coordinator and Jacob Turner, Home Horticulture, agent. Each one gave us very detailed information on all the programs the Extension Service offers.

First, Sherry Carter, SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), agent explained how she goes into all third grade class rooms in Chilton County, except for Clanton schools, and takes bags full of vegetables and other gifts to teach them how to make better choices of the foods they eat. She also explained how she works with the Clanton Food banks to give out food to the residents of Clanton and Chilton County. The only requirement is they have to live in Chilton County. She also stated that Clem and Diane Clapp work at a food bank from The Maplesville Baptist Church in Maplesville.

Second, Jacob Turner, Home Horticulture agent stated his job kind of went along with what Sherry had been talking about. In February there is an event

coming up at Penton Farms and a seed starting workshop coming up March 24th. All events will be printed online soon.

Third, Lucy Ellington, Extension Coordinator gave us a good overview of all the programs and projects that are available through the Extension Office. To name a few: 30th annual Bee Keepers symposium on Feb. 1st, Water Fest, March 21st, 4-H programs, Horse Club, Chick Chain, Forestry club, Home school club and all the day and summer camps to name just a few of the activities offered. And most all of these activities need volunteers to help them.

Hugh Nichols, VP, proposed that we form an Education Group, coordinated by the Vice President. This group will be made up of volunteers from the membership with advice from the Extension Office. This group would help select speakers, come up with educational field trips etc..

Judy Cobb, treasurer, presented the budget for 2025. She went over the expenditures and deposits from 2024 and explained we did not go over our budget. The new 2025 budget was approved unanimously by the members.

CCMG Monthly Reconciliation December, 2024

Beginning Balance	\$7,737.79
Ending balance	\$8360.28
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Total deposits	\$995.00
Total Checks	\$52.51
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Outstanding checks #1216 added back to Check book	\$10.00
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Net Balance Checking	\$8360.00
Cash Box Reserve	\$100.00
Small Business CD	\$8463.00
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Total	\$16,923.00
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Kerry Rush, Secretary, asked if there were any changes or corrections to the November and December 2024 minutes. There was none so the minutes stand as posted on our website.

Trisha Williams thanked everyone that participated in our plant sale last year stating it was the best one we have had. Out of 1113 plants we only had 143 that didn't sell. She needs workers to sign up to help this year. Sale dates are April 12, 2025 with a rain date of April 19th. She advised to start getting your plants ready now. She is working on getting a credit card app set up on the treasurer's phone for people to pay for their plants.

Our January birthdays: Linda Hand, Jane Rabey, Lee Walters, Leslie Durham, Imogene Bresse and Kathy Oakes.

Door prizes went to Lanell Baker, Judy Cobb and Sharon Hosch.

Amy Baker awarded our first Premier winner for a job well done this month to Hugh Nichols. Hugh was nominated for this honor by his fellow workers and members. Members that are nominated more than once will be recognized but will not receive another pin.

Amy also stated she had the signup sheet for watering the Recreation Center flower beds on the table. Please pick a week and sign to help.

Trisha Williams passed out ballots to vote on the Master Gardener of the Year and The Project of the Year. The ballots will be reviewed and counted and the winners will be announced at our February meeting.

Hugh Nichols has a work day scheduled for January 28 to do weeding at the Canebrake Pitcher Plant location. If you need a ride contact Hugh at 256-506 7053. Bring your clippers/loppers and you'll want to wear boots. Patrick Thompson will be there. We refer to this area as the Clanton Flats.

The volunteer opportunities for January are:

Clanton Recreation Center watering and seasonal maintenance

Weeding the Canebrake pitcher plants

The beekeeper meeting in early February usually needs a few CCMGA people to help

Two leadership positions need a person or persons to head them up:

1. The Extension Center garden
2. *Ask a Master Gardener*, occasionally on Saturday mornings at Garrison's Farm Center

A Herb Society meeting is scheduled next Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at Petals from the Past at 10:30 AM.

Skip led the membership in a "SNOW" game. Annuals 4, Perennials 3.

There begin no further business or discussion, Skip adjourned the meeting at 12:00 noon.

Minutes submitted by Lanell Baker, secretary