

## CCMGA monthly meeting April 8, 2025

Clem Clapp led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

President Skip Coulter welcomed everyone to our meeting. He recognized Hugh Nichols who introduced our speaker and program for today.

Dr. Chip East is a Regional Extension Agent. He grew up working on his uncle's vegetable, cattle, and hog farm as well as a nursery and landscaping business. The native azalea became his favorite plant to propagate. He gave us a very in depth program on the many ways you can propagate an azalea. He stated the native azalea is the hardest to root. He explained the many ways to root an azalea, from air layering, collecting seeds and stem cuttings. He explained about the lighting requirements and humidity needed to get new plants started. There are differences in the native azalea, loose leaves and smaller flowers, and the Japanese azaleas, have more leaves and larger flowers. He stated that azaleas need very little fertilizer and recommended a 12-4-8 formula or a slow release 16-8-12. Make sure you have a good loose soil to root them in and do not use ground dirt. You can use a root hormone if you like, but he doesn't. If you use a root hormone do not double dip your cuttings. Pour some out into another container to guard against spreading disease. This was a very good and informative program.

After a short break Skip recognized our birthdays for April: Teresa Freeman and Wally Walters.

Judy Cobb modeled an apron some of the ladies are making for our country store sales.

Treasurer Judy Cobb gave out treasurer's report:

Beginning balance	\$8,006.50
No deposits	
No withdrawals	
Total checks	69.13
Net checking balance	7,937.37

Cash Box	100.00
CD balance	8,555.15
Total	\$16,592.52

The treasurer report was approved as read.

Lanell Baker, secretary, asked for any changes or correction to minutes posted on our website. There were none so the minutes were approved as posted. I read a thank you note from the 4-H Club thanking us for the \$100.00 donation we gave in Jerry Farmer's memory. Also, I mailed a thinking of you card to Wally Walters as she is having cancer treatments and cannot be with us at this time.

#### Garden Reports:

Recreation Center, Audrey Giles and Amy Baker said beds are looking great and the watering schedule is signed up thru June.

Demonstration Garden, Kerry asked for help at the Garden this Thursday, 8-10 AM, to straighten up garden and have it ready for a tour. On April 14<sup>th</sup> a garden club from Indian Springs is coming to tour the garden.

Beverly Williamson introduced the idea of making a brick pathway around the center of the garden and placing the names on some of the bricks in memory of our members. Everyone liked this idea. This was an idea she got when attending the AMGA conference

Extension Office bed was weeded by the intern class. Doug Jones and Callen Alred have volunteered to oversee these beds. They have set the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays as work days.

Skip stated that everything is ready for our plant and country store sale. Since there is a carnival set up in the Goose Pond parking lot, Skip asked Audrey Giles if she would talk to the Mayor and ask that carnival personal not park inside the gates on Saturday, the day of our sale.

Trisha asked for someone to volunteer to carry plants to the cars for people. She also needs someone to set up the tents. Trisha reminded us of all things we need to do before the sale such as label plants, show information as to what type plant

it is, come in north entrance and bring around to unload, park in back of park, place all like plants together, etc. Bring a chair and be there by or before 7:00 AM. Put a "CS" on all country store item tickets. We still need small boxes.

There were 3 door prizes given out: First prize went to Kerry Rush, Second prize to Harriett Jackson and the third prize to Audrey Giles.

Amy Baker presented the Peach Award to Kerry Rush for all her hard work.

Hugh Nichols reported the education group had a field trip and toured Wright's Nursery, and some of the members attended and helped with the seed starting workshop at Penton Farms.

If you know of any other educational opportunities please let Hugh know.

The conservation group, also headed up by Hugh Nichols, has a trip scheduled on May 20<sup>th</sup> to locate the "owl's eye ginger" plants. These plants are native only to this area.

Hugh Nichols and Kerry Rush wrote a grant for \$533.00 for tools to use in our gardens. The grant "Work smarter, Not harder" has been awarded to the CCMGA.

CCMGA members that attended the AMGA conference in Prattville, AL gave us a report of the conference. Harriett Jackson was awarded as a State Member at Large, Betsy Smith spoke at the conference on "Open the herbs for kids," Beverly Williamson was nominated for "Intern of the Year", and they enjoyed good food and a great band.

Kerry Smith sent word to us about how important it is for us to report our hours. The hours we report justifies our Master Gardener program.

Betsy Smith did a few sit-down yoga exercises.

Skip led us in a game on different types of flowers. We are divided into "Annuals" and "Perennials". Annuals 11 Perennials 6.

Our May meeting will be our plant swap at Judy Cobb's home. Meeting starts at 10:00 AM for fun and games, lunch at 11:00 AM then we will swap plants, play

dirty plant game after we eat. Bring a plant valued between \$10.00 and \$20.00 dollars and a sack lunch. Drinks will be furnished and some members volunteered to bring desserts.

Trisha Williams will send an email with directions to Judy's house.

There being no further business we were adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Members: 22, Interns: 4, Total present 26