

## CCMGA Monthly meeting, August 12, 2025

Clem Clapp opened our meeting with The Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

Hugh Nichols, vice-president, introduced our speaker for the day Mr. David Cline. Mr. Cline is originally from New York getting his BA degree from Colgate University then moving to Alabama and getting his Masters degree from Auburn University. He now works with Aquaponics at Auburn with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. He explained that Aquaponics is growing fish and plants in the same water. You can grow almost anything in water as long as you have the correct pH balance. The pH balance comes from the fish giving the correct amount of fertilizer. He explained there are three systems you can use to create an aquaponic garden. 1. The NFT (nutrient film technique) 2. Ebb and flow system and 3. Deep water raft system. He explained how growing an aquaponic garden can save space and grow more vegetables than in a regular garden. The fish and plants you are growing have to be compatible with each other, such as temperature and the type of pH each needs as well as the proper lighting. Marketing the produce and fish on a large scale is the only negative with aquaponic gardening. A very interesting program on a different way we can garden.

After a short break, Hugh Nichols introduced Krystal Vaith to speak to us about the Junior Master Gardener program. Krystal is the 4-H Club coordinator with Chilton County Extension Office. She explained that to have a Junior Master Gardener program you have to meet at least 5 times a year and you have to have at least 5 active members. The JMG program is a good way to introduce them into gardening. This is a hand on program to work with plants, insects and to do community service. Pat Farmer is our liaison that has volunteered to get a Junior Master Gardener program started. Several others have also volunteered to help. The workers can determine when and where to meet. There are resources available to help with this program and a class usually only last about one hour and a half. They can elect a president, VP, etc. if they chose. Everyone seemed to agree that this is something we want to be involved with.

Birthdays for August are Bobby Atchison, Linda Hayes and Skip Coulter.

## Treasurer Report for July, 2025

Beginning balance	11,686.31
Total deposits	-0-
Total withdrawals	-0-
Total Checks	114.82
Net Balance Checking	11,571.49
Cash box	100.00
CD balance	8,555.15
Total Balance	20,226.64

Treasurer report submitted by Judy Cobb, treasurer, was approved.

Lanell Baker, secretary, asked for any changes or additions to the minutes. There being none the minutes were approved as posted on our web site.

Hugh Nichols reported that the new cover for the shade garden has been installed at the Demo Garden. David and Martha Wright fertilized the Demo. Garden and a sprinkler have been installed in the greenhouse for those wanting to bring plants there to keep for our spring sale.

Audrey Giles reported they had a work day at the Recreation beds pulled weeds, dead headed the roses and cut back the irises. There is a signup sheet for watering on the table.

The Extension Office bed had new pine straw put out pulled out weeds and added a new sprinkler.

There were 5 door prizes given out: 1<sup>st</sup> to Lanell Baker, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sally Moore, 3<sup>rd</sup> Margariette Hoomes, 4<sup>th</sup> Trisha Williams and 5<sup>th</sup> Callen Alred.

Trisha Williams announced there will be a fall seminar, September 16, 2025, at the First Baptist Church in Columbiana. Deadline to register is September 2, 2025. The 4-H is selling their fall mums for \$18.00 each deadline for orders is September 19th. Trisha also explained the new system for reporting your hours. If you have any problems let her know.

Hugh Nichols is going to be on the Smart Yard link from 1 o'clock until 2 o'clock talking about native plants.

Hugh also reported that we are having a fig propagation class this spring.

Beverly Williamson reported she has a source for bricks to use to engrave and place in the Demonstration Garden in memory of a Master Gardener.

Hugh Nichols wants to visit the cane break picture plants and possibly take seeds to try and seed.

Kerry Rush, Advisory Council, reported they meet at Petals from the Past and anyone can attend. For the Spring MG Conference in Huntsville we need to make a gift basket or give money. She also spoke of how important it is to get your hours reported.

Trisha stated at the Seminar in Columbiana they are giving away a free registration to the Spring Conference in Huntsville.

Skip played a trivia game divided into annual and perennials.  
Annuals 6    Perennials 7

Jacob Turner announced a pollinator's count at Beeswax Park and said there are a couple of other workshops coming up.

Skip adjourned the meeting at 12:05 PM

Members 28    Guests 8    Total present 36