

CCMGA meeting September 9, 2025

Clem Clapp opened our meeting with the pledge of allegiance to our flag at 9:30 AM.

Skip Coulter, president, welcomed everyone and asked Hugh Nichols to introduce our speaker.

Hugh Nichols, vice-president, introduced Mrs. Phyllis Clay a retired foreign language teacher. She completed her Master Gardeners training in 2018 and began volunteering with the Herb Army at Birmingham Botanical Gardens. She worked with many herbs but Basil was the herb that she was really interested in. She loves Ethno botany because she is very interested in how other cultures utilize their native plants especially Basil. She shared with us the many uses of Basil and different varieties of the plant. It can be used for food, perfumes, teas, oils and medicine. There are over 75 common species of Basil and she has cultivated over 40 varieties herself. She explained the best soils and conditions to grow Basil in. She also shared some of her favorite recipes. This was a very interesting and informative program on herbs, especially Basil.

After a short break, Jacob Turner explained there are some workshops coming up we might be interested in. There's a pumpkin and poultry workshop, a strawberry workshop in Coosa County on October 8 from 10AM-12PM in Rockford. He also reported the pollinator count on August 25, 2025 was 2600 state wide. Alabama Power will plant pollinator gardens and hopefully will help with the counting next year.

Judy Cobb, treasurer, gave the following report:

Beginning balance	11,571.49
Deposits	-0-
Withdrawals	-0-
Total checks	336.76
Net checking balance	11,234.73
Cash box	100.00
CD balance	8,555.15
Total balance	19,889.88

Treasurer report approved.

Judy also reminded us our annual membership dues are due in October.

Lanell Baker, secretary, asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes as posted on our website. There were none and minutes are approved as posted.

Birthdays for September are Callen Alred and Lanell Baker.

Hugh Nichols reported that 216 bricks have been donated by Lee and Wally Walters for our Demo garden walk way in honor of the Master Gardener of the Year. He also asked for help working the garden stating there are more workers needed to maintain the garden.

Hugh also reported the conservation group is going to eat lunch after our meeting then go to the Alabama Cane Brake Pitcher plant site to see how they are doing since the burn last spring. He also announced plans to take a field trip to Aldridge Gardens in a few weeks.

Recreation Center beds look good and need volunteers to sign up for watering the beds. Also, please water under the plants, especially the roses, and not overhead to hopefully keep down fungus.

Donald Jones reported the Extension Office beds really look good. They cleaned up the closet so it looks better. He also stated that they probably could skip the next work day because everything is in good shape.

Skip asked members to start cleaning out items for our spring sale. If you need a place to store items there is a place in the little house garage at the experiment station.

Skip gave out door prizes, first door prize to Pat Farmer, second prize to Diane Clapp, third prize to Jane Rabey and the fourth prize to Peggy McGraw.

Amy Baker presented our Peach award to Sonja Johnson for her outstanding work.

Skip Coulter, president, asked the membership to vote to give the \$500.00 listed in our budget for an Auburn Scholarship fund to the Junior Master Gardener

program to be used in their gardening programs. He explained the Auburn Scholarship is now well funded and does not need our money. The money will not be given to the Junior Master Gardener program in a lump sum but as they need the money to buy gardening supplies or other gardening related items up to the \$500.00 amount. Hugh Nichols made the motion to give the money to the Junior Master Gardening Program, seconded by Donald Jones. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Pat Farmer is our liaison with this program and she stated that Krystal Vaith is going to SPAN (Special Programs Achievement Network) to get dates to start the program. We will start with the SPAN students to get the program started. If you are interested in helping with this program meet with Krystal and Pat to get the program materials you'll need.

If you are going to work with the 4-H you'll have to register online.

Kerry Rush, Judy Cobb and Diane Clapp are the nominating committee to get a new slate of officers for 2026. If you are interested or would like to be the treasurer or secretary for the coming year please let one of them know.

Trisha Williams, membership chairman, asked for us to please get our hours in. She explained the changes you have to go through in order to put your hours in. If you have questions please contact Trisha for help.

Hugh Nichols reminded us the 4-H Club is selling 10 inch mums for \$15.00. You can pick them up at the Extension Office, September 29, 2025 after 1:00 PM.

There are some window mini blind slats, good for labeling your plants, in the lobby. Get all you need as long as they last.

Pat Farmer announced she needed a couple of volunteers to help at the Extension Office on September 26th. Let her know if you can help.

Skip played a trivia game and divided us into perennials and annuals.

The perennials won: Perennials 8 Annuals 5

Skip Coulter, president, adjourned our meeting at 11:26 AM

Members 23 Visitors 2 Total present 25

Minutes submitted by Lanell Baker, secretary