

Memphis Area Master Gardener Member Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 14, 2024

Call to Order 6:09 p.m.

President Steve Scheer called the Thursday, November 14, 2024, Memphis Area Master Gardeners' meeting to order. The meeting was conducted in-person at the Agricenter.

Business Meeting:

Election:

Linda Pittman, Election Committee Chair, introduced all candidates running for the 2025 Board. Members voted and the 2025 Board Members are:

President:	Terry Merriweather
Vice President:	Rick Clayton
Treasurer:	Jimmy Dickey Jr.
Vice Treasurer:	Cindy Smith
Recording Secretary:	Paula Pilgrim
Corresponding Secretary:	Suzanne Shown
Ten Plus Director:	Cheryl Lockhart
Senior Director:	Barbara Hodges
Junior Director:	Christy Gann

Approval of the September 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Membership approved the minutes of the September member meeting as published.

Extension Report and Remarks

Dr Chris Cooper reported that at the State Conference in October, Shelby County won two Search for Excellence awards: Horticulture Therapy for Senior Adults won for Innovative Project for New or Underserved Audiences and Through our Garden Gates Digital/Print Collateral won for Written/Recorded Content. We can make even more impact in the community by getting more involved, especially in projects that support the youth in our county. Over 18,000 children visited the Agricenter last year and 4H projects need volunteers and offer opportunities to assist youth.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Ginny Fletcher presented the financial report.

Speaker's Bureau: There is currently no chair for the Speaker's Bureau. The chair coordinates the program and is not responsible for providing content. The work is primarily done via email so is very flexible on work times. Previous chair, Mary-Lee Hood, will share all information needed for the new chair to be successful.

Membership: Membership renewals are underway. This can be done easily through the website and a link is also in the newsletter. The deadline to renew is December 13.

Organization Updates

Spring Fling: Chair Ginny Fletcher announced that Spring Fling will be April 4-5 in 2025. The theme will be "Life is Better in the Garden". Speakers and demos are being lined up. Help is especially needed with PR.

Julie Morgan announced the categories for the Spring Fling photo exhibit: Green with Envy, Flowering Trees & Shrubs, Don't Bug Me, and Garden Favorites.

Kim Lane requests that all members divide perennials and pot up for the plant sale. If anyone has access to a greenhouse, please let her know. Other items like seeds and houseplants may also be offered at the sale. If any members need help digging up plants, that can be arranged. Annette Dabaldo has pots available.

Oaklawn: Julie Morgan reported that three members have signed on to coordinate the Oaklawn project going forward: Linda Neyman, Lynn Petrie, and Anita Umbles. Volunteering at Oaklawn involves pruning various cultivars and sizes of azaleas and a few true Rhododendrons, thus providing opportunities to learn proper pruning techniques. Normal scheduling starts the first week of April and goes on through June. Additional scheduling may happen in fall to remove dead, diseased, or crossing branches. Oaklawn is now a level 3 arboretum.

Announcements

December 12 – Monthly meeting: Member quorum needed for budget vote. The speaker will be Lisa Lawhead, Plant Inspector, Tennessee Department of Agriculture. She will present, "Daily Life of a Plant Inspector", a discussion of pests that plant inspectors see on a daily basis and information on the Spotted Lanternfly and the emerging threat to West Tennessee.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 p.m.
Kelly Grayson, Recording Secretary