

Memphis Area Master Gardener Member Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 12, 2024

Call to Order 6:12 p.m.

President Steve Scheer called the Thursday, December 12, 2024, Memphis Area Master Gardeners' meeting to order. The meeting was conducted in-person at the Agricenter.

Speaker

Vice President Terry Merriweather introduced Lisa Lawhead, Plant Inspector, Tennessee Department of Agriculture. She presented, "A Day in the Life of a Plant Inspector".

Business Meeting:

Approval of the November 14, 2024, Meeting Minutes

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

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ginny Fletcher presented the financial report. She requests that all expenses for 2024 be submitted to her as soon as possible.

Extension Report and Remarks

Dr. Chris Cooper reminded members that the feature Chris' Corner on the MAMG website has articles that cover many aspects of garden health, including emerging pest and disease information. He recognized the Mentor Program and members who are participating in mentoring the new class that will begin January 7, 2025. The Extension office will be closed December 23 through January 1.

Special Order of Business

Finance committee chair LeAnn Drewry presented the proposed 2025 MAMG Budget.

Member Pat Hewitt moved that the membership adopt the proposed budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

Spring Fling: The Spring Fling Committee shared the many opportunities for members to get involved in the event which is only 112 days away.

Debbie Grist-Evans requests a member to head up the Education display. She will walk them through the process step by step. Much of the work can be done from home.

At least three members are needed for Spring Fling Publicity to make sure the event is represented on all media forms. Most of the work can be done from home.

Several donations are needed for the various projects during Spring Fling. Members are asked to donate any baskets appropriate for Easter baskets, vases for forcing bulbs, seeds and seed heads for making seed packets.

Kim Lane asks members to divide houseplants now so they will look good and fit in at least a 4-inch pot for the plant sale. If members no longer want some of their houseplants, please donate to the sale. Books for houseplant care would also be good for the sale.

Master Gardeners Present: Master Gardeners Present will be February 15 from 9 am to 12 pm at Dixon Gallery and Gardens. The speakers will be Jared Barnes and Jason Powell and will also include a Q&A with Dr Cooper and a plant sale. Spaces are limited and tickets will go on sale on the Dixon website January 20. Members are encouraged to bring friends and neighbors since this is a community outreach event.

Speaker's Bureau: Mary-Lee Hood announced that Laurie Rieman will be the new Speaker's Bureau Chair.

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. Members are asked to complete this task by the deadline to make it easier on the committee during the holidays.

Organization Updates

President Steve Scheer reminded members that costs for meeting rooms is a new and significant expense we now incur. If members know of appropriate and low-cost places for meetings, please let the board know.

New ideas for fundraisers are also needed, as well as members willing to work on grant-writing.

The organization is long overdue to have a Public Relations Chair and Committee to make sure we are present in the public space. If any members wish to ask questions or volunteer, contact the board.

Announcements

January 9 – All-members meeting at the Agricenter

February 13- All-members meeting at Memphis Botanic Garden

February 15 – Master Gardeners Present at Dixon Gallery & Gardens

Meeting Adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Kelly Grayson, Recording Secretary