

Memphis Area Master Gardener Member Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 17, 2026

Call to Order 6:00 PM

President Rick Clayton called the Thursday, September 17, 2026, meeting to order. The meeting was conducted in person at the Agricenter.

Speakers

Vice President Jan Dickey introduced Michelle and Scot Cowan, owners of Spirit Hill Nursery, who spoke about their methods of growing and grafting Japanese maple trees.

Business Meeting:

Approval of the August 15, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Membership approved the minutes of the August 2026 member meeting as published.

Treasurer's Report

Vice treasurer, LeAnn Drewry presented the August financial report. She also noted that the planning of the 2027 budget is beginning. An online form for budget requests has been developed and is on the MAMG website. Details will be shared with committee and project chairs and in the October MAMG Newsletter.

Extension Report and Remarks

Jessica Maestas reminded members of multiple volunteer opportunities. There are sign-up sheets for events through the end of November. The following Website gives access to the newsletter as well as activities throughout the state.
<http://mastergardener.tennessee.edu>

Announcements

President, Rick Clayton, announced the executive board's recommendation for the following changes in accordance with MAMG Bylaws and Standing Rules.

- Scholarship Committee, Speakers Bureau, and Youth Education Committee will be designated as Projects.
- Hospitality Committee and Day of Education Committee will be established as standing committees.

Standing Committees exist to provide for the needs of the organization, while projects fulfill our mission to serve and educate Tennessee residents. The chairpersons of each of the above are aware of the recommendations and agree with the changes. This information will be available to membership via these minutes as published on the MAMG website and will be included in the October Newsletter. A vote to adopt these recommendations will take place at the November membership meeting.

Vice President, Jan Dickey, reminded members of the Indoor Picnic Fall party on October 8, 2026, at 6:00 PM at Bartlett United Methodist Church. Volunteer opportunities include set up, clean up, food donations, and table arrangements.

In appreciation, please consider bringing 5 jars of peanut butter to be gifted to their food pantry in exchange for a thank-you gift from MAMG.

Ginny Fletcher reminded members of the Regional Leadership Capstone Event on Friday, September 25, 2026, at Western Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center (WTREC) from 9AM to 1:30PM. Please see the September Newsletter for further details and to register. Contact Ginny Fletcher with any additional questions.

Linda Pittman, Nominating Committee chair, reminded that nominations for the Executive Board are open. Before submitting a nomination, please discuss with the candidate prior to submitting their name.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Paula Pilgrim, Recording Secretary