Jefferson County Master Gardeners Association, Inc.

Members Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2026 / Auditorium / Birmingham Botanical Gardens / 2612 Lane Park Road, Birmingham, AL 35223

The Meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM - President - Katherine Ennis

- Charlie Faulkner made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2026 meeting, and Beth Ellliot seconded it.

First Order of Business - Treasurer's Report - Skip Craig

Regions Checking Account Starting Balance 8/26/2026		**$13,235.47**
Deposits		
Apron Sales	$ 15.00	
2027 Membership Dues	$1,218.29	
	$1,233.29	
Expenditures		
Community Service Self Storage	$ 155.00	
Dues Reimbursement (overpayment)	$ 35.00	
Master Gardener Reunion Security	$ 160.00	
		$ 350.00
Regions Checking Account Ending Balance (9/25/2026)		**$14,118.76**
Regions MM Account Operating Reserve Balance (9/22/2026)		**$12,733.16**
Regions MM Account Grant Balance (9/22/2026)		**$ 6,565.61**
Regions Certificate of Deposit reinvested, matures 4/8/2027		**$16,903.17**
TOTAL ASSETS $50,320.70		
Current Liabilities (Intern Projects, AMGA Dues) (9/25/2026)		**($ 9,157.04)**
	NET ASSETS	**$41,163.66**

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Second Order of Business - President - Katherine Ennis

- The Intern Graduation is scheduled for November 10th. This will replace our regular meeting. The details are in the October Roots and Shoots along with registration information. Members and guests' cost will be $18.00, the interns are free.
- We will have a Board of Directors Meeting immediately following this meeting in the Hodges Room. All board members are asked to attend. We are discussing the 2027 budget and approving the 2027 slate of officers. We will need a quorum to vote on these items.
- There will be an AMGA Conference Planning meeting immediately following the board of directors meeting.
- Misha has organized a list of ideas that members might want to donate to the Conference Silent Auction. The list will appear in the October and November R&S.
- If you have something for the swag bags, please let leadership know.

Third Order of Business - Conference & Committee Reports

- Community Service -
    - The Fiesta was a great success. The JCMGA booth won an award. Check out the R&S for pictures. Congratulations goes to Missy Wertz who did a fabulous job in her first Fiesta event.
    - There will be a seed sorting party October 29th from 10 - 1 o'clock in the conference room.
    - They are looking for helpers to join the Community Service Committee. Please contact Misha Unruh or Silvia Britt.
- Helpline - Help is needed to cover shifts for the Help Line. Please contact Susan McNamara if you can be of assistance, or if you want to learn how to work the Help Line.
- Hospitality - Registration for the Intern Graduation on November 10 is very important so we have a headcount for our caterer, Urban Cook House will cater this event. Volunteers are still needed for this committee. Make contact with Janie Howell if you are available. .
- Membership - This is a reminder that we are more than halfway through the year and everyone, so everyone needs to be collecting and posting their volunteer and CEU hours on the website. Additionally, all of our dues are to be paid by the end of November. For the first time, AMGA will charge us a fee if we do not have 75% of our membership paid.
- Newsletter - The editor of the newsletter, Mary Hendley, is now getting some help from someone with the skills to update our newsletter. We are thrilled.
- Other Reports - There is a sign-up sheet in the back for volunteers at the conference to assist in the tours. Two persons per tour is needed.

The business portion concluded at 10:23 AM, with door prizes to follow.

The Educational Program began at 10:25 AM

Wendy Demark-Wahnefried was introduced by Judith Rives. Both a fellow master gardener, and a professor at UAB, Wendy told us about her research with Harvest for Health. This program was an at-home gardening intervention for cancer survivors who had completed their primary cancer treatment, but needed assistance in living a good diet lifestyle, with access to fresh, good food.

Wendy gave stats that, today, there are 20 million survivors of cancer, with 70% of the people recovering. However, a great percent of the survivors have multiple health habit issues, those being a healthy weight, exercise, and good diet practices. Looking back at the success of the Victory Gardens during World War 1, the program, HFH, wanted to reestablish that healthy habit. A garden offers both good food and good physical activity.

HRH gave raised beds (or 4 earth boxes) and seeds to the cancer survivors, along with Master Gardener Mentors, for over a full year to assist in these goals. After a "meet and greet" with both parties, the planting began. Adjustments along the way were determined and modified, like more times per month from master gardener visits, photos, more training, more meetings, and more supplies.

The results were best in parents, as well as adult survivors. There was a great retention in increased physical health, increased fruits and vegetables intake, and a decrease in weight circumference. It is clear that more HFH programs, or programs like this are needed around our state.

The Educational portion of the meeting was concluded at 11:09 AM

ATTEST BY:

Jennye McCreary

Jennye McCreary, Secretary

Katherine E. Ennis

Katherine Ennis, President