Members Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2025/Auditorium / Birmingham Botanical Gardens / 2612 Lane Park Road, Birmingham, AL 35223

The Meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM by President Katherine Ennis

- Katherine introduced Parker Henson as the new Director of Volunteers at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.
- Parker took a few minutes to discuss the volunteer activities.

The Educational Program began at 10:14 AM - Introduction by Judith Rives: Speaker Carmen Flammeni

Carmen is the Regional Extension Agent for Baldwin, Conecuh, and Escambia Counties in Alabama. Carmen is also an expert on Monarch butterflies and spoke on “The Importance of Phenology”. Carmen has traveled from Canada to Mexico following the patterns of the Monarch butterflies.

- Studies are being conducted to determine whether monarchs are migrating to Cuba.
- Migratory Monarchs reside in the eastern and western parts of the United States and Australia. Nonmigratory Monarchs are in Florida, Mexico, Cuba, and Spain.
- Only the female Monarchs fly back to Mexico.
- Monarchs cannot tolerate temperatures below freezing.
- Milkweed is the host plant for food and is important in the migration process, but it also determines the size of their wings.
- There are many varieties of milkweed.
- Tropical milkweed contains too much CARDENOLIDE, which is a photochemical that makes the butterflies’ wings too muscular, thus too heavy.
- Native milkweeds are the best for the Monarchs.
- Nectar plants and native milkweeds are key factors for the timing of the migration.
- White milkweed is good for nectar.
- Swamp milkweed is deer-resistant.

The Business Meeting was called to order at 10:53 AM by President - Katherine Ennis

First Order of Business - Approval of Minutes - Katherine Ennis

- The President called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 2025 meeting. Mary Hendley made the motion, and Linda Massey seconded. A vote was called, and the minutes were approved.
- The Treasurer's Report was given by Skip Craig.

Second Order of Business - Election of Officers for 2026

- A quorum was established.
- Katherine announced the election of officers, and the candidates were presented:
  - Beverly Von Der Pool - Nominee for Vice President
  - Nelda Creel - Nominee for Assistant Treasurer
  - Elizabeth Elliot - Nominee for Member at Large
- The nominees were approved unanimously.
- The motion to approve the new officers for 2026 was approved by Karon Bowdre and seconded by Joanne Turner.

Third Order of Business - President's Announcements - Katherine Ennis

- Payment for dues is due by November 30th.
- The Plant Swap will occur immediately following this meeting.
- The intern graduation is on Wednesday, November 12th, from 11:00 AM to 1 PM at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens Auditorium.
- A Board of Directors meeting will be held on October 30th at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens in the Conference Room beginning at 10:00 AM.
- Immediately following the Board meeting will be the AMGA 2027 Conference Committees meeting. Board members, Conference Committee Chairs, and New Officers are encouraged to attend.
- The announcement was made that the bulb sale ends today.
- Patricia Putnam will be in the back of the room to take pictures for the directory.

Fourth Order of Business - ACES - Bethany O'Rear

- The Master Gardener course will begin in February 2026. Registration opens November 1st and closes December 12th.
- The final Southeast Pollinator census numbers are in. Bethany gave statistics of the count, and she felt Alabama was well represented.

The Business Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM with door prizes to follow.

A motion to adjourn was made by Alicia Hall and seconded by Sylvia Britt

ATTEST BY:

Jennye McCreary

Jennye McCreary, Secretary

Katherine E. Ennis

Katherine E. Ennis, President