JEFFERSON COUNTY
Master Gardeners

Jefferson County Master Gardeners Association, Inc.

Members Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2026/Auditorium / Birmingham Botanical Gardens / 2612 Lane Park Road, Birmingham, AL 35223

The Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Vice President - Beverly Vonder Pool

- The minutes of the March 10, 2026, meeting were read and approved.

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

June 2026

Regions Checking Account Starting Balance 5/23/2026		**$15,219.58**
Deposits		
Membership Dues	$ 273.16	
Apron Sales	$ 30.00	
Donation	$ 270.00	
Bulb Sales	$ 303.50	
		$ 876.66
Expenditures		
Intern Project 2026	$ 653.58	
Postage	$ 15.60	
Hospitality	$ 52.87	
AMGA Dues	$ 220.00	
Door Prizes	$ 122.13	
Speaker Honorarium	$ 100.00	
Community Service Self Storage	$ 175.00	
		$ 1,339.18
Regions Checking Account Ending Balance (6/25/2026)		**$14,757.06**
Regions MM Account Operating Reserve Balance (6/22/2026)		**$12,685.43**
Regions MM Account Grant Balance (6/22/2026)		**$ 6,549.09**
Regions Certificate of Deposit reinvested, matures 4/8/2027		**$16,632.70**
TOTAL ASSETS		**$50,624.28**
Current Liabilities (Intern Projects, AMGA Dues)		**($9,134.44)**
NET ASSETS		**$41,489.84**

Second Order of Business - Announcements - Beverly Vonder Pool

- The AMGA Conference Committee Meeting, which was scheduled to meed immediately following the members meeting has been canceled.

Third Order of Business - Conference & Committee Reports

- Several items have been donated for the silent auction of the 2027 Conference. If anyone has items to donate, please see Misha Unruh to make those arrangements.
- We are currently working on the "swag bags". If anyone has ideas or interesting items from local vendors, please let us know. We are trying to cut back on the amount of paper in the swag bags, so we prefer for their not to be promotional information in the bags.
- Fundraising - The Spring bulb and Christmas bulb sales are coming up, so be looking for this information in your Root And Shoots.
- Helpline - Help is needed to cover the shifts of for the Help Line. Please contact Susan McNamara if you can be of assistance, or you want to learn how to work the Help Line.
- Community Service - We have two new gardens that need volunteers. There are fliers in the back of the room with information on these gardens.
- Hospitality - The hospitality committee needs helpers. To volunteer, please see Janie Howell.
- Membership - We are half way through the year so everyone needs to be posting their hours into the service report. If you need assistance, see Amy Weise or Linda Massey.
- Anyone who is waiting for their replacement badge or a jewel for their badge will be able to get it next month after it is picked up at the Advisory Council Meeting.

Fourth Order of Business - Announcements - Bethany O'Rear

- Bethany thanked everyone who attended one of the Pollinator Partners Workshops in the state. There were a total of 7 workshops which trained about 260 people. Plans are being discussed what they can add to the information in next year's workshops.
- The 250lb Challenge is underway and everyone is encouraged to report their poundage. The information has to be entered in the service report and in the 250lb website. The challenge goes on until Memorial Day. Currently, Jefferson County is way down on the count, and this is probably not a reflection of what is really being produced and given away, but a lack of reporting. Remember, this is not just a Master Gardener challenge, but for any one who is growing food. kIt has been estimated that a plastic grocery bag full of produce weights approximately 10lbs. This can be used as a reference where their are no scales for weighing. Check that your donation site is on the list, and if not let Bethany know.
- August 21 & 22 is the Great Southeastern Pollinator Count. A few promotional items are here, but more is coming. If you are planning a counting event please let Bethany know so she can get a good count ahead of time.

- The 2027 Master Gardeners class roster is almost full. If you know someone who is interested in taking the class, please have them contact Bethany. The registration closes in November. The cap is 40 people for attendance.

The Business portion of the meeting concluded at 10:16 am.

A motion was made to close the meeting by Beth Elliot and seconded by Charlie Faulkner.

The Educaional portion of the meeting began at 10:18 am.

The speaker, Liz Lane was introduced to our community as an artist, nationally know abstract painter, owner of Liz Lane Gallery, and gardener. Liz graduated from the University of Alabama in fashion design which she uses in her paintings. Today her talk and slide presentation was titled, “An Artist’s Cottage Garden”. Liz helped us to see ways we could express our own creativity in our gardens. Due to flooding in her own personal garden and her work studio, Liz found that you have to make adjustments. These changes affect her art as well. Any media is open to for her to use just like her garden is open to whatever happens.

The educational portion concluded at 10:51 am, with door prizes to follow.

ATTEST BY:

Jennye McCreary

Jennye McCreary, Secretary

Katherine E. Ennis

Katherine Ennis, President