Jefferson County Master Gardeners Association, Inc.

Members Meeting Minutes

September 9,, 2025/Auditorium / Birmingham Botanical Gardens / 2612 Lane Park Road, Birmingham, AL 35223

The Meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by Vice President Judith Rives.

- Judith announced that the speaker would be the first item on the agenda.

The Educational Program began at 10:06 AM - Introduction by Judith Rives: Speaker Dr. Larry Davenport

Dr. Davenport is a professor Emeritus from Samford University and the curator of the Herbarium there at Sanford. His extensive work on the Cahaba Lily made him an expert on the plant. To honor his work the State of Alabama made the day May 27, 2006, to be "Professor Larry J. Davenport Day" in our state. And in 2007, Dr. Davenport was named Alabama CASE Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

- Dr. Davenport divided the hour into two parts --speaking on herbaria and taxonomy. He provided a slide show to explain that taxonomy is the study of the diversity of plants.
- Plants are determined by naming, identifying, and classifying plants.
- Plant naming began May 1, 1753 using Latin names.
- The name of a plant is based on a "perfect specimen".
- A herbarium is a collection of specimens.
- You can collect as much DNA from a dried plant as from a live plant.
- The Samford Herbarium will be transferred to the University of West Alabama.

First Order of Business- Approval of Minutes - Judith Rives

- The Vice President called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 2025 meeting. Angie Amin made the motion, and Janie Howell seconded. A vote was called and the minutes were approved.

Second Order of Business - Vice President's Announcements - Judith Rives

- September 16th is the JCMGA Reunion Party. An RSVP is requested along with a sign-up to bring food.
- The plant swap will occur at the end of the October Members' Meeting. If you have not potted up your seedlings, or made your divisions, NOW is the time.

- The intern graduation is Wednesday, November 12th at 11:00am at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens Auditorium
- The LOGO for the 2027 Conference was revealed
- Speakers for the 2027 Conference were revealed

Third Order of Business - ACES - Bethany O'Rear

- The Master Gardener course will begin in February of 2026. Registration opens November 1st and closes December 12th.
- The final Southeast Pollinator census numbers are not in yet, but will be finalized by September 17th.
- The Blount County Fall Conference will be on October 2nd.

Fourth Order of Business - Committee Reports

- Janie Howell of the Hospitality Committee announced that Amy Weis had a computer at the Membership table for members to RSVP for the reunion. She also reminded us that the November 12th intern graduation luncheon is a great way to meet the new graduates and get them involved in projects and events that are going on with fellow master gardeners.
- Susan McNamara of the Fundraising Committee announced that the bulb sale has begun. The website is up and operational. Brochures about the fundraiser are available at the Membership table for you to distribute to your groups. Susan also mentioned that bulbs from the Holiday Bulb sale would be a great gift idea.

Fifth Order of Business - Garden Showcase presented by Amy Weis - Miss Sims' Garden

- Miss Sims' Garden is a volunteer opportunity that is in Homewood.
- The garden was started in 1964 with the one lot that the house was on. Over time Miss Sims acquired two of the adjoining lots, but was not able to procure the final adjoining lot. However, the board is hoping to purchase the final lot to complete the six lots.
- Miss Sims known as the "plant lady" was named Homewood's "Citizen of the Year" more than once.
- Steve Bender (The Grumpy Gardener), was inspired by Miss Sims to write "The Pass Along Plant Book" due to her vision of sharing and giving.
- Amy is the 6th caretaker of the garden. She is currently trying to develop it into Alabama's first demonstration garden for suburban and garden landscape design.
- The Miss Sims' Garden Foundation's mission is to improve the health and well-being of the people in the community and the environment by teaching such practices as:
    - How to conserve water
    - How to manage stormwater

How to build/use a rain garden
How to recapture the water coming off your roof
How to capture gray water from your sink, dishwasher, and washing machine
Native plantings
A solar-paneled greenhouse

- The Garden also has opportunities for fun with:
  Community activities in the garden
  Jazz and cocktails in the garden
  Movies in the garden
  Flower arranging and beekeeping programs, and much more.

The Business Meeting was adjourned at 11:57 am with door prizes to follow.

ATTEST BY:

Jennye McCreary

Jennye McCreary, Secretary

Judith Rives

Judith Rives, Vice President