Jefferson County Master Gardeners Association, Inc.

Members Meeting Minutes

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

The Meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM by President Katherine Ennis

- The minutes of the March 10, 2026, meeting were approved with a motion from Vice President, Beverly Von Der Pool, and seconded by Ann Katholi.

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

JCMGA Financial Report/March 2026

Regions Checking Account Starting Balance 2/26/2026		**$17,180.09**
Deposits		
Membership Dues	$ 210.00	
Apron Sales	$ 30.00	
	$ 240.00	
Expenditures		
Community Service	$ 71.99	
Computer Equipment	$ 439.98	
Door Prizes	$ 55.94	
Constant Contact	$ 249.05	
	$ 816.96	
Regions Checking Account Ending Balance (3/25/2026)		**$16,603.13**
Regions MM Account Operating Reserve Balance (3/23/2026)		**$12,638.39**
Regions MM Account Grant Balance (3/23/2026)		**$ 6,532.78**
Regions Certificate of Deposit reinvested, matures 4/8/2027		**$16,632.70**
TOTAL ASSETS		**$52,407.00**
Current Liabilities (Intern Projects, AMGA Dues) (3/25/2026)		**($9,888.02)**
	NET ASSETS	**$42,518.98**

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

- There will be a Board Meeting and a Conference Committee Meeting immediately following this meeting in the Hodges Room. All members are welcome to come.

Third Order of Business - Committee Reports

- Fundraising - Susan McNamara - The plant sale goes through the middle of May. We only get 50% until we sell $500 worth of sales, and we are desperately behind. There will be another dough raiser with a restaurant, to be determined in the future.
- Helpline - Susan McNamara - The training will possibly be in the late summer or early fall.
- Grants - Sandy McCarthy - Our first grants, since becoming a 501C-3, have been established. Out of three applicants, two individuals were selected. Marsha Craig, seeking funds for a church garden that gives out food to the community, received $250.00. Dorothy Leonard received $750 for her summer camp for children to learn healthy nutrition habits and replanting the pollinator garden in Midfield.
- Community Services - Misha Unruh - A volunteer is needed to man the Master Gardener table at the BBG plant sale. Also, one-time events include a Taco Fest, and Laney with Native Habitat is having a planting session.

The Business Meeting was adjourned at 10:18

- A motion to end the meeting was made by Jennye McCreary and seconded by Sandy McCarthy.

The Educational Program began at 10:20 by Vice President Beverly Vonder Pool

- Ideas of programs and speakers of interest for the 2027 calendar year are requested by the Vice President. Please send information to "VVonderpool@yahoo.com".
- The speaker today was Phyllis D. Light, talking about Native Medicinal Plants. Ms. Light is an herbalist and healer. She studied southern folk medicine from her grandmother, who is of both Creek and Cherokee heritage. In addition, she apprenticed with Tommy Bass, a folk herbalist here in Alabama, and has worked in a doctor's office as a P. A. and was an active medical assistant directly after Hurricane Katrina. Phyllis is the director of "The Appalachian Center" and believes in the integrated approach to health.
    - Phyllis's focus today was on native plants. She wants to spread the concept of planting native plants, as we are losing so many of our pollinators and habitat.
    - The Alabama Sustainable Agricultural Network supports small family farms. In the state of Alabama, you only have to have 5 acres of woodland in which you are planting native plants to reap the tax benefits.
    - Alabama is a very biodiverse state. Our state has rankings of numbers 1-9 in comparison to other states in many of the biodiversity areas.
    - Phyllis listed and spoke about the most endangered native plants in our area.
    - Questions and answers were followed by door prizes

The Educational portion of the meeting concluded at 11:22 am.

ATTEST BY:

Jennye McCreary

Jennye McCreary, Secretary

Katherine E. Ennis

Katherine Ennis, President