

LCMGA Meeting Minutes

10:00 AM, February 4, 2026

Lee County Extension Office,
600 South 7th St Opelika, AL 36801

- Welcome- Doug Deason, President, called the meeting to order at 10:00AM.
- Approval of Minutes- Marcia Boosinger, Secretary-The minutes were approved as presented.
- Treasurer's Report- Debbie Murphy, Treasurer, gave a budget report. These are the account balances:

PNC Operating account balance: \$31,527.93

PNC Reserve account balance: \$21,549.29

Total: \$53,077.22

- Regional Extension Agent report- Regional Extension Agent Dani Carroll reported that the Extension Memo of Understanding must be reviewed annually and asked how many had read it. Angie Kelsoe, the Alabama Extension Volunteer Coordinator, reviewed certain points of the MOU and reminded the group that it is online on the ACES webpage. Master gardeners are a part of extension and are considered staff of the home grounds horticulture unit they represent and are required to talk to Dani about projects which must be research based. If master gardeners report no hours, they will become alumni members. Annie Hinson asked that information about state dues coupled with the Reach for the Stars Program be placed in writing somewhere on a webpage. Angie will speak with Kerry Smith, State EMG Program Coordinator, and whether master gardeners must pay lifetime dues or only local and state annual dues to participate in the program will be clarified at the next meeting. Benefits to master gardeners as unpaid staff of extension include liability insurance.
- Membership- Annie Hinson, Membership Director, asked that members pay dues online or speak to her about them and reminded the group to put hours in now to qualify for Reach for the Stars stars and badges. Doug reminded the group that members can check their directory page to verify their membership and dues status.
- Reach for the Stars Awards – Alicia Tant presented stars and badges to the following members qualifying in the last year:
 - Bronze star-100 – 299 hours: Karen Fluharty, Jamie Johnson, Emily Myers
 - Silver star-300-499 hours: Susan Austin, Doug Deason, Annie Hinson, Mary Anne Hokanson, Julia Hutchinson, Joan Jacobs, Donna Sollie, Alicia Tant
 - Gold star-500-999 hours: Sheila Bassett, Ann Nahikian, Linda Pearce, Nancy Vinson
 - Advanced badges-Gold badge- 1000-1999 hours: Jan Holt
 - Platinum badge-2000-3999 hours: Tomie Dugas
- Programs- Becky Large, Programs Committee Chair, reminded the group that Trace Donald from Plant World would be presenting a program on propagation at the end of the meeting. Master gardeners will go to Young's Plant Farm June 3. She asked for suggestions for a social location. Beth Dorman will handle the June meeting. Three pop-up gardens planned by Carol Clemmons will include an April pop-up at the Arboretum, a May pop-up at Sherry and Jesse Chappell's garden and a May or June pop-up to view Dale Peterson's hydrangeas. Carol Borowski has suggestions for three or four field trips but needs help to work on them and would like 3 to 4 individuals to take responsibility for one field trip each.
- Educational Outreach – Joan Jacobs, Education Outreach Chair, announced that a holiday wreath making workshop will be held December 5 with O Grows. Workshops will be open to the public.
- Volunteer and CEU Opportunities
The February 28 Empty Bowls event will be at the Opelika Sportsplex. Two members are needed as bowl wrappers and several others are needed to make one of five kinds of soup: chicken, vegetarian vegetable, potato, Brunswick stew or

chili. The Kiwanis plant sale needs volunteers particularly on Saturday, February 28 which is Arbor Day. There may be a need for volunteers that day at the Arboretum and there will be more information forthcoming. The Opelika Public Library will hold a plant rescue on March 7 from 10:00AM to 11:30AM for house plants primarily but also vegetables and fruit trees. Intern Fred Schlich will be presenting a program on azalea care at the Russell County Public Library on March 12 from 12:00PM to 1:00 PM.

- Demonstration Gardens –Betsy Akins reported that the Caroline Dean Wildflower Trail cleanup will be March 5. Opelika has put up signs for the trail consistent with other major city attractions and landmarks. Jan Holt announced that the pruning of muscadines will be February 10th at 9:00AM. Linda Nowlin commented that that Grandma’s Garden will start its work the beginning of March.

- Other information to share or matters to discuss-

- Dennis Pinkert reported as advisory council representative to the Alabama Master Gardener Association. Butler County has a new master gardener association. The Alabama Master Gardeners online store opens on February 6 with discounts through March 6. The deadline for new badges for new interns was January 31. Dues tracker needs addresses for all master gardeners.

- The Auburn-Opelika Camellia Club’s Camellia Show and Sale will be at Pebble Hill on Saturday, February 28 at 8 AM and 3 gallon pots will be \$30.

- The February 28 Empty Bowls event SignUpGenius will come out in Monday’s New Weeds.

- The group was reminded of an Arbor Day event with the Arboretum and members are asked to volunteer.

- Carolyn Plott encouraged attendance at the state master gardener conference May 6-8 in Huntsville. Speakers include Doug Talley, Harvey Cotton and Patrick Thompson from the Davis Arboretum.

- Shelley Aistrup reminded the group that the Auburn Tree Commission will be planting 140 under story trees at Dinius Park Saturday February 7 at 10 AM and those interested should bring a shovel and gloves.

- Jamie Johnson announced the Auburn Rose Society would have a pruning workshop Sunday February 8 at 2:00PM at the Lee County Extension Office.

- Angie Kelsoe stated that at 8:00 PM on February 26 Alabama Public Television will be showing a program that features the Caroline Dean Wildflower Trail.

- Kat Anderson reminded members to bring gardening books to the next meeting for a book swap.

Door prizes donated by Plant World went to Dennis Pinkard, Marcia Mayberry and Hank Montgomery.

The next meeting will be March 4 at the Lee County Extension Office with a program at 11:00 AM on “Garden Apps” presented by Shelley Aistrup & Mike Akins, Lee County Extension Master Gardeners.

Adjournment- Doug adjourned the meeting at 10:57 AM. The monthly program on “Propagation” with Trace Donald of Plant World followed.

Respectfully submitted,



Marcia L. Boosinger
Secretary