

Cumberland County Master Gardeners, Inc.
General Membership Meeting
July 7, 2026

President Margo Carroll called the meeting to order at 2:05pm following a presentation on water gardening by Alan Baker.

Board Reports

Secretary's Report: Sharon McKinney reported. Minutes of the previous general meeting were distributed via email 6/12 and are posted on the website. A correction was requested regarding the location of the crushed granite warning track; change from 'UT Knoxville' to "the Knoxville Smokies warning track at Covenant Health Park in Kodak, TN". Deni Martin moved to accept the June 2026 minutes as corrected. Susan Stoneberg seconded. Motion passed unanimously on verbal vote.

Treasurer's Report:

- Lisa Lee-Briggs reported. Through May 31, 2026, beginning balance was \$42,438.29, total income was \$431.00, total expenses were \$2972.57. The ending bank balance was \$39,896.72. *Rita Reali* moved to receive the treasurer's report. Patti Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously on verbal vote
- If you purchased a ticket to the 2026 MG State Conference and haven't yet processed for your reimbursement, print and fill out the reimbursement form:
https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=d217db4ef6&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1867193407667205485&th=19e99a82eef4756d&view=att&disp=inline&realattid=f_mq1ffuxa0&zw and give to Lisa or scan it to your computer/phone and email it to her at l_1969@hotmail.com. You will also need to print out your order confirmation email (from 'Campus Payments') to give to her or forward it to her email
- Heartfelt thanks to Rae *Hoxer* for her \$400 donation to CCMG!
- We applied for and received a \$500 rebate from Eventeny (our event management platform)

Directors' Reports:

PDG Coordinator Director: Vicki May reported. She thanked everyone who volunteers at the UT Gardens (past and present), including those who work on class projects as well as responding to Shalena's emailed requests.

Committee Reports

Classes in the Gardens: Deni Martin reported an increase in registrations for CITG this year over last year

Fall Gardeners Festival: Susan Stoneberg is looking for volunteers for the Fall Gardeners Festival; please let her know if you can give some of your time for the 8/25 event.

Visionary Committee: Carla Lund reported. The planned drone flyover to film the (UT Gardens, Crossville (UTG-C) was completed, and we are awaiting the results

Publicity: Kristi Dubois reported. She could use some people to help with newspaper publicity, especially monthly write-ups on Classes in the Gardens and emailing to each newspaper one at a time. She'll train and help you get onboard in hopes to do more next year.

Old Business: Margo reviewed the 'Help Wanted' list

- The 2027 FLAGF event will be led by Margo Carroll. Two people are needed to join her so that they will be knowledgeable for what is needed in 2028
- Volunteer Coordinator for 2027 FLAGF will be Susan Stoneberg
- Fall Gardener's Festival Volunteer Coordinator and Plant Sale will be led by Susan Stoneberg
- Rain Barrel Program will be led by Sue Weber. They are now orderable online at www.ccmga.org (scroll down home page to see details, and there's a how-to video)
- Grant Research and Funding positions are still being worked on, but Michelle Williams and Kristi DuBois will be able to facilitate the writing, and Carla is working on finding appropriate grants for which to apply
- Search for Excellence Award Coordinator is not yet determined but it is agreed that this is a data-driven project and we need to improve data gathering this year
- Website Design, Updates, and Management Assistance will be led by Peggy Mullett- looking for one or two more to assist
- Media, Promotion, and Educational Materials Design Team is open
- Community Outreach and Partnership Coordinator is open
- Karen Wyatt is planning to work with her husband to produce a design sketch of our Visionary Plan to show to benefactors and other interested people
- The vote for board members for 2027 will be held in November

New Business/Announcements:

- On Wed, 7/15/26, the UT Turfgrass Team with Becky Bowling and Gregg Upchurch is hosting 'Beat the Heat on the Plateau' at the Gardens. It's a statewide educational series to help landscape professionals, golf course personnel, **and home gardeners** maintain healthy turf during the hottest months. More details at: [UTHort Pros | UT Hort](#)
 - Gregg would like us to know we can learn how to evaluate/score cool season turfgrass trials, thereby contributing to research and development. Warm season turfgrass trials have been installed and three new cultivars are to be installed in the next few weeks

- Julie Lesko would like us to know you are welcome to come to the Garden Mondays at 9am to help water/fertilize the research vegetable plots. The tomatoes are not doing as well as last year at this time but it's turning out to be a good learning experience
- Approximately 13 more volunteers are needed on Thursday 8/20/26 for the Steak and Potatoes Field Day event. Post-meeting note: Carol Burdett sent us an email 7/10 to explain how we are needed. If you are interested, email carolburdett@live.com UPDATE post-meeting: all slots are filled, thank you per Carol.
- Mike Barron encourages us to go to [Tennessee Smart Yards](#) and begin your learning and evaluation of your property. Ideally, all Cumberland County residents (and especially Master Gardeners) would look into the program and become certified. You'll very likely find that you're already doing many of the practices to your outdoor spaces to create healthier, more ecologically-sound landscapes and communities. Nine principles of stewardship serve as the foundation for the program and are explored in online modules and practical workshops taught by UT-TSU Extension and water resource professionals.
 - There will be a Smart Yard and Friends Fest on Saturday, 9/12 from 10a-2p in UT Gardens, Knoxville (2518 Jacob Dr) that you may want to attend. It's a free, annual sustainable gardening event with expert-led classes, native plant giveaways and more. Food available for purchase

President Carroll adjourned the meeting at 2:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted *as corrected*,

Sharon McKinney, Corporate Secretary