

Cumberland County Master Gardeners, Inc.
General Membership Meeting
August 4, 2026

DRAFT

In President Margo Carroll's absence, V.P. Carla Lund called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. at the UT Gardens- Crossville.

Opening Remarks: There will be a presentation by Hannah the intern who's been here all summer, and an introduction of Dereck Corbin the interim director of these grounds before we begin the business portion of this session.

Officers' Reports

Secretary's Report: Sharon McKinney reported. Minutes of the previous general meeting were distributed via email July 12, 2026 and posted on the website. Corrections requested: Rita Reali to be listed as the mover of the treasurer report, and spelling correction of Rae Hozer's name. Elaine Hanson moved to accept the July 7, 2026 minutes as corrected. Vicki May seconded. Motion passed unanimously on verbal vote.

Treasurer's Report: Lisa Briggs reported. Through June 30, 2026, beginning balance was \$39,896.72, total income was \$10.00, total expenses were \$2627.61, ending bank balance was \$37,279.11. Rita Reali moved to receive the treasurer's report, Susan Stoneberg seconded. Motion passed unanimously on verbal vote.

Committee Reports

Fall Gardeners Festival: There will be 36 Tee shirts advertising the Dragonfly display. They will retail for \$25 and should be a nice fundraiser for us. In addition, there will be an opportunity to order online (MGs can order online in the near future, leaving the 36 available for visitors to the fest to purchase).

UTG-Crossville Visionary Committee: Carla showed us the video produced of drone footage of the Gardens. It is a lovely video professionally done! It's expected to be able to take parts of the video for still images to help get the word out regarding what we're all about. There were two cards passed around for signatures as a thank you to the two men who made this happen under Carla's direction, saving us several thousands of dollars.

Old Business: Still need a volunteer or two to help out with the Dec 1st Holiday celebration. Please let Lisa Lee-Briggs know if you are interested.

New Business:

- Sharon McKinney thanked Mike Barron for the work he's been doing getting the word out regarding Tennessee Smart Yard (TNSY). A signup sheet was passed to indicate who is already certified and who is working on it. Ten MGs indicated they are certified and eight

who are working on it. If there are more, let us know to add your name. We are going to have a goal set up in the fall to increase these numbers and use that to nominate ourselves for an Excellence Award for 2027. To that end, a flyer was made available to illustrate how to get to the parts of the website to start your self-certification:

[Smart Yard instructions to start program.pdf](#)

- Hannah, the 2026 Intern, gave a well-produced presentation regarding her experience here this summer. She's here from Texas as a sophomore at the University of Tennessee's Herbert College of Agriculture. She feels the internship was successful and is going to encourage others to apply
- Dereck, the interim director of the Plateau AgResearch Education Center, introduced himself and described how he came to be interested in agriculture, how he and his family are adjusting to living on the premises, and what his role is. One of his main goals is to have targeted research done here; studies done that are crucial to the Plateau area of Tennessee.
 - He also described a general idea on how we can ensure a safe experience for visitors/workers/volunteers. More information to come on this subject soon

Announcements:

- Gregg Upchurch reminded us about the Steak & Potatoes event 8/20 and Fall Gardener's Fest 8/27
- Connie Farley reminded us the Cumberland County Fair is 8/17-23 at the Crossville Fairgrounds. The theme is "Barn in the USA". We will have a Master Gardener Extension Service Booth with setup starting 8/12. Anyone who would like to assist, please contact Connie: jacfarley@tds.net
- Julie Lesko and Gregg reminded us there are research plots to check out- there's the cool and warm turf plots as well as vegetable plots.
 - Becky Boling is expected at the Gardens Wednesday, Aug 12th @ approximately 9am if you'd like to learn more about turf
 - Natalie Bumgarner and others are looking into why the tomatoes are not doing well. It's quite the mystery at this point! Diagnostic testing is taking place
 - Come out to harvest/weigh the veggies such as green beans and zucchini @9am on Mondays and Fridays. You'll be able to take some home!

Vice President Carla Lund adjourned the meeting at 2:45p.m.

Next general membership meeting is Tuesday, September 1, 2026 at the Country Store.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon McKinney, Corporate Secretary