

CCMGA Meeting, November 11, 2025

Clem Clapp opened our meeting leading us in the Pledge to our Flag at 9:30 AM.

Vice President, Hugh Nichols, introduced our guest speaker, Ginger Duncan, owner of Neely Farms Christmas Trees in Thorsby, Alabama. She went into great detail as to how the farm got started and the different types of trees they grow. It actually started as an animal farm. They also have a gift shop where she makes fresh wreaths from the trimmings from the trees and ornaments made from some of her dried vegetables. They sell 900 -1000 trees per year. Some of the varieties of trees they have are: Virginia Pines, Leyland Cypress and Frazer Fir. She stated the pruning of the trees was very important to having a great shaped and pretty tree. They open the day after Thanksgiving and she invites all to come and tour the farm and support your local business.

November birthdays: Kerry Rush, Robin Cagle, Hugh Nichols, Sharon Hosch and Sally Moore

Election of officers for 2026: Coming from our nominating committee:
The nominees are: Hugh Nichols, President; Sonja Johnson, Vice President;
Kerry Rush, Treasurer; Donald Jones, Secretary.

Skip Coulter, President, asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. There were none.

A motion to accept the nominees from the committee was made by Clem Clapp and seconded by Betsy Smith. The vote was unanimous.

Judy Cobb, Treasurer, gave our treasurer report. It was approved as read.

Beginning Balance	11,307.74
No Deposits	
No Withdrawals	
Total Checks	151.50
Net Balance Checking	11,156.24
Cash Box	100.00
CD Balance	8,555.15
October 2025 balance	19,811.39

Lanell Baker, Secretary, apologized for not having the minutes posted to our website. The membership approved them as written.

The Demonstration Garden has finished for this year. We do have a new bird bath. We will be feeding the CREC workers on December 1, 2025 in appreciation for all the help they give us during the year.

Recreation Center bed has been planted with fall plants. Need volunteers to sign up to water. Dug up crinum lilies and took them to shade house at Demo Garden to be potted up.

Extension Office beds are looking great.

Skip Coulter gave out four door prizes: 1st prize to Lynne May, 2nd prize to Callen Alred, 3rd prize to Audrey Giles and 4th prize Donald Jones

Skip Coulter, President, asked the membership if they would be willing to help with the helpline by taking calls once in a while. We really need to keep this service going but we need volunteers to work a half day each week. After discussing this problem, members voted to keep the helpline going and said they would commit to it.

Kerry Rush, Advisory Council update: 1) The AC/AMGA continue to work on updating state level online documents. 2) There was discussion pertaining to the possibility of applying for an Alabama Motor Vehicle Department-approved Alabama Master Gardener license plate. However, it was deemed unlikely the quantity requirement could be reached. Further discussion led to the possibility of locating a manufacturer to supply a high-quality license plate surround frame. 3) The two upcoming state conferences are: 2026-Huntsville (hotel and conference registration info is on the AMGA website); and 2027-Homewood. 4) The AC elected new officers. 5) A reminder to all associations to enter volunteer hours was expressed.

Hugh Nichols reported he has staked a couple of the Cane Brake Pitcher Plants to keep check of their growth during the coming year. He also stated there is a Search for Excellence Award and they are looking for a person to give it to.

A trip to Aldridge Garden is planned for November 21, 2025. He will send out an email and anyone wanting to go can meet at the Extension Office.

The fig cuttings and propagation is scheduled for March 8, 2026 at the CREC. There will also be a Fig jam making workshop.

Junior Master Gardeners are selling poinsettias. JMG will start at SPAN on December 18, 2025 at the school. Books to be used are at the Extension Office. Maybe we can get some home school JMG programs started.

Trisha Williams asked us to please get our hours in before our December meeting.

Amy Baker presented two Peach Award winners.

Betsy Smith for August

Audrey Giles for November

Our annual Christmas dinner will be our next regular meeting, December 9, 2025. Need help setting up on December 8th there is a signup sheet for this. Have food there at 10:15AM and plan for approximately 50 people. The board will furnish the ham and turkey and there is a signup sheet for all other foods. There is also a signup sheet for helping clean up afterwards.

Diane Clapp is retiring as our hospitality leader and Pat Farmer has stepped up to fill this position.

Skip did a quiz on Christmas trees. Annuals 6, Perennials 8

No further business Skip adjourned the meeting at 11:40 AM.

Members 25 Visitors 2 Total 27

Lanell Baker, Secretary