

Chilton County Master Gardeners Meeting
 Tuesday, June 9, 2026

President, Hugh Nichols opened the meeting at 9:30am. There were 20 members present and two guests. Clem Clapp led us in the pledge of allegiance. Hugh announced the member birthdays for this month, and read a thank you card from extension agent, Jacob Turner for gifts received on the birth of new daughter, Evelyn Grace.

The minutes for April and May were presented, voted on and will stand as disseminated. Kerry Rush presented the Treasurer’s Report below and it was also accepted.

May 2026	For June 2026 Membership Meeting
Beginning Balance Checking	13,421.17
Total Deposits (PayPal Plant Sale update)	.89
Total Withdrawals	0.00
Total Checks	353.77
Net Balance Checking	13,068.29
Cash box	100.00
CD balance (YTD Interest: \$226.19)	8,781.34
TOTAL	\$21,949.63

Trisha Williams gave a report on the Demo garden and stated that work days would be held there every Monday from 8:00am-10:00am unless otherwise noted.

Callen Alred reported that the extension office beds were looking good and workdays will be announced if needed, otherwise all will be held at the demo garden for the time being. Lanell Baker stated that the rec center beds were also doing well.

The conservation report was given by Hugh and mentioned that seeds were collected from the Owl’s Eye Ginger.

It was reminded that the new Master Gardener Classes will begin August 13, that is IF we get 10 people signed up and paid. The classes will be held at the Chilton Research and Extension Center and there will be an orientation on August 6th from 9am-12am and refreshments will be needed. Registration is now open and we were asked to encourage others to enroll. Jacob mentioned that five had registered to date.

Hugh mentioned that a recruitment idea had been discussed to provide a scholarship of reimbursement for registration dues of either \$100-\$150 to master gardeners who became certified. Sonja Johnson motioned to provide a scholarship of reimbursement for registration dues of the whole amount paid by interns completing certification in Chilton County, including retroactive of 1 year for member, Angie Cable. Kerry Rush seconded the motion and the motion was opened for discussion. After discussion, Sonja amended her motion to provide a scholarship of reimbursement for registration dues of \$100.00 to interns completing certification in Chilton County in 2026 including retroactive of 1 year for member, Angie Cable. Trisha will post this incentive on the group's Facebook page.

Hugh reported that the Jr. Master Gardener Class went very well and Pat Farmer and Crystal Vaith from the extension office will follow up on any improvements for next year.

David Wright announced that the trial garden greenhouse at Auburn would allow us to go on a tour within the next 30 days or so. July 20th was suggested as a possible date.

Two door prizes were drawn for and the winners were Beverly Williamson and Diane Clapp.

Sonja mentioned volunteer opportunities and Pat announced that Walmart is checking to see if we can have an 'ask a master gardener' station there on an upcoming Saturday. Beverly passed around a sign up sheet to volunteer on the Chilton County Helpline. 4H Cloverbuds will resume on Tuesdays from 1:00pm-3:00pm and volunteers are needed. ACES encourages us to participate in the Grow More Give More campaign. We must enter our totals in two places; one on the master gardener website and the other on the ACES website.

A door prize was drawn and the winner was our visitor, Rebecca Bearden. We took a break for refreshments at 10:15 and then our guest speaker for this month was introduced by our V.P. Sonja Johnson. Katie Wiswall is the Urban & Community Forestry Partnership Coordinator with the Alabama Forestry Commission. Katie graduated from Auburn with a degree in Forestry Management. She gave a presentation on the AFC's Champion Tree Program, which is designed to discover, recognize, and celebrate the largest of each native tree species in Alabama. It was a very interesting presentation. The meeting adjourned at 11:00am.