

St. Lucie County, Florida
Master Gardener Rules

Rules for local implementation of Bylaws sanctioned by the University of Florida,
effective January 1, 2008

1. Eligibility for membership as a Certified Master Gardener is covered in the bylaws. However, eligibility for refundable attendance (including spouse or guest) at the awards banquet each year shall be limited to members that have presented time sheets (through mid-November, projected to December 31) that are certified to total no less than 75 hours for the member for the year. Those that meet the State requirement of 35 hours but less than 75 hours, may attend upon payment of the cost.
2. The President shall appoint a nominating committee from the membership of 3 persons in July. This committee will consist of one past president and one past "Master Gardener of the Year", and one other member.
3. The membership shall be notified at the July General Meeting that nominees for the following year officers will be presented at the September Meeting. Anyone interested in being nominated for an office should contact the current President.
4. Nominations from the floor may be made at the September and November meetings.
5. If there should be more than one nomination for any office, the voting for that office shall be by secret ballot, in which event ballots will be sent to all current members after the November meeting.
6. Elected officers will be inducted into office at the December Awards Banquet, and positions shall become effective January 1.
7. The Executive Committee, each with voting privileges, shall consist of Past President, President, President Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and 3 appointed members (total 8), and shall be announced at the Awards Banquet.
8. The President Elect shall also head up the Scholarship Committee, and make recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding the distribution of financial support to persons or organizations.
9. Secretary shall e-mail minutes of Executive Committee meetings to President within 2 days of the meeting. President will review and send e-mail to all members and attendees of the meeting 2 days prior to the General Meetings. Secretary shall e-mail minutes of General Meetings to President within 14 days of the meeting. President will review and arrange to send e-mail to all active members, and post the minutes on County website.

10. Any disbursement request over \$50.00 and up to \$200.00 shall be approved by at least one member of the Executive Board. Purchases of \$200.00 - \$500 shall be approved by 2 members of the Executive Board. Purchases in excess of \$500.00 shall be approved by 2/3 majority of the Executive Board. However, in cases where a Committee Chair has been given responsibilities for a specific budget item, the Committee Chair may develop a plan with the President for handling expenses within the budgeted amount without further Executive Committee approval, unless the budgeted amount is expected to be exceeded.
11. With regard to article IV para A, line 6, "the majority of the vote of the membership" is defined as the majority of those certified members present and voting at the meeting.
12. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
13. These Rules may be amended at any bi-monthly General Meeting, by a two thirds majority of "Master Gardeners in good standing" in attendance voting, provided the proposed amendment(s) have been prior approved by the County Extension Agent, and then presented for review to all such members by e-mail, or U. S. mail to those members without e-mail addresses at least one week in advance of the next general meeting. Members must attend the meeting to vote.