

# HAPPENINGS

WINTER 2017—2018

## Alabama Master Gardeners Associa- tion

[Alabamamg.org](http://Alabamamg.org)

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## BALDWIN CO MGA

Paula Pritchett

In October, Baldwin County Master Gardeners participated in the twenty-fifth annual Weeks Bay Plant Sale. It was again a success. It was a very hot week, but that did not keep workers and garden enthusiasts away. During the sale, Gardening Talks were given by Barb Comstock, Susan Hess, Patrick Waldrop, Fred Nation, Melissa McCarty, and Jim Gaines. The highlight of our week was the presentation of awards to two of our members. Maureen Nation was given the Silver Queen Bee Award for her twenty-five years of coordinating the Weeks Plant Sale, and Caterina Kenworthy, age ninety-six, was given the Super Queen

Bee Award for her many years of coordinating the kitchen.

Our Fall Seminar was held on October 26. Chairman, Sharon Thoele, and her committee organized a wonderful day of education, food, and fellowship. Our speakers for the day were Dr. Doug Phillips and Darryl Patton.

At our November meeting, our officers for 2018 were elected. They are as follows: Paula Pritchett, President; Julian Walther, Vice-President; Terri Wallace, Recording Secretary; Verna Thwaits, Corresponding Secretary; Gene Sellier, Treasurer; Joni Euler and Arren Graf, Members at Large, and Bernie Fogarty, Past President.



*The good gardener knows with absolute certainty that if he does his part, if he gives the labour, the love, and every aid that his knowledge of his craft, experience of the conditions*

*of his place, and exercise of his personal wit can work together to suggest, that so surely will God give the increase.*

*Then with the honestly-earned success comes the consciousness of encouragement to renewed effort, and, as it were, an echo of the gracious words, 'Well done my good and faithful servant'.*

Gertrude Jekyll 1843 - 1932 <http://www.azquotes.com/quote/767133>

## CALHOUN CO MGA

Sherry Blanton

We had our annual December awards event and covered dish supper in our festively decorated clubhouse. Two hard-working members received the Red Bandanna Award for exemplary service. Our 2017 Interns graduated receiving their certificates.

In November we had our annual business meeting electing a new slate of officers, saying goodbye to our past board. We also dedicated our recently constructed greenhouse in memory of the wife of our new president. A large crowd of guests enjoyed a covered dish lunch and program.

The Tree Amigos Master Gardener Program provided a holiday luncheon for the young ladies at Coosa Valley Attention Home where the program is located. The home and its residents were presented with gifts purchased with the proceeds of the spring plant sale.

Our volunteers have been closely working with Longleaf Botanical Gardens, helping establish the Gardens. They assist with plants and programs.

The Cane Creek volunteers completed a much-needed wheelchair ramp for the clubhouse,

allowing the building to be handicapped accessible.

The volunteers have been busy planning ways to make our grounds even more beautiful.

Our January meeting started 2018 for us. Renee Raney brought us information about the activities at Cheaha State Park.

We wish all our local state associations continued success in 2018.



Congratulations to Linda and Billy McDaniel who received the Red Bandanna Awards for 2017 because of their dedicated service to our MG program. Photo by Sherry Blanton

## CENTRAL ALABAMA MGA

Iva Hanie

In October the Central Alabama Master Gardeners of Elmore County met at Lanark. Maria Pacheco West gave a brief history of the property and presented a program on plants for fall, and decorating with foliage when blooms are not available.

Jane Mobley talked to the Lunch and Learn group on Heirloom Gardens. She also spoke at the regular monthly meeting in November. Her topic was *Landscaping with Color*; it was an excellent program.

Our annual Christmas party was held December 5th at Mulder United Methodist

Church. The theme was a Vintage Christmas. We had our business meeting at which time officers for next year were installed. Afterward, we feasted on heavy horsd'oeuvres and enjoyed a time of fellowship. We sang Christmas carols led by Lee Borden with Caral Ratan on the piano. *Twas the Night Before Christmas* was presented by Mary McCroan, who had a book from which her father had read the same poem. Lee Borden read from Luke Chapter 2 of the King James Version of the Bible.

Plans are in the making for 2018 Lunch and Learn and program meetings and for our plant sale the first Saturday in May. Of course, we continue working on our ongoing projects. Even in winter, there is work to be done.

## CHILTON CO MGA

Alice Broome

Chilton County's Christmas Home Tour (CHT) has completely surpassed the expectations of the Master Gardeners who witnessed its beginning. The first CHT planned by Master Gardeners five years ago was primarily a fundraiser. These funds help support our contributions toward the Auburn Horticultural Scholarship and other charitable organizations. Now one of the highlights of the season for our community as well as our association, it has given an occasion to exhibit ways of using live greenery as decoration. Additional benefits have been giving local residents and those from neighboring counties opportunities to enjoy visiting local homes, reacquainting with old friends, and meeting new ones, as well as excellent exposure to Chilton County Master Gardeners.

Playing a vital role in the preparation and production of CHT, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System advertises, sells tickets, and becomes the location for Tour participants to enjoy punch, hot cider, and cookies.

The homes to be displayed are selected randomly, based on their individual attributes.

These homes range from large and newly built with the latest décor, to smaller homes using beloved décor passed down through generations. Still other homes are landmarks of the community, and contain treasured antiques. Each home, however, has at least one common feature: it is filled with the warmth and love that acknowledge it as a home, not just a house.

The CHT of 2017 proved to be another successful joint effort of the community and the Chilton County Master Gardeners. Your calendar should be marked now for the second Sunday of December when we invite you to the 2018 Christmas Home Tour FUNraiser!



Lee Walters, MG. Photo was taken by Audrey Giles

## COFFEE CO MGA

Jacque Hawkins

The Coffee County Master Gardener's Association (CCMGA) held their Christmas luncheon at Shane's Rib Shack in Enterprise. A rousing game of "Dirty Santa" was played with presents changing hands several times before being retained.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Jan 24, 2018, 12:00 PM, in the New Brockton Commissioner's Conference Room.



Members attending: front row left to right: Ona Garwood, Glenda Ellis, Alice Hersant, Marylou Crush, Maggie Sickler, Nell Gilmer, Nicholas Sterling and Jacque Hawkins.

Back row: Dawn Stirling-Smith, Janine Coles, Rodney Peneul, Delores Swensen, David Ellis, Anne Edwards, Brenda Evans, Wanda Maddox, Ed Speigner, Price Tuley and Tami Ziglar. Photo by Jacque Hawkins

## CULLMAN CO MGA

Jennifer Underwood

"What so proudly we hailed..." The CCMGAI received honors for its fair booth at the County Fair (September 21 – 30). Our presentation was *Victory Gardens, History Worth Repeating*. We armed residents with intel on assembling their own, sustainable "victory gardens," manned the Crop Registration station, and won hearts and minds over to gardening. Several possible Interns were recruited for our next CCMGAI class, commencing on January 31, 2018.

Definitely Worth Repeating, we displayed our fair booth again at Peinhardt Living History Day.

Thousands of people flock to this annual event, which showcases rural life in the 1930s – 40s and is made possible by hundreds of volunteers, including Master Gardeners. Here we had another opportunity to disperse information on gardening and to promote the MG program.

For this year's Christmas Party, we went with a patriotic theme to celebrate another winning year. Patrons gathered at the North Alabama Agriplex for potluck, camaraderie, and a lively game of "Dirty Santa."

Included in our itinerary for 2018 are plans for a new community garden at Wallace State as well as gardens for the Alabama Bicentennial celebration. I can just hear us all singing..."Oh, say, can you seed?"



MG Booth at Cullman County Fair: Victory Gardens, History Worth Repeating. Photo by MG, Ellen Hall

## EAST CENTRAL MGA

Valerie Morris

Hundreds of kindergartners thru third grade have spent spring and fall afternoons in 2017 learning about gardening at the Wedowee Elementary School garden outdoor classroom addition, made possible by a \$650.00 project funding grant from AMGA awarded in spring of 2017.

In winter of 2014/15 ECAMG volunteers cleared an area in the woods adjacent to the garden, providing a flat area in the shade and making a tremendous improvement in the teaching environment. But the MGs still had to carry tables and other equipment across the playground to the classroom area, and the students still sat on tarps.

By the end of classes in May 2016 the MG teaching team decided to pursue a grant to provide adequate facilities for all involved. They requested of

the 2017 Project Funding Committee, \$650.00 to build five student work tables, one large presentation table, and seven benches to accommodate more than 40 students and teachers.

In spring 2017, the East Central Alabama Master Gardeners, local volunteers, and businesses began building the weather-resistant structures and setting them in the ground. All pieces were prefabricated by volunteers and what was to be a one-day project was stretched to two-days by flooding rains the night before construction started. That did not dampen the spirits of the 17 crew members who showed up.

The outdoor classroom addition to the Wedowee Elementary School Garden, funded by AMGA and built by East Central Alabama MGs, local volunteers, and businesses is a great asset to the school. It is also a source of local pride and positive publicity for everyone involved in building and using the classroom.

## ETOWAH CO MGA

Carol B. Link

As I write this report, Etowah County is experiencing a winter wonderland, receiving our first snow of the year, and the snow is sticking to the ground, bushes, and trees.

Last Night, at our December meeting, Master Gardeners and spouses showcased their talents, presenting a Christmas Program that included Christmas jokes, a magic show, keyboard music, singing, a sing-along, a Christmas skit, and a Christmas poetry reading. In addition, Master Gardeners brought an unwrapped toy or a monetary donation to *Marine Toys for Tots*.

Recently Master Gardeners landscaped a new construction for Habitat for Humanity, with MG Barbara Harrington devising a short manual for the homeowner, laying out and identifying each plant in the landscape and explaining the needs of each plant.

In October, Master Gardeners took an education trip, by bus, to McMinnville, Tennessee, to Falcon Rest Mansion and Gardens. A dinner theater was a part of the adventure, with Etowah County Master Gardeners participating, playing roles in the production.

Etowah County Master Gardeners are involved in a landscaping project at the Etowah County Court House,

with Master Gardeners selecting and ordering plants and overseeing the project, with the county purchasing plants and providing the labor. New plants, soil, and other planting materials have been ordered and stored, and many of the old plants are in the process of being removed.



During the theater production, the owner of Falcon Rest Mansion, Charles and Charlein McGothlin participated in the production, wearing period costumes and portraying the original owners of the mansion. Photo by Carol B. Link

## JACKSON CO MGA

Thomas Gallagher

Thursday, October 5 we held our annual Plant Swap and October meeting at Judy Arnold's house. We had our second "Lunch and Learn" on Wednesday, October 25 at the Jackson County Senior Center.

Our presenter for the November meeting was Eve Sweatman of Grant who presented a program on Birding. She has been an avid birder for a number of years. It was a great presentation with many colorful pictures.

Also at the November meeting the Election Committee put forth the following names for officer positions for 2018: Lil Noble, President; Tom Gallagher, Vice President; Sharon Bell, Secretary; Pat Shikle, Treasurer. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion was made and carried to approve the new slate of officers. Board members for 2018 - 2019 will be: Diane Blizzard, Dell Cook, Donna Hawkins, Cheryl Holder, Ron Leighton, Jason Shelton, and Judy Weaver.

We held our Christmas Party on December 7, at the VFW/American Legion Hall across from the Jackson County Fairgrounds. There were about 30 members and

guests in attendance. After a wonderful meal, Rhonda Britton presented name tags and certificates to those Interns who have completed their duties and were present at the party.

Judy Arnold then presented the 2018 Officers and Board Members, who were present, to the group.



L-R: Pat Shikle, Class coordinator; Sharon Bell, Intern; Diane Blizzard, Intern; Peggy Craven, Intern; Terri Cummins, Intern; Bill Caudill, New Class Committee Chairman; Ron Leighton, Intern. Photo by John Horning

## JEFFERSON CO MGA

Fletcher Harvey

Where did the year go? It seems like yesterday we were complaining about the heat. Nevertheless, here we are filing 2017 in the archives and looking forward to lush flowers, bountiful harvests, and our State Conference in Birmingham in 2018.

Officers for 2018 were elected at the October meeting and installed at our banquet in November. Gail Pless assumes the helm as President, Kathy Connolly was elected First Vice President, and Chris Pugh will be Second Vice President. Secretary is Bonnie O'Bannon, and Roger Clarke takes on the job of Treasurer. Pat Cosgrove is Immediate Past President.

The main event was the graduation of 37 Master Gardeners. This stalwart group has already earned in excess of 4,000 volunteer hours! We celebrate the achievements of these folks and look forward to their continuing involvement in the community at large and within our organization. Welcome aboard!

We further celebrate our own Kathy Connolly who received the Plant Person of the Year Award

at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens Annual Volunteer Luncheon in December.

We wish everyone the happiest of Holiday Seasons and good things ahead in the coming year.



Kathy Connolly, BBG Volunteer Plant Person of the Year.  
Photo by Fletcher Harvey

## LEE CO MGA

Charlot Ritenbaugh

Thoughts of gardening turn indoors for a few weeks as we decorate to spend time inside while it is colder and wetter. In addition to forcing paper whites there are amaryllis and hyacinth bulbs to try. I read recently that snowflakes, *Leucojum* spp. are great for forcing. I have a few planted, waiting in my garden work room now.

It is never too late to also add a few bulbs to your garden beds. Some great inexpensive ones can be found lingering on the shelves in stores. If you like to order online you might try "species" tulips. These are those tiny tulips that will multiply and return year after year in our climate because they originated in Turkey, long before their

showier descendants were developed in Holland. You may call the red and white species, lady or candy tulip. Scott Ogden recommends adding jonquils, 'Trevithian', and summer snowflakes, *L. aestivum*, to your bed of lady tulips, *Tulipa clusiana*.

Composting is good. Egg shells have wonderful minerals to improve the soil. I read recently that you can save up your shells to brew a tea for your plants. Pour boiling water over the shells and allow them to steep overnight. The resulting "eggshell-infused" water is rich in calcium and potassium, as well as very small amounts of phosphorus, magnesium and sodium. Sounds like a great liquid fertilizer!

## LIMESTONE CO MGA

Carol Knox

LCMGA held their Master Gardener Course Graduation in conjunction with our December meeting at the Revival Building in Athens, AL. The tables were beautifully decorated by our Hospitality Committee and we held an ornament swap after the meeting and graduation. Our special guest for the evening was Rhonda Britton, the Home Grounds Agent for Madison, Morgan and Jackson Counties and MG Course Coordinator. Rhonda presented each graduate with their name badge, certificate, and goody bag.

Our new graduates are: Front row from left: Emily Clem, Kipp Irland, Stephen Pachik, Agent Rhonda Britton,

Peggy Johnson, Marcia Cantor, Karen Malone.

Second row from left: Ruth Gregg, Priscila Whittier, Susan Smith, Rochell Biffle, Carole Hamilton, Patsy Kobs, Janis Dill, Rick Pressnell, Mike Cantor, Dennis Kobs, Marilyn Bradley, Ann Kent.

Not present were Bobbie Hodge, Jennie Sisk, Jonathan Biffle, and Mary Ballard. Congratulations to all! Photo by Carol Knox



## MARSHALL CO MGA

Annette Williams

As this is being written, fall is here, and the trees are showing off their beauty.

Seventeen volunteers have been busy digging up 1300 pounds of sweet potatoes to take to Mr. J.D. Swatzlander's basement to age properly. They will be put into gift bags along with other food staples to give to the homebound seniors all over Marshall County at Christmastime.

The CASA garden produced 9,300 pounds of vegetables this year. The gardeners were happy to get a

new storage building to store their garden supplies.

We send many thanks to Guntersville Advertiser-Gleam for the articles on CASA and the volunteers.

We have learned that now is the time to plant trees and prepare the soil. Our MG volunteers have cleaned their garden tools, rolled up the water hose, and put the garden to sleep until another planting season rolls around.

Enjoy your harvest at Thanksgiving and have a Happy Christmas holiday until it is time to sow seeds again.



## MASTER GARDENERS OF NORTH ALABAMA

Elouisa Stokes

Master Gardeners of North Alabama have been busy making lives better here in Madison County. We have finished another Master Gardener class, had a fantastic plant swap, and ended up with an outstanding Christmas Social at the Huntsville Botanical Garden. Project of the Year award went to Horticultural Therapy for their work with disabled adults in Day Care. North Alabama Seed Bank received the Friend of Master Gardeners for their help with our conference in May. Connie Carr was named Intern of the Year for helping our new agent, Rhonda Britton, among others. New Initiative was given for starting Sign-up Genius to help us sign up for our projects. The Parks Memorial Fund was able to financially

help Kids to Love, Montessori School of Huntsville, and Morris P-8 School with gardens this year.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Bill Fuller for his work for the last 20 years. The Master Gardener of the Year award was presented to Tom Simpson, for his outstanding dedication & commitment as head of the Demonstration Vegetable Garden, having served in many positions, and having always done an outstanding job. Congratulations to all our honorees.

As part of our outreach to the community, we decorated a Christmas garden tree at the Library to showcase Master Gardeners.

Plans for the spring are already underway. Please join us at any meeting on the second Thursday of the month. We meet in the Murray Hall at the Huntsville Botanical Garden. See you all there.

## MOBILE CO MGA

Mary Nash

Officers for 2018: President, Melissa Wold; Vice-President, Martha Rauch; Recording Secretary, Carol Eskridge; Corresponding Secretary, Marian Watts; Treasurer, Linda Kloster; Directors, Nancy Seibert and Janet Waters.

The annual educational trip to New Orleans Botanical Garden on October 11 was enjoyed by all.

Sixty-five Master Gardeners worked the Greenery sale on December 1-2. The sale netted \$5,000 profit which supports the MCMGA Education Budget.

The Christmas Awards Banquet/25th Anniversary Celebration was held December 10, with 130 members and guests attending. Outgoing President, Judy Stout, is Master Gardener of the Year. Rookie of the Year is Vaughan Drinkard. James Miles, Regional Extension Agent, was recognized as founder of the Master Gardener program in Mobile in 1992. Since 1992, 620 people have enrolled in the program, 458 have been certified and 37% are still active. The menu included pork loins cooked by James. There was a slide show that scanned the years showing photos of Master Gardeners and events over the past 25 years. We sang our new Master Gardener theme song (composed by Martha Rauch).

Greer Wilhelm is chairing the 2018 Seminar on Saturday, February 17, 2018. The program *Restoring a Historic Garden* by Susan Haltom; President, Southern Garden History Society and *Ordinary Plants/Extraordinary Stories* by Carol Reese, West Tennessee AgResearch and Education

Center.

Rene' Reibling is chairing the 2020 Alabama Master Gardeners Conference on March 29-April 1, 2020 in Mobile. The City of Mobile Marketing Group has awarded Mobile Master Gardeners a \$2,500 grant for this Conference.



L-R: 2017 Mobile Master Gardener outgoing President, Judy Stout and James Miles, founder of Mobile Master Gardener program in Mobile County in 1992. Photo by Alice Marty

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*There is no spot of ground, however arid, bare or ugly,  
that cannot be tamed into such a state  
as may give an impression of beauty and delight.*

Gertrude Jekyll 1843 - 1932  
<http://www.azquotes.com/quote/767133>

## MORGAN CO MGA

Barb Brown

MCMGs stay busy no matter what the season, and now as colder weather approaches the greenhouses need to be winterized and plants divided as to cold hardiness. Many members bring in plants from their gardens to be divided, or cuttings are taken. Keeping everything orderly is a never ending job.

Other members whose talents are used to keep up with the membership are busy getting ready to publish a new directory. As the saying goes, sometimes "it is like herding chickens" to keep up with the members.

We took a break with a Christmas party including a buffet and a gift exchange. Our agenda was a bit different this year as we also held graduation for the latest group of graduating Interns. After gardening, food is our next favorite thing, and that was abundantly clear from the varied and delicious choices on the buffet table.

To exchange gifts, Vicki Morese led us in a "Left/

Right" Christmas story which left us all in laughter and with a gift too.



Christmas party: L-R: Rhonda Britton, Tri-County Ext Agent; Sonja Hyatt, outgoing 2017 president; new graduates Jim Braun, Susan Parker, Pat Byrnes, Bill Freeman, and Carol Rivard. Photo by Vicki Morese

## PIKE CO MGA

Sheri Brooks

Don't throw away those Christmas tree trimmings! Are you looking for a new way to decorate for the holidays? Tree dresses are all the rage this Christmas season! Being a Southerner, you probably already have the tools available to make this adorable creation.

### MATERIALS:

Dress form or mannequin

Fabric of your choice (burlap is used in the image)

Chicken wire

Cable or other ties

Glue gun w/sticks

Christmas tree decorations

Christmas tree limbs (see if you can get them free from places that sell and trim live Christmas trees)

### Directions:

1. Wrap fabric around bodice of form and secure with your glue gun.
2. Wrap chicken wire around dress form like a skirt. Secure with ties.

3. As shown in the photo, stick tree trimmings in chicken wire holes until it looks like a skirt. You can secure with more ties, but if you do it just right, it should stay in place on its own.

4. Decorate your tree dress!

Please join the Pike County Master Gardeners every third Wednesday of each month at noon at the Pike County Extension Office in Troy, AL. We will be conducting Master Gardener classes from January until March. Please contact the Pike County Extension Office at [\(334\) 566-0985](tel:(334)566-0985) to sign up!



Photo by Lucy Mercer of Home Depot with permission.

## SHELBY CO MGA

Rita Forrest

The last few months have been spent getting ready for the new administration to take the reins in the New Year.

Our new officers will be: Myra Healy, President; Kate Vogel, Vice President; Wayne Gainey, Secretary; Jim Strickland, Treasurer; and Merle

Schukoski, Parliamentarian.

Our meeting for December was cancelled due to some very beautiful snow showers. I am sure everyone will be ready to take on the New Year with new administration and lots of new beginnings.

It has been a pleasure being President for the past two years and now looking toward to the future of Shelby County MG!



## Shoals MGA

Peggie Lazenby

Hello fellow Master Gardeners.

We are preparing for our 2017 Interns to graduate to official Shoals Master Gardeners. This class of Interns has been one of the hardest working and involved classes I can remember!

I am pleased to announce that we have elected new officers for 2018-19. Michael Thomason (State Vice President) will be our new president. I

am very confident that he will step up to the challenges he will encounter in both of these positions. Congratulations to Donnie Daugherty, Vice President; Cynthia Kershaw, Secretary; and Brenda Smith, Treasurer. It has been my honor to serve as president for the past two years, but I am looking forward to moving on to other projects.

I hope all of you across our great state have a blessed and happy holiday season.



*The possession of a quantity of plants,  
however good the plants may be themselves*

*and however ample their number,  
does not make a garden;  
it only makes a collection.*

*Having got the plants, the great thing  
is to use them with careful  
selection and definite intention.*

Gertrude Jekyll 1843 - 1932

<http://www.azquotes.com/quote/767133>

## ST CLAIR CO MGA

Pam Garrison

Work at Lakeside Park Native Plant Trail goes on throughout the year. It has been a rewarding endeavor, and it gives us all an opportunity to work together for the community. Many people walk at the park and most comment on how our work has beautified the area. This time of year we are all bringing leaves to the trail. It is a great way to clean our yards, protect the park's plants during the winter and keep the weeds from thriving.

The project at the Sheriff's Boys Ranch was finished with an application of mulch under the sign and in the new bed in front of their office building.

During our November meeting, we enjoyed an informative and very personal talk on bluebirds. A local resident of Leeds, Alabama, Nelda Faulkner shared her stunning photographs of them. Her backyard photos were taken of birds that have nested there for some years. One of the male bluebirds had injured his foot so she could identify him by his injury. Photos followed the birds from late winter through the nesting and fledging of the newest baby birds. It was a unique way to learn about them. Also at November's meeting, officers were announced for 2018. We will recognize the new officers at the December meeting. The slate of

officers for 2018 was announced and approved by a voice vote. They are President, Tom Terry; Vice President, Pam Garrison; Secretary, Don Patterson; Assistant Secretary, Cathy Bowman; Treasurer, Adrienne Bourland; Assistant Secretary, Alice Strange.

The Interns were awarded their badges in recognition of completing the Master Gardener classes and fulfilling the volunteer and continuing education hours.



St. Clair Co MGA officers for 2018 L-R: President, Tom Terry; Vice President, Pam Garrison; Secretary, Don Patterson; Assistant Secretary, Cathy Bowman; Assistant Secretary, Alice Strange. (Not available for picture: Treasurer, Adrienne Bourland). Photo by Lee Ann Clark, County Extension Coordinator for St. Clair CO



*There is a lovable quality about the actual tools.  
One feels so kindly to the thing that enables the hand to  
obey the brain.*

*Moreover, one feels a good deal of respect for it;  
without it the brain and the hand would be helpless.*

Gertrude Jekyll 1843 - 1932  
<http://www.azquotes.com/quote/767133>

## TALLAPOOSA CO MGA

Judy Heinzen

June meeting was a real treat! We toured the George Family Farm. Our meeting was held at Bezlo's Cafe in Eclectic. Both businesses can be found on Facebook.

In July, Mary Wood Perry presented a program about PATH, "Prosperity Again Thru Health." She explained early studies of areas in the world where people lived long healthy lives, and how the vision of PATH was born as a result. We enjoyed lunch at Red Ridge Methodist church.

Our August meeting was held at the Cabin in the Alexander City Sportsplex – one of the thirty-four stops in nine East Central Alabama Counties. Joanne Ninesling provided attendees with a beautiful Map & Visitor Guide. A handout titled "Alabama Birding Trails" prepared by the University of Alabama color coded the eight trails in the state. Large posters with pictures of Birds of Alabama were available.

Our third Fall Gardening Extravaganza was held at the Central Alabama Community College in Alexander City featuring presentations by Chris VanCleave "Roses for the Real World," Felder Rushing "Slow Gardening," Sara L. Van Beck "Old Daffodils in Alabama Gardens" and Carol Reese "Take a Walk on the Wild Side."

Alpacas entertained us in October when we met at Southern Star Farms. Alpaca wool and many unique items are available in the gift shop. We held

an outdoor meeting at the Pavilion in the Alexander City Sportsplex.

Intern graduation and a potluck were the highlights of our November meeting. Shane Harris, Tallapoosa County Extension Agent, presented certificates and name badges to Susan Griffith, Nancy Moody, Mary Nielsen, Patti Voss, Cheryll Collier, Eleanor Haven, Barbara Butler, Janet Gilliland and Kay Beasley. We presented Shane with a remembrance of the Fall Gardening Extravaganza.



We presented Shane with a remembrance of the Fall Gardening Extravaganza. L-R: Judy Heinzen, President TCMGA, Shane Harris. Photo by Liz Rudolph, MG



*For the best building and planting...  
the architect and gardener  
must have some knowledge  
of each other's business,  
and each must regard  
with feelings of kindly reverence  
the unknown domains  
of the other's higher knowledge.*

Gertrude Jekyll 1843 - 1932

<http://www.azquotes.com/quote/767133>

## TUSCALOOSA CO MGA

Sybil Phillips

### Tuscaloosa's Tinsel Trail

The Tuscaloosa County Master Gardeners sponsored a live Christmas tree for Tuscaloosa's One Place Fund Raiser. There are 160 trees sponsored by individuals, organizations, and local businesses.

Tuscaloosa's One Place is a family resource center that serves about 8,500 people every year by providing after school programs, career development, healthy relationship education, GED classes, teen intervention programs and more.

The display is very attractive at night as all of the trees are lighted. It really adds to the holiday spirit as there is an ice skating rink at the Amphitheater location. All of this is located where Holidays on the River has been staged on Tuscaloosa's Riverwalk.

A short description of the decorations on the tree: there are hummingbirds, butterflies, dragonflies, miniature garden tools, gloves, and

dried okra pods painted to represent icicles. The tree topper is a lady's garden hat.



Tuscaloosa's Tinsel Tree. Photo by Gypsy Key



## WIREGRASS MGA

Cheryl Hatcher

At our October meeting, the Wiregrass Master Gardeners Association made its annual philanthropic contributions to four local non-profit organizations that have horticultural interests. It was also announced that we were again contributing to the Auburn scholarship fund. Many volunteer opportunities were presented to our membership by the activities at Landmark Park. They included Harvest Heydays, Fall Farm Days, and the Living History Program, all of which involve teaching elementary school children about gardening. Then in December the WMGA participated in a Holiday Decorating Workshop using natural materials. We are readying our greenhouse and nursery for our seeding and propagation season in anticipation of our spring plant sale in April. In January our very popular Lunch and Learn program begins again. We are

also looking forward to our Christmas party! A new year is coming and we are preparing for it with gusto!



MG Glenda Heney watering plants the old fashioned way at the Kitchen Garden at Landmark Park. Photo taken by Devonne Ellis



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## Got Questions

?

We've Got Answers

[aces.edu/questions](http://aces.edu/questions)



## DEADLINE FOR SPRING GARDEN PATHWAYS — MARCH 15, 2018

### 2017 AMGA BOD, OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT:** Catharine Maddox,

Capital City

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Michael Thomason,  
Shoals

**SECRETARY:** Rose McCauley, Autauga

**TREASURER:** Genie Schneider, Mobile

**ASSISTANT TREASURER:** Pat Farmer,  
Chilton

### BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

#### TERM 2015-2018

Phil Gatlin, Cullman

Dennis Pinkard, Lee

Ann Vaughn, Morgan

#### TERM 2016-2019

Jim Allen, Morgan

Frieda Romanchuk, Baldwin

#### TERM 2017-2020

Devonne Ellis, Wiregrass

Mary Howe, MGNA

### 2017 AMGA COMMITTEES CHAIRS AND

#### APPOINTEES

#### AWARDS COMMITTEE

Devonne Ellis, Chair, Wiregrass

#### COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:

Brenda Tapp, Chair, MGNA

#### NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

Patricia Peoples, Editor, St Clair

#### WEBSITE COMMITTEE:

Rita Forrest, Webmaster, Shelby

#### CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Kerry Smith, Chair, State MG Program Coordinator

### FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Ann Vaughn, Chair, Morgan

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Mary Howe, Chair, MGNA

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Elected Members)

Term 2016-2017

Myra Lassere, Baldwin

Term 2017-2019

Fletcher Harvey, Jefferson

### PROJECT FUNDING COMMITTEE

Phil Gatlin, Chair, Cullman

### RECORDS & RETENTION COMMITTEE

Michael Thomason, Chair, Shoals

### STATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Michael Thomason, Chair, Shoals

### AMGA CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

#### 2018 Jefferson County MGA

Ann Grey Harvey & Roger Clarke

#### 2019 Shelby Co

Pat Farmer & Sondra Henley

#### 2020 Mobile Co

René Reibling & Judy Stout

### ADVISORY COUNCIL

Ann Scharko, Chair, East Central Alabama

### STATE MG PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Kerry Smith, Auburn University

### Website Info Approval

Communications Committee/President/VP