PATHWAYS

SUMMER 2018

Photo by Paul Webb, St. Clair Co MGA

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ALABAMA MASTER GARDENERS
ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM

AMGA Website
alabamamg.org

AMGA PRESIDENT

Catharine Maddox (Cathy)

A warm Summer Hello to my fellow Master Gardeners!

I am still smiling about the wonderful AMGA Conference and Business Meeting in Birmingham in May, that was hosted by the Jefferson County MGA. What a well-planned program of excellent speakers and presentations we enjoyed! The opportunities for educational and informative tours were an extra special treat. A great deal of effort, dedication, and organization from many people made this an outstanding conference. As always, a highlight of the event was the renewing of friendships and making new friends from across our beautiful state. I congratulate all those who earned the prestigious AMGA awards at the conference, especially the Mary Lou McNabb Alabama Master Gardener of the Year, Myra Lassere, from Baldwin County, and the Gary Murray Outstanding Service and Dedication Award winner, Mallory Kelley, Extension Agent in Montgomery. Their service to their community and our organization exemplifies our Master Gardener mission and function.

Now, we all can look forward to an exciting summer of growing and reaping in our own gardens, as well as, in the many community gardens, demonstration gardens and other unique settings that you are nurturing and using to spread horticultural information and education throughout our beautiful state. I continue to marvel at the creative and expansive ways that you in your local associations use your training and skills to help spread horticultural information to improve your communities. I congratulate you.

I encourage each of you to actively engage in your AMGA state association in many levels. I have been so favorably impressed with the effectiveness of your Advisory Council in gathering and sharing information from your LMGA and in helping to bring issues to the attention of your AMGA Board of Directors. If you have not attended an AC meeting, you should grab a friend and go to the next one…especially since they hold their meetings at Petals from the Past! Be sure that your LMGA sends a representative to each AC meeting and that they bring back information to share with your group.

Our next important AMGA event is the Fall Seminar which will be hosted this year by Capital City Master Gardener Association on September 27, 2018. The theme is My Sanctuary.

Enjoy your summer, your gardens, your families and God's beautiful world.

Happy Gardening,

Cathy

2019 AMGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Chilton, Autauga and Shelby Counties

Chilton, Autauga, and Shelby counties are excited to announce our Thursday evening speaker, Joe Lamp'l. You will not want to miss this entertaining educator.

Joe Lamp'l is one of the country's most recognized and trusted personalities in gardening and sustainability. His passion for teaching is evident to a nationwide audience who watches Joe in his current role as Creator, Executive Producer and Host of the award-winning PBS series, Growing a Greener World® and previously as host of Fresh from the Garden on DIY Network as well as on-air contributor to The Today Show, Good Morning America and The Weather Channel. Past awards include The American Horticultural Society's B.Y. Morrison Communication Award, which recognizes effective and inspirational communication—through print, radio, television, podcasts and other online media and Best On-Air Talent for Television by the Garden Writers Association. Joe is also the founder and "Joe" behind joegardener.com – a website dedicated to all things gardening and horticulture through how-to videos, podcasts, articles and blog posts.

AC CHAIR

Ann Scharko

The Advisory Council meeting was held May 15 at Petals from the Past. One topic of discussion was whether the AC roster should be for all to access. There was also discussion on the Local Association Handbook, which is being rewritten. Updates were given on conferences - past, present, and future. Ann Scharko reminded everyone that this is her last year as Chair. The Vice-Chair and Secretary positions will also need new faces. If anyone would like to become involved with the AC, please step into one of these positions. Our next meeting will be August 7 at 10 am at Petals from the Past. Also, if there are any questions/comments you have and would like to have discussed at the meeting, please contact Ann Scharko @ amgaacchair@gmail.com.

https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/pedro_calderon_de_la_barc

AMGA AWARDS

Devonne Ellis

Our statewide AMGA Awards were presented at the AMGA Conference in Birmingham. Winners, based on AMGA Awards criteria, are as follows:

Top Hours of The Year: Devonne Ellis, Wiregrass Master Gardeners, was recognized for a total of 1164 Volunteer hours during 2017.

Outstanding Newsletters: The winning submission for 33-59 AMGA Members was Autauga County for *Dirty Digs*. The winning submission for 60 and above AMGA Members was Baldwin County for *Grass Roots*. No county submission for up to 32 AMGA Members.

Jean Lee Lifetime Hours: Ann Vaughn, Morgan County, was awarded a Lifetime AMGA Membership and received a Lifetime Badge for volunteering 9,751 Lifetime Hours.

The Gary Murray Outstanding Service and Dedication Award: Mallory Kelley, the winner, was nominated by Autauga County, Central Alabama Master Gardeners, Capital City Master Gardeners and Lee County.

Mary Lou McNabb Alabama Master Gardener of the Year Award: Myra Lassere, Baldwin County. Myra was awarded a Lifetime AMGA Membership and received a Lifetime Badge.

Twenty associations had members who qualified for Reach for the Stars Advanced Badges and stars: 59 Gold, 36 Platinum, two lifetime, five Ruby, nine Emerald, and one Diamond. Gold was up by 40 badges, and Platinum up 22 badges.

It is great recognizing those who volunteer their time for Master Gardeners across the state. Keep up the awesome work you all do!

Thank you all!

AMGA COMMUNICATIONS

Frieda Romanchuk

We all volunteer as members of AMGA. Most volunteering takes place in our local associations. In all of the associations from those with very few members to those with shy of 200 members, there are basic jobs that must be filled. In the smaller associations, people can easily 'wear' two, three, or more 'hats.' In the larger associations, there are not enough 'management' or committee chair jobs to go around even with splitting-up duties, so members volunteer on committees and/or for special events. Within a few months/years, members find their niche and later on may find another 'hat' or two to wear for a while. That said, in all organizations, MGs or other, small or large, participation is never 100%. Becoming Master Gardeners, we committed to volunteer. Taking on a job was never meant to become a lifetime position. People need a break. The AMGA Officers and BOD, as well as some AMGA committees, have term limits. Please consider volunteering in your association or for AMGA, to help circulate the vast amount of talents that MGs possess. Sharing our talents will help alleviate that dreaded condition: burn out. Don't be afraid to try out a new direction. It will work!

Tom Underwood, Executive Director of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, during his turn at the conference microphone left me with a few applicable thoughts. With the first, I'm combining and interpreting thoughts from Tom and AMGA President Cathy Maddox: that it is amazing what a little nurturing can do – with people as well as plants! Second, from another of Tom's comments I gleaned: small steps, small successes may lead . . .

After you finish *Pathways*, sign into alabamamg.org to enjoy the fresh look created by Webmaster Rita Forrest. Members provide the photos and event updates for the Home Page. Within months the functional, information-based sections at alabamamg.org will all be updated. The webpage's information will continue to be improved/updated according to the 'ebb and flow' of the AMGA.

FROM THE EDITOR:

So many times when I send out the announcement for Pathway articles, I get the comment back to me: "Is it that time again?" You know what? I feel the same way. I'm not complaining at all, in fact, I enjoy this so much, even though at times I get things mixed up. So, remember around the 15th of August, you will get a reminder for the fall newsletter. When you hear from me again, go ahead and get your article written and sent back and be done with it!

The summer edition should have been no different – except that I had been sick and in the hospital and had transferred all my Pathways information over to my external hard-drive as I was going to my daughters' to recover. Well, have you ever heard "It's not if your electronics are going to crash, it is WHEN? You guessed it!! Mine crashed, and I lost all of the Pathways information, which in due time, I was able to retrieve from my Gmail account. I hope that I have not failed to find an article that was submitted. If that has happened, and you let me know, I will certainly use it in the fall newsletter.

I am still sick at losing all of the information, but it will not matter in one hundred years anyway, will it? Please take my advice and don't count on just one back-up. Unfortunately, I had just removed all of the files from my computer. So, I have said all of that to say, if I send a repeat request for information and you have already submitted it, it is because I missed it when going back over my email messages. Please don't get upset with me, if that happens, please send the information again! We are all human and subject to gremlins. I thank you for your patience and support as I work to improve Pathways.

Enjoy the summer!

AMGA ENDOWMENT

Karin Carmichael

It is my pleasure to report that as of December 31, 2017, the AMGA Auburn University Undergraduate Endowment Scholarship book value was $100,207. The two scholarship recipients for the 2017/2018 academic year were Amanda King, a senior from Auburn, and Isaiah Smith (bio not provided).

The book value of the AMGA Graduate Endowment Fund as of December 31, 2017, was $43,828. The 2017/2018 Graduate Award recipient was Caitlin Carter of Auburn, a Masters student in the Public Horticulture Program. Her research is *Surveying Irrigation Practices with South Alabama Container Production Nurseries*. After graduation, she hopes to work with Alabama Extension and possibly 4-H programs. She plans to use this award to fund her studies in the Netherlands this summer.

Thank you very much to the MG Associations and others who have contributed so generously to make these scholarships and awards possible. The MG Associations that made contributions totaling $10,106.20 to the Auburn University Graduate Endowment Fund from the 2017 AMGA Conference to the 2018 Conference were:

Autauga County Master Gardeners
Capital City Master Gardeners
Central Alabama Master Gardeners
Covington County Master Gardeners
DeKalb County Master Gardeners
Jefferson County Master Gardeners
Master Gardeners of North Alabama
Mobile County Master Gardeners
Pike County Master Gardeners
Shoals Master Gardeners
Walker County Master Gardeners
Wiregrass Master Gardeners

I also want to thank those individuals and groups that sent memorial gifts to the Endowment Fund.

All contributions should be payable to AMGA and sent to the AMGA Treasurer,
Jim Whitson
729 Amador Avenue
Fairhope, AL 26532

Please include a mailing address with each contribution so that Auburn University will be able to send a Thank You letter to each donor.

AMGA RECORDS AND RETENTION COMMITTEE

Michael Thomason

The committee took a couple of months off to concentrate on the annual conference. The plan was to pick back up in mid-June reviewing the financial records and incorporating the annual meeting minutes into the archives during the hot summer months. As of this writing, we anticipate receiving more financial boxes in June, to be reviewed when possible.

Please let me stress this, if you have or know of any items that need to be archived, please notify me, and we can plan to obtain them for review and archive.

AMGA VICE PRESIDENT

Michael Thomason

From the Office of Vice President

The dog days of summer have set in by now, and many of us have been enjoying the fruits of our labor. I hope you have. Speaking of the fruits of labor, I would like to thank Jefferson County Master Gardeners for their work on the annual conference. If you did not attend, you missed wonderful presentations and educational nuggets to take back home.

Now our attention turns to Chilton County Master Gardeners (along with Shelby and Autauga County Master Gardeners) as they prepare to host the 2019 Annual Conference in Clanton. Working with them over the past year I have seen their labor, let me assure you, you do not want to miss the *Party in the Garden,* May 8 -10, 2019.

As I get the opportunity, I am still visiting with Master Gardener Associations, and am encouraged by what I see. I visited with two associations this spring, what a joy to get to meet you. Thank you for all you do for the Master Gardener Program.

Keep up the good work, and I'll see you soon.
Garden with Authority, Michael Thomason

"Doesn't matter what you do, or how you do it, your neighbors are gonna talk about you ANYWAY."

Felder Rushing

http://www.clipartpanda.com/categories/neighbors-clip-art-free

FUN, FRESH, AND FUNCTIONAL

Special article from Frieda Romanchuk, Communications Committee

Pathways led you to a 'teaser' last month concerning alabamamg.org: The Webpage! Rita Forrest, webmaster, is having fun improving the website. It is the same basic format but, oh, the improvements, functionality, and, yes, the photos of Alabama MGs at work, having fun, earning CEU's, enjoying gardens. . . YOU have sent the photos in and the rest of us are enjoying them! Keep those photos and event notices coming, please.

The website HOME page is graced with florals that lift the spirit. MASTER GARDENING IN ALABAMA – NEWS, NOTES, and ANNOUNCEMENTS opens with information about *My Sanctuary Garden,* the AMGA Fall Seminar. Several MGAs have fall programs to promote. Send Rita the flyers at amgawebmaster@gmail.com to post your topics and speakers. See yourself? See any of your MG friends? Do the photos make you smile when you see friends?

The AMGA PROJECT FUNDING PROGRAM [aka Free Money] is no longer hiding; no excuses for not applying for grants when eligible. The application form can be found in; you guessed it, AMGA Forms. Both are listed in the AMGA PUBLICATIONS & FORMS section.

That staid section, AMGA INTERNAL, now features *ACES/AMGA Historic Perspective, 1981-2018*. Kerry Smith, State MG Program Coordinator, shows the growth, revisions, and rationales for change over the decades, in and between the AMGA and ACES.

CENTRAL ALABAMA MGA are you reading this? You have produced some delightful, short, and educational YouTube videos that are linked at RESOURCES [bottom right of home page] in the section titled*: Educational and How-to Videos*. Their topics are varied but happily, short and to the point! Anyone thinking of making a video, www.camga.net has a section: *Free Video School* taught by none other than Master Gardeners!

Updating alabamamg.org will be continuous. It will be fresh with new items, but you know that you can find the standards here as well. The standards, including Newsletter Guidelines, Advisory Council's SOPs, MG Application, Awards & Criteria, Service Hours Log In, etc., are here. These too can easily have revisions that will be updated on the website.

Fun, Fresh, and Functional are the goals. Drop in for a visit!

MY HEIRLOOM

Elizabeth York, MG of Shelby/Chilton Co

My love of gardening began when I was a child. I had a great aunt, Alda, whose yard was full with beautiful flowers. My favorite flower of hers was the daylily. I was drawn to the beautiful slender petals that gracefully opened up to a bright yellow flower. Those childhood memories blossomed into adulthood. Now I have perennials everywhere.

People often ask me what I consider to be my favorite plant. I have many, but I have noticed over the years that I have accumulated over twenty different types of day lilies. While that may not be many compared to some collectors, it has become quite a lot after being in my yard for thirty years. I had a friend ask me the other day where she could purchase some daylilies. I had to chuckle to myself because I have purchased very few; most were passed along or handed down. It is of little interest to me that I do not know all the cultivar names. What does matter is this red one that came from my cousin; this pretty light purple one shared by my Master Gardener friend; this dark short purple one and this double pink that came from my Mom. My daughters gave me this one, and I made my husband dig another up from a ditch. Lastly, I pointed out the beautiful yellow one that came from my great aunt's garden that she'd had since the 1930's. Of course, my friend asked if she might have the heirloom 1930 yellow daylily! Like every good gardener, I got out my shovel.

I love knowing I am passing along a part of my family history. Who would have known my love for plants started with a daylily that has truly become an heirloom?

Here is a photo of one my many daylilies' that grow in my garden. Photo by Elizabeth York

2018 SPONSORS, VENDORS AND ADVERTISERS

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HICKORY
Alabama Farmers Cooperative

OAK
Bonnie Plants, Inc.

DOGWOOD
Alabama Farmers Agriculture Foundation

MAPLE
Leaf & Petal
Ted and Sandy Berglund
Jefferson County Master Gardeners

VENDORS
Animal Control Experts, LLC
Beverly's Pottery
Beyond the Garden Gate
Bonnie Plants
Broken Star Workshop
Eagles Roost Herb Farms, LLC
Fulgham's, Inc.
Leila Bee Designs
Miss Elaineous Baskets
Moore's Nursery
The Papercrete Potter
SPM at Home

ADVERTISERS

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Alabama Farmers Cooperative
All Things Print
Animal Control Experts, LLC
Bonnie Plants, Inc.
Chiropractic Today
Collier's Nursery
Hanna's Garden Shop
Jefferson County Master Gardeners
Leaf & Petal
Liberty Park Garden Club
Millbrook Garden and Study Club
Morrison Estate Sales
Niche Gardens
R J Tree Service
Railroad Park

ADVERTISERS

Southern Living Plant Collection/Encore Azalea
Sweet Peas
Roger and Beth Clarke
Ted and Sandy Berglund
TransAmerica Printing

DONORS
Autauga Co MGA
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Calhoun Co MGA
Capital City MGA
Central Alabama MGA,
Cherokee Co MGA
Chilton Co MGA
Claybank MGA
Coffee Co MGA
Dekalb Co MGA
East Central MGA
Jefferson Co MGA
    2018 Interns
    Anonymous
    Linda Baggett
    Sandy Berglund
    Louise Billings
    Roger Clarke
    Rosemarie Fernandes
    Jessica Germany
    Ann Gray Harvey
    Hope Long
Marshall Co MGA
Pike Co MGA
Shelby Co MGA
Shoals MGA
St. Clair Co MGA
Wiregrass MGA

What's In It for Me?

Master Gardener is about community volunteering and representing Extension; in any state of our nation. It might look a little different in each state, but the heart of this Extension program is people who enjoy helping people.

You are connected across Alabama. While each local MGA and the state AMGA are self sufficient and manage themselves independently, you're connected by the common thread of Master Gardener. And we all need each other. It's a law of nature, everything is connected to something else. Nothing happens, really, nothing happens in isolation.

So why am I waxing on a story you already know? Because it's the little things that count. Most people come to the Master Gardener program to find a fun social activity. They want to be part of something bigger than themselves. As proof, a few quotes from the Annual Survey of Local Master Gardener associations in 2017. *Describe the best thing about Master Gardener*

… It's a sense of community and neighborly responsibility that leads to volunteering

… Because we're helping others and sharing knowledge

… Being with people who volunteer is exhilarating and rewarding

Now to the little things that count. A sense of belonging happens not by accident, but through human action. Everyone in Master Gardener has a responsibility to make members feel they are valuable to the organization.

Invite members to activities and check on your neighbors. Visit community projects in a nearby county or invite a neighboring MGA to help one of your projects. Ask your Extension agent how you can get involved in their programs or invite them to yours. Invite several MGAs to join together on a field trip. AMGA hosts two learning opportunities every year, the Annual Conference and Fall seminar, and several local MGAs host educational events too.

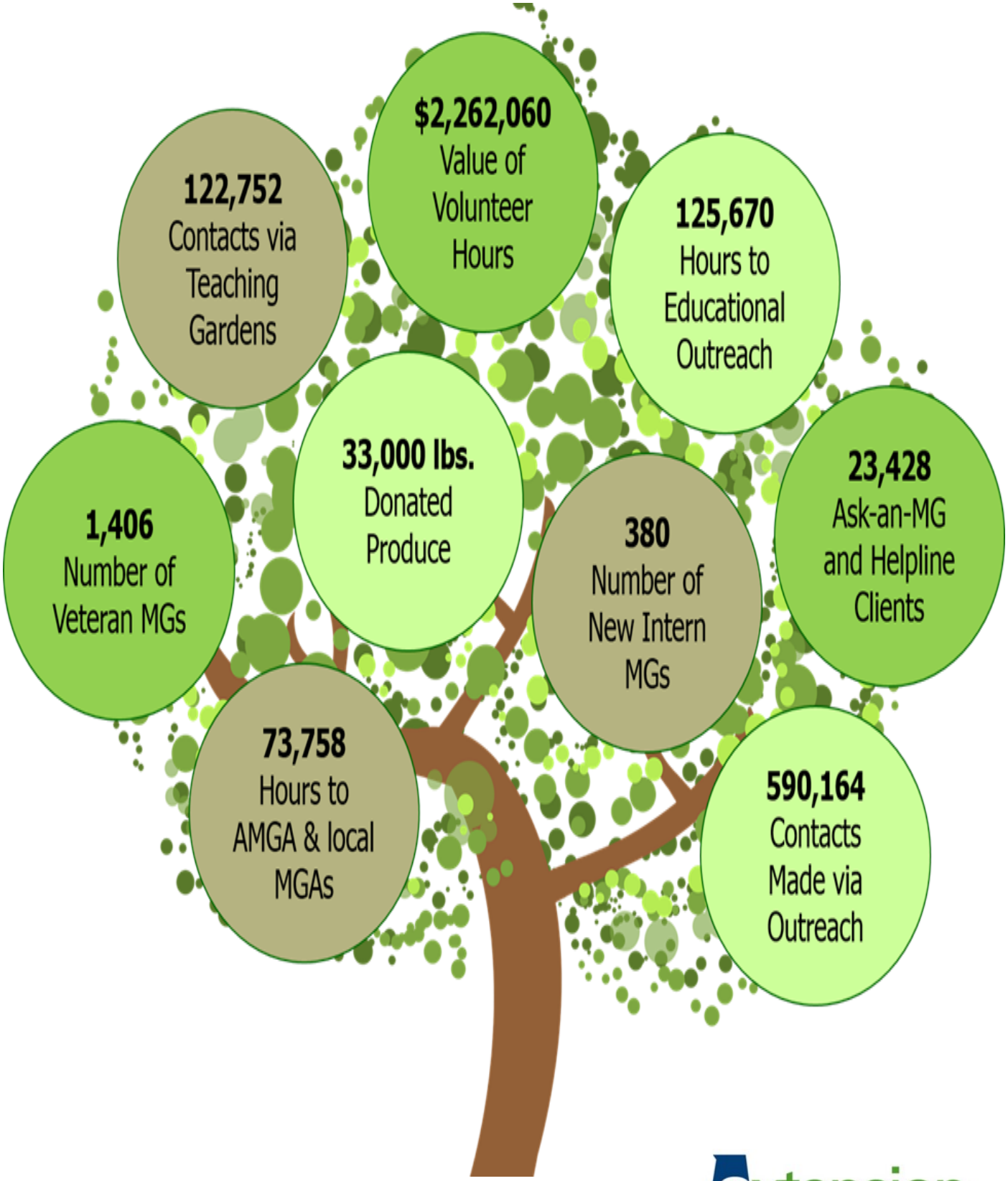
Find something for every member. Whether it's providing a taxi to an event, making phone calls, watering the garden, or chairing a project committee, there really is a job for everyone. Sometimes it's just a matter of asking them to help. Whatever it takes, show interest in each other and get people involved. This gives them a purpose in the larger MG community.

Everyone is an important part of this program, each of you, each association and each Extension agent sponsor. Thank you for everything you do to support Master Gardeners in Alabama.

Check out your collective MG energy in 2017!

AMGA ANNUAL REPORT

Kerry Smith, State MG Program Coordinator



Alabama Master Gardener Association 2018 Fall Seminar

My Garden Sanctuary

Thursday, September 27, 2018

8:30 - 9:15 Registration
9:15 - 9:30 Welcome
9:30 - 10:30 "Your Sanctuary Garden: Ideas and Inspiration"
Peggy Hill
10:30 - 10:45 Break
10:45 - 11:45 "Color and Edibles for Your Garden Sanctuary"
Mary Beth Shaddix
11:45 - 12:30 Lunch
12:30 - 1:30 "Sanctuary for Your Wildlife Friends"
Tyson Farmer
1:30 - 1:45 Break
1:45 - 2:45 "Water Features for Your Garden Sanctuary"
Brian Dahle
2:45 - 3:00 Wrap-up

Location:
Taylor Road Baptist Church
1685 Taylor Rd
Montgomery, AL 36117

$30 - includes lunch

For more information, go to alabamamg.org or capcitymga.org

Hosted by Capital City Master Gardener Association

My Garden Sanctuary - Registration Form

AMGA Fall Seminar, September 27, 2018

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Phone _____ Email address _____

Fee: $30, Includes box lunch

Lunch choice:
___ Turkey
___ Ham
___ Vegetarian

Make check payable to CCMGA. Deadline - 9/21/18

Mail check and registration form to
Margaret Cully
3300 Evergreen Hill
Montgomery, AL 36106

Magic IN THE Garden

Presented by Blount County Master Gardeners and Alabama Cooperative Extension System

4 CEU'S will be earned

OCTOBER 4TH, 2018

Sessions

9:00 AM : *FAIRY GARDENS* W/ VERNA GATES
10:00 AM : *MAGICAL YARDS FOR BIRDS* W/ HERB LEWIS
11:00 AM : *LUNCH / VISIT PARK AND VENDORS*
12:30 PM : *PROPAGATION – NEW PLANT MAGIC* W/ CHIP EAST
1:30 PM : *MAGIC FOR THE MATURE GARDENER* W/ MIKE RUSHING
2:30 PM: *CLOSING REMARKS*

D.S. Loyd Building
1225 Palisades Park
Oneonta, AL, 35121

- **Registration** begins at 8:30 AM
- **Sessions** are 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM
- **Cost** : $20 and includes lunch, program, and snacks

Contact Information
Sherilyn Osborne : 2056819896 / sherilynosborne@bellsouth.net

Registration Form (please print)

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY/STATE/ZIP:

EMAIL/PHONE:

Make $20 registration check payable to Blount County Master Gardener Association and return to Sherilyn Osborne, P.O. Box 13, Locust Fork, AL 35097.

Happenings

Summer 2018

BALDWIN CO MGA

Paula Pritchett

Becoming a Baldwin County Master Gardener is a long process. Under the able leadership of Intern Class Chair, Pam Tucker and Regional Extension Agent, Mike McQueen, eleven Interns completed their classwork. On May 2, each of these Interns made a presentation on the topic of his choice. The presentations were made to BCMG Members and were enlightening! The Interns and topics were as follows: Jack Baber – *When Deer Are Not Dear*, Trinka Brabston – *Sugar Cane – A Sweet and Neat Crop!,* Mary Calvin – *Monarchs Need Milkweed*, Lydia Chan – *Sweet Talk*, Donna Greene – *Butchart Gardens Photography*, Suzie Jongebloed – *Seed Sprouting*, Carrie Lemcool – *Five Basic Styles of Japanese Gardens*, Jan Pryor – *Cannabis*, Donna Robertson –*Wild Edible Plants*, Sandy Stepan – *Possums! – Nature's Perfect Clean-up Committee* and, Beverly Villafana – *Mexican Petunias, Ruellia, Brittoniana or Simplex.* Following the presentations, both Interns and Members enjoyed a luncheon.

Baldwin County Interns, Front Row L-R: Sandy Stepan, Lydia Chan, Beverly Villafana, Trinka Brabston, and Mary Calvin. Back Row L-R: Suzie Jongebloed, Donna Robertson, Carrie Lemcool, Jack Baber, Mike McQueen (ACES Extension Agent), Jan Pryor and Donna Greene. Photo by Tanys Waldron

Happiness held is the seed;

Happiness shared is the flower.

John Harrigan
https://www.brainyquote.com

CALHOUN CO MGA

Sherry Blanton

It is difficult to write about our happenings without mentioning the devastating tornadoes that came through our county on March 19. Jacksonville, home to twenty Master Gardeners, was hit by two F-2 tornadoes. Five hundred homes were damaged. Thousands of trees, some hundreds of years old, were literally ripped from the ground and piled in yards and streets. Parts of this town's landscape will not return in our lifetimes. To assist in building a sustainable urban forest, the Jacksonville Tree Commission has joined forces with interested Calhoun Master Gardeners to give trees to property owners next fall. Please keep our community in your thoughts.

Our Association is grateful for the efforts of The Tuesday Team, dedicated, hardworking volunteers, who maintain our home site, Cane Creek Community Gardens at McClellan, encompassing seventeen acres. Our grounds are beautiful and represent our Master Gardeners well.

We have had an outstanding group of speakers for our yearly Lunch and Learn Series. Dr. Harry Holstein provided a fascinating program on Alabama's Native Americans. Dr. Chip East gave us practical information with *Gardening on a Budget*. In June, Hayes Jackson talked about one of his favorites, the carnivorous pitcher plant. Lunch and Learn runs through September.

We wish you the right amount of rain and sun to nourish your summer vegetable and flower gardens!

Skeeter Sims handles the tractor at Cane Creek Community Gardens. Photo by Sherry Blanton

CAPITAL CITY MGA

Betsy Coley

What a busy and exciting spring we have had in Montgomery. The CCMGA members have once again worked very hard to hold our annual Plant Sale. Co-chairs Susan O'Conner, Jean Szabo and Janice Jackson did a marvelous job of coordination, organization, and efficiency that produced an improved and very successful sale. Categories of sale items included Pass-along-plants, Garden Shop, Herbs, Succulents, House Plants, Shade Plants, Native Plants, and many more. Proceeds are used in support of the CCMGA Projects such as Montgomery Botanical Gardens, Blount Cultural Park and Lilly's Garden at Forrest Avenue School.

Many CCMGA members attended the annual AMGA Conference in Birmingham and thoroughly enjoyed it, especially the tours. The social gatherings at the conferences are always a highlight for attendees. During the Awards Banquet, it was so gratifying to watch our own Mallory Kelley receive the Gary Murray Award for service and leadership. She is deserving, and we applaud her. The conference was also special to us because it was the first AMGA conference at which another of our own, Cathy Maddox, presided as President.

CCMGA had a great Intern Class this spring, and many of our new Master Gardeners have already become active members of our local association. It has been wonderful to get to know them and help them become familiar with our projects and activities. They have also joined our dedicated volunteers who handle the Master Gardener Helpline.

CCMGA is blessed to have among our members of the local and regional Day Lily Society, Therese Goodson and Linda Carlson. These ladies arranged a marvelous tour for us of outstanding Day Lily Gardens in the Montgomery area. The blooms were breathtaking, and the gardens were delightful. Even though we had to dodge rainstorms, it was a wonderful day of touring.

The AMGA Fall Seminar will be hosted by CCMGA this year, and our committees are hard at work to make sure that we all have excellent educational offerings and an enjoyable experience. So sign up early!

CHEROKEE CO MGA

Pam Hofer

The Cherokee County Master Gardeners were awarded $1,000 by the Alabama Master Gardener Association and are using these funds to begin a partnership with the City of Centre and its merchants to beautify downtown Centre. The MG's project is to place large concrete planters along the main street and to train and work with the Centre merchants to water and care for the plants in front of their stores. Under project managers Tillie Morgan, Barry Kerr, and Becky McMichen, twelve containers have been planted, with more requested by the downtown merchants. Now, beautiful Dwarf Yuletide Camellia, Daisy Gardenia, Kaleidoscope Abelia, and spillers of petunias, verbena, and creeping Jenny are greeting customers and visitors to Centre! The first year will be a "trial" year to see just what plants can take the sun and heat along the Main Street with further planters planned next year.

This MG project is a wonderful opportunity to connect with community leaders and increase the Master Gardeners' visibility in the community. Merchants are receiving positive comments, and are now excited partners with the Cherokee Master Gardeners.

Some of the Cherokee Master Gardeners planting the concrete planters. Pictured L-R: Pam Hofer, Tillie Morgan, John Holbrook, Becky McMichen, and Elaine Gregg. Photo by Janice McKinney

CHILTON CO MGA

Susan M. Cleckler

Spring has finally arrived, and Chilton County Master Gardeners have been busy! We finished the landscaping at the Extension Office. *Ask A Master Gardener* at Garrison Farm and Home Center has started up, and the Helpline is also active for the season.

The month of April brought us Holly Wadleigh from the University of Montevallo. Holly Spoke to us about the community garden at the University. This Community Garden supplies fresh vegetables to the Shelby Emergency Assistance food bank. The garden is completely organic and provided over 1,700 pounds of food last growing season. A watering system powered by solar energy, pumps irrigation water from the creek to sustain this garden. The public can rent plots for a minimal fee, and the University of Montevallo students also work the garden.

Also, in April, CCMGA toured Autauga County's Demo Garden, Pratt Village, and the Bamboo Forest. Don Armstrong provided lunch for us and gave us a tour through his garden. We have enjoyed getting to know each other's members, as we work together on the 2019 AMGA Conference, which will be held here in Chilton County.

Finishing out the month of April, CCMGA had their yard sale/plant sale fundraiser. The weather was perfect, and the sale was a success.

May was our annual Plant Swap and Pot Luck, our Speaker and Special Guest this year was Michael Thomason, VP of AMGA. As always, the food and fellowship were wonderful. Happy Gardening!

L-R Wally Walters, Susan M Cleckler, Sondra Henley, Diane Clapp, back row- Alice Broome, Lanell Baker, Harriett Jackson, Treasia Bennett, Alan Reed, Lee Walters, Larry Jones, Charles Walker. Photo by Gay West, Chilton County Extension office

CLAYBANK MGA

Janet Shinaberry

The Dale County Claybank Master Gardeners have had a slow couple of months but are still going strong in our efforts in the raised beds at the library (anyone need a cucumber?) Several of our members are still putting in lots of hours at the Rose Garden at Dothan Area Botanical Gardens. We have started our summer program with the Boys and Girls Club here in Ozark. They have learned about planting seeds using "Plant Buddies," and which plants in the yard and garden are edible.

Our last CMG meeting was a joint meeting with The Wiregrass Rose Society, and we were lucky enough to have Jason Powell as our speaker with a wonderful program on Companion Plants for roses. CMG sponsored a new rose for the Rose Garden. I would also like to ask for prayers for the son of one of our founding members. I am sure almost everyone has heard of the tragedy that befell the geology class in Gadsden. Team Nick and Cole, Nick Hood is the son of Mary Grace Hood. She has been a Master Gardener in Dale County since 1997. Both of these young men have suffered major physical injuries and have been taken off their respirators. All of your prayers and positive thoughts would be most appreciated by both families. For more information:
https://www.reddit.com/r/geology/comments/8nkste/just_a_heads_up_to_be_safe_and_always_be_aware_of/

COFFEE CO MGA

Jacque Hawkins

Joan and Steve Ray have created their own special paradise on two acres in Gateway called Halcyon Trace, which means Peaceful Trail. Over a period of twenty-four years they have created a magnificent area that boasts forty-one Japanese Maples with foliage in strikingly changing colors; two-hundred twenty-five azaleas in dazzling shades and fifty camellias. Walkways wind through the property for viewing of the symmetrically arranged plantings. The Rays invited the Coffee County Master Gardeners for a field trip to learn the history specifically of the Japanese Maples.

Members of the Coffee County MGA were volunteers during the three-day 2018 Coffee County Groundwater Festival held at the Farm Center in New Brockton, AL., instructing attending students in three areas. There were 741 fourth-graders from nine Coffee County elementary schools given information on groundwater conservation, including the need for water filtration and how the aquifer system works (where they made an edible aquifer with ice cream, chocolate and sprinkles). They each made a water bracelet that told the story of the water cycle dealing with rain and cloud formations.

Attending (from left) Jacque Hawkins; Fran Garza; Glenda and David Ellis; Brenda Evans; Marylou Crush; Anne Edwards; Dee Martin; Joan and Steve Ray; Vanessa Allen; Alice Hersant; Dawn Stirling-Smith; Paula Allman; Maggie Sickler; Rodney Peneul; and special guest Peggy Jeter. Photo by Jacque Hawkins

CULLMAN CO MGA

Jennifer Underwood

The CCMGAI has broadcasted many seeds this spring. Our biggest annual fundraiser, the Bloomin' Festival, was April 21-22. Then on May 5, we attended another outreach at the annual Strawberry Festival.

The *Power of Produce* program continued this year, where once a month, Master Gardeners help to feature a different type of produce at the Festhalle. Rotating with the Parks and Rec department, the North Alabama Agriplex and the County Extension Office, volunteers produce delicious recipes as well as tickets allowing children to purchase produce samples from the market.

Our annual Awards Dinner was held at the North AL Agriplex on May 10. This year's theme was *Bless The Seeds That We Sow*, and many Master Gardeners and Interns were blessed that evening with stars, badges, and certificates.

On June 7, we enjoyed a lovely tour through Quail Hollow Gardens in Notasulga, and we are already planning future adventures to Tate Farm, Bennett's Nursery, and more.

Cullman MG Ben Johnson has written a children's story called, *The Reluctant Topiary* which will premiere in the form of a video and live "book walk" at the Cullman Public Library on June 28. There will be a gardening craft at this fun, free event.

2018 Intern Charlotte Samples, right, receiving her Certificate of Class Completion from current CCMGAI President, Imogene Hamilton, left. Photo was taken during the Awards Ceremony at the Agriplex by Ellen Hall

EAST CENTRAL MGA

Sheila Bolen

Earlier this year, East Central Alabama MGA was approached by Servants in Faith and Technology (SIFAT) and asked to participate in a garden they want to establish at their campus in Lineville, AL. Fast forward four months and they (East Central MGA) have won a grant to help with the costs of the garden which is called *Open Spaces Sacred Places*. **"Open Spaces Sacred Places™"** are public, outdoor, green spaces designed with a variety of purposes in mind: healing and remembrance; peace and reconciliation; rest, respite and stress reduction; reflection, meditation, and response to the natural world around. East Central will help in plant choices, layout, planting and establishing a year-round maintenance schedule for pruning, fertilizing, etc. We are very excited and honored to participate in establishing this garden and look forward to working with SIFAT for many years to come.

SUMMER FUN

ETOWAH CO MGA

Carol B. Link

Etowah County Master Gardeners are especially busy each spring, getting ready and conducting the association's annual plant sale, which was successful this year, as usual. The week after the sale, the association held a positive area plant swap. A second swap for the year is scheduled in October.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System is in the process of recruiting area students to attend an upcoming Master Gardener Class that will be conducted in Marshall County, at the Boaz Library.

The Horticulture Helpline housed at the Etowah County Cooperative Extension System began its annual operation on April 2. The phones in the helpline are staffed by Master Gardener volunteers from Etowah, Marshall, and DeKalb Counties. The helpline will remain in operation until the end of September.

Etowah County Master Gardeners are participating in *Harvest for Health*, a program that recruits Master Gardeners to partner with cancer survivors in their gardening efforts. In addition, ECMGA, Inc. is participating with a Gadsden State Community College support service, donating plants to assist low-income students.

At our meeting in April, Lori Lee of Rococo Floral Studio gave a presentation on *Planting Ideas and Care of Succulents and Air Plants*. Mike Rushing, a Jefferson County Master Gardener, was our speaker in May, giving a presentation on *Coping with the Garden as You and the Garden Age*. In June, Brittany Hughes of Desoto State Park gave a presentation on *Carnivorous Plants*.

JACKSON COUNTY MGA

Bill Caudill

Jackson County Master Gardeners welcome all to join us the first Thursday of each month at the Jackson County Senior Center, Scottsboro. We meet from 10:00 am to noon, for coffee and the program followed by our business meeting.

Regional Extension Agent Rhonda Britton has completed the new MG classes, and the ten Interns are still eagerly gathering their required hours to become an active Master Gardener.

We had a good turnout at the annual Chemical Applicators Workshop. My, how the chemicals keep changing.

We enjoyed the presentation on roses at the April meeting. And we learned a good deal about the future plans for downtown Scottsboro from the Development of Scottsboro Square presentation at the May meeting. But the best meeting was not a true meeting at all. June is the Annual Ice Cream Social. And social it was. Those of us who attended were treated to good food and ice cream too. Have you ever tried may paw ice cream? I have! Then, it was great to wander around the grounds and view all of Julie and Richard's hard work blooming everywhere. And it was not scorching HOT or freezing Cold as we have experienced in the past.

Have an interesting and active summer.

GARDENS ARE NOT MADE BY SITTING IN THE SHADE.

RUDYARD KIPLING (1865 - 1936)

https://www.quotemaster.org

JEFFERSON CO MGA

Fletcher Harvey

It is (very) late spring as we write this… appropriately hot and humid. Early tomatoes have made their way north from our friends in Chilton County, and we welcome them, blemishes and all. Like some of our children, we embrace them with their slight imperfections and think of the promise of things to come.

Jefferson County Master Gardeners are still reflecting on the fun party we hosted for nearly three hundred of our closest friends at the Sheraton in early May. Exhausting as it was, it was truly worth all the effort. Sincere thanks to all the participants…registrants, speakers, vendors, and assorted others…for making it a memorable experience.

Not content with hosting a state-wide conference, we enjoyed a very successful plant swap under the direction of Leonora Roberson in the week following the conference. Our June meeting was an interesting field trip to the Christian Service Mission's aquaponics garden.

Many of our peripheral events, especially plant sales and plant society programs, are instigated and populated by Master Gardener volunteers. The recent Birmingham Fern Society Show and Sale was no exception.

We are looking forward to coming events…the AMGA Fall Seminar in Montgomery and the Blount County event among others.

L-R, Master Gardeners Alicia Hall and Pat Cosgrove register an entry in the Fern Society show. Fern frond by Fletcher Harvey (It didn't win!) Photo by Fletcher Harvey

LEE CO MGA

Charlotte Ritenbaugh

This week I learned that the correct wording in a familiar quote from *A Mid-Summer's Night Dream* is, "I know a bank where the wild thyme blows." Did you know it was blows and not grows? In Shakespeare's English, blows means to flower or bloom. Hmm.

This earthenware Crocus Pot from the late 1860's, was on display in the Americana Arts section of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. He fits perfectly into this potpourri. Imagine the blow from some 'tommies' forced inside this fella. Tommies is the nickname for *C. tommasinianus*, woodland crocus, which can also be found in your catalogs at very reasonable prices.

You might want to reference Scott Ogden's **Garden Bulbs for the South**, if you want to know what has a chance of survival in our muggy, steamy summers.

From Potpourri – Summer 2018 issue of Leaf Notes

Photo by Charlotte Ritenbaugh

MARSHALL CO MGA

Annette Williams

Summer means hard work for Master Gardeners everywhere.

MCMG volunteers have been planting vegetables in the CASA garden. They have the drip irrigation system down and are busy planting sweet potatoes. And now to watch the garden grow, and keep the grass out.

The plant sale was a huge success with 780 different plants and 1,200 tomato plants from the Brindlee Mountain Elementary School children, which they grew in their greenhouse.

Twelve MCMGs attended the conference in Birmingham this year, Kathy Barnes, Annette Swartzlander, and Ingrid Gibson received gold badges.

Linda Reynolds presented a program on native shrubs at our May meeting.

Soon we will have blueberries, blackberries, and apples at our house. My husband, Harry, volunteers at two schools and works in three gardens. He wants everyone to know how to grow their own food.

Having a garden can bring you joy and yes, you get plenty of exercise with it.

Keep gardening my friends.

MASTER GARDENERS OF NORTH ALABAMA

Elouisa Stokes

Our big excitement this year is having nine Intern graduates from Madison County. It is wonderful to have these enthusiastic members among us. We had a wonderful dinner ceremony in May at the Madison County Extension Office where we welcomed them and invited them to join us. They have already taken part in several of our meetings and projects.

June is always busy among the Master Gardeners of North Alabama, and it is again this year. Many of us volunteered with the annual Daylily Festival at the Huntsville Botanical Garden on June 2. There is an incredible number and variety of daylilies. Include it in your plans for next year.

The Family Fun Festival on June 9 is a special Huntsville festival where MGNA has projects for all ages. The community is invited, and Master Gardeners help with children's activities, a composting demonstration and have gardeners ready to answer any questions the public might have. The whole family looks forward to this every year.

It is time to landscape our Habitat houses. We expect there will be six homeowners helping us put magic into their landscapes. We are working toward sustainable, drought tolerant plantings. Each house has a Master Gardener house leader and includes as many volunteers among the Habitat folks as they can gather. It is amazing how quickly you can plant trees, shrubs, and flowers with enough folks willing to help.

Just living is not enough...

one must have sunshine, freedom, and a little flower.

Hans Christian Andersen https://www.brainyquote.com

MOBILE CO MGA

Mary Nash

Master Gardner of the Month, for April is Marie Dyson, May is Lorene Lami, and June is Marian Watts. We have 146 members in Mobile Master Gardeners. Eight Mobile County Master Gardeners attended the State Master Gardener Conference on May 3-5.

Our May speaker was Phyllis Wingard with Keep Mobile Beautiful, Topic: Love Your Community, a collaborative effort with Mobile County Commission District 2, Keep Mobile Beautiful and Alabama Coastal Heritage Trust. Our June speaker was Evan Ware, Regional Extension Agent at ACES for Mobile, Clarke and Washington counties, her Topic: Historic Gardens.

Judy Stout led an "Out in the Garden" tour on Tuesday, June 12, at the Dauphin Island Elementary School Pollinator Project. Several Master Gardeners toured the flower garden and small pond which was established by the Mobile Master Gardeners under Judy's guidance. The pollinator garden is beautiful and in full bloom with the major spring planting done April 17-20, by the kindergarten and grades one through five, under the guidance of Mobile County Master Gardeners.

The Lunch and Learn program on April 16th was presented by Samantha Chirichella, DC, topic: Nutrition; May 21st program presented by our own Alice Marty, topic: Propagating Begonias; June 18, 2018 program presented by David Schmohl from JubileeScape, topic: Gardening for the Disabled.

Mobile County Master Gardener 2018 Class begins Wednesday, August 8 and runs through November 7, 2018.

Rene' Reibling is chairing the 2020 Alabama Master Gardeners Conference on March 29-April 1, 2020 in Mobile.

Dauphin Island Elementary School, Dauphin Island, Alabama (Pollinator Project) (Left to right): Master Gardeners: Sonja Woodruff and Melissa Wold (Current President) Photo by Mary Nash

PIKE COUNTY MGA

Sheri Brooks

The Pike County Master Gardeners had an active spring this year! On April 28, they hosted their annual Plant Sale at Troy Fest. These green thumbs used their talent in the garden to not only raise money for the organization but they also "planted" an interest in Troy Fest attendees for gardening and met several Pike County citizens that expressed an interest in becoming future PCMG members! It was a tremendous success! Here are some of the highlights from the many events and volunteering efforts completed this Spring:
- (May 4) At the annual Pike Pioneer Museum of Alabama Spring Planting Day, the gardeners taught almost 100 fifth grade students how to plant squash. The students got to take home seeds so they could use their newly acquired skills to start their home gardens.
- (May 20) They helped a local Treasure Forest chapter give away over 1,000 baby trees that are beneficial to wildlife.
- (June Events) The chapter will also judge several 4-H exhibitions during these last days of spring.

Just like Alabama weather, these ladies and gents are just getting warmed up! Many field trips and educational workshops to areas such as local gardens, the Dothan Botanical Garden, the Medicinal Garden in Auburn, and Petals from the Past are planned for this summer.

If you are currently a resident of Pike County or plan to move to the area, and have an interest in gardening, please join the PCMGs every third Wednesday of the month at noon at the Pike County Extension office in Troy, AL! Each meeting includes a garden-related educational presentation. It doesn't matter if you can barely keep a house plant alive or if you are a gardening superstar, all levels are welcome! There will be a break from meetings during July and August, but they can't wait to see you in the fall!

SHOALS MGA

Michael Thomason

Shoals Master Gardeners have been very busy this spring. Our biggest event of the year is our Plant Sale, which is our annual fundraiser, and was a huge success. We have approximately eleven projects going on in which Shoals Master Gardeners and Interns can obtain hours and of course, we are busy with the Helpline.

Some SMG members traveled to Petals from the Past in May and had a delightful trip. We are planning a trip in July to the UT Research Center in Jackson, Tn to hear Carol Reese and others at their Summer Celebration.

Our March monthly meeting featured Doug Chapman, speaking on *Home Fruit and Nut Production*. In April, Dr. Charles Ray, Curator for Auburn University Museum of Natural History presented a program on *Bee Basics and the Bee Biodiversity Initiative.* Kudzu was the subject of a program in May, with Gary Green as speaker.

Have a wonderful summer and enjoy your harvest from the garden.

Brenda Smith, Margie Anderton, Cynthia Kershaw, and other Shoal Master Gardeners set up for Plant Sale. Photo by Michael Thomason

ST. CLAIR CO MGA

Pam Garrison

Rain, rain, rain, and yes, more rain. It has been difficult to garden this spring with all the rain. It is necessary, but it has caused the mosquito population to soar. Removing any standing water is the first step towards controlling them, and placing mosquito dunks in the water you cannot dump out is next. Pest management information I read said pesticides would be harmful especially to fireflies, as they live in the same places as the mosquitos. The firefly population is in decline, and the cause is not really known. Firefly larvae feed on slugs, snails, and other garden pests. Things that can be done to help fireflies include turning off your night lights and warning signals (they disrupt firefly mating), avoiding pesticide use, and leave areas where grasses can grow tall, so they have a place to spend the day.

St. Clair MG's have been active this spring in spite of the rain and mosquitos. Our March speaker was Amy Milliron, the manager of Pell City's Farmers Co-Op. She brought garden products and was very knowledgeable about their uses. She also helped with garden problems and answered questions.

We had our annual plant sale in April. It was very successful, and we only had a few plants left over. The speaker for our April meeting was Darryl Patton, the Southern Herbalist, and his presentation was quite informative. We also had a wedding shower before the April meeting, for two of our members, congratulations to both of them. In May, one of our Master Gardener members, Nola Shiflett, spoke on Bokashi composting.

TUSCALOOSA CO MGA

Carolyn Wiggins

TCMG volunteers have been busy this spring working on the Pass Along Plant Sale. The sale earned over $2,000 to fund a $1,000 scholarship for a horticulture student from Auburn. With the funds earned above the Annual Auburn scholarship, the association voted to award a $500 scholarship to a high school student who has pursued his interest in bog gardens and carnivorous plants and will be attending Auburn this fall.

Volunteers at Eagles Wings constructed fairy gardens which were sold for $1,680. One of the fairy gardens was loaned for display at the Garden Club Conference. The Garden Club then donated $1,000 to Eagles Wings in appreciation for the loan.

At Hospice of West Alabama volunteers planted a new perennial garden. The volunteers also helped select a new ornamental Japanese maple to replace a tree killed by insects. The new tree was then planted by volunteers.

In June TCMG started Ask Master Gardener at the Northport Farmer's Market. Our volunteers answered questions, gave out Extension bulletins, and recruited new members. TCMG will appear at the Northport Farmers Market on the first Saturday of each month from 7 to 11:30 a.m. through October.

Orientation begins August 14 for our fall 2018 Master Gardener class. The class will meet Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m., at the Extension Auditorium in the Tuscaloosa County Courthouse Annex.

Sadly, we recently learned that Fayette County MG association has disbanded. We invite Fayetteville MGs to transfer their membership to TCMG. We also welcome any individuals in Fayette County or other adjacent counties without a local MGA to take our classes and become members. Contact us at tcmastergardener@gmail.com. Or come to our meeting on August 14 at 5:30 p.m., at the Tuscaloosa County Courthouse Annex.

The Interns from the spring 2018 Master Gardener class designed beds and planted flowers, herbs, and shrubs for the spaces in the sidewalks in front of the Extension Office. WVUA TV recorded the MG Interns while they worked planting the beds and featured the newly planted beds and an interview on their news program.

Ida Gleaton and Ann Hewitt at Northport Farmers Market for Ask Master Gardener. Photo by Carolyn Wiggins

WALKER CO MGA

Barbara Higgins

Master Gardeners of Walker County have been working diligently in our community garden. Association members harvested 16 pounds of potatoes last week, which were donated to our local Salvation Army food pantry.

Besides potatoes, association members planted squash, okra, tomatoes, onions, cucumbers, and peppers.

Unfortunately, due to a deer invasion, the tomatoes and peppers must be replanted. Members are excited to help our churches and food pantries around the community be able to serve fresh vegetables to needy families.

Several Walker County Master Gardener members participated in our annual plant sale on April 28. Members provided a wide variety of plants, and the event proved very successful.

L-R Ricky Burton, Linda Wilson, James Daniel, Louis Burnett, and Barbara Higgins. Photo by Vickie Murray

WIREGRASS MGA

William Mcmanus

The Wiregrass Master Gardeners have been busy working with Aunt Katie's Community Garden in downtown Dothan. Michael Jackson, Aunt Katie's Director and Master Gardener, has a wonderful group of eager children from the boys and girls club and the Girls Inc. group also. Master Gardeners passed gardening knowledge on to many of the younger generation through these well-attended programs. Children learned the importance of where our food comes from and how to grow it. These young people will continue passing this on to others.

The kitchen garden at Landmark Park is doing well, and being maintained by Master Gardeners. Visitors will acquire a greater understanding of the lifestyle of rural farm families at the turn of the century with a visit to the kitchen garden. Master Gardeners tend the garden and provide information to the visiting public.

In July, the Wiregrass Master Gardeners will support Watermelon Tasting at Landmark Park. Coordinated by Master Gardener Tom Boyle, visitors get to sample several varieties of watermelons grown at Landmark Park in the kitchen garden. The watermelon tasting is a very popular event for Master Gardeners and the public. Many watermelon facts are passed to the public about this flowering ground vine from the gourd family.

Helen-Sue Kemp at Aunt Katie's Community Garden. Photo by Devonne Ellis

Life already has so many boundaries

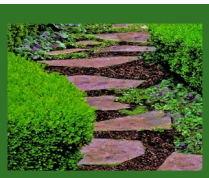
and pressures

why add more in the garden?

Felder Rushing

Pathways

Summer 2018



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Got Questions

?

We've Got Answers

aces.edu/questions

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