

PATHWAYS

Fall 2019

PHOTO BY PAUL WEBB, ST. CLAIR CO MGA

LOOK WHAT'S INSIDE

- Pg 2:AMGA President
AMGA Vice President
- Pg 3:Advisory Council
- Pg 4:AMGA Awards
- Pg 5:AMGA Communications
AMGA Membership
- Pg 6:AMGA Newsletter Editor
2021 AMGA Conference
- Pg 7:AMGA Nominating
Committee
AMGA Project Funding
AMGA Records &
Retention
- Pg 8:AMGA Treasurer
- Pg 9:State Advisor
- Pg 10:Special Articles
- Pg 11:Etowah Co 4-H flyer
- Pg 12:MGNA-Passage to the West
- Pg 13-29:Happenings



AMGA Website
alabamamg.org

2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE *GARDENING WITH 20/20 VISION*

Come to Mobile for the March 30, Annual AMGA Conference. Rather, come to Mobile early and visit the stunning Providence Foundation Festival of Flowers March 26-29.

The conference begins Monday, March 30, with three breakout sessions followed by our noon keynote speaker, Jim Martin, a veteran horticulturist, director of programs for the Charleston Parks Conservancy in South Carolina.

The conference theme is *Gardening with 20/20 Vision*, so Jim will share his vision in "Gardening Future Forward." The new direction he is following is characterized by his organization, Compost in My Shoe, that began as a blog post about his garden and has grown into an enterprise in which he sells his garden produce weekly to faithful subscribers in a co-op. Jim's continuing interests are leading him into design, and growth of ornamentals. Martin's breakout session following his keynote address is titled "Star-Studded Floral Design Using Creative Structures, Grocery Store Fare, and Your Backyard."

Another break-out session sharing a vision for gardening's future will be Bobby Green of Fairhope, AL, discussing the heat-tolerant native varieties growing on the Gulf Coastal Plain. Sarah Skelly, OD, will recommend strategies to care for our health and general well-being as gardeners. Evie Pankok of Florida will teach us recycling in our gardens, and Bill Finch shares his newest book, *Light in the Long Leaf*.

Our Tuesday evening banquet speaker is storyteller and humorist Dolores Hydock who will share two gardening tales: "Becoming Mrs. Nash" and "Western Civilization." A film festival featuring environmental reporter, Ben Raines is scheduled, as well as the AMGA business meeting that will include electing new officers and the announcement of awards. These are just a few of the 18 speakers across 22 sessions offered.

Admission discounts to Festival of Flowers will be available with your Master Gardener identification. Mobile is also home of two nationally and internationally acclaimed gardens, Bellingrath Gardens and Mobile Botanical Gardens, to which Master Gardeners will be offered discounts during conference week.

The conference will be held in the award-winning Renaissance Riverview Hotel on the Mobile waterfront. To make hotel reservations, please copy the link located at the end of the document into your browser: or call 1-800-922-3298 and ask for the AMGA 2020 Master Gardener room block. The Conference registration packet will be included in *Pathways* Winter edition. Online registration opens January 1.

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1555428147355&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

AMGA PRESIDENT

Michael Thomason



Hello,

This summer has been a hot one. I hope your gardens have survived the heat and have received the necessary rain. Many of you by now have planted your fall gardens or are in the process.

May they provide you beauty and enjoyment as we head into winter.

I attended the Advisory Council (AC) meeting in August and was thrilled at the attendance. I want to thank Ann Sharko for her leadership of the AC over the past couple of years. She has done a tremendous job in that capacity. Thank you, Ann.

Congratulations to Sondra Henley and Fletcher Harvey for being elected as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively, of the Advisory Council at the August

meeting. Sondra has some exciting programs lined up for the coming year, so please attend and support the AC. Your input is appreciated.

I hope you were able to attend the AMGA Fall Seminar / Blount County Fall Conference "Gifts from the Garden," hosted by the Blount County Master Gardener Association. They had a great lineup of speakers for this educational event. Congratulations on a job well done!

Keep in mind the 2020 AMGA Annual conference will be held in Mobile next year. The dates are March 30-April 1, 2020. The Mobile County Master Gardener Association has been working hard to prepare for the annual conference and have a great lineup of speakers and events. So, mark your calendars for *Gardening with 20/20 Vision*. We are looking forward to next year's conference.

Garden with Authority,
Michael



AMGA VICE PRESIDENT

Myra Lassere



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Someone mentioned in passing that they noticed the leaves are beginning to fall. Laughing to myself I thought, merely an example of the extreme heat that has befallen most of us. I know we are all wishing for cooler temps. My garden sits frying in the sun – way too hot to work out there prepping for the fall. Even at 6:00 a.m. one breaks out in a sweat. I have though, started the seedlings to be transplanted when it's a bit cooler – cherry tomatoes, leaf lettuce, cabbage, broccoli, green beans, and cucumbers. The satsumas await ripening. Pecans will fall ready for picking, and a supply of peanuts from the local market ready to roast – lots of fall offerings plus pumpkin pulp for pies and seeds for roasting too. Herbs do well also.

Lest I forget all those shrubs that need planting when fall arrives, you know the ones you buy at plant sales, nurseries, can't pass it up at the local market, and all the wonderful pass-a-longs from your gardening friends. Now, too, is transplant time. Dig up those daylilies and divide. Plant a few trees.

On October 3, the AMGA Fall Seminar in Locust Fork afforded a change in scenery with approaching autumn. Don't forget to mark your calendars for the upcoming AMGA Conferences. Out of the starting gate and forging ahead to the finish line is Mobile County Master Gardeners for 2020. Coming on strong in 2021 is Calhoun County and rounding the bend for 2022 is Capital City Master Gardeners. What a lineup! It's your chance to see what other Alabama Master Gardeners have to offer!

Wishing all a Happy Thanksgiving!

To Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow,

Myra

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Sondra Henley, Chair

New officers Sondra Henley (Chilton), Advisory Council Chair, and Fletcher Harvey (Jefferson) as Vice-Chair, were voted on at the August meeting. Debbie Boutelier (Autauga) agreed to be Parliamentarian. I know everyone is grateful to Ann Sharko for filling in for Rita Forrest (Shelby) who moved to Florida and for Sondra Henley until the AMGA Conference was over.

August attendance was: counties with active LMGAs, 35; counties with representation at the meeting, 26; appx. 92 Master Gardeners were in attendance.

A PA System was purchased and tried out at the meeting. Attendees agreed that being able to hear everyone speak was a plus for the meeting. We also have a new coffee pot with dual ports. Harriett Jackson (Chilton) has continued to prepare coffee for the group and help with set up and sign in. Thank you, Harriett! A snack food may be brought by anyone.

AMGA President, Michael Thomason

thanked Chilton, Autauga, and Shelby counties for the good job they did with the conference. The AMGA Board still needs an Assistant-Treasurer (computer and QuickBooks skills are needed).

The regular meeting agenda was followed by Devon Ellis presenting information on the AMGA Awards Program, its responsibilities, how the committee reaches its decisions and updates on changes. The new Stars' information can be found online at alabamamg.org.

The November 5 meeting will be held at Petals from the Past from 10:00a.m. to 12:00 noon. The program following the regular agenda will be given by Kerry Smith. Updated information on Service Report Hours will be presented. A Q&A will follow her presentation. Everyone is invited to attend but especially each association's Hours Coordinator.

Bring a sack lunch and be prepared to contribute to the discussions and to be updated on Service Report changes.



**There are no happier folks than
plant lovers and none more generous
than those who garden.**

AMGA AWARDS COMMITTEE

Devonne Ellis, Chair

January 2020 will be here before you know it. The awards for next year will be presented in Mobile at the 2020 AMGA Annual Conference, March 30-April 1. All associations are encouraged to submit award nominations by the deadline – January 31, 2020.

Order forms for both Reach for the Stars and Advanced Badges and Stars Awards are found by going to alabamamg.org, looking under “AMGA Publications and Forms,” and clicking on “AMGA Forms.” Select and print the forms needed. Instructions are on the forms. Checks should be made out to AMGA and submitted with the order form to the Reach for the Stars Chair, Lee Ann Marona. Please do not send checks to the AMGA Treasurer. Advanced Badges and Stars Awards order forms are sent to Devonne Ellis.

Information and instructions for the other award nominations are found on the same website, alabamamg.org, again under “AMGA Publications and Forms.” To see the requirements for submission, select “AMGA Awards and Criteria.” Each award is listed separately with its unique instructions. Please follow those instructions. The Outstanding Newsletter Award has changed this year to include a website.

There are three categories:

- 1) Associations with AMGA members without a website,
- 2) Associations up to fifty-nine (59) AMGA members with a website and
- 3) Sixty (60) and above AMGA members with a website.

They will be judged by the same criteria including: objectives (purpose), calendar of events and meetings, projects, news/Public Relations Stories, contact information, attractiveness with color/art, photographs of activities, links (web addresses) to bylaws, AMGA Newsletters and ACES web page. Check the AMGA Awards for more details soon.

All associations are encouraged to make submissions in the appropriate category. If your association has previously won this award, you must wait three years before your next submission. Newsletters to be judged will be announced in January. One important note to remember – all nominees for AMGA awards, except for the Gary Murray Outstanding Service Award, honoring Non-Master Gardeners, must be current AMGA members in good standing. Please help AMGA reward its most deserving members! If you have any questions, feel free to contact Devonne Ellis, AMGA Awards Chair, devoellis@msn.com.

I want to thank my committee, Dottye Pierce-MGNA, Patty Householder-Lee, Tanys Waldron-Baldwin, Lyn Webb-Chilton, Amanda Redman-Blount, and Reach for the Stars Chair, Lee Ann



Science cannot solve the ultimate mystery of nature.

And that is because, in the last analysis,
we ourselves are part of nature and therefore
part of the mystery that we are trying to solve.

AMGA COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Sue Khoury, Chair

AMGA WEBSITE HELP NEEDED

The AMGA website needs WordPress administrators who can post articles and photos to the website on a monthly basis. We need people who understand WordPress well enough to upload documents and photos and link to them. I've found an AMGA member who can

probably serve as the webmaster, but she'll need two or three admins to do the posting. Please email me, if interested. suekhoury@knology.net. It should not entail more than two hours per month, and often much less. Thanks in advance.



AMGA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Mary Howe, Chair

AMGA's paid and lifetime memberships for 2019 totaled about 1,985 at the end of August. Several discrepancies still exist between membership dues submitted to the Treasurer and the Dues Tracker postings so the actual count may vary. The numbers need to be reconciled at the local association level to assure AMGA has an accurate membership record.

Dues collections for 2020 will begin soon, and dues payments should be posted in the Dues Tracker database when payments are sent to the AMGA Treasurer. Each association should have at least one individual with access to Dues Tracker (and preferably at least one alternate administrator.) If your association does not have an administrator or needs to change individuals

with access, please provide the information to the AMGA Membership Chair at www.amgamembership@gmail.com. Use the same e-mail for membership questions, for assistance with Dues Tracker or to request membership cards.

Dues Tracker provides a link to enter officer information for AMGA and the local associations. The information is entered by accessing the individual member's record and selecting the "officer settings" link (details are provided in the Dues Tracker information sheet on the AMGA website.) Inclusion of this information for the local associations will assist the AMGA Board and Committee Chairs in communicating with their counterparts in the local associations.



**Look deep into nature,
and you will understand everything better.**

Albert Einstein

AMGA NEWSLETTER

Patricia Peoples, Editor

I thank each county that submitted an article this quarter. If it were not for you, we would not have *Pathways* or *Happenings*. There's much to learn from each county, and now and again, you might find a laugh or two.

I received a couple of articles that had children's pictures. I wrote and told the counties that I could not accept the articles. Then I received Kerry's article and she has children's

pictures.

Hence, I felt like I needed to explain my position. Kerry has release forms from all the people she has in photos in her articles. I do not! I spoke with the AMGA Communications Chair, Sue Khoury, and she agrees with my stance. She also said that pictures could be blurred so faces are not recognizable. I am sorry for the any confusion this may cause and appreciate your understanding my position. Just remember, in the future issues of *Pathways*, the faces of all children will be blurred to protect their identify.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Etowah County's 4-H Club's Ag Day, Oct. 29-30

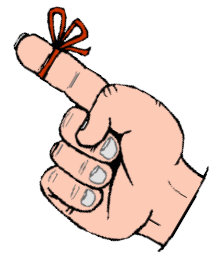
AC meeting Nov 5

BOD meeting Dec 3

AMGA Annual Conference , March 30-April 1 2020, Mobile Co. MGA

AMGA Annual Conference, April 20-April 22, 2021, Calhoun Co. MGA

AMGA Annual Conference, 2022, Central AL MGA, TBA



Please check the dues tracker to make sure your mailing address is correct. If it is incorrect, you will NOT receive your January *Pathways*, with its relevant information.

You can find the dues tracker when you sign in to alabamamg.org, go to your page to update. If you need help, contact your associations hour chair, or Mary Howe, or Patricia Peoples.

2021 PRE-CONFERENCE NOTIFICATION

April 20 - April 22, 2021

MG Annual Conference Hosted by the Calhoun County Master Gardeners Association

How does Your Garden Grow?

AMGA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jim Harris, Chair

We have two members who have volunteered for the Board Member at Large position. The Nominating Committee would like to thank these folks for stepping-up.

We need someone to volunteer for the Assistant Treasurer position. If you have any

experience with Quickbooks or if you know a Master Gardener who does, please contact the Nominating Committee.

Thank you!

Jim Harris
Paula Seamon
Katherine Musso



AMGA PROJECT FUNDING

Sheila Bolen, Chair

You're probably all familiar with the AMGA Project Funding Program, but did you know that since 2014, AMGA has awarded \$22,311.66 in grant monies to LMGAs (Local Master Gardener Associations.) Recipient LMGAs have used the funding for therapy gardens, city beautification, demonstration garden construction/expansion, AV equipment, outdoor classrooms, greenhouse construction/improvements, garden expansions, walking trail improvements - the list goes on.

The deadline for application submission is January 15, 2020. At that time, the Project

Funding Committee will evaluate each application, and the LMGAs chosen will be notified by the end of February 2020 and announced at the AMGA Annual Conference in Mobile. To see program rules, evaluation criteria, and application forms, visit the AMGA website at <http://alabamamg.org>.

Submit your application to Sheila Bolen, Project Funding Chairman. If you have any questions, please contact me at my email address, sheilabolen@hotmail.com, or 256-354-2188 (h) or 256-698-4214 (c). Please leave a message if I don't answer.

Put on your thinking caps, and let's not let this grant money go unused!



AMGA RECORDS AND RETENTION

Michael Thomason, Chair

We are continuing the process of reviewing five boxes of financial records. We are separating them out by year and taking a hard look at those more than seven years old. If there is any

documentation older than seven years, that needs to be maintained for historical preservation, then we will certainly archive them.

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 TREASURER

Roger Clarke

Your association continues to be in excellent financial health! Total cash and certificates of deposit totaled \$141,565 on August 31 2019. The Association had no liabilities.

The Association will convert its accounting records to QuickBooks online by the end of 2019.

WANTED: Master Gardener with some accounting background to serve as Assistant Treasurer. The assistant treasurer will be responsible for monthly bank reconciliations, and for tracking the 2020 annual conference income and expense. As a bonus, AMGA will pay for the assistant treasurer's 2020 conference registration, a \$160 value.

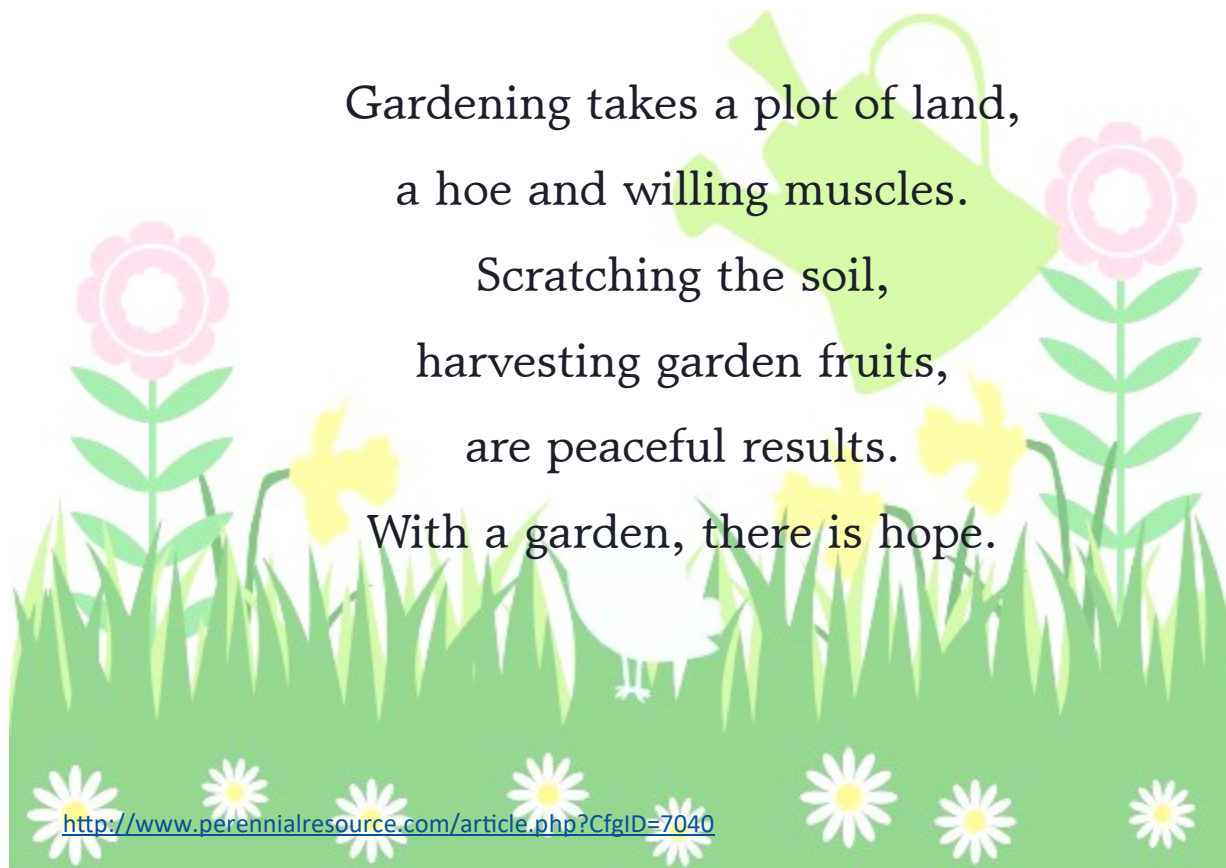
INTERESTED? Contact Roger Clarke at: roger_clarke@bellsouth.net



Gardening takes a plot of land,
a hoe and willing muscles.

Scratching the soil,
harvesting garden fruits,
are peaceful results.

With a garden, there is hope.



<http://www.perennialresource.com/article.php?CfgID=7040>

It's Time to Brag on Community Projects – Get Your Pen Ready!

I can't believe that the year is winding down, but fall will be here soon. We welcome the break from summer's nasty hot and dry days, and I hear the '19/'20 winter prediction has some much over-due cold weather. It's about time those garden bad bugs had a long nap.

Fall is also the time to prepare award applications! If you attended AMGA's Annual Conference in Clanton, I hope you saw the Search for Excellence winner displays. Did they make you think of your own winning projects? Search for Excellence (SFE) is an award started by the International MG Conference, recognizing MG volunteer group projects. We adopted it in Alabama and have recognized 23 MGA projects since 2007, <http://mg.aces.edu/search-for-excellence-competiton/>.

The Autauga County MGA won the 2019, Demonstration Garden category for the **Prattville-Autauga Demonstration Garden**. This 15-year project teaches the community about growing a vegetable garden and donates fresh produce to the Autauga Interfaith Care Center. Last year they donated 1,200 pounds. The garden is ADA accessible and a community focal point at the Autauga-Prattville Library. I'm not sure about those funny hats pictured right, but their smiling faces do show ACMGA's pride and success in this project.

The Baldwin County MGs won the 2019, Youth Programs category for a project supporting the Baldwin County Extension 4H program. They organize **Summer Fun Day for Kids**. Children explored the smells, tastes, and textures of fruits, veggies, and herbs at multiple stations for learning. Other 2018 lessons included trees, "dirt," watermelons, and an interview with a farmer. Attendees chattered about the many things they learned that day, but most popular was the chicken because (most said they'd never seen one before.)



(part of the ACMGA Demonstration Garden crew)



(watermelon seed spitting contest at BCMG's Summer Fun Day)

The application is simply an outline of your project, <http://mg.aces.edu/resources/> – why, what, where, when, who and how the project made a community impact. Notice there is a **Search for Excellence Guide** AND a **Search for Excellence Application**. SFE has seven categories (Youth, Demo Garden, Workshop Programs, Community Service, Innovative Projects, Special Needs Audiences, and Other), allowing you to apply with a wide variety of projects. MGAs can submit projects for these awards every year, but each project can only win one time.

I'm happy to help you with your application. Just call or email and we can schedule a time to visit. I look forward to hearing from you! Thank you for EVERYTHING you do for Extension and Master Gardeners.

Bonnie Plants Third-Grade Cabbage Program

Dennis Pinkard, Lee Co. MGA

Back in March my next-door neighbor Treavor, a third-grade student at Ogletree Elementary School, knocked on my door and asked me to help him plant a couple of 3-4-inch cabbage plants that he received as part of the Bonnie Plants third-grade Cabbage Program. Bonnie has been offering cabbage plants as part of a school competition since 1996. Teachers from each third-grade participating class, select the student who has grown the best cabbage based on size and appearance. That student has entered a random statewide drawing for a \$1,000 scholarship.

Treavor and I planted his two in the bed-liner of a weeping yaupon that I had planted for his mother, Tracy, a couple of years back. I gave Treavor and his mother a fertilizing and watering schedule and suggested to her that they keep a log of activities, dates, photos, etc.

I visited the cabbages regularly, both day and night, and was pleased with the progress. Treavor did a good job throughout the eight-plus weeks allowed before the competition cabbages were brought in for judging. On the morning of the last day of school, I

met Treavor at 6:30 a.m. to harvest the biggest of his cabbages to take to school and turn in to the judges. I took a scale over, and we weighted it at 15.0 pounds the morning he delivered it to school.



Treavor was the winner of his class, and a digital image of his cabbage was submitted to Bonnie Plants to be entered in the drawing sometime soon after September 30. (The faces have been blurred to protect the child's identity.)
Unknown photographer



MY FAVORITE GARDENING TOOL

Sue Khoury, MGNA

I hope to see other AMGA members and interns contribute about this topic in the future! I've learned so much about the tools I need from other MGs.

My favorite tool at the moment is my Radius Root Slayer trowel. You can buy them online directly from Radius or other outlets such as Amazon. I happened to find mine at Old Time Pottery in Madison, AL, early this summer. I was able to change five front porch containers from summer to fall annuals in under an hour using this tool. I love container gardening and

have more than a dozen in the backyard, so this will get a real workout at least twice a year.

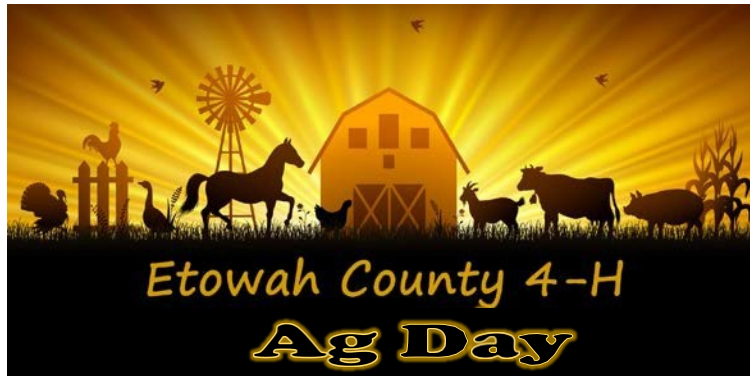
As you can see from the photo, the Root Slayer has serrated edges and a forked tip, all of which are honed. They make short work of removing containerized annuals or anything (besides trees or established shrubs) planted in your garden beds regardless of how many hairy feeder roots are involved. The larger notch will cut through roots up to 1/4" in diameter. There's also a Root Slayer shovel! It's on my Christmas wish list!



Root Slayer trowel



Root Slayer Shovel



Etowah County 4-H is proud to announce Ag Day 2019. This event will focus on the importance of local agriculture and career exploration. Each fourth grader that is registered as a member of 4-H for the 2019-2020 year will be eligible to participate. The event will take place on Oct 29-30 at Lee Farms, 1377 Tinsley Spring Road in Hokes Bluff. The rain dates for Ag Day are November 13-14.

Cost is \$5 per student which includes a t-shirt. Students will bring a sack lunch or the lunchroom will provide a sack lunch.

Buses should be at Lee Farms by 9:00 A.M. and will be leaving at 1:15 P.M. to return to schools. There will be resource providers on site to teach the students about different aspects of agriculture. We are very excited here at the Etowah County Extension Office to be bringing such a unique event to the fourth grade students of Etowah County!

Please do not hesitate to contact 4-H staff with any questions.

Etowah County Extension Office (256) 547-7936

Amy Burgess (256) 558-7443

Michael Dillon (256) 613-1247

Jenny Bishop (256) 485-2108



The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator and employer. Everyone is welcome!

**Master Gardeners of North Alabama
Present**

Customized First Passage to the West

June 18 – 28 2020



ROCKY MOUNTAINEER



Double Occupancy/per person \$5382 ; Single Occupancy (limited availability) \$6382 ; \$775 Deposit per person

For information contact sandrapape@gmail.com

HAPPENINGS

AUTAUGA CO MGA

Nancy Waggoner

When you're finished changing, you're finished.

-Benjamin Franklin

Twenty-four years ago, Debbie Boutelier, now ACMGA President, was part of a small committee formed to create Prattvillage Garden. Privately owned, the property that was to be landscaped and maintained as a garden was leased to us for a nominal annual fee.

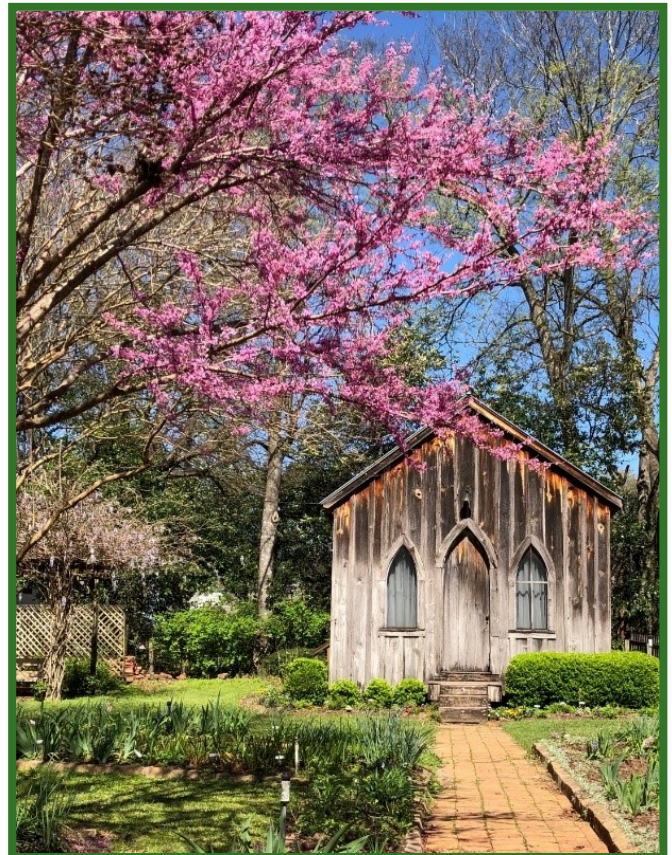
An antebellum chapel was moved from land in Autauga County to its present location where it stood in stunning counterpoint to flowers and herbs. The garden became a place of repose and, occasionally, a wedding venue. Our annual plant sale took place in the garden.

Earlier this year, ACMGA members learned that the owner would no longer lease the property to our association. Efforts to negotiate any reasonable agreement or find a new location for the garden were futile. Heartbroken, we dismantled the garden, removing bricks and plants until not much was left. Upon the owner's passing, it really seemed to be the end of the road. Then, in a surprising turn of events, his daughter, who felt that the garden was important to Prattville, offered to renew the agreement. The membership consensus was a resounding yes! We were elated.

ACMGA member and landscape professional, Jane McCarthy, considered input from members regarding the new design. The updated plan, in keeping with the antebellum period of the chapel, includes curvilinear beds of perennial native

plants, which will attract pollinators, and a shade garden under an existing black walnut tree. Educational programs will be held in a dedicated classroom area.

President Debbie Boutelier has come full circle with Prattvillage Garden, a space that exemplifies ACMGA's mission of community beautification, the sharing of gardening knowledge, and the promotion of environmental awareness.



An antebellum era chapel graces beautiful Prattvillage Garden. Photo by Shari McCandless

BALDWIN CO MGA

Paula Pritchett

SUMMER FUN DAY FOR KIDS

We made it just in time! Summer Fun for Kids is over, and the kids are back in school. The third time is the charm. Our Fun Day went off without a hitch. Forty children participated and were accompanied by thirty-eight significant others. In kid language, a significant other is a parent or a grandparent. Twenty-five BCMG members participated in the event. Newer members took a very active role. The Class of 2019 had 12 members involved in Kids Day. After that, there was a sprinkling of participating members down to the Class of 2007. Many of the Kids Day committee chairmen were members of BCMG for three years or less. It was great to have these newer people participate in still another of our fine activities!

Thanks to Alabama 4-H and Sarah Butterworth for their partnership in this endeavor. Jarrod Jones, Associate Director of Gulf Coast Research Station, explained to both children and adults about the workings of the Research Station on Route 104. Another of our presentations was

given by Alescia Forland of Forland Family Market and Coastal Alabama Farmers and Fishermen's Market in Foley. She gave a wonderful presentation about watermelons and then had a tasting event. Krupenski Farm, Charolais Road, Foley, donated ten large watermelons.

This gave us plenty of seeds for our watermelon seed spitting contest as well a lot of watermelons to eat! Again this year, James Stanley Ellis of Gulf Coast Stone on US 31 in Spanish Fort, donated rocks for our ever-popular rock painting.



These are various raffle winners from Baldwin County Fun Day. The faces have been blurred to protect the children's identity. Photo by Joni Euler



Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.

Albert Camus



*Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed
in overalls and looks like work.*

Thomas A. Edison

BLOUNT CO MGA

Sherry Brewer

Sweating in the summer heat, Blount County Extension Agent Dan Porch organized a summer fish and chicken fry at Locust Fork Community Park for our annual June picnic. Many others helped fry, prep the area and prepare scrumptious dishes, including many items from our gardens. Our members and spouses enjoyed talking and socializing. Plans are underway for our Fall Seminar (jointly hosted this year with AMGA). *Gifts From the Garden* is Thursday, October 3. Our Fall Master Gardener Class is filling up quickly and will be taught by Extension coordinator Bethany O'Rear in Hayden. The award-winning Blount County Fair was the week of September 8, and members worked setting up registration and exhibitions. We provided security and many other tasks. The fair could not have happened without our time and effort! In addition, we donated to the Blount County Education Foundation to support grants to local teachers for supplies for outdoor classrooms and gardening efforts in the K-12 area. Unfortunately, our August speaker had to cancel at the last moment, but members stepped up and spoke about their personal experiences with gardening - some funny, some poignant, some creative, yet all very memorable. It was a great way to sink into fall and reflect on our reasons for belonging to MGs, our

personal goals for loving this beautiful earth, and how we can contribute through our gardening efforts, understanding that "you don't have to be good at gardening for gardening to be good for you."



Blount County Extension Coordinator Dan Porch shows off his cooking skills at the Blount Co. MG Annual June Picnic. Photo by Sherry Maddox



CALHOUN CO MGA

Sherry Blanton

The annual Fall Fest 2019 (9-21), a throwback to an old-fashioned county fair, is a happy memory. Energetic MGs entertained hundreds of residents in a day of fun complete with wildlife shows, games, a cakewalk, bake sale, hayride, country store, and more. We were sweaty and tired by the end of the day, but we raised money to support Cane Creek Community Gardens at McClellan, our home site.

Alex Tigue, a local Extension Agent, specializing in meat and poultry, gave an excellent program about GMOs. This is a timely topic, and he is an excellent speaker. Hayes Jackson spoke about "Glorious Groundcovers" at the August Lunch and Learn program. He wrapped up the 2019 series in September with "Totally Tough Plants." April 2020 the new series will begin where 2019 ended.

We have many committees working for our 2021 Master Gardener State Conference. Theme, speakers, and meals are coming together.

The "Cane Creek Community Garden Gang" continues to maintain our beautiful grounds despite the heat; their

dedication is evident in the colorful gardens. A new lawnmower helps with their tasks.

Our November meeting is our annual business meeting and the election of 2020 officers.

To our fellow gardeners: a beautiful fall and cooler days.



Our home site, Cane Creek. Photo by Sherry Blanton

CAPITAL CITY MGA

Mary Eleanor Hines

CCMGA had great programs at our meetings during the summer, including Aldridge Gardens on Hydrangeas, Straw Bale Gardening, and From Farm to Table Food Preparation, with many educational programs planned for our future meetings.

The Helpline was completed on August 26 after a full year of willing volunteers each Monday during the spring and summer.

Our Rose-Morris chairman, Karin Carmichael, reported that on June 8, Old Alabama Town held a program for the public. CCMGA provided eight volunteers to help by planting zinnia seeds for the attendees to take home.

There are many volunteer opportunities at the Montgomery Botanical Garden, beginning with a most entertaining and informative demonstration by CCMGA member Anna Owen on floral arranging with items from nature. It was well attended and enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience. The greenhouse project is progressing well. The greenhouse is in place, installed with furnishings, and operations planned for the near future.

CCMGA is now involved with the arboretum located in west Montgomery. The Montgomery Public School System has agreed to share the maintenance and expenses. The agreement will provide field trips for all fourth-grade students to visit the arboretum beginning in September. CCMGA volunteers will help with the students.

Capital City Master Gardener Association, voted at the August meeting to host the 2022 AMGA Conference. A Spring date will be decided later.



Anna Owen is demonstrating at the Montgomery Botanical Garden. Photo by Mary Eleanor Hines

CENTRAL ALABAMA MGA

Elmore County

Iva Haynie

The weather in Central Alabama has been a bit unusual this summer. We have had cooler and wet, hot and dry; nevertheless gardening activities must go on. In July, about 20 senior citizens enjoyed creating fairy gardens with Master Gardeners assisting. Our Lunch and Learn program was all about snake identification by Mary McCroan. Our meeting program was growing fruit by Gary Gray.

The August Lunch and Learners enjoyed a presentation on unique ideas for gardening in small spaces by Master Gardener Glen Houvinen. At our monthly meeting, Janice Hall presented "Pressure Cooking, Meals in Minutes." A work session was held to prepare gourds and pine

cones to make gourd birdhouses for a fun day in September.

The fall Master Gardeners class began September 5 and will run for 12 weeks. Our September meeting was off-site at Petals From the Past. The Lunch and Learn program will be held at a new location, the First Presbyterian Church in Wetumpka, and will be on controlling pesky weeds by Virginia Pruitt.

Our annual plant and pot swap was held October 13. Also in October, we will be making vintage ornaments to decorate a tree, and sachet bags to distribute to participants in "A Charles Dickens Christmas" hosted by Wetumpka in December.

Of course, work continues in the Learning Gardens, at the Governor's Mansion, on the Help Line, and at Lamark. We all plug in where we are the best fit to add to our volunteer hours.

CHEROKEE CO MGA

Janice Knight

Cherokee County Master Gardeners are busy year-round with projects such as maintaining the Gardens at the City Park, The City Hall, and the Little League ballpark. Once fall starts, we teach “green-bag lunch” sessions at the local Cherokee County Library on topics such as using natural plant materials for holiday decorations. Since our county does not sponsor a county fair, many of us enter the Flower Show at the Dekalb County Fair. Local Garden Clubs put on the Flower Show at the fair, but **ONE DOES NOT HAVE TO BE A GARDEN CLUB MEMBER** to enter Horticulture competition at the fair! Some of the categories include annuals, perennials, bulbs, roses, trees, shrubs, flowering potted plants, and foliage potted plants. Many specimens are entered, and ribbons and recognition are plentiful! Come one, come all, to the fair, and bring your plants!



Ribbons and recognition from the flower show entries. Photo by Janice Knight



CHILTON CO MGA

Susan Clecker

Now that the 2019 AMGA Annual Conference is behind us, **WHAT ARE WE TO DO?** No worries! Summer is in full swing in Chilton County. Our Intern class has graduated. We are now focused on ideas and committees for our Plant Sale in the spring of 2020. Our members will be planting and fostering plants from their gardens until our event. We will sell everyone’s favorites, including pass-along-plants that you cannot find in nurseries any longer. We hope to turn this into an annual fundraiser for the Chilton County Master Gardeners.

CCMGA had our annual May Plant Swap which included a Pot Luck lunch with lots of yummy food, fellowship, and of course sharing and swapping plants. As usual, a great time was had by all.

A new endeavor begun with some local third-grade classes this past spring, will continue into this fall. The kids will learn about fall plantings, such as cabbage, swiss chard, and different types of lettuce. It is a hands-on project and the kids love it.

Chilton County Master Gardeners worked with

Chilton Research and Experiment Station on a new project called CREC 2019 Showcase in Agriculture. The idea is to have three or four events a year with a targeted audience for each event. We will have “Ask a Master Gardener,” a plant sale, several workshops with ACES representatives and Fruit Tasting. After all, Community outreach is what we are all about!



Pictured top L-R: MG Larry Jones and John Higginbotham in the Fruit Tasting Tent. Pictured bottom L-R: MGs Robin Cagle, Treasia Bennett, Betsy Smith, and Imogene Bresse getting the fruit cut for tasting. Photo by Audrey Giles

CLAYBANK MGA

Dee Gilbert

This August, Claybank Master Gardeners (CMG) once again teamed up with UAB, and this year, the National Institute of Health (NIH) funded the program, to help selected cancer survivors grow their own vegetables. To quote from our manual, "The NIH was so excited about the results from the first year that they are funding this second year for a larger group of 426 participants throughout Alabama." This year we have added Master Gardeners, Gerald Colley, and Jerry Sanders to our repeat volunteers, Janet Shinaberry, Irene Tucker, and Dee Gilbert. Kerry Smith and Renee Thompson, from the Alabama Cooperative Extension System provided thorough training to both the survivors and the MGs. It is such a rewarding experience to work with cancer survivors and to watch them get excited about growing their own vegetables. They are provided grow boxes, or materials for raised beds, and seeds appropriate for our location with instructions to plant according to growing zone planting dates, which in South Alabama is September 15.

In June, we were treated to an excellent Lunch and Learn on Landscaping, with a delicious meal provided by the Claybank Master Gardeners. Our presenter was Eric

Heisner, owner of Mustard Seed Landscaping, giving us his expertise on planting, and maintaining beautiful yards. Many participants who are new to the area got some great advice on drip irrigation, as well as how to choose and maintain turf, shrubs, and plants for our growing zone.

We are looking forward to the upcoming September 20 Lunch and Learn by our own Lucy Edwards, Regional Extension Agent, Home Grounds, who will be presenting on Fall Gardens.



Harvest for Health training by Kerry Smith. Photo by Lucy Edwards

CULLMAN CO MGA

Jennifer Underwood

The CCMGAI had its gardening hands in many MG projects this last quarter. We had multiple workdays at the Demonstration Garden, the Rain Garden, the Bicentennial Garden, and at the raised vegetable beds at the Fairgrounds. Our hard work paid off though, – both the Demonstration Garden and the Rain Garden won PALS (People Against a Littered State) Beautification Awards this year.

At the Festhalle on September 21, we had a fall plant sale. Additionally that day, the Festhalle hosted its Power of Produce program, where MGs often volunteer to showcase local produce in delectable recipes. Vouchers are provided to children allowing them to take some produce home for themselves.

October 3-11 was the Cullman County Fair, and this year's fair booth theme was, "I wish I had known this when I started growing hydrangeas." Dried hydrangea blossoms were featured, with some being made into a wreath. Our fair booth has won awards and ribbons in the past years, and many of its passersby end up taking our Master Gardener classes the following spring.

On Saturday, October 19, the fair booth should get

another showing at Peinhardt Farm Day. This "living history farm" opens to the public once a year to teach agricultural literacy in a fun, family setting and attracts crowds in the hundreds.

PBS recently did a feature on Harvest for Health, a Master Gardener project (view it here: <https://video.aptv.org/video/spotlight-on-agriculture-harvest-for-health-bwsegi/>.) County Extension Coordinator Tony Glover is featured in several clips.



For the Cullman County Fair last year, the CCMGAI participated in the Alabama Bicentennial's theme of People of Alabama. Our Fair Booth featured 10 prints of artwork done by John Augustus Walker featuring the history of agriculture in Alabama. Holly Hirsbrunner was the County Fair Booth Committee Chair, and was for CCMGAI for the last several years. Photo by Ellen Hall

DEKALB CO MGA

Mary Franks

Over ninety DeKalb Master Gardeners and visitors attended the September Lunch and Learn at the historic Fort Payne Coal and Iron Building. The program, "Cooking for all Seasons: Julia, Edna, and Alice" emphasized using 'farm to table' produce.

Christy Igou Brandon, is a former pastry chef at Green Bottle Grill and Bakery in Huntsville and continuing education student through the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York. She used a PowerPoint presentation with recipes and resource handouts to relate personal and professional stories of Julia Child, Edna Lewis, and Alice Waters. Throughout her presentation she emphasized buying local produce for enhanced flavor, ease of purchase from farmers' markets, and support of local farmers.

Christy teaches cooking classes at Windy Hill Farm in Mentone, and Sweet and Savory in Chattanooga, TN. She also authors food articles for the DeKalb Living Magazine. Her contact information is @cigoubrandon and www.christyigoubrandon.com.

The Fall Plant Swap and Picnic on Thursday, October 3, will be held at Jayne Ross's house at 25 Circle Drive NE, Fort Payne, AL 35967, with social at 9:30 a.m. Bring plants

to trade and a covered dish to share.

Thursday, November 7, Lunch and Learn will be held at the Fort Payne Coal and Iron Building 11:30 - 12:30. Mike Rushing will present "Coping with the Garden as You and Your Garden Age." Visit us and enjoy fun, fellowship, factual gardening information, and FOOD!



Mary Igou Shurett, Susan Igou Long, Paul Howell, President DeKalb MG, Christy Igou Brando. Photo by Mary Franks

EAST CENTRAL MGA

Sheila Bolen

It has certainly been a hot one here in East Central Alabama, but we're keeping up with our gardens and projects in the area. We have finished the initial plantings at the *Open Spaces Sacred Places* garden at SIFAT

(Servants in Faith and Technology.) Next on our agenda is planting Sarah's Herb Garden, then we hope to take a breather and pray for rain and cooler weather. At our July meeting we had a plant exchange that included a lot of neat plants and a ton of laughs for everyone. We are certainly looking forward to cooler weather, fall gardens and seasonal colors.

ETOWAH CO MGA

Carol B. Link

Etowah County Master Gardeners Association stayed busy this summer, with many repairs being accomplished at the greenhouses. New coverings were installed on greenhouses, and other repairs were completed. In addition, Master Gardeners and new Interns repotted many plants, in preparation for the 2020 plant sale.

Because of the extremely hot weather July through September, a landscaping project at Litchfield School has been put on hold and will be rescheduled as soon as the weather cools. The same holds true for the landscaping of new construction for Habitat for Humanity.

At the association meeting in July, Sammye Hill gave a humorous presentation. In August, the speaker was Kevan

McGehee, who spoke about the work at the Etowah County Humane Society. The September speaker was Christy Mendoza, who gave a presentation on Food Preparation.

A couple of interesting events are coming up in October. Several Master Gardeners will be participating in Etowah County 4-H Club's Ag Day, an annual event held in Hokes Bluff. The event is scheduled for Oct. 29-30. The second event is a Plant Swap hosted by ECMGA, Inc., Oct 5, at ECMGA's property at 3200 West Meighan Blvd., in Gadsden. The gates will open at 9 AM, and the swap begins at 10 AM. No money changes hands at these swaps. Everyone brings plants and other garden-related items to exchange. Everyone everywhere is invited. For more information about the swap, contact Regina Ford. Phone number: 256-490-4996. Email: jigde@att.net.

JACKSON CO 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 a.m. to noon, for coffee, a program, and our business meeting. Except the Oct. 3 meeting is a plant swap at the Jackson County Park Pavilion.

On July 11, our program was "Wildland/Urban Interface" with Coleen Vansant from Alabama Forestry Commission. She discussed good home protection information. August 1, we heard about "Protecting Bees and Flowers They Love" from Jackson County Bee Keepers Association President Dustin Davis. And September 5, we visited the ACES - Graham Farm and Nature Center for an update on several programs and projects in the works. Trails and programs to come. See more at [GrahamFarmandNatureCenter Facebook page](#).

Our Scottsboro Library Lunch and Learn 11:30-12:30 is still going; on October 1, Composting Basics and November 5, Winterizing Your Garden. See Rhonda Britton for more information.

The Jackson County Fair is wrapping up as I send this to

press. Hope to have more next edition.

We continue to maintain the Jackson County Park trail and flower beds each Thursday morning starting at 8:00 a.m. until we quit.



Jackson Co MGs visit the ACES - Graham Farm and Nature Center. Photo by County Extension Coordinator, Themika (Mike) L Sims



JEFFERSON CO MGA

Fletcher Harvey

Following Lindsey Barclift's outstanding moss lecture in early June, Jefferson County was fortunate to host well-known landscape designer and all-around gardening guru, June Mays, for an entertaining and evocative evening meeting.

"What," one might ask, "is so rare as a day in June?" With apologies to James Russell Lowell, Jefferson County Master Gardeners answered, "A day in July at Petals from the Past, with Jason Powell!" Jason spent the better part of what was possibly the hottest July day in the history of Jemison, Alabama discussing "plants that shine in July." Following the walk with our gracious tour guide, we enjoyed a wonderful box lunch. All agreed that it was definitely a day well spent.

In August, we enjoyed an excellent presentation from Peggy Hill. Peggy discussed "Container Gardening with Native Plants." We quickly discovered why Peggy is such a popular speaker. She is also a frequent contributor to Alabama Gardener Magazine.

Not so much icing on the cake but rather an extra

'mater in the sauce, Arnold Caylor joined us to discuss "Tasty Tomatoes." Arnold has tested and tasted more tomato varieties than you can shake a tomato stake at. He divulged that his thumbs-up favorite is "Celebrity." Keep that in mind when ordering seeds or visiting plant sales next spring.



Jason Powell is standing in his demonstration garden, answering questions from inquisitive Jefferson County Master Gardeners. Photo by Fletcher Harvey

LEE CO MGA

Pat Giordano

Lee County Master Gardeners and friends met at our summer social in August and had a wonderful potluck dinner. At this event, we welcomed new friends and many of the interns who had just begun the Master Gardener Class in Lee County.

As the summer weather continues, we are aware of the value of water in our lives. Our monthly meetings in September and October reflect this!

Last month we met at the Shell Fisheries Center, on Auburn University's campus to hear David Cline, Extension Specialist, present "Water Gardening-Ornamental Pond Construction and Management". After the program, many of us joined David to walk around and visit other parts of this facility.

The October meeting will feature Dr. Bill Deutsch, who will talk about his book, *Alabama Rivers: A Celebration and Challenge*. Dr. Deutsch will focus on the rivers that directly impact us in Lee County. Books will be available for sale and can be signed after the program.

And we are looking forward to the fall season. Our

LIMESTONE CO MGA

Carol Knox

This has been a busy summer for the Limestone County Master Gardeners. Our Charity Garden and Keyhole Gardens provided several hundred pounds of produce to various food banks within the county, and the Ask A Master Gardener table was a big success at the Athens Farmers Market. As always, our table at the Senior Fun Fest was a big hit as well.

Janis Dill, our Workshop Chair, rounded up a trio of presenters for our June, July, and August workshops. In June, Doug Chapman, a Regional Extension Agent, spoke to us on "Fruit and Nut Production for the Homeowner." July brought us Bob Barker who is a former hydrologist with the State of Alabama. He presented a program on "Availability and Movement of Groundwater in North Alabama." August's presenter was Taylor Reeder, Regional Extension Agent for Home Grounds, Gardens and Home Pests. She gave a presentation on "Pollinators and Beneficial's." All workshops were well attended and well received.

Several of our Master Gardeners completed the Alabama Cottage Food Law food safety training and

demonstration gardens are gearing up for the season. In particular, Grandma's Garden in Pioneer Park (Loachapoka) is working hard to be ready for the annual Pioneer Day on October 19.

Our Earth Friends tip of the month for September is Meatless Mondays. This group challenged the members to eat no meat one day a week to promote personal health as well as the health of the planet.



Getting ready for Fall at Grandma's Garden at Pioneer Park. Photo from Pat Giordano

received their certification. This certification is good for five years and allows them to sell non-hazardous foods such as candies, jams, and jellies, certain baked goods, dried herbs, and herb mixes at farmers' markets, craft fairs, and other community events. This class was conducted by Susan Hill, Regional Extension Agent, for Food Safety Preservation and Preparation with ACES.



Taylor Reeder was giving her presentation to LCMGA. Photo by Janis Dill

MARSHALL CO MGA

Elaine Hild

The CASA garden has many fingers in the community, such as the Master Gardener project at Brindlee Mountain Elementary school. At the school, the student club members plant ten varieties of tomatoes in their greenhouse. They sell what they can for the school, and the remainder is donated to the CASA garden. The CASA garden is in full production now. The total produce weight for the CASA garden is 7,475 pounds as of August 20. The garden has about a dozen volunteers. The work times are the mornings of Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Most of the volunteers are so dedicated that they seldom miss a day from March through September. In the mix there are also those that come when they can. It is a fun and cohesive group that enjoys giving this gift to the community.

At our August meeting, we had 33 members, four guests, and our local agent in attendance. Our speaker was Dr. Rudy Pacumbaba, Extension Specialist at Alabama A&M University. He spoke on pruning ornamentals. He said to remember the 3 T's of pruning; tools, timing, and techniques.

The Marshall County Master Gardeners meet monthly on the third Tuesday at 10 a.m. except for November when it is the second Tuesday. Our October speaker is Dan Porch on Animal Manures.

So, stop by, hear some good information, and have a bite to eat with us.

Editor's Note: Last quarter's article was unintentionally omitted.



Harry Williams is volunteering at the CASA Gardens. Photo by Judy McMurry



F. Scott Fitzgerald

*Life starts all over again
when it gets crisp in the fall.*



MASTER GARDENERS OF NORTH ALABAMA

Ann Tippie

Through the summer months and into early fall, our Ask a Master Gardener team has been at two locations on the first Saturday of each month. The Compost Team held a training session in July at the Compost Demonstration Project at the Huntsville Botanical Garden. Nick Peshman and Vickie Turan explained how to make compost tea in addition to making compost itself. On July 27, approximately 20 MGs and friends met at Jules Berta Winery in Albertville as part of our Field Trips program. Mr. Berta gave an interesting talk about how he grows and harvests his grapes.

A new endeavor this year, the Madison County Farmer's Market outreach, is staffed every Saturday by MGs who answer questions about gardening, Master Gardeners, and ACES, and one Saturday each month a "make and take" workshop is offered. We did garden whimsies in July, hypertufa in August and embellished birdhouses in September. Also in September, the

Educational Workshop Committee presented "Color in the Shade" and "Winter Gardening" at the Extension Office.

Visitors to the Huntsville Botanical Garden tour our Demonstration Vegetable Garden where fall gardening has begun. More help with this project is always needed. Our Morris School project is again working with a fifth-grade class. This year three additional fifth grade classes are taking over the care of the courtyard with journal notes and periodic assessment. All participants in our ongoing Horticulture Therapy Program enjoyed their annual Give Back to Community Project, and the watermelon-seed spitting contest was a big hit. Clients made pinecone flower arrangements to give to all the workers at the Senior Center. First Stop is going well with good crops of produce and flowers.

A problem of growing concern in our area is CMBS (Crape myrtle Bark Scale). MGNA has formed a focus group to develop and disseminate materials to inform and educate our communities about this new "bug" that may be in your garden—wherever you are in Alabama.



Hypertufa Class at Madison County Farmer's Market. Photo by Ann Tippie



You never fail until you stop trying.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

MOBILE CO MGA

Mary Nash

Mobile County Master Gardeners have a total of 160 members. The 2019 Intern Class began Wednesday, August 14 and will run through November 13. We have 16 Master Gardener Interns.

A bus trip has been planned for October 29, 2019, to Quail Hollow Gardens, a Japanese Maple garden in Notasulga, Alabama owned by former Auburn Coach Pat Dye, who will lead our tour. On the return trip, a stop is planned at Southern Home and Gardens in Montgomery.

Our Annual Greenery Sale will be December 6 - 7, 2019, at Mobile Botanical Gardens. Julie Conrey is Chairman of the Greenery Sale, and her co-chair will be Linda Kloter. Mobile Botanical Gardens and Mobile County Master Gardeners team up to provide holiday decorating needs; greenery, wreaths, mailbox toppers, poinsettias, camellias, and a unique collection of locally produced goods.

Come to Mobile for the 2020 Alabama Master Gardener Annual Conference hosted by Mobile County Master Gardeners, March 30-April 1. The conference will be at the Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel which overlooks downtown Mobile, Mobile River, and Mobile Bay. See Five Rivers

Delta Resource Center with boat tours, Battleship USS Alabama Memorial Park; Aircraft Pavilion, and Stop #29 of the Alabama Coastal Birding Trail. Nearby, Historic Blakely State Park has river tours and a protected Civil War battlefield. Enjoy the blooms of 250,000 azaleas, hundreds of roses, and many other plants on the 65 acres of Bellingrath Gardens, a few miles south. Conference activities begin Monday, March 30.



Lorene Lami at the Mobile Co MG Greenery Sale. Photo by Alice Marty



G
ARD
ENING
WITH 20/20 VISION



2020 AMGA Annual Conference * Mobile Co MGA * March 30-April 1 2020

MORGAN CO MGA

Vicki Morese

After many years at the Morgan County Fairgrounds, the Morgan County Master Gardeners Association has relocated to Point Mallard Park in Decatur. The property was once used by the City of Decatur as a greenhouse operation, but the greenhouses were not used for many years. After talking with the City leaders, the MCMGA entered into an agreement with the City of Decatur to utilize these greenhouses. Many repairs are still underway; heaters and fans are being installed now. The property is ideally located in Decatur and doubles our greenhouse space. Members meet regularly at the greenhouse on Mondays and Wednesdays to

maintain our plants and propagate new ones. Interns are invited to join us, so we use the greenhouse as an educational opportunity as well. We continue to donate plants to the community for projects and activities.



The Morgan Co greenhouses. Photo by Susan Ledbetter



PIKE CO MGA

Elaine Knight

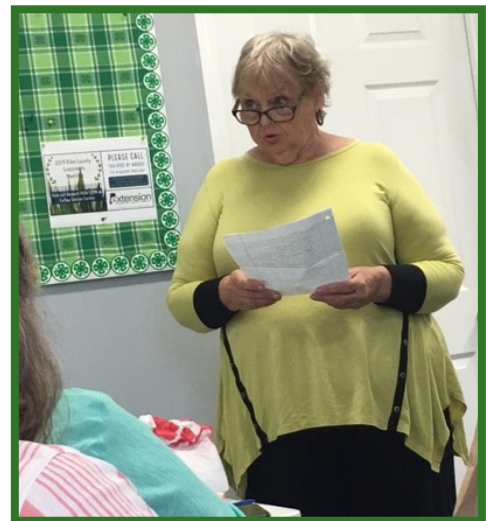
The Pike County Master Gardeners slowed down their gardening chores during the hot, humid summer months. We are anxiously awaiting cooler fall weather.

However, we learned about the effects of chemicals in the garden during one of the Lunch and Learn meetings. Rosarian Jill Haisten gave a very interesting presentation on using chemicals in the garden. She told the Master Gardeners about a personal experience with being overcome by chemicals in her early years as a gardener. She vowed this would not happen to her again. Jill told us there are different types of gardeners. Some have no tolerance for pests or diseases, especially on their roses. They will spray before they even see a disease. Other gardeners are interested in reducing or eliminating the use of synthetic chemicals.

She continued by telling us how to incorporate safety in the garden. First, if you choose to use them, always read the label on the chemicals. She mentioned that chemicals could be absorbed in different ways. They can be absorbed orally, through the skin, and inhaled into the lungs.

Finally, she said rules should be followed: measure the chemicals, wear protective clothing, check the sprayer, and spray when it is under 80 degrees and no wind. And never spray around water, pets, or children.

We as gardeners love the rewards of gardening, but learning about chemical safety is very important for all gardeners. Therefore, we thank Jill Haisten for telling us about the dangers of using chemicals in the garden.



Rosarian Jill Haisten was giving a presentation on chemicals to the Pike County Master Gardeners. Photo by Elaine Knight

SHELBY CO MGA

Kate Vogel

SCMGA met in June at Deb Elliott's Helena garden for our annual member garden tour. Check out her blog.

<http://debsgarden.squarespace.com/>.

In July, member Teresa Boody spoke to us on "Interesting, Uncommon, and Overlooked Hydrangeas."

Member Tommie Harrison is spearheading a project at Thompson Intermediate School to help a teacher who received a grant from the Bicentennial Commission to build a small-scale replica of the old Thompson home in Alabaster.

SCMGA donated to the project and will help with landscaping.

More than twenty Interns attended their first class August 14 in Columbiana. Members provided a covered dish lunch.

As our second summer of gardening in the Montevallo Seed-to-Table Community Garden winds down, we are planting fall beds in the garden. Tomatoes, cucumbers, and corn went to the Shelby Emergency Assistance food bank.

Plans are underway for our one evening meeting of the year in September, programs on permaculture and community-supported agriculture and our "Dirty Gardener" Christmas party.



SHOALS MGA

Michael Thomason

Our July meeting featured our own Dennis Balch, who presented a program on "The Way We Were." He spoke about authors Wendell Berry and Jim Autry. These poets wrote about traditional farming and early farming life in their poetry.

Our September meeting featured another Shoals Master Gardener, Ellie Yeilding. Ellie is the manager of the Killen farmers market. In addition to traditional gardening, Ellie raises goats and uses their milk to make goat cheese and goat cheese bread, as well as soap. She shared some of her interesting experiences and talents.

Our October monthly meeting will be the annual picnic at the St. Florian Pavilion. We always enjoy food and fellowship at the picnic. It is an opportunity when we take a time-out and reflect on the hard work we put in over the year.

In November, we have our Intern graduation. This year we will graduate 19 Interns. This has been a wonderful class to mentor and get to know. We look forward to their joining us in the ranks as Master Gardeners next year.

In December we have our Christmas party, and we always look forward to celebrating the season.

Have a wonderful Autumn.



*Autumn carries more gold in its pocket
than all the other seasons.*



Jim Bishop

ST. CLAIR CO MGA

Pam Garrison

The St. Clair County Master Gardeners are anticipating a cooler fall. It has been so hot and unusually dry, so it will be encouraging to have some relief. As miserable as it is outside right now, why do we endeavor to persevere? Gardening provides exercise, and it elevates moods. As Master Gardeners, we are connected with the newest research-based information and in touch with other Master Gardeners and extension experts who share our joy of gardening.

Our newest group of interns has been working to get their volunteer and education hours completed. They have attended lunch and learn programs in our county and at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. They have also been a tremendous help with preparing the extension newsletter for mailing.

In spite of the heat, we have been out in the community volunteering our services. The St. Clair Master Gardeners and Interns have gone to other counties and helped judge fairs. Our Extension Office had 4-H Clover Classroom programs this summer and many hours were spent helping that endeavor. We assisted with classes in beekeeping, cooking, sport

fishing, GPS orienteering, and scavenger hunts. We went on a field trip to the Anniston Museum of Natural History and Jacksonville State University with the 4-H Clover Classroom.

The Gateway Community Garden has been an ongoing success. To date, 2,800 pounds of fresh produce has been donated to food pantries. A fall garden has been planted and will provide even more products.



Planting potatoes at the Gateway Community Garden. Photo by Pam Garrison



TALLAPOOSA CO MGA

Barbara Butler

Our long, hot summer has continued well into September this year, making weeding even harder at the Tallapoosa County Courthouse. However, our dedicated members have persevered to keep the dreaded chamberbitter and its friends out of our flower beds. The City of Dadeville will soon complete a major road and landscaping project around the courthouse square that will complement our association's continuing flower bed project.

This summer our local extension office sponsored a well-attended tomato workshop that was informative and fun. Congratulations to one of our members for winning in the Best Tasting category. Sallie's Sweet 100 Cherry Tomato was well-deserving. Everyone likes tomatoes, including our four-legged nemesis – deer.

Our stalwart extension agent, Shane, presented a program on the azaleas he is propagating at his home. He worked with Callaway Gardens to take cuttings of their very old varieties. Older plants can sometimes be more interesting, just like people.

Summer meetings included a farm tour, a picnic, and speakers. In May, we traveled to Reeltown to visit the

Southeast Kiwi Farm. What an interesting and extensive endeavor! Kudos to the owners and Auburn University for their forward-thinking. Sandra Fuller of Tallapoosa County Tourism gave an interesting program about what the county is doing to draw tourists. Our county is home to many natural attractions, including Lake Martin, as well as cultural, and entertainment venues. July's meeting included a delicious indoor picnic. Outdoor picnics are the best, but not at noon in July in Alabama!



Gathering for the kiwi farm tour. ...

Photo by Patti Voss

WALKER CO MGA

Barbara Higgins

Ten members and guests of the Walker County Master Gardeners Association enjoyed a field trip to Jemison, Alabama to visit Petals from the Past on June 25, 2019. The gardens were amazingly vivid and oh, so beautiful! We spent several hours touring the gardens and shopping. We had a fellowship lunch and then moseyed across the road to buy fresh Chilton County peaches.

We will travel to Scott's Orchard in Hazel Green, Alabama, the last of September or the first of October, 2019. There should be several apple varieties ready to eat and for making homemade pies. We can't wait to try the fresh apple cider.

Our grand finale meeting of the year will be October 22, 2019, when we will once again enjoy a fellowship and pot-luck supper.

So, like these beautiful hummingbirds, our season will have come and gone, and we will regroup for a bright new

year. Happy holidays to all from Walker County Master Gardeners Association.



The photo was taken by and at the home of Master Gardener, James Daniel



WIREGRASS MGA

Chuck McManus

Wiregrass Master Gardeners had a busy and productive summer. An important effort led by Helen-Sue Kemp has been the Junior Master Gardener Program which is currently ongoing. It has been fun for a number of Master Gardeners to teach portions of the class, and some of them have even learned while teaching! We also helped the Extension Office present gardening training to a group of teachers by providing instructors to teach Plant Propagation and Herbs. In addition, we have manned the Help Desk at the Extension Office two days a week providing assistance to the public.

We also conducted several digs this summer that have allowed us to collect a wide variety of plants to increase our stock in preparation for our Fall Plant Sale on September 28. Our monthly workdays have been key and essential in improving our nursery and greenhouse at the Dothan Area Botanical Gardens (DABG). We also had a number of Master Gardeners support Harvest for Health. Our efforts in the Kitchen Garden at Landmark Park and the DABG demonstration vegetable beds, have led to nearly a thousand pounds of produce donated so far this year to the local food bank.

We are all excited about cooler weather and participation in upcoming Fall events which include Fall Farm Days at Landmark Park and Scarecrows in the Garden at DABG.



Wiregrass Master Gardeners Leticia and Jeff Avera admiring their first okra harvest in the Kitchen Garden at Landmark Park. Photo by Jan Shirley



Alabama Master
Gardeners Association
Alabamamg.org

Editor: Patricia Peoples
St. Clair CO MGA

H: 205-467-0281

amganewsletter@gmail.com

Copy Editor

Patricia Patty
Calhoun CO MGA

Proofreader

Carolyn Wade—MGNA

State Advisor

Kerry Smith
State Master Gardeners
Program Coordinator
334-844-3036
Cell 334-329-1051
smithkp@auburn.edu

Got Questions



We've Got Answers

aces.edu/questions

AMGA Website
Alabamamg.org

WINTER 2019-2020 ARTICLES DUE DECEMBER 15 2019

EXECUTIVE BOARD

TERMS 2019—2021

PRESIDENT: Michael Thomason,
Shoals

VICE-PRESIDENT: Myra Lassere,
Baldwin

SECRETARY: Sherilyn Osborne, Blount

TREASURER: Roger Clarke, Jefferson

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

TERM 2017-2020

Devonne Ellis, Wiregrass

Mary Howe, MGNA

TERM 2018-2021

Pat Cosgrove, Jefferson

Tillie Morgan, Cherokee

Paula Seamon, Autauga

TERM 2019-2022

Sue Khoury, MGNA

Shelia Bolen, East Central **2019**

AMGA COMMITTEES

AWARDS COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Devonne Ellis, Wiregrass

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Sue Khoury, MGNA

PATHWAYS EDITOR: Patricia Peoples,
St Clair

AMGA WEBMASTER: Sue Khoury,
MGNA

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Mary Howe, MGNA

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Rose McCauley, Autauga

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

CHAIR, Jim Harris, St Clair

Paula Seamon, Autauga

Katherine Musso, Jefferson

PROJECT FUNDING COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Shelia Bolen, East Central

RECORDS & RETENTION COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Michael Thomason, Shoals

STATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Myra Lassere, Baldwin

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

2020 Mobile CO MGA, Rene' Reibling
& Judy Stout

2021 Calhoun Co MGA, Skeeter Sims
& Dick Pritchett

2022 Capital City MGA

**CONTINUING EDUCATION
COMMITTEE**

CHAIR: Kerry Smith State MG
Program

ADVISORY COUNCIL

CHAIR: Sondra Henley, Chilton

WEBSITE INFO APPROVAL:

Michael Thomason, Myra Lassere, Sue Khoury