

PATHWAYS

Summer 2020

Photo by Marianne Landman, SCCMGA

LOOK WHAT'S INSIDE

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Kerry Smith, State Advisor
State Master Gardeners
Program Coordinator
334-844-3036
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AMGA PRESIDENT

Michael Thomason



Hello Master Gardeners, the past few months have been trying times for the World, Our Country, Our State, and the Alabama Master Gardener Association. We have canceled monthly meetings; Plant sales and work activities. We have had to learn how to “**ZOOM**,” a totally different concept for what I expected. The onset of COVID-19 has upended our daily lives. Each of us had to change as we went about our daily tasks. I pray that you have stayed safe and healthy during this perilous time. We have had to take up the banner of the Marines; We have learned to improvise, adapt, and overcome.

We are working on the Annual Meeting to be held in conjunction with the Fall Seminar in September. This will be an abbreviated meeting in which we take care of the essential business of the Association, such as election/installation of board/nominating committee members, proposed by-laws revision, 2019 Annual meeting minutes, 2019 Financial Audit, and the 2020 Budget.

In this issue, as a reminder, we have included the list of the nominees for the board/nominating committee, proposed by-laws revision, 2019 Financial Audit report, proposed 2020 Budget. All of which will be voted on by the membership for approval.

In mid-August, be looking for an email that will include the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes, Business Meeting Agenda, and some of the committee reports for your review before the September meeting. We are doing it in this fashion to streamline and cut down on time spent in a meeting so we can enjoy our educational opportunities at the seminar. We will include a Quick Recognition of Major Award Winners. (could possibly have the names scrolling overhead during breaks and lunch). I want to congratulate all the award winners on whether you picked up a pin, badge, or award. Thank you for your time, effort, and hard work. Also, I want to thank everyone in the Association for all you do. It takes all of us to make this Association successful and I deeply appreciate your efforts.

Stay safe, stay healthy, Stay cool this Summer. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Michael

AMGA VICE PRESIDENT

Myra Lassere



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

As we progress down the path of whatever the future holds, whether good or bad, we can do it together, for this has certainly been an unprecedented time in our history. The pandemic has forced many changes for us and certainly the world. Although we continue to be met with uncertainty and many challenges, I know you, my fellow master gardeners, are strong, resilient and compassionate. You are adapting and are creating innovative ways to support one another and your community. Look outward at the people around us and in our neighborhoods and think of the many ways we can be of help. Your Board of Directors has met several times via Zoom and is diligently working to keep all safe during this challenging time.

My garden is spent having harvested most of the blueberries and the tomatoes, the last vestiges which survived Hurricane Cristóbal. The birds are singing. Roses, daylilies and hydrangeas are blooming. The scent of gardenias and magnolia blossoms fill the air. I smile as the cardinals and blue jays splash around the birdbath. Butterflies and hummingbirds visit the garden areas quite frequently. The pandemic has afforded me opportunities to reflect on what matters. These are the meaningful moments that I am grateful for along with the people in my life.

There is hope as we re-emerge from this pandemic. I look forward to the AMGA Fall Seminar in Prattville on September 17, 2020. On April 20-22, 2021, we will enjoy our Annual Conference and Business meeting hosted by Calhoun County MGA.

I hope and pray that you, your families and friends are staying safe, healthy and well! Also hoping all had a Happy 4th of July!

To Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow.

Myra



AMGA AWARDS

Devonne Ellis, Chair

I, along with others, could not help but be disappointed we did not have our AMGA Conference this year. I do understand the why, but many know I love seeing the faces of those who win an award. With that said, we do hope to announce the winners at the Fall Seminar in Prattville. Be sure and sign up for it, especially if you won an award.

Winners, based on AMGA Awards criteria, are as follows:

Top Hours of the Year: Debbie Boutilier, Autauga County Master Gardeners is recognized for a total of 2,139 volunteer hours during 2019.

Outstanding Newsletters: The winning submission for 60 and above AMGA Members with a website was Central Alabama Master Gardeners for *Garden Buzzzz*. The winning submission for AMGA Members without a website was Calhoun County Master Gardeners, *Sprouts*. There was no submission for up to 59 AMGA Members with a website.

Jean Lee Lifetime Hours: Sam Andrews, Baldwin County Master Gardeners, was awarded a Lifetime

AMGA Membership and received a Lifetime Badge for volunteering 10,430 Lifetime Hours.

The Gary Murray Outstanding Service and Dedication Award: Gay West who was nominated by the Chilton County Master Gardeners

Mary Lou McNabb, Alabama Master Gardener of The Year Award: Michael Thomason, Shoals Master Gardeners. Michael was awarded a Lifetime AMGA Membership and received a Lifetime Badge.

Twenty-four associations had members who qualified for Reach for the Stars Advanced Badges and Stars: 60 Gold Badges, 30 Platinum Badges, four Lifetime Badges, five Ruby Stars, three Emerald Stars, three Diamond Stars, two Amethyst stars, one Garnet Star and three Rainbow Stars.

It is wonderful recognizing those who volunteer their time for our Master Gardener programs across the state. Keep up the awesome work you all do!

I want to thank my awards committee this year. They are Dottye Pierce (MGNA), Patty Householder (Lee), Tanys Waldron (Baldwin), Amanda Redman (Blount) and Lyn Webb (Chilton). They did an amazing job this year. Also, Lee Ann Marona (Central Alabama) did an amazing job sending out stars to everyone.

AMGA ENDOWMENT

Rose McCauley, Chair

I want to thank Mobile County Master Gardeners for the hard work that was put into preparations for the 2020 Annual Conference. It was a great disappointment when the conference had to be canceled.

I am pleased to announce the AMGA Undergraduate Endowed Scholarship at Auburn University has a book value of \$100,206.92. AMGA awarded three scholarships for the 2019-2020 academic year to the following Auburn undergraduates: Frances Sledge, senior from Fairhope, AL; Alex Herndon, senior from Helena, AL and Katie Shadell, senior from Headland, AL.

The AMGA Graduate Endowment Fund has a book value of \$66,167.95. The 2019-2020 Graduate Award recipient was Jesse Teel of Auburn. Jesse received his Bachelor's Degree in Horticulture from Auburn University in 2013. He and his wife, Sara, spent a year working as AmeriCorps VISTA interns for EAT South in Montgomery, AL. After teaching English in China for three years, Jesse returned to Auburn to pursue his Master's Degree in Public Horticulture. His research is on locally produced food in the Auburn-Opelika area. Jesse is partnering with the

Alabama Extension "Alabama Food Hub Feasibility Study" through the CDC and Farm to School grant. He is grateful for this scholarship as he continues his studies at Auburn.

Associations that made contributions to the Graduate Endowment Fund for a total of \$13,889 in 2019-2020 were: Autauga County MGA, Capital City MGA, Chilton County MGA, Covington County MGA, Jefferson County MGA, Marshall County MGA, Master Gardeners of North Alabama, Morgan County MGA, Shoals MGA and St. Clair MGA. I want to give a special "thank you" to Shoals MGA, who contributed a total of \$6,000 to the Endowment Fund this year. I also want to thank those who sent memorial gifts.

We list donors to the endowment fund from Conference to Conference. If we left anyone out, please let me know so that I can correct the list. When contributing, please mail it to the AMGA Treasurer: Roger Clarke, 527 Greenbrier Way, Birmingham, AL 35224. Please be sure to include a member name and address with your contribution so that Auburn will be able to send an acknowledgment letter.

Thank you very much to the MG Associations and others who have contributed so generously to make these scholarships available for these deserving students at Auburn University.



AMGA NEWSLETTER

Patricia Peoples, Editor

I was encouraged to read all the news from around the counties! Many associations did not let COVID-19 slow them down. Where there is a will, there is a way. I certainly hope that wearing masks and social distancing is not the new norm – but, if so, we can handle it. Master Gardeners are fantastic and willing to do what it takes to help others.



SAVE THE DATES

August 4, 2020, Advisory Council Meeting
September 1, 2020, Board of Directors Meeting

September 17, 2020
Alabama Master Gardeners Fall Seminar

October 1, 2020
Native Myths for Gardeners
Blount County Fall Seminar

April 20 -22, 2021
AMGA Annual Conference
Calhoun County

AMGA NOMINATING

Jim Harris, Chair

The Nominating Committee recommends the following persons be elected for the listed positions:

Nominating Committee: Susan Hagan,
Term expires 2022

Board Member at Large: Anthony Yarborough,
Term expires 2023

Board Member at Large: Lyn Webb,
Term expires 2023

Submitted by:
Jim Harris, Chairman
Katherine Musso
Paula Seamon

AMGA PROJECT FUNDING

Sheila Bolen, Chair

Garden Projects! Oh, what a phrase! Brings joy to some and aches and sore muscles to most of us. Now that 2020 Project Funding checks have been sent, it is time to start thinking about 2021! Get your association together, put on your thinking caps, and come up with a project you can use to apply for a Project Funding Grant in 2021. Monies are there, so don't let them go unused! Last year there were 11 applications. In 2021, how can your community garden grow?

What electronics does your association need? What soil amendments do your community gardens need? The list can go on and on. Let's see if we can get more applications in 2021 than ever before. Project Funding Program information and forms can be found at <https://alabamamg.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Project-Funding-Program-8-3-12-aes12.pdf>. If you have any questions, please contact me at sheilabolen@hotmail.com.



AMGA TREASURER

Roger Clarke, Treasurer

The COVID-19 virus had a significant impact on the association by forcing us to cancel the 2020 annual conference that was to be held in Mobile.

All sponsorships, vendor fees, donations and advertising revenues were refunded along with individual registration fees, less a small service charge. In all, some four hundred checks were issued. I want to thank the Mobile conference team who helped with the refund process. I could not have completed the refunds without your help.

A special thanks to Linda Kloter, conference treasurer whose help was invaluable.

If you paid to register for the 2020 conference, you should have received a refund check. If you have not received a refund check, please contact me at roger1944clarke@gmail.com as soon as possible.

After the refund, your association continues to be in a very strong financial position, with total cash in the bank (checking account, money market account and certificates of deposit) of \$117,977 as of June 9, 2020, and no liabilities.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO AMGA BYLAWS

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF THE ALABAMA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

The following are proposed amendments to the AMGA Bylaws, which were approved by the AMGA Board of Directors on September 3, 2019, and January 21, 2020. Please review these amendments carefully and be prepared to vote on them during the AMGA Annual Business Meeting. You may want to refer to the current Bylaws, which were amended and adopted in May 2017 and are located on the AMGA website (www.alabamamg.org). Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on AMGA Bylaws.

Article III Membership

Under Section 3

Reads: Active Member: Active membership shall be limited to individuals who have successfully completed an approved Alabama Cooperative Extension System Master Gardener Training Program (hereinafter referred to as Master Gardener Program or the Program) and also fulfilled the Program's volunteer service requirements.....

Addand have paid their annual dues.

Under Section 5

Reads: Lifetime Member: Lifetime active membership may be granted to an Active member in good standing who expects to remain a member of the Association and who chooses to make a one-time payment of state dues. Lifetime Active membership also may be awarded to an individual Master Gardener for meritorious service to the Program or Association as determined deserving by the AMGA Board....

Add A Lifetime badge is "awarded" to a member who has received the Mary Lou McNabb Award or the Jean Lee Lifetime Hours Award or to those members achieving 10,000 plus lifetime hours. NO badge with the Lifetime member designation shall be given to those members making a one-time payment of state dues.

Article VI Committees

Under Section 1

Reads: The Association's standing committees shall be: Audit, Awards, Communications, Continuing Education, Endowment, Membership, Nominating, Fundraising, Project Funding, Records and Retention, and State Conference. The President, subject to the approval of the board, shall appoint all committees, except for the Nominating Committee.

Remove: Fundraising

BUDGET OVERVIEW: 2020 ADMINISTRATION FY20 P&L

January - December 2020

	Total
Income	
AWARDS PROGRAM RECEIPTS	1,000.00
IIINTEREST INCOME	18.00
MEMBERSHIP DUES	19,000.00
	\$
Total Income	20,018.00
	\$
Gross Profit	20,018.00
Expenses	
ADVISORY COUNSEL EXPENSE	300.00
AWARDS PROGRAM EXPENSE	2,600.00
Bank Charges & Fees	425.00
DOCUMENT STORAGE AND RETENTION	1,000.00
MCNABB AWARD	1,000.00
MEMBERSHIP EXPENSE	200.00
NEWSLETTER EXPENSE	4,600.00
Office Supplies & Software	750.00
POSTAGE EXPENSE	200.00
PROJECT GRANTS	10,000.00
SCHOLARSHIP AND AMGA ENDOWMENT EXPENSE	1,800.00
WEB SITE EXPENSE	5,000.00
	\$
Total Expenses	27,875.00
	-\$
Net Operating Income	7,857.00
	-\$
Net Income	7,857.00

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ALABAMA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**REPORT OF ANNUAL REVIEW OF TREASURER'S ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019**

The review committee met with Roger Clarke on January 30, 2020, at his residence at 527 Greenbriar Way, Birmingham, Alabama 35244

We performed the following reviews of the treasures records:

Reviewed the bank reconciliation for 2019.

Reviewed the documentation supporting all deposits made to the association's checking account in 2019 and compared to bank statements. We were unable to locate the supporting documents for two deposits recorded by the bank and one PayPal transfer. The missing documents were within the first six months of 2019.

Reviewed the documentation and approval for all checks issued in 2019 and compared to bank statements. We were unable to locate the supporting documents for several checks recorded by the bank. The missing documents were also within the first six months of 2019.

We have delivered other comments directly to the Board of Directors.

In our opinion, the records maintained by the treasurer for 2019 are adequate.

We wish to thank Roger Clarke for his help in performing our review.

January 30, 2020

2019 review committee:

Ann Scharko

Jim Wakefield

Audrey Giles (not present)

Celebrate Strength and Seek Unexplored Opportunities

Looking back at this extraordinary spring, I've been amazed by the many accomplishments of MG Volunteers and the whole Home Grounds team. The phrase GO TEAM consistently comes to mind but can't completely describe how proud I am in everyone's endeavors and experiments. Thank you for everyone's tremendous team spirit.

Central Alabama MGA-MG, Mary Ann Hatcher, has almost single-handedly managed the Helpline calls from the southern half of Alabama.

Several Jefferson County MGA-MGs, Kate Musso, Ann Gray Harvey, and Susan McNamara teamed up to answer all Helpline calls for the northern half of the state.

Jefferson County MGA-MGs, Laura Kezar, Cathy O'Sheal, Kate Musso, Leah Twillman, and Mindy Bodenhamer were instrumental in shaping a new program, *Grow More Give More*. <https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/products-program-s-lawn-garden/grow-more-give-more/>

Plant sales – Kudos to all for your creativity and the highest attention to detail regarding public safety. Vicki Morese in Morgan County MGA, Jan Shirley and Devonne Ellis in Wiregrass MGA, Debbie Boutelier in Autauga MGA, and Bob Haynes in St. Clair MGA, just to name a few.

Harvest for Health continued – 75 MG Mentors and Liaisons faithfully called their cancer survivors, not just once, but several times per month to offer encouragement and support. One survivor was so inspired by this program; she's become one of Rhonda Britton's rain barrel groupies

Home-made masks – Many, many of you sewed and donated 6,000+ masks between February and April. I suspect you've surpassed 10,000 by now!

Bee A Gardener, Alabama! – #beeagardener. Amanda Borden and Phyllis Clay, members of our Extension-MG Steering Committee, dreamed up this project to promote Home Grounds and MG programs. <https://www.facebook.com/events/2396884067277132/>

Extension Home Grounds webinars, over 70! You were faithful participants, helped publicize, and volunteered as speakers too. Special thanks to Lee and Amanda Borden, Central Alabama MGA-MGs, Devonne Ellis, Beth Arnold, and Lisa Ennis, all Wiregrass MGA-MGs.

High marks to the MG Interns (having web access) who braved the scary new world of live-class lectures in Zoom. 100 Interns completed or nearly completed their training online.

MG training class coordinators who stayed in touch with and encouraged Intern MGs. Regina Ford, Etowah County MGA, and Kaye Hillis, Shoals MGs, along with many, many more!

Community garden projects led and supported by MGs. I have no idea the harvest so far this year, but expect it's impressive. What a tremendous outreach effort!

I'm certain there are many more outstanding activities unknown to me. In short, keep up the good work!

Looking ahead, we must always stay focused on the foundation of our Extension and MG values. In this time of social stress, please help us ensure our commitment to the actions that enhance humanity and reject those that cause division. We know in our gardener souls that gardening is a universal activity where everyone can thrive. As members of the Home Grounds team and illustrated in the examples above, help us to continue expanding our efforts to be a positive force within every community.

Thank you for all the little and big things you do in support of Alabama Extension.



Home Grounds Team Co-leader and Master Gardener State Program Coordinator
Auburn University AL 36849, smithkp@auburn.edu



IN MEMORY OF E. C. LEWIS

Were you ever at a Master Gardener activity when the big guy with a crew cut and suspenders showed up? That big guy was E.C. Lewis from Chilton County. Master Gardeners throughout Alabama knew him since he attended and participated in local meetings, picnics and plant sales, as well as state workshops and conferences, AMGA Board and AC meetings and the list goes on. If it involved MGs, you often would find him there. And as his daughter, Cathy Canant (MG, Shelby Co.) said, generally after the meetings ended you would find him and his trusty sidekick, MG Bill Legg, enjoying the cocktail hour with any other MGs who were around.

E.C., originally from Birmingham, moved to Chilton County for the fishing, after he retired. Then he discovered the master gardeners and as the saying goes, the rest is history. He became a member of the Chilton Co. MGs in 1998 and worked on many local projects. However, he soon was working on communications and relationships among all the state master gardener associations. His daughter Cathy said "I believe his years of involvement with MG were the happiest years of

his life. ... once he got involved and learned how the program worked in other states, he truly felt a passion to try and elevate the Alabama program to the same level ... thus transforming him into the political animal he was well known as."

He served as secretary of the AMGA Board and as chair of the Advisory Council, as well as serving on other AMGA committees. At the 2008 AMGA Conference, in recognition of his tireless work and love for the MG Program, he received a special Alabama Master Gardeners Ambassador Award, which was created in his honor. For once in his life, he was almost at a loss for words.

In later years, E. C. continued to attend many AMGA activities using his fancy Rollator when necessary, and if there was a happy hour at the end of the day, that is where you would find him.

We were saddened to learn that E. C. passed away early on the morning of May 14, 2020, at the age of 93. Our sympathies go out to E.C.'s family and also to all the Alabama MGs who had the opportunity to work with this remarkable man.

Brenda Tapp, MGNA
Jean Lee, MGNA



Cathy Lewis Canant—E. C. Lewis



Alabama Master Gardeners Fall Seminar



“Fall” in Love with Your Garden

HOSTED BY:



Contact Info: Rose McCauley jrmprat@charter.net 334-365-3112

ACMGA is taking extra precautions to ensure your health & safety during this seminar.

Thursday,
September 17, 2020

9:30 am – 3:45 pm

Cost \$30.00

SESSIONS:

Dr. Leila Scott Kelly

Butterfly Magnets: Adding Plants to your Fall Garden to aid with the Migration of Butterflies

Debbie Boutelier

People, Plants & Pollinators: The Native Connection

Dr. Fudd Graham

All Insects are Not Pests! Identifying & Encouraging Native Insects in Your Garden

AMGA Annual Meeting

Optional: ACMGA Public Gardens Tour

3 CEUs will be earned

LOCATION:

Trinity United Methodist Church
610 Fairview Avenue, Prattville, AL 36066

Registration Form:

Deadline to register is September 9, 2020

Name: _____ E-mail _____

Address: _____

Master Gardener Association/County: _____

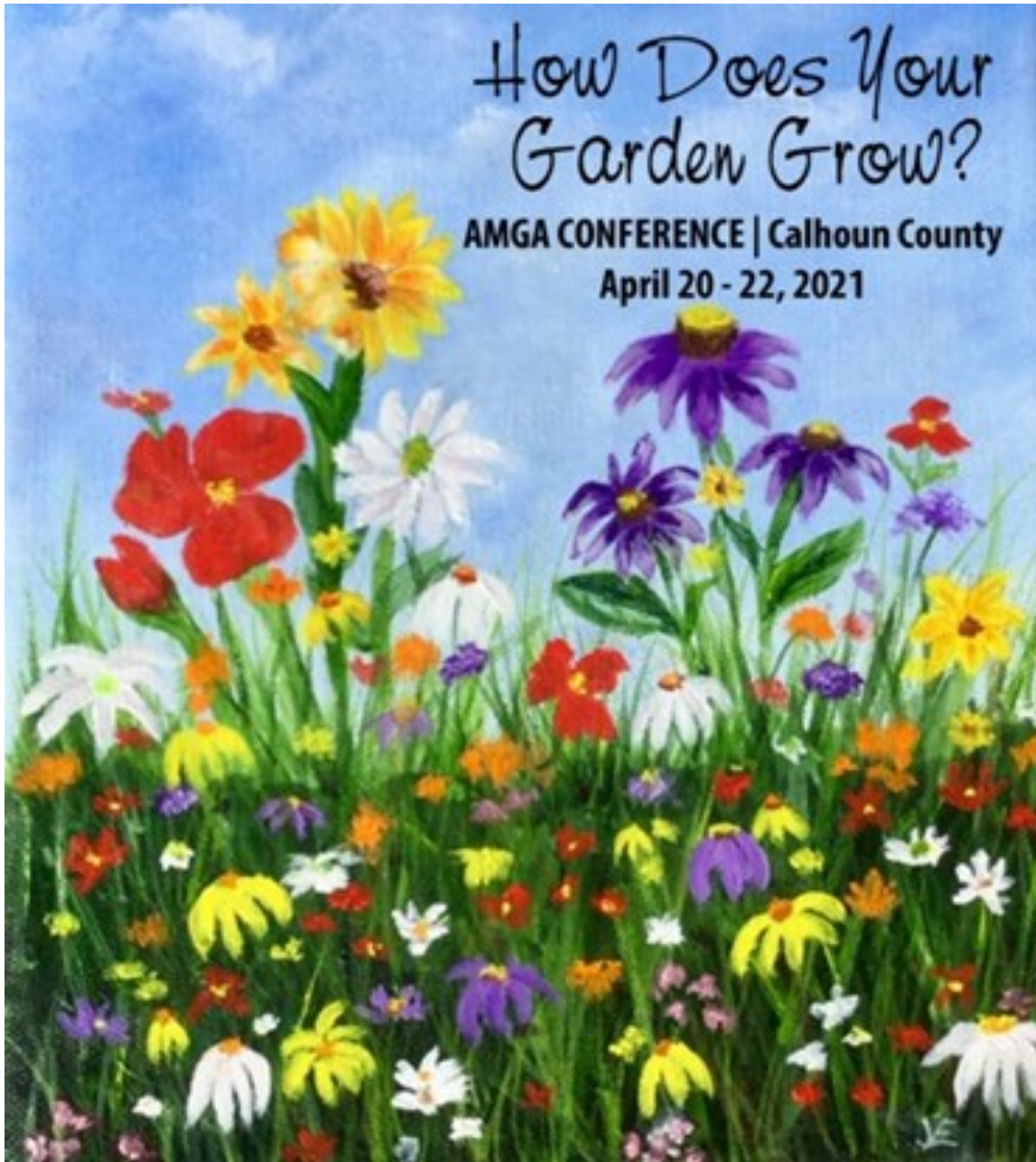
Lunch Preference: _____ Turkey _____ Ham _____ Vegetarian

Optional: Garden Tour with 4 Locations on Wednesday, Sept 16th 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Please circle: Yes No

Optional: ACMGA Public Gardens Tour on Thursday, September 17th 4:00 pm Please circle: Yes No

Optional Hotel Information: La Quinta Inn, 261 Interstate Commercial Park Loop, Prattville, AL 36066 334-310-0869
Hampton Inn, 2590 Cobbs Ford Road, Prattville, AL 36066 334-285-6767

Mail Registration Form & Check Payable to ACMGA to: Rose McCauley, 252 Berry Lane, Prattville, AL 36066



AMGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE— CALHOUN COUNTY

APRIL 20—22, 2021

LOOK FOR FRONT PAGE NEWS
IN THE FALL EDITION OF PATHWAYS!

Save the Date

2022 AMGA Conference

May 2 - 4, 2022

Behind the Garden Gate



Hosted by *Capital City and Central Alabama*
Master Gardener Associations
Montgomery, Alabama



HAPPENINGS

Summer 2020

AUTAUGA CO MGA

Nancy Waggoner

As April 2020 approached, it became apparent that the annual ACMGA Plant Sale would not occur. A proposal was made to have a virtual plant sale utilizing our technological tools for members to sell the plants they had been preparing but to each other instead of the public. Types of plants available were posted in e-mail communications to the entire association. Members interested in acquiring any of these plants would respond to the individual who had them available, requesting to “buy” them. Arrangements were then made for the plant exchanges. Methods varied: some sellers left plants in their home driveway for buyers to pick up; others dropped off plants at a buyer’s house. Some, keeping a distance, met at the seller’s or buyer’s home and an actual personal exchange took place. “Buyers” were asked to send a check to the ACMGA Treasurer for whatever value they assigned to the acquired plant; generosity was encouraged.

Feedback began trickling in - everyone was having fun! Members were networking with members, gardens were visited and admired, plants were identified and discussed, growing tips were shared, lovely sit-down visits occurred, and cars and trucks were packed with plants to go. Masked or keeping a distance, members eager for social interaction had someplace

worthwhile to go and someone with a common interest to talk to. One of the best benefits of this sale is the fact that we now have pieces of each other’s gardens in our garden! There have been several comments about having a member-only sale again in the future.

Tentative plans are for an ACMGA Plant Sale this fall, open to the public.



Plants were set out in a seller’s driveway for buyers to pick up. Photo by Nancy Waggoner

BALDWIN CO MGA

Julian Walthall

Baldwin County MGs, like others throughout the state, had many activities curtailed because of the COVID-19 crisis. We have, though, tried to make the best of the challenges by working with our twenty spring Interns to continue their classes online. We were able to point them toward achieving the required hours by additional online seminars. Generally, We encouraged them with contacts from their mentors, from Pam Tucker, our Intern Coordinator, and our now retired Regional Extension Agent Mike McQueen, who continued to organize their classes though he had retired. Many of them have accomplished their volunteer hours and we eagerly await awarding them their badges in person as soon as it is safe and feasible to do so.

In this strange time, we have also continued our scholarship program for college students in horticultural related fields. We're pleased to award two scholarships this year that totaled \$3,500 to John Kelley of Robertsdale and Garrett Springs of Daphne. Also, we introduced a new grant program this year for high school Agri science programs and made a \$1,500 grant to the Daphne High School Greenhouse. The gift



BLOUNT CO MGA

Sherry Brewer

Even with the Covid-19 quarantine and all plans canceled, we did not give up hope. Many members (distancing, of course) swapped plants, shared seeds, sewed masks, helped their neighbors with garden tips and planning, helped teach students, and spent time at home honing gardening skills. Happily, on June 9, we celebrated our Annual Summer Picnic at Locust Fork Park with a fish and chicken fry and covered dishes. We celebrated, laughed, ate, and prayed for our members, our communities, our country, and our world. All agreed that during this solemn and trying time, we must look forward to the future with hope. We found that we have greatly missed and needed socializing! Amanda Redmon continues (on Facebook) to encourage sharing photos in the "Bee A Gardener AL" initiative to encourage novice gardeners to take pictures of beneficial creatures in our gardens. We are also promoting #Growmoregivemore, encouraging others to grow and share. Our Monthly meetings resume in August, with daytime Monday meetings at the Frank Green building in Oneonta. Chairpersons are

will be used for roof repairs and to make changes to the premises better to facilitate field trips by elementary and middle school students. We're excited to be helping our local schools in this way.

Our BCMG Board, meeting by way of ZOOM significantly aided by our techie Jim Whitson, approved the reinstating of the Garden of Eatin' Project. This is a wildflower, herb garden, cut flower and garden plot rental project in conjunction with Jubilee Shores United Methodist Church in Fairhope. We hope that this project under Susie Wallace's leadership will greatly encourage the planting and enjoyment of ornamentals in our area as well as providing family garden plots.

Considering our Board's decision to hold off on any in-person meetings for the near future, we are planning to use ZOOM for our monthly general meeting in June and July. Our new ACES Extension Agent for Baldwin and Mobile counties, Jack LeCroy, is providing the expertise for us to be able to do this. Besides our usual business meeting, we have two excellent programs planned: In June, "Boxes for BBBs (Bats, Bees, Butterflies);" in July, "Sea Turtles and the Effect of Artificial Light." This latter program will undoubtedly help those of us who live near the coast be more aware of the crucial need for greater conservation of this important coastal species.

working hard to plan our support for the Blount County local fair in September. Members are encouraged to volunteer, gather their homemade items and exotic plants, and support the fair. We plan to end 2020 strong!



President Steve Norris happily welcomes members and guests to the Annual Summer Picnic on June 9. Photo by Sherry Brewer

CALHOUN CO MGA

Sherry Blanton

As with groups over the state, these months have been low key for our Association.

We had a great turnout for our monthly business meeting on June 10 (without a program or a shared lunch); we were able to social distance as we met under our pavilion. Badges and one pin were given to members. Our president presented the AMGA award for our newsletter, *Sprouts*.

We are looking toward a summer social for our July meeting. A member has prepared a PowerPoint "brag book," allowing us to share our gardens.

We used the ZOOM format for our May and June Lunch and Learn programs. It is too early to know what July holds for Lunch and Learn.

Two of the major sites where our volunteers work, Longleaf Botanical Gardens and Coosa Valley Attention Home, have yet to open as of June 14. A third site, Cane Creek Community Gardens (our home site) is open (after being closed for many weeks). The Cane Creek Volunteer Crew has designed and installed a "Sweet Tea" garden with a focus on native plants. An AMGA grant helped finance this effort.

This break has given our members the opportunity to catch up in their personal gardens.

Our Association will be concentrating on the Conference in 2021 to be held in our county.

Stay safe and healthy.



Members of the Cane Creek Volunteer Crew social distance: from left to right: Gene Lockette, Geri Jones, and Elaine Williams. Photo by Sherry Blanton



CAPITAL CITY MGA

Mary Eleanor Hines

With masks on and keeping social distance, CCMGA has groomed the gardens that we are committed to maintaining.

Cathy Maddox reports that in May, the monthly volunteer day at the Montgomery Botanical Gardens, (a major project of CCMGA) brought many groups together to contribute to the beauty of the gardens. CCMGA members, Daylily Society members, Federation of Garden Clubs and MBG Board members volunteered their time and efforts to the Southern Garden, the Pollinator Garden, Daylily and Perennials Bed, the Biblical Garden, the greenhouse, and a general sprucing up. The camaraderie, the experiential learning and the visual results were quite rewarding to all.

Karin Carmichael and her committee have been busy at the Rose-Morris House Garden in Old Alabama Town this spring. CCMGA members removed the old drip system and completely redesigned and installed a new one. New perennials and bulbs were added to the established beds to fill in where some plants had been thinned out. Forty-seven plant identification signs were ordered and installed, which greatly enhances the educational aspect of the garden.

Ann Oldham and her committee have also beautified Lilly's Garden at Forest Avenue School to the point of being a show stopper to passersby.

CCMGA's Anne Waldo was honored on June 8 by the designation of the garden at the entrance of Hazel Hedge Lane as "Anne Waldo's Garden." She has lived in the community for 19 years and has daily worked and maintained the lovely garden.



Susan Carmichael is working at Lilly's Garden at Forest Avenue School in Montgomery. Photo by M.E. Hines

CENTRAL ALABAMA MGA

Elmore County

Iva Haynie

The Coronavirus thwarted some of our plans in the spring and summer. We may be down, but not out. There were webinars available and virtual garden tours to keep us in the loop. Monthly meetings were held by Zoom. The adage *Where there is a Will, there is a Way* applies.

In May, we held a member-only, honor system,



CHEAHA MGA

Debby Mathews

COVID-19 brought our plans for a community-wide spring plant sale to a screeching halt. Now we are planning a fall plant sale for September 26. We hope we get to have this event! As we all know, fall is a perfect time to plant just about everything, so we hope to encourage people to add beautiful plants to their yards then. We began planning the fall plant sale on June 16 on the deck of the Extension building.

Before the meeting, Cheaha MGs gathered to deadhead roses at the Extension building. Several years ago, the CMGs planted sixteen double Knockout rose bushes in the front of the office, so there was plenty of work for all of us to do. After working on the roses, on the way to the deck, we stopped by the Extension demonstration garden to admire the new educational signage for the Three Sisters garden. The sweet corn, Blue Lake pole beans, squash plants and Sugar Pie Pumpkin vines were all looking healthy!

plant sale with restrictions of no more than ten participants at any given time and wearing masks and gloves.

The Millbrook Farmer's Market is open and Master Gardeners are there to answer questions and pass out information.

Plans are being made for activities later in the year. Hopefully, we will be able to carry those out. We will get through this downtime and come out stronger on the other side.



Pictured deadheading roses (left to right) are Ann Jones, Marie Rhoden, and Carol Wright.
Photo by Debby Mathews, MG



GARDENING

It grounds us ...gets us out of our busy heads and back into our bodies.

Alone there on our knees, we can breathe. With our nurturing hands duly occupied,

while gardening we allow ourselves the time and space to truly feel

peace, pride, satisfaction, joy.

Cardies

CHILTON CO MGA

Susan M Cleckler

Happy Summer, Everyone!

Chilton County's plant sale scheduled for April was canceled like so many others. However, we sold plants to our neighbors, friends, friends of friends, and church members, so not all was lost! We also had to cancel our Thorsby School Project, which we hope to continue this fall.

To find the positive in these uncertain times, our MGs have been busy in their gardens. CCMGA's private FB group page has been loaded with pictures of their vegetable gardens and flower gardens. It has been a sight to see! If nothing else, we have all been able to catch up on our garden chores.



ETOWAH CO MGA

Carol Link

Due to the COVID-19 shutdown, ECMGA, Inc. canceled meetings for April, May and June. Still, monthly newsletters and group emails continued to be distributed to all members and new Interns to keep them informed of all association activities that occur.

Because of the shutdown, the new Master Gardener training program had to be completed online. The students who completed the class are now working toward accruing the required number of volunteer service hours required to become Master Gardeners.

In June, a group of Master Gardeners and Interns completed the landscaping of the newest Habitat for Humanity house to be completed in Gadsden. Six Master Gardeners and four Interns worked on this project.

Because of the ongoing shutdown, the Association's annual sale was held but was conducted quite differently than in previous years. Instead of working two full days on April 17 and 18, a group of Master Gardeners, practicing social distancing, worked each morning during the

To take the place of our Master Gardener activities, several of our members made face masks for our area hospitals, nursing homes, and first responders as well as friends. At last count, Chilton County members made close to 1,000 masks for our community.

CCMGA's 2020 Intern Class would find themselves in the middle of a pandemic. Because our Intern class was interrupted, we will be working with them to complete their classes and volunteer requirements as soon as it is safe to meet again.

We all look forward to getting back to "normal" again to work on our projects. The most important thing is we all stay safe and healthy; the rest will come!

week before that weekend, from 9 am to 12 noon, selling as many plants as possible. Because a great deal of association funding was involved in growing plants and vegetables, workers tried to recoup as much money as possible to cover expenses, and they succeeded in the endeavor.



A group of ten Master Gardeners and new Interns worked to complete the landscape of the latest home addition, which was recently completed by Gadsden's Habitat for Humanity. In no particular order, workers involved in the landscaping were Master Gardeners, Dale Garner, Dave Tumlin, Dan Weeks, Mary Walker, Barbara Harrington, and Regina Ford. The Interns were John Crane, Candy Sweetin, Leslie Ware, and Bethany Kelly. Photo by Regina Ford

JACKSON CO MGA

Bill Caudill

We hope everyone is doing well. We stayed home, gardened, made home improvements, and hoped to get things rolling again soon. We left the house and held our Annual Ice Cream Social on June 4. The gathering enjoyed ordered in pizza, salad, and ice cream cake. Thanks to the servers who helped keep things in order. Can you see the smiles? More to come?

The maintenance and revitalization continue on Jackson County Park walking trail flower beds each Thursday morning, starting about 8:00 am and continue until we quit. Everyone is welcome to drop in and help.

Our 2020 Master Gardener Class was completed on-line. We congratulate the Interns on their dedication.

We were saddened by the recent loss of member

Janice Hanson, May 19, member Harry Lee Swaim died June 2, and friend of Jackson County Park - Vernon Bush on May 17.



Our annual ice cream social, masked and social distancing, for sure. Photo by Dane Goff



JEFFERSON CO MGA

Fletcher Harvey

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times."

Most folks are familiar with Charles Dickens's opening to "A Tale of Two Cities." In these unsettling and unprecedented times, the words still resonate with a good amount of truth. But how many remember, just a few words further, a phrase reflecting on the "spring of hope?"

In spite of viruses and mandates, spring DID come with its promise of rebirth and hope. No surprise, Master Gardeners showed their resiliency and dedication to what they do, even from isolation and through ZOOM and other technology.

Jefferson County gives special thanks to Bethany O'Rear, our "guardian agent," who has managed to keep things moving and Kerry Smith and ACES who have created webinars and other programs to keep us abreast of the times. Ann Gray Harvey, Susan McNamara and Kate Musso have diligently answered the two Master Gardener Helplines as well as the State Helpline, remotely as it were.

Many have sewn masks, provided meals where necessary, donated food to food banks, run errands and shopped for many who found themselves under "house arrest."

Thanks to ZOOM (and pure dedication of participants) our Master Gardener Class of 2020 is still on track for graduation in the fall.

We're looking forward to the day when we can again share space IN PERSON and continue to share our triumphs as well as tribulations. It WILL come. Meanwhile, keep your distance, wear your mask, use common sense and remember gardeners are special people. Master Gardeners are extra special!



A promise of spring (Indian Pinks.) photo by Fletcher Harvey

MARSHALL CO MGA

Elaine Benzio Hild

Marshall County MGs are complying with the state about social distancing, especially indoors, so no meetings since February. At that meeting, Mr. Bill Caudill, a Jackson County MG, presented a program on mini-greenhouses. We are so looking forward to in-person meetings.

While COVID-19 stopped us, it didn't stop spring and the garden season from arriving in the CASA garden. At the beginning of March, the carrots that were planted in the fall were harvested and 50 pounds of carrots were donated to the TESA Thrift Store and Food Pantry in Arab, AL. The season of donating to CASA began the third week of May with the harvesting of 18 cabbages (four different varieties.) a total of 54 pounds. (see photo.)

Along with the cabbages, there are also smaller Ziplock bags of perennial herbs, lettuce, spinach or radishes. When their harvest season ends, then the next type of vegetables begins. This week has started the beginning of yellow crookneck squash and yellow zucchini. CASA has given us a schedule, so we know how many bags of food we need to have ready for pick up on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. One plant new to us this year is an heirloom tomato from Spain, given to Master Gardener, Tom Andress, by a traveling family member. Its name is Montserrat and it

originated in Catalonia, Spain. We hear it is tasty. It is wonderful to get outside and garden while supplying nutritious food to citizens of Marshall County.



The cabbages in the CASA garden. Photo by Elaine Benzio Hild



Adversity has the effect
of eliciting talents,
which in prosperous circumstances
would have lain dormant.

Horace

MASTER GARDENERS OF NORTH ALABAMA (MGNA)

Ann Tippie

Like many other associations, MGNA has been having monthly Zoom board meetings. We had our first Zoom general meeting on June 11. Fifty-one members logged in to participate. Our speaker, Soozie Pline, did a fantastic job on the topic of invasive plants. A big thank you to our REA Rhonda Britton for setting this up for us. We are planning to host a Zoom workshop in the near future and, hopefully, some lunch and learns.

Our annual plant sale was planned for April 25, but of course, we had to cancel. We are planning to have a combination plant, rummage and craft sale on Saturday, September 25, from 8 to 3 in the A&M Agribition Center in Huntsville. Our members will donate the plants and other items we sell. We have an ongoing "buy a brick" fundraiser for purchasing our greenhouse someday.

We have several projects that are once again operational. We have started back work in the

Demonstration Vegetable Garden at the Huntsville Botanical Garden, with just two people allowed to participate at a time. We also have been able to work with Habitat for Humanity. We have missed working on our other projects and hope it won't be too long until we can get back to them.



Soozie Pline, speaker for our June meeting.
Photo by Jessica Thornburg



IN MY GARDEN

There is a large place

For sentiment.

My garden of flowers

Is also my garden

Of thoughts and dreams.

The thoughts grow as

Freely as the flowers and

The dreams are as

Beautiful.

Abram L. Urban

MOBILE CO MGA

Carol Williams

Mobile County Master Gardener for May was Rene' Reibling, our co-chair, along with Judy Stout, of the 2020 AMGA Annual conference, canceled due to COVID-19. Our Master Gardener for June is Judy Weaver, who worked hundreds of hours managing contracts and facilities for AMGA 2020. We want to send a special thanks to these three members for working on wrapping up the conference cancelation without major financial loss to AMGA. We also want to thank committee chairs, volunteers, and members who donated time, talents, materials, and money. The unused goods from this conference have been donated to the 2021 Conference Committee of Calhoun County.

Mobile County Master Gardeners haven't let quarantine stop us. We have had Board meetings, general

meetings, and committee meetings online instead of in person. We have 147 active members, as we heard in our May general meeting. We had a timely guest speaker, Mrs. Norma Samuel, from UF/IFAS Extension Service, speaking about Insects and Diseases of Vegetables and their Control, accompanied by a thorough PowerPoint presentation, all by way of ZOOM.

The June General Meeting was also held on ZOOM. We learned that our 2020 Intern class of 15 or more would begin August 12, with social distancing. Our guest speaker was Gene Sellier, Baldwin County Master Gardeners whose topic was Boxes for Bees, Butterflies and Bats, intended to keep these three pollinators in or near your garden.

For more information, see : <https://www.mobilecountymastergardeners.org/>. This is the address of our new website, mentioned in our April article, that is now up and running!



Our MCMG June Board Meeting on ZOOM: (from top left) Jack LeCroy, ACES Master Gardener Coordinator; Judy Weaver, Ellen Killough, Janet Waters, Vicki Tindle, Carol Eskridge, Alice Marty, Julie Conrey, President Joan McCracken, Dorothy White, Carol Williams, Linda Kloter, Jo Hayes, Don Fry, Catherine McLeod, Mary Nash. Photo by Judy Weaver

MORGAN CO MGA

Vicki Morese

The Birthing of a New Association

The Morgan County Master Gardeners have been busy this summer, practicing social distancing, but working to be mentors for the Interns of the new Lawrence County Master Gardener Class. Mentoring has been very successful for our organizations in terms of securing new members and volunteers.

With the Lawrence County Master Gardener class, the COVID-19 hit right in the middle of the program. Many of the students continued to attend through the ZOOM programs offered by ACES. The Lawrence County students have been very active with our Morgan County Master Gardeners. Several attend our greenhouse each week and volunteer and learn hands-on care for plants, trees and shrubs.

Norris Johnston, our designated guru for helping Interns navigate the registration process on the ACES website, has maintained contact through email to answer questions and assist those wanting to register and start their volunteer hours log.

Vicki Morese, with the help of fellow Master Gardener Larry Moss and Allyson Shabel, Urban Regional Extension Agent, has worked with a Lawrence County non-profit organization, The Jackson House Foundation, to provide a local volunteer project for the Lawrence County Master Gardener students to get hours on a local project.

The Lawrence County Interns logged many hours at the Lawrence County Farmers Market, talking with patrons about plants and their care.



Photos Left to Right, Judy Ramos, John Sims, Shirle Rogers, Wayne "Bud" Rogers. Photo by Vicki Morese

PIKE CO MGA

Elaine Knight

The past few months have been very trying for our country. Something we never expected to happen came upon us and changed our world. Even our Master Gardener meetings were canceled, and our plans for the year were postponed. So, what do Master Gardeners do when they are quarantined because of a virus? Since we are gardeners, and it is spring, we begin doing what we do best—GARDEN.

Judy Griswold says her daylilies, irises and phlox look great. She also has an herb garden. Her gardening keeps her outside, which benefits the garden and the gardener. She is also rooting plants for the Master Gardener Sale and teaching young gardeners by means of social distancing.

Nancy Powell has no weeds or grass in her garden but admits that her husband takes care of this chore. She says she has not been bored since

she is busy canning vegetables and making zucchini bread. Nancy enjoys her gardening but can't wait for the Master Gardeners to meet again.

Leigh Caulk has been potting her tomatoes, that she started from seed, in five-gallon buckets. She purchased a new pressure cooker and will be taking an online course to learn about pressure canning and water bath canning. Since more people are growing gardens today, the knowledge about food storage is very necessary. In her backyard, Kay Jinright has garden tubs filled with squash, tomatoes, peppers, and okra. She also has been canning and freezing some of her vegetables that she began from seed. Her tub garden and her flower beds keep her very active during the summer months.

Although the Pike County Master Gardeners have been busy in their yards, they are ready for the virus to be over so they can begin their meetings again and get back to work.



SHELBY CO MGA

Kate Vogel

The Shelby County Master Gardeners got in one last meeting before everything closed due to COVID-19. Olivia Barone, the City of Montevallo's new Sustainability Coordinator, spoke at our March 13 meeting. This is a new position and she had been on the job for four months. She facilitates recycling and waste reduction and noted we produce 267.8 million TONS of waste nationally each year: 22% is food, (worldwide one-third of food is lost/wasted every year), 19% is plastic, 13% is paper/paperboard. In Shelby County, we send 850 tons of waste daily to our landfill! Ways to reduce waste/trash were discussed, including composting, using recycled items in gardening, etc.

To celebrate National Gardening Day and Earth Day, Master Gardeners and one spouse observed social distancing and worked in SCMGA's beds in Montevallo's Seed-to-Table Community Garden, Saturday, April 18. The beds were cleaned, composted and planted. All produce goes to

Shelby Emergency Assistance (SEA), which provides food to those in crisis.

In addition to the four SCMGA beds, three beds tended by the Peewee Master Gardeners in Montevallo's Alabama First 4K class were prepared. The produce will also go to SEA this summer. The beds will be replanted later with fall crops in hopes the kids will be able to return to school.



SCMGA Projects Chair Denis Stanek took a picture of his wife Laurel watering one of the raised beds.

SHOALS MGA

Cynthia Kershaw

Shoals Master Gardeners are a resilient group of people. When we received word about the COVID-19 pandemic, we quickly tried to adjust our schedules. We were rescheduling monthly meeting speakers and trying to determine what we would do with projects that needed to be completed during the spring.

We were concerned about our annual plant sale, but as the restrictions lifted, our plant sale co-chairpersons met with other board members. We got good at meeting in parking lots while observing social distancing. Our plant sale was a success, thanks to the leadership of Pam Arias and Linda Brewer.

Several of our projects have been postponed, and we are starting to work on other projects around the Shoals area. Although none of our projects are large, we have 10 projects that vary from zero to \$500.

We are looking forward to some wonderful and informative meetings this summer. Peggy Hill, former contributor to *Alabama Gardener*, will be sharing some of the newest cultivars for our gardens at our June meeting. Sherry Kirk, a SMG, will be sharing Container Gardening information at the July meeting. Justin Murphy

will be presenting an interesting program on Vertical Aeroponics at the August meeting. Harry Wallace, owner of Little Cypress Nursery will be presenting a program on Native Plants at the September meeting.

We were disappointed that the AMGA Conference was cancelled this year. We missed seeing Shoals Master Gardener Michael Thomason receive the Mary Lou McNabb Award for 2020.



Plant Sale Co-Chairs, Linda Brewer and Pam Arias. Photo by Wray Dillard



*Everything that slows us down
and forces patience,
everything that sets us back
into the slow circles of nature,
is a help.*

Gardening is an instrument of grace.

ST CLAIR CO MGA

Pam Garrison

St. Clair County Master Gardeners were busy while social distancing. Numerous Zoom classes by Extension allowed us to stay current on information and our CEU's. We've had several workdays at the Lakeside Park Native Walking Trail. Members have weeded, scrubbed benches, and spread a dump truck load of shredded mulch.

On May 21, we completed a community service project beautifying the Welcome to Moody sign on Highway 411. Workdays have taken place at Gateway Gardens.

Our plant sale was on the first two Wednesdays of the Pell City Farmers Market, thanks to the work and perseverance of Lee Ann Clark, our Extension Coordinator, Bob Haynes, our MG President, and Sara Zannis, the Plant Sale Chairperson.



Our members doing community service at the Welcome to Moody sign. Photo by Pam Garrison



TALLAPOOSA CO MGA

Laura Broome

Before COVID-19 placed a hold on our monthly meetings, Service Awards were given at the February meeting. The Bronze Star was awarded to Barbara Butler, Susan Griffin and Mary Neilson. Outstanding Service certificates were awarded to Terri McCutcheon, Gail Bolt, Judy Heinzmen and Donna McCain. Interns who have

completed their Master Gardner hours are Terri McCutcheon, Diana Stephens, Donna McCain, Rusty Marcel, John Marcel, and Laura Broome. The Coronavirus was not able to put a damper on our annual fundraiser. Although the Native Azaleas had already been ordered before Alabama tentatively "closed down," close to 300 plants were sold online and by word of mouth. It was a great success, in spite of the restrictions. Stay safe, and GARDEN ON!

WIREFRASS MGA

Chuck McManus

The Wiregrass Master Gardeners Spring Plant Sale was certainly a different challenge this year due to social distancing. First, we sold plants by orders to members who then picked up their orders at our greenhouse. We were then given an opportunity to sell plants using display tables in concert with the Dothan Area Botanical Gardens to the general public. This was a tremendous success and allowed us to sell additional plants, which in some cases would have gone to waste. Already the Master Gardeners are at work preparing for the Fall Plant Sale, September 11-12, which hopefully will be a more traditional sale.

The demo beds at Dothan Area Botanical Gardens have also been continuously maintained throughout the spring. They have done extremely well and produce from the beds is donated to the Wiregrass Area Food Bank.

Although Landmark Park was closed much of the spring, the Kitchen Garden was continuously maintained under the care of the Master Gardeners. Now that the park has reopened, visitors can see what the lifestyle of rural farm families at the turn of the century looked like. Master Gardeners plan, plant and tend the garden and provide information to the visiting public. Produce from the garden is also donated to the Wiregrass Area Food Bank.

The Wiregrass Master Gardeners will support the Watermelon Tasting event at Landmark Park on July 11, at 10 am. Coordinated by Master Gardener Tom Boyle, visitors get to sample several varieties of watermelons grown at Landmark Park. This is a very popular event for Master Gardeners and the public. Many watermelon facts are shared with the public about this flowering ground vine from the gourd family.



Left to Right: Helen-Sue Kemp and Sara Jo Adams tending the demo beds at Dothan Area Botanical Gardens. Photo by Chuck McManus



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We've Got Answers

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