



Special Points of
Interest:

Award Winners

Nominations
being accepted

Inside this
issue:

Announcing the Winners!	1
President's Message Message	3
Nominations	3
Fundraising	4
Kerry's Message	5
Board Highlights	6
AC Group	6
Conference Collage	7
Happenings	11
Links	30

www.alabamamg.org

AMGA Website



Garden Pathways



Summer 2014

Volume 14 Issue 58

ANNOUNCING THE AWARD WINNERS

The AMGA Awards Committee consisting of Tany Waldron-Baldwin County, Jerry Belcher - Capital City, Patti Householder - Lee County, Dianne Sellers - Mobile County, Dottye Pierce-MGNA, Jeanon Massien-Shelby County, and Jane Trawick-Chair, Mobile County, had a daunting task to select only one winner for the various AMGA Awards this year; each of the 27 nominations had to be reviewed and judged on it's own merits.

Karin Carmichael also chaired the Reach for the Stars Awards with 19 counties reporting hours. There was commendable participation from associations that took time and talent to submit nominations and for that you are to be congratulated!

The morning Business Session had 2 winners announced. They were Top Hours of The Year and Outstanding Newsletter Awards.

The TOP HOURS OF THE YEAR AWARD which recognizes the most volunteer hours earned for 2013 was awarded to ANDREA CUMMINGS, nominated by MGNA, with a total of 1,447 hours.



The OUTSTANDING NEWSLETTER AWARD, based on May and October, 2013 editions, was

awarded to "GARDEN THYMES", submitted by MGNA, editor ANDREA CUMMINGS, as best publication. That association was also presented with a certificate and check for \$100.

The remaining three awards were presented at Banquet night;

- THE JEAN LEE LIFETIME HOURS
- GARY MURRAY OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND DEDICATION
- MARY LOU McNABB

The JEAN LEE LIFETIME HOURS AWARD honors



the individual reporting The most volunteer hours since completing the Master Gardener class and attaining certifi-

cation as a Master Gardener. The recipient of this award is given lifetime membership in the AMGA. This award goes to JACKIE CHANDLER, nominated by MGNA, with 7,955 hours.

The GARY MURRAY OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND DEDICATION AWARD nominee submitted by BALDWIN COUNTY, was FRED NATION for Outstanding Service to the Master Gardener program, and the recipient for the Award.

His many accomplishment listed in his nomination by Baldwin County were lengthy; "has taught MG intern classes



and meetings in two counties that include botanical nomenclature, native plants as ornamentals in the home landscape, exotic, invasive plant species, topics on longleaf pines, (our state tree), and the need to re-establish the longleaf pine ecosystem. He conducts regular classes, seminars on habitats and ecosystems for the National Estuarine Research Reserve, and has lead field trips for the two counties intern classes to Weeks Bay and Splinter Hill pitcher plant bogs. He has also conducted workshops, seminars and plant identification, invasive, exotic plant controls for the USDA Forest Service, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, and presents classes on local habitats and ecosystems for Weeks Bay Reserve. Fred is also a regular columnist for the *ALABAMA TREASURED FORESTS*, published by the Alabama Forestry Commission and has also

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

authored his own book, *WHERE the WILD ILLICIUM GROWS*. Fred regularly and readily contributes his time, but also his manual labor to the local Baldwin group with their annual plant sale to manage the plant inventory and plant identification, which benefit's the ongoing activities, projects and education outreach for the association." His nominating letter listed many other attributes and honors, but were to numerous to list here. His commitment to the local Master Gardeners, to his community, state and on the national level, with his ongoing support of the AMGA were all factors as the winning nominee for his outstanding service and dedication.

The MARY LOU McNABB AWARD winner for 2014 was HAROLD DEASON, nominated by JEFFERSON COUNTY.



He completed and was certified as a Master Gardener in 2005 and hit the ground running! He immediately joined class members in a project to develop and plant a demonstration garden that would be used for camps with classrooms, but would also furnish food for animals at a local zoo. His skills as a communicator was also recognized and he became involved with the Speakers

Bureau, which in turn led to other outreach endeavors. Harold has held positions in the local association as Treasurer, twice, Vice President and President and was also their representative to the AMGA Advisory Council for two years. In 2012 he agreed to Chair the AMGA State Conference to be held in Birmingham.

Not only has Harold given numerous volunteer hours in his local community through outreach, presentations on Regional Gardening and Rain Barrel Building, serving as an instructor for Jefferson and Shelby counties Water Festival, which targets 5th graders on the wise use of water, he had a much broader impact in Njoro, Kenya. He became certified on the "Living Water for the World" water purification system in 2008, where he is responsible for training, installation and maintenance of such system. The same year he was instrumental in establishing the first of five systems in Kenya. While there he saw a need in the communities for home gardens and taught garden sustainability, erosion control with the wise use of water through drip irrigation.

Back home he continued to work on the 2012 AMGA Conference but also served as a member of the pilot program for Harvest for Health in Jefferson County and worked with the Turkey Creek Nature Preserve in it's revitalization effort.

In 2013 Harold became the Steering Committee Consultant for the 2015 Conference of the AMGA that will be jointly hosted by Cullman and Blount Counties. He has conducted presentations to community organization and assisted the area REA with consultant work on the new UAB Community Garden, has attended 7 ACES programs to advance his education and participated in other endeavors to support the AM-

GA, Jefferson County and Blount County. In 2014 Harold was elected and now serves as President of the Blount County Master Gardeners.

In conclusion, a statement by Tony Glover, REA: "When a big or complex volunteer project is underway, I always felt at ease if I knew Harold Deason was in charge. I knew it would get done in a way that reflected Positively on the Jefferson County and Alabama Master Gardener Associations and ACES".

In the "Reach for the Stars Award" program, with Karin Carmichael at the helm, there were 19 counties with orders:

- STARS-301;
 - GOLD BADGES - 50;
 - PLATINUM BADGES - 18;
- ADVANCED STARS:
- 12 RUBY;
 - 4 EMERALD;
 - 3 DIAMOND and no Lifetime Badges.

These were awarded in the morning Business Session at Conference.

Again, the Awards Committee would like to thank the associations that submitted nominations and to congratulate ALL associations for the hard work and commitment you have given to your communities and state; it is truly amazing! To the submitting associations: if your nominee wasn't chosen this year, do not hesitate to re-submit or nominate again for the upcoming Conference in early 2015. Hope to see more local associations submitting next year! In closing, I would like to thank the members of the Awards Committee for their hard work; this couldn't have happened without you!

Jane Trawick, AMGA Awards Chair

"Going Green" Workshop with the amazing Kimberly Ylitallo on Thursday, August 21, 9:00 AM at Dothan Area Botanical Gardens DABG's Ricketts Hall. This workshop promises to be inspiring, informational and fun. Cost is \$10 per person and there will be door prizes and small gifts for all to take home in addition to her "how to" recipes for cleaners, totes, etc. Call Linda Westphal 334-299-0388 or 334-701-4508 for more details.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dottye Pierce



Welcome to summer! It's cool in North Alabama for a day or so more, then we get to warm up. I know that many of you attended the AMGA State Conference in Daphne, and enjoyed it in spite of some dicey weather at times. The format was different, but very enjoy-

able, and allowed me to hear more of the people I really wanted to hear. I missed going on the tours I had planned to, but closed roads are a definite barrier. That just gives me an excuse to plan another trip down that way to see what I missed this time. I am also looking forward to our Fall Seminar in Guntersville, Alabama, to be held in September. Full information about the Seminar is available in this newsletter as well. This should also be an

information-packed day at Guntersville State Park.

My yard is in serious need of attention, and I have run out of reasons/excuses to not get out there. So off I go to weed and prune, and hopefully harvest as well. Happy gardening, everyone.

Dottye
Dottye Pierce, AMGA President

AMGA Nominating Committee Accepting Nominations

The AMGA Nominating Committee is in the process of accepting nominations to fill the upcoming vacancy for the positions of AMGA President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. In Addition, three positions on the Board of Directors and one vacancy on the Nominating Committee are to be filled. These vacancies will be filled at the AMGA Annual Conference to be held in Cullman, March 23 - 25, 2015.

Officers serve a two year term, Directors a Three year term, and the Nominating committee will serve a two year term.

Election of AMGA officers,

Board of Directors and Nominating Committee members is a very important part of AMGA and its success. Candidates for these positions must be members of local and State associations and need to have demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities and must have a strong commitment to the Master Gardener program. Candidates must be willing to attend quarterly meetings, participate in committee activities and travel at personal expense as needed.

The Committee is in the process of evaluating nominees, so they need your input as soon

as possible. Please contact any of the three members of the AMGA Nominating Committee. They will appreciate your participation.

Delores "Dee" Hubbert, Chair
Email: chubbert@bellsouth.net
256-760-4603

Tom Boyle
Email: BoyleT@graceba.net
334-794-2094

Pam Olson
Email: polsonhome@charter.net
334-462-1629

~~~Trip to Chelsea Garden Show and Gardens of London, 2015~~~

MGNA is hosting a trip to the Chelsea Garden Show through Collette Vacations and RHS Garden Holidays, departing Huntsville, May 15, 2015. You can get a brochure from Dottye Pierce by emailing your address to dottye.pierce@comcast.net or go to the link below for a full description of the tour. Cost for this tour from Huntsville will be \$4399 double/\$5549 single. We can arrange departure from other locations in Alabama, but the price may vary from this. Reservations are first come, first served, and this trip will sell out quickly.

<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/623880>

Fundraising

By Kathie Bass

Master Gardener Front Car Tags

Tags are currently available at \$20 each. Proceeds are a 50/50 split between the **AMGA Endowment Fund** at **Auburn University** and the **Alabama Master Gardener Program**.

Tag sales are not limited to Master Gardeners. They are available to anyone. These look great on the front of your car, golf cart, RV, or garden wagon. They also make great gifts.

Contact Kathie Bass at AMGAFundrais-

ingChair@gmail.com or 256-457-6530 and we will get them shipped out to you. We will also send out bulk orders to local Associations who wish to make them available to their membership and the new Master Gardener Interns.



Looking for possible leads for Artisans, Donors and Advertisers for the upcoming conferences. If you know of any please contact Kathy Bass at mgafundraisingchair@gmail.com.



“Brent and Becky’s Bulbs” Bloomin Bucks

- Do you need Bulbs? The Bloomin' Bucks Fundraising program by Brent and Becky's Bulbs, a very progressive and unique way for 501(c)(3) organizations like ours to raise money almost year 'round!
- HOW IT WORKS:
- It's simple... go to www.bloominbucks.com (with no 'g')
- From a pull down menu of all of the organizations registered, select to support **Alabama Master Gardeners Assoc, Inc!**
- With one click, you are then sent to the Brent and Becky's Bulbs website where you can order whatever they want, in whatever quantity you want...books, bulbs, tools, supplements, gift certificates...ANYTHING...and a percentage of all of the orders goes to **AMGA!** Thanks for your support



Reminders and Good Reading..... By Kerry Smith



After a welcome delay, summer is finally here. The spring rains brought the usual good and bad to the landscape – lush green plants and prolific fungal infections. We reveled in easy digging for our new purchases and attempted patience between the harm-

less and the serious diseases.

Fungal diseases are part of the southern garden and landscape. With the cool, wet spring this year we saw plenty of oak leaf blister, brown patch, late blight, azalea leaf gall and others. Diseases like oak leaf blister, though scary to see, do no harm to the overall health of the plant. A disease like Late Blight (*Phytophthora infestans*) however, is a serious pathogen and must be managed with fungicides (organic or synthetic formulas) if the plant is to survive and produce a crop. Remember these tips about fungi: 1. They all have a predictable cycle closely linked to weather conditions. 2. Disease ID is ALWAYS the first step in deciding or ignoring treatment. 3. Promote the MG Helpline as a toll-free service that can help. 4. If using the internet to find answers, use colon, dot edu (:.edu) after your search phrase for reliable info.

We have phone app's for your smart phone. Check out our newest just released this spring, SOW. It lists the veggie seeds you should start today. Currently, it's designed for Alabama (north, central and south), but we are working to tie in a weather report for more accurate advice. Look for our other app's too – Alabama Smart Yards and Fertilize.

Be sure to check out the program at this year's Fall Seminar! It's at Guntersville State Park, Sept 16. Fabulous topics (eagles, photography, and gardens) in a gorgeous location with great speakers. See details in this newsletter issue. Special thanks to the Marshall County MGA and Joyce Davis for organizing this annual, one-day event. See you there!

The 2013 Search for Excellence award went to the Capital City MGs for their 10+ year project, the Lilly Thompson Garden and Outdoor Classroom. The garden was built both in memory and honor of a special student whose passion for conservation showed that one person can spark a lasting, living impact. Students enjoy math, science, art and other lessons in this outdoor space. One of them said, "I can't believe this is school!" This project benefits the whole community.

Start now to consider submitting one of your best community projects for an award next year. The deadline is January 1 every year.

And finally, a word on soil tests. ACES Agents and MGs all promote their value. "When was the last time you had a soil test?" is a repeating question we ask. Please remind everyone that excessive mulch, potting mix, and chunks of organic debris confuse the process. A soil test sample should ONLY include mineral soil. Also note that: 1. The sample should be about one-half to one cup in volume. 2. MG Interns get one free sample while taking the classes. 3. Veteran MGs and the general public pay just \$7 per sample. A bargain by any definition and only needs repeating every three to four years.

I hope we're all seeing and enjoying a bountiful landscape this summer – no matter where!

Kerry



Celebrate 100 Years of Extending Knowledge and Changing Lives

visit: www.Extension100Years.net

Board Highlights

By Brenda Tapp

Highlights of June 3, 2014 AMGA Board Meeting

◆ **ACES Report**

State MG Program Coordinator, Kerry Smith, reported on the 2014 NACAA (National Association of County Agricultural Agents) Annual Meeting, which will be held in Mobile in July. The Horticulture Super-Seminar (July 20, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.), featuring P. Allen Smith and sponsored by Bonnie Plants, is open to all MGs. She added that six Alabama MGA's will make presentations on Sunday, and that eight will set up displays.

◆ **Other updates included:**

- ◆ Harvest for Health will continue for two additional years with a total of seven associations involved.
- ◆ 2014 Ag Discovery Day is scheduled for September 13 at the EV Smith Research Center, 4725 County Road 40, Shorter, Alabama. (More information to follow)
- ◆ The Annual Report will be out soon.

◆ **Conference Updates**

- ◆ The 2015 Conference, **Gardening WOW**, co-hosted by Blount and Cullman County Associations, is on schedule. Locations have been identified, speaker contracts are in place, working on exhibitors and sponsors, and send a "Thank you" to Baldwin County for providing such an accessible site at the 2014 conference.
- ◆ The theme for the 2016 conference, to be hosted by Wiregrass MGA, will be **Sculpting the Garden**. Contracts are in place for meeting sites. The committee is actively recruiting sponsors and planning a variety of tours.
- ◆ **Other items:**
- ◆ The Advisory Council has adopted a new calendar, and their next meeting will be August 5, at Alabama Power in Clanton.
- ◆ The Endowment/Scholarship Committee is working with Auburn to establish a second endowed scholarship.

- ◆ The Nominating Committee will be seeking nominees for all four (4) officers, three (3) board members, and one (1) nominating committee member.

The Continuing Education Committee reported on the 2014 Fall Seminar, **Wild About Our Back Yards**, which will be held at Gunterville State Park, on September 16. Registration will be \$25, and speakers will be Patti Donnellan, Park Naturalist; Harvey Cotten, VP & horticulturist Huntsville Botanical Garden; David Moore, Publisher/Editor of Good Life Magazine; and George Bennett, Owner of Bennett Nursery in Huntsville.

Additional Conferences

- ◆ October 21 – 24, 2014: The Southern Regional Master Gardener Conference will be held in Baton Rouge, LA.
- ◆ The 2018 Southern Regional Master Gardener Conference will be held in Alabama.

AC GROUP

By Ginny Holland

NEW MEETING DATES FOR AC GROUP

Those of you who attended Conference witnessed the election of our AC Chair, Brenda Tapp, to the AMGA BOARD. Since she cannot both serve as a voting member of the Board and continue as AC Chair, I consequently became the new Chair. Glenda Gower, Russell County AC Rep, has consented to fill my old position as AC Vice Chair. Sherilyn Osborne will continue as AC Secretary.

One of the changes to the SOP approved at the last meeting involved the timing of our quarterly meetings. New meeting

months will be February, May, August, and November. We will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of the month. This change should alleviate the holiday conflicts that frequently occur in the months of January and July. **THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN JULY OF THIS YEAR.** The next meeting will be August 5, 2014 in Clanton, and the November one will occur on November 4, 2014

I hope to see you all in Clanton August 5, 2014.

Ginny Holland
AC Chair



Seated near each other during Monday's business meeting were, front row from left, MGNA members Alice Lawler and Brenda Myers, and second row from left, Gigi Bullman, Sue Bish, Melissa Kirkindall, Janet Boothe, Anna Bright and Intern Chris Loftin. Photo: Andria Cummings

At the Monday night Jubilee are MGNA Members, from left, AMGA President Dottye Pierce, AMGA Fundraising Chair Kathie Bass, Intern Chris Loftin, Dwight Bass, Elouisa Stokes and AMGA Treasurer Mary Howe. Photo: Andria Cummings



**Highlights from
the
Conference**

AMGA Vice President Jeanon Massien (Shelby County), Membership Chair John Baker (Shoals), President Dottye Pierce (MGNA) and Nominating Committee Dee Hubbert (Shoals/MGNA). Photo: Andria Cummings

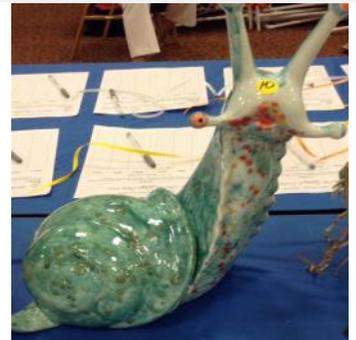


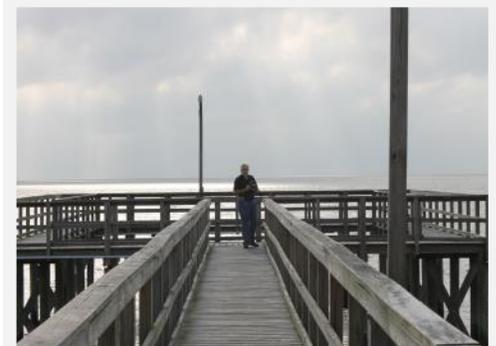
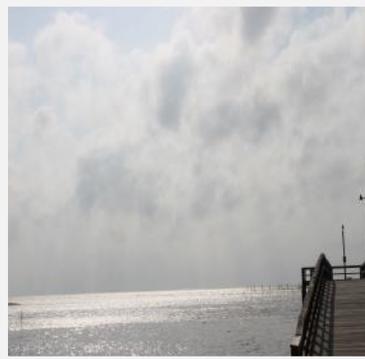
Enjoying the sunset on Mobile Bay during the Monday Jubilee are AMGA execs from left, Nominating Committee Dee Hubbert (Shoals/MGNA), Fundraising Committee Kathie Bass (MGNA), Nominating Committee Chair Cathy Canant (Shelby County), new Board member Brenda Tapp (MGNA), and Vice President Jeanon Massien (Shelby County). Photo: Andria Cummings



Morgan County MGA members Pam Linville and MCMGA President Jim Allen with guest speaker Greg Grant, left. Photo: Andria Cummings







MASTER



GARDENERS

The Autauga County Master Gardener Association is presenting a poster display about the Autauga-Prattville Demonstration Garden at the National Association of County Agricultural Agents in Mobile this July. The display will highlight the garden as a spot for community teaching and a means to support a local food pantry with fresh produce. Rose McCauley, our ACMGA president, submitted this article for the Quarterly Newsletter of the Autauga County Extension Office in March, 2014, shortly after planting. As a result of the super soil addition to the garden, rain from heaven, and lots of volunteer help, harvests have been splendid to date. We dug over 100 pounds of potatoes before pulling up the plants and the English

1. Autauga County MGA By Nancy Waggoner



peas were healthy and sweet. Tomatoes, peppers, squash, eggplant and zipper peas, planted under the direction of garden chairperson Carroll Bonifay are thriving! All beds are planted and doing better than they have in several seasons: The winter of 2014 has been one of the most unusual that I have ever experienced. In the South, we expect some cold weather and rain but not the snow and ice that managed to shut down the cities of Birmingham and Atlanta. Here we can garden almost all year long. I am so tired of this winter. I am so looking forward to spring.

So in mid-February on a lovely mild spring morning, thirteen members of Autauga County Masters Gardeners Association gathered at the Prattville-Autauga Demonstration Garden to work in the garden beds to get them ready for our spring and summer vegetable plantings. We had some super soil (topsoil and compost mix) delivered to the garden area the day before. Some of us started in immediately to attack some of the weeds in the beds and, yes, even master gardeners sometimes allow a few weeds to grow in their gardens. Others grabbed shovels and wheelbarrows to move the soil into the beds. Once the first bed was filled with the soil, some members began

planting the potato eyes. With everyone working together, we were able to fill four large beds and two smaller ones with this super soil. We also planted two of the smaller beds with English peas and one large bed with potatoes. It was a wonderful and very productive but tiring day for this group of volunteers but the fellowship shared was unbeatable. Over the summer and into the fall, these beds will be planted with other produce including, but not limited to, tomatoes, peppers, squash, black eyed peas, eggplant, cabbage and collards.



ACMGA plants these beds each year to provide fresh produce to Autauga Interfaith Care Center. AICC assists families in our county with food, clothing, personal care items, housewares and financial aid. ACMGA has provided AICC with hundreds of pounds of produce each year.

When you go to the Autauga-Prattville Public Library, come visit our garden. Even better, consider becoming a Master Gardener. Information on the Master Gardeners program is available from the Autauga County Extension Office.

Rose McCauley President-Autauga County Master Gardeners Association

2. Baldwin County MGA

By Frieda Romanchuk

Recent meeting speakers have included Chris Francis, a certified Arborist and Tree Care Specialist. Chris covered planting trees, herbicide use, properties of mistletoe, pruning, and other timely tree care tips. Ben Raines, Executive Director of the Weeks Bay Foundation, spoke during April at our Plant Sale monthly meeting. The Plant Sale was successful in spite of the thunderstorms.

Fred Nation took a group in early May to Splinter Hill for a tour for those who gave up their spots for the tours during conference and others who were interested. In June we had a most entertaining JJ McCool of Wildlife Solutions. His chat included how to decrease the population of nuisance animals as well as reducing invasive plants/grasses/vines [Cogon grass, privet, Chinese tallow . . .] and

restoring native habitats.

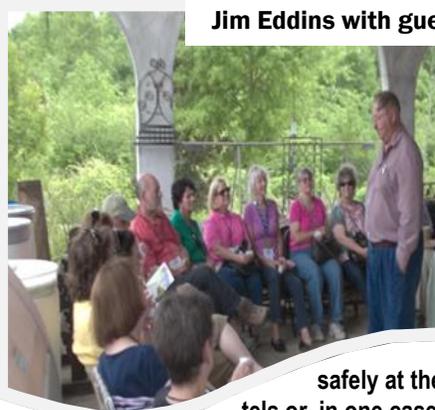
Busy Bee January – correction – awarded to Jim Greer for his management of the Weeks Bay Long Leaf Pine and Arboretum project.

Rain was a common theme for 2 of our April events: the annual plant sale and 2014 AMGA Conference. The Conference Tuesday afternoon speaker,

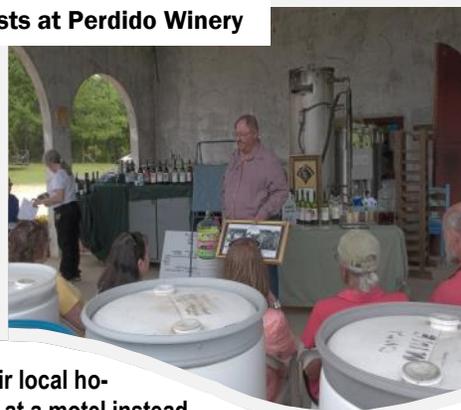
(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

Marilyn Mannhard [Genesis of Community Gardening in the Fairhope area], had her home flooded [it is a total loss] and was rescued by boat during the night. About 20 miles east of Marilyn's home. another home in our BCMG family flooded with loss including the backyard chickens. We had others with damages of various types due to the floods. To my knowledge all of the master gardener guests from around the state ended up



Jim Eddins with guests at Perdido Winery



safely at their local hotels or, in one case, at a motel instead of a friend's home due to blocked/flooded roads. Thursday before dawn began the assessment of what could safely happen that morning. Decisions were made and the program continued at

sun was shining.

We thank you for attending the 2014 Conference. Please support and attend GARDENING . . . WOW! in 2015 .

the civic center where attendees were safely off the roads. By the time conference was a wrap, the routes we directed those heading north on were safe to travel AND, naturally, the

3. Barbour County MGA

By Jackie Devlin

4. Blount County MGA

By Sarah Pass

Blount County Master Gardeners congratulate two of our most ardent volunteers. Shown



here at the recent June Fling in Oneonta are our president Harold Deason and past-president Sherilyn Osborne. Harold was honored at the 2014 AMGA Conference with the Mary Lou McNabb Master Gardener of the Year Award and Sherilyn received a ruby star for over 4,000 hours of volunteer service! They look forward to a number of upcoming events including directing activities at the Blount Coun-

ty Fair in the fall. Another major event will be our annual fall conference at beautiful Palisades Park. Be watching for more details and consider joining us. Last, and largest, they are working with Blount and Cullman MG's toward an outstanding 2015 AMGA Conference.

"Our best plant swap ever" and a walk through the TRAIL OF TREES with Dan Porch and Jerry Jones were just sidelines of a great annual picnic of the Blount County Wildflower Society. In the group we join with Master Gardeners and friends from Marshal, Morgan, Cullman and Jefferson counties. It is amazing to see how the common love of plants forms an almost instant and lasting bond between people.



5. Calhoun County MGA

By Sherry Blanton

From Lunch and Learn to Earth Day to plant sales to the conclusion of our 2014 Intern training class April was a jam packed month. Cane Creek Gardens, our MG home, was the site of Earth Day celebrations



MGs prepare for their April plant sale

for 810 county and city 4th grade students and teachers with 50 volunteers assisting each day. Two weeks later 120 kindergarten students, teachers, and parents from Kitty Stone Elementary School celebrated Earth Day at Cane Creek. Our Master Gardeners were an integral part of these events helping to make the days go smoothly.

Our 2014 Intern Training class finished their class work on April 30 and are already involved in MG projects; some have already completed their 50 hours.

The Tree Amigos MGs have had two very successful plant sales with profits funding their therapeutic horticulture program at Coosa Valley Attention home. Green Team Master Gardeners also had two sales to benefit Long-



MG intern Maggie Freeman assists with recycling class at Earth Day

leaf Botanical Gardens. We continue to meet monthly for our MG Association meetings. Teresa Kiser, Director of the Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County presented a very timely program on internet safety in May. Stephen Faughn updated us on his 4H Wildlife program in June.

Renee Morrison of the JSU Field School began our 2014 Lunch and Learn series with "Beyond My Backyard."

David Doggett, Jefferson County MG had a standing room crowd for our May program, Propagating Hydrangeas." Our free lunch time series continues to grow in popularity; we even had two Florence MGs at our hydrangea program. We wish all of you productive summers!

6. Capital City MGA

By Jerry Belcher

Capital City MGA has enjoyed a very busy and rewarding spring. On March 20, our annual bus trip was to Mobile for the Festival of Flowers and the Mobile Botanical Garden. At MBG we were hosted by the Mobile MG's who went out of their way with homemade snacks and drinks. We were very grateful to our hosts as we viewed the beautiful botanical garden. The Mobile MG's know they have an open invitation any time they visit Montgomery.



Montgomery Botanical Garden at Oak Park. We hosted a program for the public and elected officials of Montgomery with a talk by Fred Spicer, Executive Director/CEO Birmingham Botanical Garden. Fred laid out the benefits the BMG brings to Birmingham and Jefferson County. We are still in the beginning stages of our project and do need

to convince any number of people of the benefits a botanical garden will bring to Montgomery.

CCMGA has been actively promoting the

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

It is rewarding that after a full year of hard work we saw the results of our April Plant Sale. Under the direction of Karin Carmichael we had more members working, more customers shopping, more plants sold, and more money collected than ever before in the 7 year history of our annual Plant Sale.

CCMGA had a very strong contingent at the AMGA Conference in Daphne. We were thrilled

when our Lilly's Garden Project was awarded the 2014 Search for Excellence Award. We congratulate Baldwin MGA. It was obvious that a lot of time, hard work, effort and planning went into the 2014 Conference. We all had a great time in spite of the weather not being very cooperative.

Our monthly Lunch & Learn program continues to bring in 50+ people and we may be forced to look for a bigger venue

as it continues to grow. We are very thankful to the members of CAMGA for the number of speakers they have contributed to our program. CAMGA is just delightful to work with...and now that Autauga is back to normal we also look forward to reestablishing a working relationship with them.

7. Central Alabama Master Gardeners

By Iva Haynie

Although Spring seemed to get off to a slow start this year, there was no slacking in CAMGA activity. April was a particularly busy month with at least 17 of our group attending the AMGA conference. Volunteers were busy with Lunch and Learn, the learning gardens, work at the Governor's Mansion, Lanark's Flora and Fauna Weekend, Farm City Days and Farmers Market in Millbrook. At the April meeting, Mr. Richard Cobb of the Alabama Wildflower Society presented the program on wildflowers in Alabama. Afterward, Jim Davis was presented the Advanced Master Gardener Certificate for Bee Keeping.

April 30 and May 1, two of our Master Gardeners attended Landscape Design Study Course 3

sponsored by Garden Club of Alabama in Auburn. Our Spring plant sale took place on May 3rd and we netted over \$2000.00. The May meeting consisted of a tour of Jim Scott's Gardens on Lake Martin. Eight Gold badges were awarded and two platinum badges. We are racking up the volunteer hours. There were 47 in attendance. The Help Line continues. Two of our Master Gardeners toured the greenhouse at Maxwell Airforce Base.

June will find us at Young Farm in Auburn. Recruiting is underway for the fall Master Gardener Intern class. We look forward to adding new members.

8. Cheaha MGA

By Debbie Masters

The Cheaha Master Gardener Association held its annual plant sale May 10, but at a new location. We were excited to move our sale to the new Farmers Market location in Heflin adjacent to the Cleburne Chamber of Commerce Building. The weather was frightfully stormy! However, we had a nice roof over our heads, and our customers stayed safe and dry. So, we were able to carry on and sell most of the plants we had propagated for the sale.

This summer we are working on two main projects:

- ◆ 1) mentoring and encouraging a Brownie Scout troop as they tend their tomato plants in the raised bed gardens at the farmers market, and
- ◆ 2) monthly judging for the Cambridge Place Neighborhood Association Beautification award in Calhoun County.

We continue to meet throughout the summer with our members presenting programs. At our May meeting CMG member Wanda Davis urged us to include red flowers in our gardens to attract hummingbirds and just for the pop of color they provide. We all had to admit that we tend to prefer every color except red when shopping for annuals!

9. Cherokee County MGA

By Janice Knight

10. Chilton County MGA

By Sondra Henley

For those who have visited our Demonstration Garden located at the Chilton County Research Facility, on Highway 29, it has been the same garden for years. This year we are now in the redesign phase and have made small changes as we journey toward a complete redesign in 2015. A Demonstration Flowerbed Contest will be judged July 30 and awards posted during the EXPO. CCMGA has potted over 260+ gallon and larger pots that will be for sale at the Home, Farm and Wildlife EXPO, Saturday, August 2 from 12:00 to 5:00. We will also have a rain barrel with saucer in the Demo Garden. If you would like to work the EXPO or receive directions, contact sondrahenley@gmail.com.

The EXPO is free and has many family activities planned, everyone is invited.

April saw MG working at Garrison's Feed and Seed hosted a "Ask a MG" on Saturdays, to answer questions about gardening and flowers. MG's were well received and many future class contacts were made.

Clanton and Jemison had their baskets and pots replanted. Together, MG planted over 100 baskets between the two cities.

The Cedar Ridge Veterans Home received a new flowerbed around their sign and the front yard trees and shrubs received pruning.

Our April program was on *Making Handmade Soap with Herbs* followed by a tour of Petals from the Past Orangery.

We had a plant sale at the Maplesville Heritage Day and an activity helping children to make bird feeders.



AMGA attendees were, Sondra Henley, Trisha Williams, Diane Clapp, Linda Hays, Harriet Jackson, Alice Broome, Wayne Freeman and Joan Davis. I was especially impressed with the 26,000 plant turn over four times a year with the Fairhope pots, planters and baskets.

In May: Many of our MG's ordered Kombi Shovels (kombigardentools.com). Personally I can give this tool credit for saving my knees and back.

Check it out, it's a great tool!

Our county Extension Office has received a new front landscape. MG's cleaned 600 donated bricks, edged the front,

planted donated plant materials, mulched and are in the process of installing 2 rain barrels under the gutters.

The membership voted to pay for metal connectors for our future shade area in the Demonstration Garden. We will work in conjunction with the Chilton County Research Center to erect this as one of our first steps in our Demonstration Garden redesign.

Membership voted to send representatives to National Agents Conference in Mobile, July 19-20. We plan to have a display and presentation of our involvement with The Home, Farm and Wildlife Expo.

We had our annual Plant Swap and Picnic at the Jemison Park pavilion. Beautiful plants

were swapped and many plants were shared. This activity is always fun to attend.

In June: Sallie Hooker presented a program on *Tablescapes*.

CCMGA continues to recruit for our 2015 MG Class sending letters out and encouraging the public to attend our meetings and programs.

Hope to see you at the EXPO!

A big thank you to those who donated pictures from the Conference; especially: Holly Hirshbrunner and Harold Deason.

Ona Garwood
Editor

11. Claybank MGA

By Carole Ball

Claybank Master Gardeners enjoyed a daytrip on May 9, to Union Springs and the Bonnie Plant Farm.

The farm is 50 miles north, about an hour's drive from Ozark. The countryside was beautiful and the over-cast skies provided just enough cover to keep the heat down and touring the grounds comfortable.

Our tour guide, Freeman Agnew guided us through the different areas of the Bonnie Plant production. The farm housed different sections of the operation from the seeding house, potting, research, experimentation and shipping. Bonnie Plant Farms prides itself on being able to have plants anywhere in the country in 24 hours----- They ship plants all over the country.

We viewed several greenhouses that housed herbs and tomatoes (their biggest crop). Each greenhouse contained tray after tray of herbs. The coriander was so strong, you could smell it long before you arrived at the door. Coriander, basil and rosemary are the top herbs ordered from the plant.



MGs from Claybank, Wiregrass and Coffee Counties joined the tour of the Bonnie Plant Farms



MG group touring the seed house where soil is mixed with peat, minerals and fertilizer for seeding

We enjoyed every minute of this trip. It was fun and interesting to see a



farm in production from the planting of the seed to the final product ready for shipment.

Following was a walk-about-tour on wooded property in Ozark on May 17. Forrester Ed Lewis led the tour and shared

his knowledge of Alabama's native trees and shrubs in the local area. The bark of the trees is so beautiful and intricately patterned. Ed says there are 50 species of oaks in Alabama: Laurel oak (Lance shaped leaves), Willow (long lance leaf), White oak (spatula leaf like a spoon), Post oak (shaped like a cross) and Water oak (round with three lobes on leaf) to name a few of the more common. The red oak he says, produces bitter acorns that have a lot of tannin but the white oak acorn is delicious. The five common trees found in our area are Maple, Ash, Dogwood and Buckeye. The Pneumonic deice "Mad Buck" will help you remember, says Ed.

12. Coffee County MGA

By Jim Coles



On May 8th we took a tour with Lucy Edwards, our new Regional Extension Agent, Home Grounds and, Members of Coffee County Master Gardeners



and guests. This is the seeding room and to think that all these plants start here. We also enjoyed a nice lunch before returning home.



Several of our members attended the 2014 Conference in Daphne, AL and enjoyed the conference, but not the weather.

A Power Point Presentation of the Local Nurseries was presented at the last meeting by Brenda Evans. This presentation showed the finer points and interesting facts. A list of local Nurseries was later given to each member indicating locations and phone number.

Members have been working on the Habitat Houses, and a new park in Elba; called Summerlynn Park.

Summer heat is upon us, and we need to keep safe. Stay cool, wear sunscreen and take breaks from the normal gardening chores and remember to keep hydrated. And above all wear a hat. Avoid the hours of 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Enjoy your Summer!

13. Covington County MGA**By Bonnie Reed****14. Cullman County MGA****By Jennifer Underwood**

Much like the spring showers we've been having, the CCM-GAI has been a torrent of activity this quarter!

About 50 members, guests, and interns streamed through the Agriplex for our annual Spring Picnic on March 20. Red and white checkered tablecloths provided a cheerful backdrop to the scrumptious fixings and lively conversation.

Then, April 5-6, the annual Bloomin' Festival was taken by storm as hundreds of plants were sold at the Master Gardener booth. The earlier calendar date and late growing season did not dampen our determination to make our biggest fundraising event a success.

On May 9 (National Public Gardens Day), about 40 of us shipped off to the Cheekwood Botanical Garden in Nashville. There, we saw wave after wave of landscapes saturated in color, from stunning wildflowers to blooming dogwoods. With a Japanese garden, a boxwood garden, a color garden, and many more, there was truly something for everyone.

On May 10, crowds of people poured through Cullman's Depot Park for the annual Strawberry Festival. The Master Gardener booth, as usual, made a splash.

**Master Gardener of the Year!**

Then on May 15, Master Gardeners who had reached landmark volunteer hours were showered with honors at our Awards Ceremony.

- ◆ 6 Bronze Stars,
- ◆ 5 Silver Stars,
- ◆ 3 Gold Stars, and
- ◆ 4 Gold Badges were awarded, along with
- ◆ 1 Ruby Star to Helen Dahlke.
- ◆ 16 interns also received their certificates, with hopes that they too will Reach for the Stars!

The Master Gardener of the Year Award was bestowed to Phil Gatlin. Gatlin is also our current President, and has served in leadership roles for the last several years. He has been involved in virtually every aspect of the association, most notably Bloomin' Fest and the Rain Garden Committee, which he co-chaired. He's done a great job of helping us stay afloat!

Also notable, Cynthia Tubbs, chairperson and volunteer of our 4-H Junior Master Gardener program, has been inducted into 4H Wall of Fame. Since starting a JMG program in 2006 at the Child Development Center, Tubbs has become a JMG specialist and has made a huge contribution in the community.

The hardscaping and planting for our Rain Garden has now been completed, thanks in large part to a grant from the AMGA. Now we just can't wait for everything to grow!

15. DeKalb County MGA**By Dawn Earley**

16. East Central Alabama MGA

By Sheila Bolen

East Central Alabama Master Gardeners Association held their Annual Plant Sale April 26th in Kiwanis Park in Wedowee. The weather was gorgeous and we had a successful sale, was able to help fellow gardeners with information and had a relaxing day of fellowship. Several of our members attended the State MG Conference in Daphne and, in spite of the rain, wind, mudslides at our hotel and washed out walkways, we had a GREAT time. We're already looking forward to the 2015 conference in Cullman.

Our Master Gardener Interns have completed their classes and are now earning their volunteer hours and, hopefully, having a grand time doing so. WELCOME to our new garden friends!



17. Etowah County MGA

By Carol Link

In May, students from the 2014 Master Gardener training class received certificates of completion and are on their way to becoming certified Master Gardeners.

Etowah County's Horticulture helpline is in operation for the season, taking calls from the general public, answering horticulture questions.

ECMGA, Inc. had an outstanding annual greenhouse sale, with our newly purchased property being partially responsible. The new propagation greenhouse allowed MGs



ECMGA, Inc.'s new propagation greenhouse contains several large propagation beds and storage tables for newly potted plants --with heaters, fans, a misting system, and plenty of room for working.

to propagate an abundance of plants, months in advance of the sale. The large number of geraniums and coleus that were propagated were big sellers

and profit makers. The propagation house will be a great teaching facility for plant propagation classes to new MGs and the general public.

Our new MG cookbook has garnered over \$1800 in profit for the organization, with the possibility of bringing in additional revenue of \$1900. As a bonus, the cookbooks serve as wonderful gifts for guest speakers.

ECMGA, Inc. was the recipient of an AMGA Projects Grant for constructing three raised beds to be used by our local extension agents for training new class members in soil preparation and grow-

ing plants. The beds may also be used for teaching classes to the general public.

Recently a small group of Mas-

ter Gardeners took an educational trip to Calhoun County, to Blooming Miracles Garden Center, and a bus load of Master Gardeners made another educational trip to Aldredge Gardens, in Hoover, and Myers Nursery in Pelham.



At the beginning of the sale, several long tables were packed full of coleus and geraniums, and a large number of geranium baskets were available—all of which were propagated in the new propagation facility. When the sale was over, not one coleus or geranium remained.

All Bugs Good and Bad

Please join us for this 2014 webinar series for information you can use about good and bad insects.

Webinars will be on the first Friday of each month at 2 p.m. Eastern.

April 4 - Get Tick Smart: 10 Things to Know, 5 Things to Do
Dr. Thomas Mather

May 2 - Are Those Itsy Bitsy Spiders Good or Bad? *Dr. Nancy Hinkle*

June 6 - Fire Ant Management - *Elizabeth Brown*

August 1- Minimize Mosquito Problems -*Molly Keck*

September 5 - Kudzu Bug Takes Over the Southeastern U.S./ Brown Marmorated Stinkbug—All Bad - *Dr. Michael Toews/Dr. Tracy Leskey*

October 3 - Alien Invasions, Zombies Under Foot, and Billions of Decapitated Fire Ants - *Dr. Sanford Porter*

November 7 - Where Have All the Honey Bees Gone? Hope for the Future - *Dr. John Skinner*

For more information on the series and how to connect to the webinars, visit: <http://www.extension.org/pages/70120>.

18. Fayette County MGA

19. Jackson County MGA

By Elaine Brookshire

Jackson County Master Gardeners Association congratulates and welcomes thirteen interns who recently completed fifty hours of classroom instruction and are on their way to earning their required volunteer hours. Graduation is planned for the December meeting and Christmas party.



CLASS OF 2014
Pictured above, standing, are interns Mitch Adams, Dennis Sanders, Holt Hardin, Jim Parker, Richard Childress, and Tom Gallagher. Seated are Robert Page, Sheila McCullough, Connie Jones, Donna Williams, Stacey Woods, Betty Gallagher, and Roger Chaney. Photo by Pat Shikle

20. Jefferson County MGA

By Fletcher Harvey

Spring took its time arriving in Jefferson County, and summer seems to have arrived a bit early. As we well know, neither life nor gardening in Alabama is dull.

At our first evening meeting of 2014, our own Su Reid-St. John presented a very entertaining program on planting strawberry pots. This family-

friendly, hands-on demonstration proved that strawberry pots are not just for strawberries.

In April, Jefferson County Master Gardener David Doggett, resident tree and shrub guru, gave a timely class imparting information about hydrangeas. From propagation to cultivation, David prepared us to intelligently approach the many

varieties that might be available at the spring plant sales.

Five gold badges and four platinum badges were announced in April in Daphne at an excellent state conference. These awards represent a “bunch” of volunteer hours. Congratulations to “us.” And congratulations to Frieda and

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 19)

her team in Baldwin County for a job well-done.

In May our plant swap was a resounding success. Linda Emerson and Leonora Roberson did an outstanding job as referees and reference "works." It was pointed out that our folks have evidently been paying attention through the

years. There were NO invasives in evidence!

Inclement weather might have precluded a planned field trip in early June, but it did not dampen the enthusiasm generated by Dr. Bob Wendorfs very informative discussion of the Japanese Gardens at BBG and Japanese gardening in general.

We're looking forward to Part 2 on a prettier day.

We're eagerly anticipating our June evening meeting on the 17th at Charlie Thigpen's Gardener's Gallery.

In the meantime,
Happy Gardening...and don't forget your sunscreen!

21. Lee County MGA

By Tomi Dugas

Each tour we learn how to create a better experience, and the key for the 2014 Garden Tour was involving more people in the process. Susan Price, Jolly Roberts and Sarah Fair coordinated the tour, which included two active public gardens, one which brought great attention to our local art museum, and five private gardens.

While contributions were too numerous to detail, Susan brought new ideas and ambition to the tour, Jolly created a 24-page garden tour booklet and Sarah handled communications and stepped up publicity. Jim Disque headed the sponsorship committee, which brought in \$9,650 – an increase from 2012's \$500. Supportive community members presented memorial gifts

adding \$1,000. Beth Dorman headed up the garden coordinators – at least two per garden. This extra and invaluable attention gave garden owners more confidence, provided more ease during the tour and led to better communication.

With website coverage increasingly important, to highlight the tour and make info read-

ily available before and during the event, we temporarily set <http://www.leemg.org/> to open directly to our "2014 Garden Tour" page.

Attendance of 250-350 per garden remained similar to 2012's but revenue was somewhat higher because the ticket price was increased from \$20 to \$25. Net proceeds increased from

approximately \$7,000 in 2012 to \$13,000 in 2014. Overall, comments were positive with many saying it was the best tour yet. People liked the fact that this year's garden tour included a lot of variety, many family activities and gardens by real gardeners.



Attendees of the 2014 Lee County Master Gardeners Tour had a variety of gardens to view. At the Raley Garden, shown here, the owner shared his expertise on how to make fountains from clay pots. Photo credit: Jolly Roberts

Winners never quit, and quitters never win.

~ Vince Lombardi ~

22. Limestone County MGA

By Joni Gruber

For a small group, we are extraordinarily busy MG's! This year was one of our best years for our annual April plant sale. Initially, there was a concern about having enough plants due to several hard freezes in the winter, but we rallied together and ended up with more plants and a greater variety than usual from our gardens. It seems the vegetables were particularly desirable this year. We started a demonstration garden last year that was very popular with both MG's and interns and was greatly appreciated by the Athens Visitor's Center personnel and tourists alike. It will continue in 2014 to demonstrate to gardeners that vegetables, flowers and green plants can co-exist in beauty and usefulness.

This year, before we plant-

ed, MG's John Cotten and Kathryn Davis planned and utilized the lasagna method of gardening with the layering of materials to make the soil nature prefers.

Visitors from Earth Day viewed this demonstration with great interest. At Earth Day, as well as at the Athens Home & Garden Show and Beasley's Open House, Jerry Davis and volunteers manned our popular Ask-a-Master-Gardener stand. With well over 200 contacts and participation by the LCMGA and interns, it has once again been a resounding success. Bruce Fulton and a band of volunteers weeded out "The Triangles," a roadside flower garden maintained by LCMGA. They boosted the soil, reset the sprinkler system, planted over 150 periwinkles, and

mulched thoroughly. What a beautiful sight for the drivers by the high school at the intersection of Hwy 31 & E Hobbs St. in Athens!

The May meeting was our annual picnic held at the Visitors Center for all to view the Demonstration Garden. There was plenty of BBQ and pot luck as well as some plants for give-away...vitex, dahlias, and switch grass brought in by Nancy Morton.

Our June 9th meeting was a demonstration of hydrangea propagation by Edith Kent with all in attendance participating. It was set up to practice for the work shop planned at the Farmers Market for attendees to see how simple propagation can be. Happy gardening to all our fellow MG's!

23. Marble County MGA

24. Marshall County MGA

By Linda Widner

The Marshall Count Master Gardeners (MCMG) had a busy Spring. Our plant sale was a lot of work but it was a big success. The weather cooperated and it was a pleasant day for a sale. We did simple soil tests, offered some great items for raffle tickets, answered many questions, and sold most of the plants. The people who won the four raffles were especially happy.

Our CASA garden is looking good and producing vegetables for those in need. A special thanks to our garden volunteers: Judy Mc Murry, Carroll Nicholas, George Darling, Ingrid Gibson, Joyce Kirkpatrick, and of course JD Swartzlander. There are a few other members who come to pick and weed and are really appreciated. A task is always more fun when there are many helping hands. The pictures of our garden illustrate that hard work has produced great results.

The members are already working towards making the Fall Mini



Seminar a good experience for everyone. The speakers were chosen to give a variety of interests and the location speaks for itself. Lake Guntersville Lodge is a beautiful location for all occasions. We included our registration form and information for the seminar in the Pathway and look forward to sharing time with you. There is limit on the number of attendees so make your plans early so you aren't disappointed.

Betty Graham was really excited to receive her Gold Badge. She took the class in 2001 and has given her time and energy over the years to make our association work. She presently does an excellent job serving as our Secretary and she is one of those MG we turn to for answers on many gardening issues. We really appreciate her many contributions. The picture shows Betty at home in her garden. She has many beautiful

(Continued on page 22)

(Continued from page 21)

plants and especially loves daylilies. You can usually find her in her garden when day breaks and the sun goes down.

Naomi Herbert presented a beautiful program on Ikebana Floral Arrangement. Learning the simple arrangement that includes a spiritual aspect to gardening was really wonderful. She selected 3 items for each arrangement. One represented Heaven, while another represented Man, and the third represented the Earth. The picture included shows examples of this art.



In April we had a beautiful garden tour at the home of Betty and Gerald Cofield. They have created a wonderland of ferns and

flowers, trilliums, and so many different plants and garden art.

We enjoyed Luci Davis and Kristen Roberson as our May speakers who enthusiastically shared about the Jr. Master Gardener Program. We hope to get involved with the Brindlee Mountain Elementary School to help promote that program.

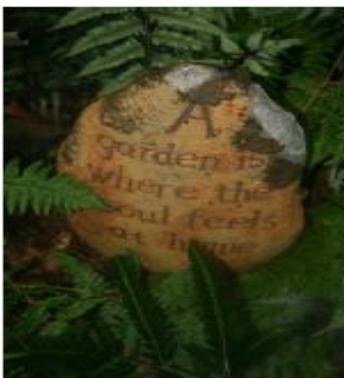
We look forward to a new Master Gardener class that will begin in August. See you in September at the Fall Seminar.

Wild About Our Back Yards



Seminar Sessions...

1. All About Eagles
 2. Easy Gardens For The South
 3. Nature Calls: Photographing Your Backyard and Beyond
 4. Landscaping That Works
- (Full Day = 4 CEU's)



AMGA 2014 Fall Seminar

**September 16, 2014
9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**Guntersville
State Park
Goldenrod Room**

**Registration: \$25
Payable to:
Marshall County
Master Gardeners
(MCMG)**

**Send Registration
and Check to:**

**Wilma Tanner
80 Ensley Drive
Arab, AL 35016**



25. Master Gardeners of North Alabama

By Elouisa Stokes

All things bright and beautiful! It has been a wet and wonderful spring for North Alabama. Many of us made the 350 mile trek to the state Master Gardeners conference in Daphne and managed not to wash away in the storms. The speakers were great, the field trips that weren't cancelled were very informative and different from other conferences.



Jackie Chandler (class of 1996) won the Jean Lee Lifetime Hours Award. Jackie Chandler, left, receives her trophy and certificate from AMGA President Doty Pierce (MGNA) at Dot's Greenhouse at the Huntsville Botanical Garden on May 6. Jackie could not be at the AMGA conference where it was announced she earned the Jean Lee Lifetime Hours Award for 2014 for having accumulated 7,955 hours since

taking the Master Gardener class in Winter 1996. Photo: Andria Cummings

MGNA newsletter the Garden Thymes earned the AMGA Outstanding Newsletter Award for 2014, Andria Cummings, editor. See the newsletters at www.mginfo.org.



Garden is going beautifully. We're trying a few new plants and lots of our regulars. Master Gardeners work three days a week to keep it pristine and we recommend it to you if you are visiting the Huntsville Botanical Garden this summer.

Our newest project, gardening with students from Morris Elementary School has been an outstanding hit. We have the use of a greenhouse and area to teach and have lots of Master Gardener volunteers to help. We'll begin this again in the fall.

In May, we debuted our MGNA Plant Sale, which raised almost \$2000. This money will help fund our many outreach projects. And in June we played at our picnic and this year we met on Green Mountain at the Nature Preserve. This is part top of the mountain, part lake, part picnic area, part trails, part historic buildings. It is a neat place and we all enjoyed a warm, DRY, afternoon of fun and being with each other outdoors. And, as usual, the food was outstanding.

We have enjoyed traveling around Alabama and Madison County visiting gardens and as well as having several workshops this spring. Learning never ends for MGNA members. Come join us in some of our fun.

In addition, Max Campbell's Demonstration Vegetable Garden at our Extension Office was highlighted as a program with a local Boy Scout earning his Eagle Award. Way to go!

Our big spring work is our Spring Plant Sale in April which benefits the Huntsville Botanical Garden. Many of our folks helped and that made the work light. In addition to everything else we have been doing our Demonstration Vegetable

26. Mobile County MGA

By Nancy Adams

Mobile County Master Gardeners are still glowing from the success of the third annual Farm to Table Tasting Event held at Five Rivers on June 9. Local growers and chefs again came together, with help from our Regina Gunn and her team of Master Gardeners, to create an evening of unique and delicious

food, wine, and music in the perfect setting over Mobile Bay.

Our Master Gardener Class of 2013 has created a program called Horticulture Therapy with L'Arche Mobile (a community in which people with intellectual disabilities and those who help them can live, work, and share their lives). Partici-

pants meet for six weeks in the fall and six weeks in the spring to build raised beds, plant flowers and vegetables, and share gardening knowledge.

For our annual Learning Seminar held on April 12, we hosted Amy Stewart, a California author of several gardening

(Continued on page 24)

(Continued from page 23)

Alice Marty and Brenda Bolton at April 12 Learning Seminar at Jon Archer Center

publications including *The Drunken Botanist*, who shared knowledge about creative use of plants in foods and especially in drinks. Master Gardeners combined this program with a gar-



Susan Morrison, Genie Schneider, Ellen Huckabay and James Miles

den reception and silent auction, and with cooperation from the weather, it was a very enjoyable event for all who attended.

Our monthly Lunch & Learn programs have become popular in the gardening community. Each program consists of one hour on the first Monday of the month during which participants have bag lunches while learning something related to gardening. In April, Dianne Sellers taught a class on Old Fashioned (Antique) Roses. In June, C.P. Winters of Hurley, Mississippi, and president of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Daylily Society, shared knowledge about daylilies.

Now it's summertime. Enjoy your gardens but remember the bonnets and sunglasses!

27. Morgan County MGA

By Sonja Hyatt

Operating the Greenhouse

Morgan County Master Gardeners have been growing plants for a fundraiser for many years. In 2004 they began operating a greenhouse at the Morgan County Extension office. Plants were brought from home gardens and divided, particularly in the Fall and the Spring. In 2013, two greenhouses were built at a new location more centrally located at the Morgan County Fairgrounds.

There have been many talented Master Gardeners over the years who had special knowledge of certain plants; wildflowers, herbs, roses, perennials, lilies, tropicals, annuals, hostas, and blueberries. We learn from each other as we work together.

The cycle of operating the greenhouse starts immediately after the plant sale. Plants that are not sold are brought back to the greenhouse or adopted to member's homes to be cared for during the summer. A schedule is set up for monitoring the plants every other day for their watering

needs. We recently started growing succulents which works out well since they can tolerate the heat and require little water.

A large exhaust fan in the greenhouse provides ventilation during the summer months. As the nights get cooler, a shade cloth which was put over the greenhouse in April is removed and sides are enclosed with double layered plastic. Propane used for heating is monitored. The greenhouse is kept at a minimum temperature of 50 degrees.

Members start bringing plants from their home gardens for propagation in late summer. Plants are inspected for disease and pests and returned to the owners as soon as we finish propagating from them. Bulbs are divided from home garden beds.

Seeds are started in January and February for annuals and vegetables. This year we grew most of the tomatoes recommended for Alabama by ACES.

Fertilizing starts in January and continues every other week. Plants with insects or disease are treated and isolated as needed. In February and March we pot into larger pots and build container gardens and hanging baskets. Shade cloth is put on the greenhouse in April to protect the plants from sun scorch and heat. Also in April, we make sure all plants are identified and priced for the plant sale at the end of the month.

We had a very successful Plant Sale this year. Reasons for our success can be attributed to good advertising, many plants and the labor and love from our greenhouse team. Our Plant Sale is a fundraiser to support our projects which include gardening magazines for local libraries, plants for Hospice patients, the Ask a Master Gardener booth and a donation for the Horticulture scholarship at Auburn University.

28. Pike County

By Sheri Brooks

29. Russell County MGA

30. Shelby County MGA

By Susan Seng

Our members have enjoyed learning about Alabama's biodiversity from Dr. R. Scot Duncan from Birmingham Southern College. He will be a keynote speaker at the Master Gardener Conference in Cullman next year. Several members were able to visit the very beautiful garden of Jim Scott at lake Martin. What an outstanding garden which has been featured in Southern Living Magazine! It is a must see!

Of course our volunteers continue to work at local gardens, schools, and many other locations. We regularly have over 45 members attend each monthly meeting and always enjoy sharing gardening tips and great meals together!

Last month one of our members, Brandon Rasnick, opened his yard for a visit. It was an outstanding experience for our members!



31. Shoals MGA

By Kaye Hillis



Dot Burke, Vern Yep, and Mimi Kraemer

The Shoals Master Gardeners have been completing some well deserved projects in our area. We recently worked at the FAME Ranch which now houses the Alabama Girls Ranch for this area. We have planted a garden to allow the young ladies to harvest what they are growing; also new planters on the

front porch to welcome you with bright flowers. This project was chaired by Lisa Morris. Another project is the ARC of the Shoals for challenged young adults who want to learn how to plant, and also see what they have grown. This was chaired by Brenda Bradford. The Shoals Community Clinic Garden was established by Craig Linhoss installing raised beds to enable the children to have vegetables this summer, while out of school. For each of our projects we have many volunteers. We average at least two-three working projects each week. Our Helpline is staying busy with questions from our area. One way to keep our interns on their "toes". We also got to be entertained by HGTV, Vern Yep, while he was doing

another fund raiser, and two of our Master Gardeners got to have their picture made with him. So, the Shoals Master Gardeners are trying their best to give back to this community as much as possible. With summer almost here, we are still keeping busy approving new projects each month to keep us busy. Hopefully we will still find some time to actually work in our own gardens. Our local plant sale in May was another great success, even with the rain keeping us wet. We were happy to sell and educate buyers, on how to plant and take care for them.

Last, but, not least, we want to thank the Baldwin Master Gardeners for the wonderful conference they put on, and hopefully you'll have dried out by now.

32. St. Clair County MGA

By Pamela Garrison

As the flowers are beginning to bloom, the temperatures are rising in St. Clair County. We are picking some of our first summer vegetables and enjoying the fruits of our labor.

At our March meeting we voted to donate money to Auburn University towards sponsoring a scholarship for a Horticultural student. We also decided to donate a gift to be used for the Annual State Meeting's silent auction, that was held in Daphne this year.

Our April meeting was held on April 24th. Our speaker, David Doggett, gave an in-depth and interesting program on hydrangeas. We learned about various types, pruning and propagation. We also discussed the Harvest for Health Project for Breast Cancers Survivors and had 7 members begin the application process. Following the meeting we began set up for our annual plant sale. This year's sale was held in our normal location on Highway 411. Our plant sale was April 25th through the 27th and the rainy weather held off

just long enough for us to complete it.

The May meeting took place on May 22nd and we welcomed 2 new members. On May 1st, we had a work day at Eden Elementary School in Pell City. On May 8th, we returned to Eden Elementary to weed the courtyard and spread the remaining mulch. May 15th was a busy one for the St. Clair County Master Gardeners. It began with a volunteer appreciation breakfast at Kennedy School to give thanks for our hard work beautifying their school grounds. At 10 AM a group of Master Gardeners met at Aldridge Gardens in Hoover for a guided tour of their vast array of hydrangeas, led by David Doggett. At 1 PM, we met our Harvest for Health Project for Breast Cancer Survivors participants. We picked up our plants and supplies and discussed plans for planting their gardens.

June is off to a great start after a trip on June 3rd to revisit Jim Scott's elaborate gardens on Lake Martin. It is always so refreshing and inspiring to spend a day enjoying the scenery.

33. Tallapoosa County MGA

34. Tuscaloosa County MGA

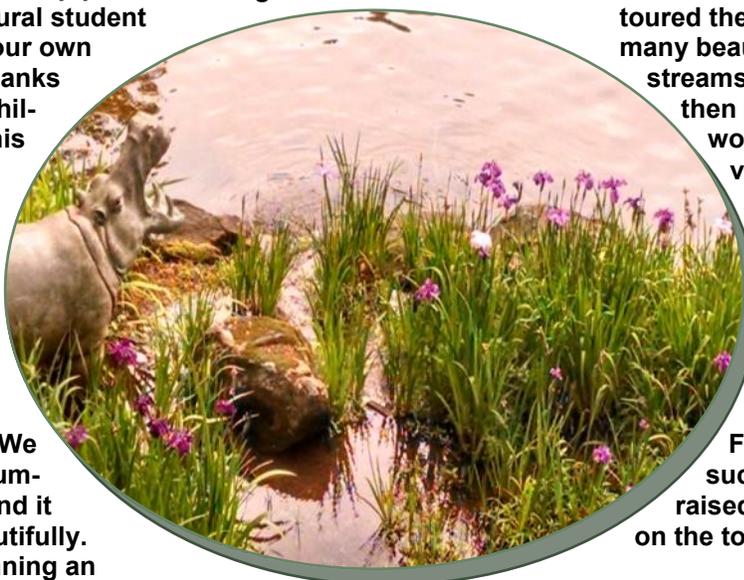
By Jeanie Gray

Tuscaloosa County Master Gardeners have had a great spring. In April, we hosted our annual Pass-Along Plant Sale to fund a \$1000 scholarship provided to a horticultural student each year. We are our own best customers. Thanks goes out to Sybil Phillips for initiating this fund raiser.

A group of Master Gardeners continues to work at the U of A Arboretum under the guidance of Sharon Wise, one of our Gold Badge Master Gardeners. We have planted our summer garden there and it is progressing beautifully.

We are planning an all-day Fall Conference on

Saturday, September 27. It will begin at 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. We will have further information at the Advisory Council meeting in August.



Jim Scott's Garden

The highlight of our spring has to be our tour of Jim Scott's Garden in Dadeville, AL. It was an amazing experience that we will not soon forget. We toured the amazing gardens and many beautiful waterfalls, streams and ponds until noon then had our lunch on the wonderfully shaded pavilion.

TCMG assisted the host homes on Teresa Johnson's Second Annual Tuscaloosa Garden Tour to raise money for DCH Help & Hope Patient Assistance Fund. It was a huge success with \$3500 raised with just five homes on the tour.

HORTICULTURE Super-Seminar

“Registration” details for the free session on July 20 at the National County Agents conference in Mobile – hear P.Allen Smith and several Alabama MGA’s presenting project success stories.

**Sunday, July 20th, 2014
1:00 pm– 4:30 pm
Mobile Convention Center
Courtesy of Bonnie Plants**

1:00 pm Welcome & Introductions, Horticulture Committee Southern Region Representative

Introduction of Keynote Speaker, Ms. Lois Chaplin of Bonnie Plants

Keynote Address: Mr. P. Allen Smith .

P. Allen Smith is an award-winning designer, gardening and lifestyle expert. He is the host of two public television programs, P. Allen Smith's Garden Home, P. Allen Smith's Garden to Table and the syndicated 30-minute show P. Allen Smith Gardens.

Smith is one of America's most recognized and respected garden and design experts, providing ideas and inspiration through multiple media venues. He is the author of the best-selling Garden Home series of books published by Clarkson Potter/Random House, including Bringing the Garden Indoors: Container, Crafts and Bouquets for Every Room and the recently published cookbook, Seasonal Recipes from the Garden inspired by the abundance of food from his farm and a family of great cooks.

Allen is very active on social media such as Twitter, Facebook, and Allen's Blog. Smith also hosts his own radio program the "P. Allen Smith Show". His design and lifestyle advice is featured in several national magazines. Learn more at <http://www.pallensmith.com>. Inspired by a childhood spent on the farm raising and showing livestock and poultry Allen has led a life of promoting good stewardship

of the earth. In 2009 Smith founded the Heritage Poultry Conservancy, an organization dedicated to the preservation and support of all threatened breeds of domestic poultry. For NACAA, Mr. Smith will tell the story of his Moss Mountain Farm and Home, including a history of the farm. He will discuss test gardens, organic gardening, food production, urban homesteading, animal husbandry, and green building.

He will reveal the inspiration behind his endeavors, including the work done on both the home and grounds. In addition, successes (the gardens, opening to the public, work with heritage breeds) and lessons learned (difficulties experienced) will be highlighted.

P. Allen will share his insights into the design of the home and grounds which was done with many considerations in mind, including: architecture, green techniques and features, and functionality needs – filming, photography, meetings, entertainment, etc.

Please visit [http://www.pallensmith.com/](http://www.pallensmith.com) to learn more about P. Allen Smith and make plans now to be inspired at the 2014 NACAA AM/PIC in Mobile, Alabama.

2:30-4:30 pm Welcome & Introductions, Horticulture Committee Southern Region Representative.

(Continued on page 28)



(Continued from page 27)

Introduction of Alabama Master Gardener Panel, Ms. Kerry Smith.

ACES Home Grounds Team Co-Coordinator & State MG Program Coordinator

Alabama Master Gardener Presentations:

“Farm, Home & Garden EXPO” by the Chilton County Master Gardener Association.

This is a premier example of how Master Gardener volunteers enhance Extension programs through support of both the local County Extension Office and the Chilton Research and Extension Centered YouTube.

“Wiregrass Community Projects & Partnerships” by the Wiregrass Master Gardener Association

Hear stories from Aunt Katie's Garden at Landmark Park, SE Alabama Youth Services project (SAYS), and the research project at Dothan Area Botanical Gardens.

“Prattville Gardens” by the Autauga County Master Gardener Association -

It's a demonstration garden, southern style, displaying ornamentals and perennials, and a small chapel located in the Historic District. Embraced by the community, this project is a widely used asset for events, photo opportunities and even weddings.

“Gulf Coast Gardening” by the Baldwin County Master Gardener Association -

Growing veggies along the coast presents unique challenges. Discover how Master Gardeners assist the public in addressing these challenges. Learn new ideas from several civic projects/programs we'll share.

“Lunch and Learn” by the Central Alabama Master Gardener Association -

From container gardens to rain gardens, from vermiculture to attracting pollinators, the 12 month

series covers a wide gamut of garden topics. This low-input, brown-bag lunch program hosted at the Extension office has big impact.

“Table Top Gardens” by the East Central Alabama Master Gardener Association -

... This creative project is at a local senior center. We'll show construction from beginning to end and how the final gardens are put into use for all to enjoy!

Please visit <http://www.aces.edu/mg/> for more information on the Master Gardener Volunteer Program in Alabama. Learn how our Statewide Master Gardener Helpline – 1-877-252-GROW (4769) serves our citizens through Seven Regions across the State, manned by MG Volunteers 5 days a week....as our clientele like to remind us...you get to talk to a real person with real knowledge, that can answer real questions to real issues in the home and garden!

**2014 NACAA AM/PIC
Farmers Market**

As a final addition to our Horticulture Super Seminar, Alabama Master Gardeners will be on hand on Sunday in the Pre-function area of the Mobile Convention Center, main floor, with even more wonderful exhibits displayed as Farm Market Vendors....here's what to expect:

Autauga County MGA -

“Demonstration & Community Vegetable Garden” ... used to teach children, passers-by, and to donate produce to a local food bank.

Baldwin County MGA -

“Gulf Coast Gardening” ...veggies along the coast present unique challenges. Discover how Master Gardeners assist the public in addressing these challenges.

Capital City Master Gardeners -

“Lilly's Garden and Outdoor Classroom”just as it sounds, this garden supports learning, the arts, and community enjoyment. It's at Forest Avenue Magnet Elementary School in Montgomery Alabama.

You do not need to register through the conference website – the Horticulture Super Session is free to you, that said, you are not registered for other events at this conference. WEAR YOUR MG NAME BADGE – this will serve as your ticket to enter the conference. Location is the Mobile Convention Center – registration/info desk is straight ahead when you enter the main hall – our session is around to the right in the ballroom on the south side of building.

35. Walker MGA**By Linda Wilson****36. Wiregrass MGA****By Beth Arnold**

The Wiregrass Master Gardener Association (WMGA) membership held another successful Spring Plant Sale in April. Hundreds of visitors came through the nursery area at the Dothan Area Botanical Gardens to purchase plants and to talk to Master Gardeners. We are so thankful to all of the Plant Parents and the hardworking volunteers that work hand in hand with them to make this sale a huge success. Special "Thank You" to Helen Sue Kemp for coordinating the sale. Our Plant Parents are already planning and working toward the Fall Sale that will take place October 11th.

The WMGA has been so blessed to have Lucy Edwards as our Home Grounds Extension Agent. She is doing an amazing job serving as our liaison to ACES. Lucy works very hard to provide learning opportunities for the Master Gardeners in her region. There have been tours to Bonnie Plant Farm in Union Springs and a tour to the gardens of Jim Scott at Lake Martin. These tours provide valuable CEUs for our members and fantastic learning opportunities.



The Gardens of Jim Scott at Lake Martin.

Our organization has many projects ongoing in the Wiregrass Community. We have volunteers working at the Dothan Area Botanical Gardens (DABG), Landmark Park, Highland Park United Methodist Church, The Houston County Farm Center, Southeast Alabama Youth Services



Bonnie Plant Farm

Vegetable Garden, and a research project in the Demo Beds at the DABG. There are also vegetable gardens at the Wiregrass Boys and Girls Club and the Taylor Senior Center.

We continue to work together as an association to try and overcome the challenges our organization has faced as we become a 501c3. Although the journey has been a long one, we have met all of our financial obligations and our members continue to work hard so that we can once again support the horticulture education programs in our area. This is proof that our association is strong and can withstand even the stormiest seas!!





Volume 14
Issue 58
Summer 2014

ALABAMA MASTER
GARDENERS
ASSOCIATION
Ona Garwood-
Editor
312 Bellwood Trail
Enterprise, AL 36330



STATE ADVISOR

Kerry Smith,
State Master Gardener
Program Coordinator
101 Funchess Hall,
Auburn University
Auburn, AL 36849
(334) 844-3036;
Cell (256) 329-1051
smithkp@auburn.edu

**GOT
QUESTIONS?**

**WE'VE GOT
ANSWERS!**

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

AMGA Website
www.alabamamg.org



Deadline for Fall Issue is September 15, 2014

AMGA Officers

President: Dottye Pierce - (MGNA)
(256) 881-8053 dottye.pierce@comcast.net

Vice President: Jeanon Massien - (Shelby)
(205) 991-3125 nauser1@att.net

Secretary: Mary Long - (CAMGA)
(334) 514-0860 plantlady@elmore.rr.com

Treasurer: Mary Howe (MGNA)
(256) 534-4773 mary.howe67@gmail.com

Board Members at Large

Term 2012 - 2015

Brenda Armstrong - (Blount)
(205) 647-1731 nanaba@bellsouth.net

Joyce Davis - (Marshall)
(256) 593-7977 Joyce.davis76@yahoo.com

Jimmie Van Valkenburgh - (Baldwin)
(256) 968-8866 jbvanv@gulftel.com
Cell: (251) 978-1874

Term 2013 - 2016

Tom Boyle (Wiregrass)
(334) 794-2094 BoyleT@graceba.net

Jane Trawick (251) 443-9175
Cell: (251) 402-3463 boja7@yahoo.com

Term 2014 - 2017

Deborah Cheatum (Autauga) (334) 365-2857
Cell: (3334) 201-6091 drcheatum@yahoo.com

Brenda Tapp (MGNA) (256) 859-8703
Cell: (251) 520-5295 tapp0729@gmail.com

Advisory Council Chairperson -

Ginny Holland (Cherokee)
(256) 779-6906 hollandg@tds.net

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Elected Members)

Term 2013 - 2015

Delores "Dee" Hubbert (MGNA)
(256) 760-4603 chubbert@bellsouth.net

Term 2014 -2016

Pam Olson (Autauga)
(334) 462-1629 polsonhome@charter.net

OTHER

Newsletter Editor: Ona Garwood - (Coffee)
(334) 475-3801 ogarwood@roadrunner.com

Webmaster: Diana Hansen - (MGNA)
(256) 430-0693 kleffner@mac.com

Membership Chair: John Baker - (Shoals)
(256) 764-5527 baker140@comcast.net
Cell: (256) 577-1338

Fundraising: Kathie Bass - (MGNA)
(256) 457-6530 AMGAFundraisingchair@gmail.com