

Alabama
Master
Gardeners
Association



Editor: Patricia Peoples
St. Clair CO MGA
H: 205-467-0281
C: 205-377-7760
amganewsletter@gmail.com

Copy Editor
Patricia Patty
Calhoun CO MGA

Proofreader
Carolyn Wade
MGNA

AMGA Website
www.alabamamg.org

Happenings Around Alabama

Winter

2015 — 2016



Autauga CO MGA

Nancy Waggoner
gnwaggoner@charter.net

At our Autauga CO Master Gardeners Association Christmas lunch in December, Rose McCauley, named Master Gardener of the year, was re-elected for a third term as President. Vice President Ann Fuller and Treasurer Deb Hill have also been re-elected. Carolyn Gray will serve as Secretary in 2016.

Programs this quarter included area farmer Andy Wendland's talk on growing sesame seeds in Autauga County. Jane McCarthy, Maxwell Air Force Base Horticulturalist, arranged a guided tour of the greenhouses on base.

During Farm City Week in Autauga CO, ACMGA members Don Armstrong and Pam Olson spoke to school groups on sustaining, managing, and protecting forests. Rose McCauley and Stephanie Stevens presented information on composting and vermiculture.

In October, Earl Fisher's Lunch and Learn presentation was about cacti and succulents. In November, Phil

Easter demonstrated the making of holiday decorations from live cut plant material. A 12 month schedule of Lunch and Learn sessions has been planned for 2016. A variety of interesting topics will be presented.

Hummingbird Award recipients this quarter were: Kathryn Whaley for exemplary work as Secretary, Shari McCandless for work at Prattville Garden, and Pam Olson for exemplary work as AMGA representative and for teaching and monitoring members as Volunteer Hours Coordinator.



ACMGA members Don Armstrong and Pam Olson address school children on the topic of forestry during Farm City Week. Photo by Anthony Yarbrough



Baldwin CO MGA

Frieda Romanchuk
friedanr@bellsouth.net

Two BCMGs, Reggie Anderson and Carter Jones, chair the productive landscaping efforts of our multi-year involvement with the Swift-Coles Historic Home located in Bon Secour (Safe Harbor), AL. To get to the on-going landscaping portion of the task, major clean-up of the property first took place. The county parks department took on the task of heavy pruning and re-establishing the parameters of the property. The Baldwin County Historic Development Commission has made many needed improvements to the house and property. Master Gardeners have followed with extensive clearing of overgrown grounds, beds, climbing vines (everywhere), and moving and removing overgrown/inappropriate plants and shrubs.

This year approximately



40 huge, overgrown, weed infested, azaleas were removed as they obscured the view of the house. A large area was renewed in compost and sod. Using experience and old photographs, the Master Gardeners and "Historic Landscape" nurseryman, Bobby Green, have developed a general plan to restore the grounds/gardens to circa 1900.

You are invited to come visit Bon Secour and the beautiful Swift-Coles Historic Home. You will see for yourself our vision for the future of our magnificent project. The property is a mere 9 minutes from AL 59 via Baldwin 10, south of Foley and just north of Gulf Shores. Thank you to Reggie, Carter, and Sandy Forsman, manager of the Swift-Coles Historic Home for this article. For more information: www.SwiftColesHistoricHome.com www.Facebook.com/swift-coles-historic-home

Reggie Anderson and Carter Jones. Photo submitted by Sandy Forsman

Calhoun CO MGA

Sherry Blanton
mssherryeb@aol.com

At our November yearly business meeting our Association voted in a slate of officers who will serve for the next two years.

Our MG year ended with a lively awards event in December; the Interns received their certificates as active Master Gardeners. The coveted "Red Bandanna" for service to our organization was presented to an outstanding volunteer. The group shared a covered dish supper and a spirited game of "Dirty Santa."

The Tree Amigos MG volunteers had a holiday party for the girls in the 4H Tree Amigos Program and provided gifts for them. The girls had entertained the Master Gardeners with a Thanksgiving meal in November.

The 17 acres at Cane Creek Community Gar-

dens, home of our Association, really shine. Flower beds have been reworked and a bridge added connecting areas of the grounds. We are rebuilding a garden shed in memory of MG Coke Williams who passed away last year. More raised gardening beds have been built bringing our total to 79.

Our 2016 MG intern training class will begin in mid-January.

The members of our Association wish MGs over the state a happy, healthy, and productive 2016.



Front row, left to right: Mary Banks, Carolyn Patton
Back row, left to right: Myra Gann, Jenny Gann, Linda Emanuel, Judy Shew, Jane Auiler, Amelia Crowe, Linda McDaniel, Skeeter Sims. Photo by Sherry Blanton

Capital City MGA

Betsy Coley
betsycoley@gmail.com

The CCMGA officers for 2016 were installed at the annual Christmas luncheon. They are Margaret Cully, President; Janine Koslofsky, Vice-President; Mirenda Tatum, Secretary; and David Toellner, Treasurer. In addition, the CCMGA awards for 2015 were presented: Most Hours for 2015, Anita Ward; Most Lifetime Hours, Maggie Stringer; and President's Award, Cathy Maddox.

The committee in charge of the Lunch & Learn program has announced the programs for all of 2016. January – "Beautiful Lawns," Dr. Chip East, Horticulturist, ACES, presenting; February – "Home Landscape Design," Dr. Carolyn Robinson,

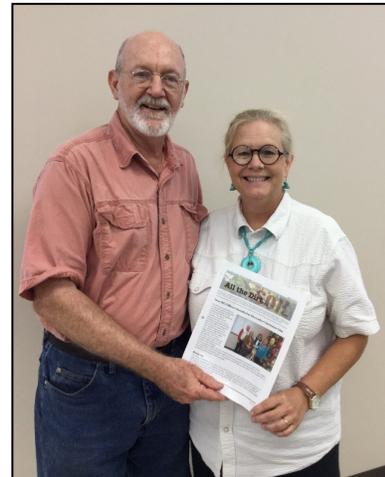
Auburn University; March – "Backyard Veggies," Mike Forester, CCMGA member; and April – "Growing Tomatoes," Mallory Kelley, Horticulturist, ACES.

Transformation Montgomery, a faith-based community development organization, was adopted as a CCMGA project. Their current work is focused in the Garden Square neighborhood located in the Chisholm area of North Montgomery. Fraser United Methodist Church is heading up Transformation Montgomery. A CCMGA committee made up of Suzanne Reaves, Harry Dickerson, and Anita Ward worked with a group from Frazer UMC to create landscape designs for the Garden Square community. The project was completed December 1, 2015.

Cherokee CO MGA

Billy Tillery
btillery@tds.net

Cherokee County Master Gardeners are proud of Doug Ford and Patty Ford for being the Authors of our Newsletter called "All The Dirt." They have published the newsletter since 2009. Each quarter it improves with the pictures and articles. Doug is a retired History teacher from Cherokee County High School and Patty is a professional Photographer. Our group is lucky to have such outstanding people.



L to R: Doug Ford and Patti Ford.
Photo by Billy Tillery



*When winter comes snowflakes fall
Icy weather is on call
Now it's time to bundle up
Tea and hot cocoa in our cups
Entertaining ourselves with all the fun
Running down snow slopes to get our snowman done.*

Chilton CO MGA

Pat Farmer

jerrypatfarmer@hotmail.com

Chilton County Master Gardeners recently enjoyed their annual Christmas luncheon. We had a short business meeting and everyone pitched in and decorated the venue, set up the wonderful meal and welcomed our guests. We also announced the 2015 “Friends of Chilton County Master Gardeners.” They were the five homeowners of our 2015 Christmas Home Tour, Clanton’s Mayor, Billy Jo Driver; Council Member, Mary Mell Smith; MG Treasia Bennetts’ husband Dennis Bennett, Veneer Stone Company and Paul Harris, employee of Chilton Research Experiment Center. Everyone enjoyed good food, fellowship and playing Dirty Santa.

Our annual Christmas Home Tour was on Sunday, December 13. This year was highlighting

homes in downtown Clanton. Several members added fresh greenery to the homes, assisted the homeowners with their decorations when needed, played hostess to visitors in the home and acted as parking attendants. This year was a great success, topping our ticket sales from previous years!



Members Peggy Harris, Alice Broome, Janis Wilson, & Treasia Bennett @ McCormick home.
Photo by Audrey Giles

Covington CO MGA

Bonnie Reed

grandoak36420@centurytel.net

“Discovering the Conecuh National Forest”

Our trip, sponsored with the USDA Forest Service, started from the extension office parking lot with a bus load of excited people, young and not so old. We were going exploring! Our first stop was the Crawford Bog where we were to see the pitcher plants. But, snakes alive, we were stopped in our tracks by the Black Indigo Snake. We learned how it is being introduced back into the wild. The Eastern Indigo Snake is an endangered species and is not venomous. I did pet it, it was so cool. We were shown the gopher tortoise and its burrow, and told how important it is to the snakes’ survival. Spring would have been the best time to view the Pitchers, but there were still a lot of them to see. We learned how the prescribed burns regenerated the forest and enjoyed our

lunch overlooking the ponds and picnic area. We saw the gun range and visited the Dixon Forestry center.



Pitcher Plants. Photo by Bonnie Reed

Cullman CO MGA

Jennifer Underwood
jenka72@gmail.com

The CCMGA has done it again! The CCMGA fair booth at the Cullman County Fair (September 3 – October 3) won a blue ribbon for the fifth year running! With a focus on raised bed gardening, our display was quite a crowd-stopper - we collected 48 signatures of possible interns for the January Master Gardener class. We look forward to welcoming many new faces in the coming year.

In addition to manning a booth at the County Fair, Master Gardeners also participated with Crop Registration.

Peinhardt Living History Day was Saturday, October 24. At this annual event, the Peinhardt farm opens to the public and showcases rural life in the 1930s - 40s. Thousands of people flock to this event, made possible by hundreds of volunteers – including, of course, Master Gardeners! As usual, we promoted the MG, as well as distributed information about raised beds

and our Rain Garden.

Another great year was brought to a close with our annual Christmas party, Sunday, December 6. This year's theme was "Cozy Christmas," and decorations included fireplaces and lots of greenery. Much fun was had over food and "Dirty Santa." It was a great way to wind down another bustling year.



Fair booth at the Cullman County Fair.
Photo by: Lora Raley

DeKalb CO MGA

Dawn Earley
earleydawn@hotmail.com

Well, it is that time of year again when the leaves are turning and the weather cannot make up its mind which season it is supposed to be. When compared with other parts of the country though, our weather is great.

The DeKalb County Fair was pretty good this year even though it rained every day. This was the first time the Master Gardeners had to decorate the grounds, wading through very large puddles. Luckily, part of it was indoors. In spite of the wet weather there was good attendance.

The Lunch n Learns held in October and November were both great successes. We had many from Ft Payne as well as from surrounding communities. These programs are a good outreach to the community. They provide valuable gardening information to the attendees and are a

good place to find potential new members for our MGA. Speaking of new members, we were proud to welcome Mary Shurett to our group.

Our December meeting/Christmas party was exciting with wonderful food provided by individuals, and all enjoyed the 'Dirty Santa' game.

Praying you all have a very blessed Christmas Season.



Putting together the Master Gardener booth for the DeKalb Co Fair. Left to Right: Donna Wells, Norah Gamble, Jan Newhoff, and Janie Lawless. Photo by Dawn Earley

East Central MGA

Sheila Bolen
sheilabolen@hotmail.com

Happy New Year! East Central Alabama MGs have had a year full of fun, fellowship, education and hard work. We stayed busy maintaining our Smart Yard at the ACES office in Ashland, maintaining school gardens at Wedowee Elementary and Jr. High in Wedowee, building new raised beds at Knight Enloe Elementary in Roanoke, helping create raised beds at Folsom Head Start School in Folsom, building a water feature at Ashland Elementary in Ashland, and clearing out outdoor classrooms at Rock Mills Jr. High in Rock Mills. In Wedowee, at the elementary school, we held a Draped Hypertufa workshop and a Seed Swap. We held plant sales in spring and fall, certified 13 new Master Gardeners, manned a booth at the Lineville "Spring Fling" to get out information about MGs and the MG programs, and manned a booth at the Randolph County "Farm Day" for all 4th graders in the county – there's nothing like watching kids learn about gardening and farming. We volunteered in the community clean-up in Roanoke and we worked with Dr. Charlie Mitchell from Auburn at the Lee County Historical Society's "Pioneer Day" this fall. We accomplished all of this, in addition to our regular meetings, touring the Birmingham

Botanical Gardens, touring SIFAT (Servants in Faith and Technology) where we learned about gardening in third world countries, and touring the Auburn Medicinal Plants Gardens and Eagles Roost Herb Farm. We have truly had a full year and are looking forward to 2016, full of more opportunities for fellowship with other Master Gardeners, sharing our MG knowledge, tours, trips, and, of course, GARDENING!



L to R: Tia Gonzales (tour guide at Medicinal Gardens), Baisy Thompson, Harvey Thompson, Tom Harris, Dee Perkins. Jack Bolen, Valerie Morris, Vickie Stapler (in back), Alyce Johnson, Linda Barnes, Mary Chandler (in hat), Evelyn Hamrick, Marcia Houze. Photo by Sheila Bolen

Jackson CO MGA

Bill Caudill
bandccaudill@gmail.com

Jackson County Master Gardeners enjoyed eating lunch together and swapping plants at the October meeting. We had a great time even if it was rainy and damp.

At the December Christmas Party and meeting we installed the 2016 Officers and Board. They are; President: Jack Remich, Vice President:

Stacey Woods, Secretary: Donna Hawkins, Treasurer: Pat Shikle. The new Board members are Roger Chaney, Connie Goff, Gale Hamayun, and Jason Shelton. Those Board members continuing are Judy Arnold, Cheryl Holder, and Jim Parker. We wish them all the wisdom to direct the association to a great future. And may we all have a very good 2016!

Jefferson CO MGA

Fletcher Harvey
twoharveys@aol.com

Jefferson County ended September with a visit from Jim Allen, Morgan County Master Gardener, who astounded us with a presentation on his impressive succulent collection. In October our own Diane Remick and ACES Agent Bethany O’Rear brought us up to date with a discussion of apps, websites and valuable aspects of social media.

At our annual graduation banquet in November, 52 brand new Master Gardeners received their certificates! These products of our spring class combined with our “summer express” class had already performed more than three thousand hours of volunteer service prior to their certification. Nationally known actress and storyteller, Dolores Hydock, gave us an appropriate send-off for the fast approaching holiday season.

As icing on our Master Gardening cake, Chris Boles, Jefferson County Master Gardener received the Ida C. Burns Volunteer of the Year Award at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens’ annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. This

well-deserved award recognizes Chris’ years of involvement and many volunteer hours of service in many areas of BBG. Chris also shares her time and considerable talent with her Jefferson County Master Gardeners and the Fern Society, where she currently serves as president. Congratulations, Chris!

We are looking forward to an exciting new year.



Chris Boles, Volunteer of the Year, photo by Blake Ells, Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Lee CO MGA

David Peterson
davypeted@gmail.com

“Wandering Through Wondrous Gardens”
May 14-15, 2016.

This exciting and educational two-day tour offers private gardens that will provide ideas for seasoned gardeners or those just beginning to seek inspiration. The 2016 tour provides opportunities to wander through the latest in landscaping innovations, see new and unique plants, as well as old southern favorites in a variety of settings. Gardens have been selected in Auburn, Opelika, and Lochapoka to provide a wide range of beauty and thought provoking educational experiences. Presently we have secured over ten private and public gardens for

the tour, giving attendees two full days enjoyment.

One stop along the way will be at Chicken Salad Chic, 1345 Opelika Road in Auburn. A sandwich, side item, pickle, and cookie meal plus an iced drink are included in the ticket price of the Garden Tour this year. This location will offer a cool respite for resting and planning your next stop on the tour.

For more information please visit our web site leemg.org, or get more information directly from a Lee County Master Gardener during October 2015 – February 2016.

Marshall CO MGA

Linda Widner
widner@otelco.net

Season's Greetings from the Marshall County Master Gardeners. This fall has flown by with lots of rain in our area, but September was a perfect month for our Picnic and Plant Swap at MG Bonnie Ballard's home on the lake. We toured her garden and were also treated to a neighbor's garden tour.

Our CASA Garden Masters continued to amaze us by producing over 8,000 pounds of vegetables this past season. David Moore, publisher of The Good Life Magazine, visited the garden and took pictures of the garden and the MGs. He was impressed with our gardeners and asked for Master Gardening tips from those working. They should be featured in an upcoming issue.

At our Christmas luncheon we presented MG Badges to 12 of our newly certified Master Gardeners. We are proud to call them MCMGs. Several of them reported more hours than many of our veteran MCMGs. In addition to good food and the festivities, our raffle was a great success earning around \$450 to donate to the

Marshall County Christmas Coalition for Children. We look forward to a new year with a new VP, Ray Barnes; and Secretary, Tom Andress. We hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas and the New Year brings you joy and peace.



Front Row: Mary Giles, Mary McClendon, Kathy Barnes and Tom Andress. Back Row: Agent, Eric Schavey, Charlotte French, Gary March Force, Jane Staton, EV Hill, Ray Barnes, Wallace Kistler and Larue Kohl. Not shown were: Deb Douglas, Sarah Martin, John Penney and Philip Traynor. Photo provided by Linda Widner

Mobile CO MGA

Mary Nash
maryknb@yahoo.com

Officers for 2016 are: President, Jan Tanner; 1st Vice President, Judy Stout; 2nd Vice President, Nan Costello; Recording Secretary, Ann Singleton; Corresponding Secretary, Genie Schneider; and Treasurer, Linda Abernathy.

Fifteen interns completed the Master Gardener Intern class in November 2015.

Master Gardener of the Month for September was Sonja Woodruff; certified in 2014. Master Gardener of the Month for October was Catherine McLeod; certified in 2013. Master Gardener of the Month for November was Roy Suberly; certified in 2014.

2015 Lunch And Learn series: Donnie Barrett from Fairhope Tea Plantation presented a program on growing tea plants along the Gulf Coast. Charles Woods gave a tour of the Japanese Gardens. Penny Smith presented a program on Plant Propagation.

2015 Guest Speakers: Terry Plache', a landscape architect, spoke on garden design.

Melanie Lobel, spoke on "Succulents and Sedums and Container Design" and Brenda Litchfield, spoke on Camellias for your Winter Garden.

The annual Greenery Sale on December 4th and 5th was very successful. The sale funds our educational program and Scholarship Award. Alexandria Dillard, a junior in the School of Horticulture at Auburn, was named recipient of the 2015-16 Ortmann Scholarship Award.

We had a wonderful turnout for the annual Master Gardener Awards Dinner on December 6th. Genie Schneider was chosen Master Gardener of the Year and Sonja Woodruff was chosen Rookie of the Year.

February 7, 2016-Education Seminar Speakers will be: Carol Reese, University of Tennessee Ornamental Horticulture Specialist and Greg Grant, award winning horticulturist, writer and conservationist.



Master Gardener Interns: BACK ROW: Toni Tew, Elise Partridge, Melissa Wold, Janice Winters, Dorothy Lightfoot, Linda Kloter and Meghan Tanner. FRONT ROW: Laura Sullivan, Mary Nash, Ashley Franklin, Davette Schurr, Mary Lawson, Rene Reibling, Pam Pousson and Cindy Nicholason. Picture by Alice Marty

Morgan CO MGA

Sonja Hyatt

sonja.hyatt50@gmail.com

We have enjoyed an extended fall here in North Alabama. I just noticed my neighbor's Forsythias blooming last week. We cannot let this fool us though. Winter will come and those plants that we brought inside need to stay inside, and the mulching needs to stay around our plants and shrubs. Meanwhile, we can thumb through catalogs and dream our next additions to our gardens.

Our Horticulture Exhibit at the Morgan County Fair was successful. We had a good selection of plants and cut flowers. A few categories were added such as miniature gardens, fairy gardens and air plants. We hope to introduce new ideas in gardening to the community each year.

Our association enjoyed a program presented by Harvey Cotten about Historical Gardens. Another program on *Art in the Garden* was presented by Cyndia Montgomery of the MGNA. She discussed how to use varying heights, shapes, and forms, to present a visually appealing yard. Our last Lunch and Learn session for the year was in November with Amy Rakestraw demonstrating how to make terrariums.

Graduation for the 2014 MG class was held on November 3, 2015. The new Master Gardeners are Theresea Goode, Judith Looney, Tressa McGuire, Vicki Morese, Kurt Dixon, and Roger McWhorter. We welcome them to the Master Gardening community.



A Little Christmas Cheer: Left to right: Rand Bryan and Larry Moss. Photo submitted by Vicki Morese

Master Gardeners of North Alabama

Elouisa Stokes

elouisastokes@att.net

It is hard to believe that winter is back and we are looking at new catalogues and thinking about spring planting. The MGNA have been very busy making lives better here in Madison County. We had a wonderful MG class, had a fantastic plant swap, and another outstanding Christmas Social with the best food and lots of well-earned awards. There were 147 folks and we awarded Bill Young, the Friend of Master Gardeners. Deen Rice and Jessica Wood were named Interns of the Year.

Project of the Year was given to the Morris Elementary Outdoor Classroom which teaches fifth graders.

Our highest award for Master Gardener of the Year was presented to Janet Boothe, for her dedication & commitment. This year she organized an Advanced Master Gardener Pruning Class which was well received and made the awards for the Jane R. Parks Grants. Congratulations to all our honorees.

A new year has begun and we are excited about the projects we are doing as well as our plans for the 2017 Master Gardeners Conference to be held in Huntsville. From our association to all of you, Happy New Year and Happy Gardening in 2016.



MGNA Christmas social. Photo by Jessica Wood

Shelby CO MGA

Karen Jensen
karenkjensen3@icloud.com

We are feeling great pride in our 2015 Intern Class. Under the guidance of Intern Jim Strickland, a former Columbiana Mayor, the group remodeled the interior garden courtyard of the Columbiana Rehabilitation Facility to the delight of patients. They also earned a blue ribbon and remuneration for their Shelby County Fair MG booth.

At our December 'Dirty Santa' meeting, we learned that Intern Brent Gage, a King's Ranch (safe house) landscaper, has additionally received training as a 4-H leader. Interns Julia Wright, Judy Donaldson, and Deloris Davis, who do all the flower arranging for their church, will teach holiday flower arranging to 25 King's Ranch girls, ages 10-18. Imagine our pride in these Interns who inter-connect and give back their talents!

No doubt, they will let some of us MG veterans help out too.



Jeanon Massien wins hand crafted potting table constructed by SCMGA Secretary, Randall Robertson at recent Dirty Santa Meeting. Photo provided by Karen Jensen

St. Clair CO MGA

Sharla Palmgren
Sharla706@gmail.com

Here we are at the end of another year of gardening, Alabama style! Hopefully, your gardens flourished and you have happy plants growing in your winter garden also.

Our Master Gardeners have recently enjoyed a field trip to Aquatic Gardens in Birmingham for some very interesting information. A couple of our members have experienced the pros and cons of aquatic gardening, and had much to contribute while educating the rest of us. We also had presentations in October and November by two of our own MG members. Bill Dean gave an informative talk on Composting and Nola Shiflett demonstrated Dish Gardening in a most entertaining way. Nola brought several examples of the various ways we can all create dish gardens.

Our December meeting was all about fun and being with our fellow MGs. We all enjoyed the most delicious abundance of food and fellowship.

Newly graduating Master Gardeners happily received their certificates and new badges from Bethany O'Rear, Regional Extension Agent. New Officers were sworn in as shown below.

St. Clair County Master Gardeners wish you Joy, Peace, and Happy Gardening in 2016!



President, Jim Harris; VP, Cathy Bowman; Secretary, Donnie Olis; Asst. Sec, Kathy Aiken; Treasurer, Pam Garrison; Asst. Treasurer, Adrienne Bourland. Photo by Lee Ann Clark

Shoals MGA

Kaye Hillis
gardenerkaye@bellsouth.net

The Shoals Master Gardeners have been busy as usual with closing out our projects for the year and getting ready for 2016.

Our November meeting was the graduation of our Interns, with Chris Becker and our new agent, Taylor Vandiver, giving the graduates advice plus adding to their excitement. We are sorry to have lost Chris Becker to another county, but welcomed Taylor with open arms.

The Tennessee Valley Art Center in Tuscumbia Alabama asked us to once again decorate a tree for their Christmas exhibits. We chose the theme, "HOE, HOE, HOE" and in keeping with the theme, we had gardening tools, water cans, tools, and of course Miss Barbara, our gourd lady, watching over the tree. This brings out our members who cannot work on projects every time, so fun was had by all.

With this New Year 2016, we have elected new officers who continue to carry on with another year

of great programs, field trips, and of course our monthly meetings. Peggie Lazenby will serve as President, Michael Thomason as Vice-President, H.L. Noah as Treasurer, and Martha Black as Secretary. These bright and energetic members will keep us on our toes.

We all are looking forward to another great year with numerous projects awaiting our approval, and meeting new interns in January. So we hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas, and a blessed 2016.



Photo by Jean Dunn,
our photographer/Historian.

Tallapoosa CO MGA

Judy Heinzen
duchess10@charter.net

Tallapoosa County Master Gardeners 2015 Fall Extravaganza held on September 18, was sold out again. Speakers P. Allen Smith, Dr. Arlie Powell, Walter Reeves and Dr. Nancy J. Lowenstein entertained and educated attendees. Bonnie Plants demonstrated their new free iPhone App.

Thanks to our sponsors and supporters, numerous door prizes were available for drawings between presentations.

During our October meeting, Dr. Gary Mullen gave an interesting and informative presentation on naturalist Phillip Henry Gosse. Other activities included a Shitake Mushroom Workshop, numerous cookie judging events, Stream Walks and a Lake Martin cleanup day.

The election of officers for 2016 was held during our November meeting. New officers are: President – Ann Regnier; Vice President – Judy Heinzen;

Secretary – JoAnne Hawk; and Treasurer – Sallie Mason.

All enjoyed a luncheon of chicken fingers and ham supplied by the Association and accompanied with delicious side dishes and desserts brought by the members.



Congratulations to our 2015 Class of Certified Master Gardeners who were honored at the November meeting: Sara Harris, Cathy Waters, Janie Bean, Ruth Nabors, Jack Miller, Cynthia Miller, Lynette Daugherty, Joan Layne, Gail Bolt, and Sam Harris. (Not pictured: Carey Mizzell).
Photographer: Prencella Hamby, Master Gardener

Tuscaloosa CO MGA

Octavia Miles
milesoj@att.net

TCMG had a very successful 2015 and ended it with a multitude of activities and volunteer experiences. In October, we had a successful fall conference. Also in October, President Octavia Miles attended Auburn University School of Agriculture's Scholarship Luncheon and was able to meet and dine with TCMG scholarship recipient, Hannah Kittrell, horticulture major from Chatom, Alabama.

In November, 2016 officers and board members were elected. TCMG "Master Gardener of the Month" award was presented to James Bond ('01), Debra Steadman ('14) and Barbara Martin ('15).

Our year ended with a Christmas social filled with seasonal cheer and various recognitions of Master Gardeners for outstanding volunteer services! TCMG Master Gardener of the Year award was presented to Sybil Phillips. 2016 officers and Board Members were installed by Brenda Lynch.

A delightful and informative program on the

usefulness of holly evergreen trees and shrubs was presented by Ann Hewitt.

To each of you, "Happy Gardening" in 2016!



Octavia Miles, President; Jeanie Gray, Projects Chair; Ann Hewitt, Vice President; Linda Baggett, Treasurer; Debra Steadman, Secretary; Judith Rives, AC Rep; Elaine Elmore and Gypsy Kee, Hospitality Co-Chairs; and Laurie Reinwald, Membership Chair. Photo by taken by Amelia Pilsch

Walker CO MGA

Ann Cook
Acook344@bellsouth.net

Everybody loves sweet potatoes. Therefore, we featured them at the county fair. Our title, "Sweet Potatoes A Yam I'm Not", was a hit. We had a most interesting and colorful display and placed third.

We have enjoyed some delightful and educational topics this fall at our meetings. With our Facebook page becoming more popular a demonstration was given at one meeting. We also had a short video presentation on straw bale

gardening. We loved our meeting at Home Depot which actually centered on fall planting.

We enjoyed a potluck dinner and plant swap to end our year until we meet again in January. It's so exciting to announce a MG class is scheduled for February 16-May 10, 9:45 a.m. to noon, cost \$125.00.

The largest recorded snowman ever built was in Bethel, Maine, in February 1999. The 113-foot, 7-inch snowman broke the previous record held by Yamagata, Japan, at 96 feet and 7 inches.

"Chilling Facts about Snow." Michigan Science Center. 2014. Accessed: September 16, 2014.



Wiregrass MGA

Jane Klosky
jane.klosky@icloud.com

WMGA's dedicated volunteers haven't skipped a beat. Work has been done in, on and around our greenhouse to make our plant parents smile. Seeding for annuals, vegetables, herbs, and perennials will begin the first week in January and continue until our Spring Plant Sale on April 8-9 at the Dothan Area Botanical Gardens (DABG). We will nurture approximately 5,000 plants. WMGA volunteers also are installing new beds and reworking the demo beds at DABG.

Upcoming dates:

- Our 2016 Lunch and Learn series begins on January 5 with Pruning. These are held at the Houston-Love Memorial Library. Check out future topics on our website (wiregrassmga.org).
- Saturday, January 30, will be our 5th Annual Seed Swap at Landmark Park.
- David Koon, REA for Home Grounds, will discuss Seed Saving from the Vegetable Garden.
- We have scheduled some great speakers for our monthly meetings: In January, Wayne VanLandingham will show "How to Care for Our Garden Tools," and Arlie Powell (Petals from the Past) will speak on Citrus in February. Programs are open to the public.
- The Houston County Master Gardener class begins January 13. We are excited about a new group of interns.

Oh, yes...we are working on another 'small' project – the 26th Annual AMGA Conference to be held in Dothan. Hope you all will be here!!



Our WMGA Board...

Front Row: Devonne Ellis, Helen-Sue Kemp

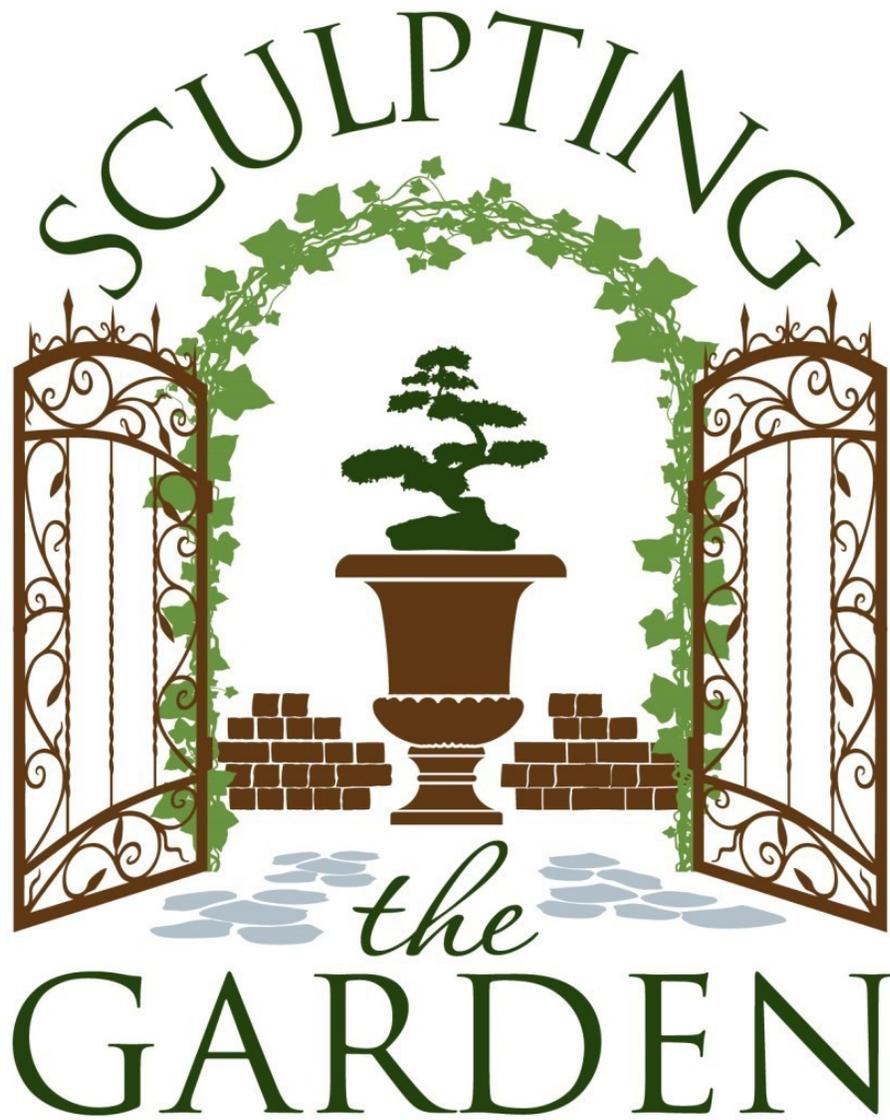
Back Row: Wayne VanLandingham, Connie Ford, Anita Gibson, Janice Egolf, Faye Carnley, Cheryl Hatcher, Lucy Edwards, Beth Arnold, Jane Klosky and Tom Boyle

Picture was taken by DABG staff member, Janie Edmondson

Apply a 3-4" inch layer of mulch to your garden, after the soil freezes to keep the soil cold rather than protecting the soil from becoming cold. This will help reduce root injury and help against continual freezing and thawing.

<http://www.ufseeds.com/Winter-Gardening-Tips-Gardeners1.html>

Don't forget to Register!!!



AMGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
MAY 12-14, 2016 ♦ DOTHAN, AL