

# PATHWAYS

Spring 2022

courtesy of Petals From the Past, Abby Messer

## LOOK WHAT'S

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## AMGA PRESIDENT

Myra Lassere



Savor springtime and the magic it holds! Tickling our senses are flowers that add an array of color and a blend of fragrances to life's moments. They lift our spirits, bringing back memories of the good times past and glimpses of the future.

Who can resist touching foliage that offers our fingertips unusual and different textures and feel? Listening to the sounds of birds chirping and gentle flowing springs and creeks adds a soothing and calming serenade to our garden experience.

Culinary delights of the many herbs, berries, and vegetables that you grow awaken our taste buds. Inhale the smell of springtime: the earth, the fragrant vines, the flowers, and the pleasant odor of nana's cooking.

As the myriad of many beautiful and exciting plants and flowers awaken our sense of adventure in searching out tomorrow's garden treasure, seek out the plant sales in your county and nearby. Anxiously await our May 2022 AMGA Conference and Business Meeting in Montgomery, where camaraderie and new times begin. Look forward to April showers and May flowers and appreciate being outdoors.

Remember, our goal as Master Gardeners is horticultural education and to encourage the use of practices that will primarily result in making us better stewards of the earth and the environment around us.

To Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow.

Myra



AMGA Website

[alabamamga.org](http://alabamamga.org)

## AMGA VICE PRESIDENT

Devonne Ellis



I hope this newsletter finds you doing well. I have been seeding and up potting plants with the help of my friends Leticia and Jeff.

It is very exciting to see the process of seeds becoming larger plants with beautiful flowers. It is fun telling people during our plant sales how to grow plants from seeds. Children get excited to see a Pumpkin on a Stick, a Monkey Flower, or an Easter eggplant. We are fortunate to grow and sell at the Dothan Area Botanical Gardens. I hope you are grabbing those opportunities to tell others about gardening, especially children.

I am looking forward to the 2022 AMGA Conference in Montgomery. I hope you are as excited as I am to be back together after two years of no conference. This one is going to be fun in our capital city of Alabama. There are tours of gardens I hope you take advantage of visiting, and the city of Wetumpka. The conference will bring us all .

together, laughing and talking about gardening. Next year in 2023, our AMGA Conference is in Tuscaloosa. Wanda, Bob, and Dan are working magic and going full speed ahead with wonderful speakers and tours there. You will want to visit. Plus, in 2024, Baldwin is hosting the AMGA Conference in Daphne. This group is going strong and lining up speakers and tours for a fun time in south Alabama. Both groups plan on telling everyone in Montgomery about their Conferences. I will not spoil their surprises.

This brings me to this final point to remember. Our Conferences are for Master Gardeners to gather and learn, find new ideas about growing plants, and having a beautiful landscape of plants in our gardens. Most importantly, it's the fellowship and bringing us together with a common interest.

I look forward to seeing you all in Montgomery.

All the flowers  
Of all the tomorrows  
Are in the seeds of today

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## AMGA AWARDS

Lyn Webb, Chair

What a fun and exciting time your Awards Committee is having this year! We received nominations in every category and the competition is tough. The newsletters that your editors are putting together are exceptional. The hard work and dedication of so many people is truly motivational.

Reach for the Stars had requests for 194 stars. We ordered seventy-one new badges and twenty-three Advanced Award Stars. You work hard and deserve this acknowledgment. Please record your hours.

We will be presenting these awards at the 2022 Annual AMGA Conference in

Montgomery on May 3, 2022. The Top Hours of the Year Award, Outstanding Newsletter Awards, along with new advanced badges and pins, will be presented during our Business Meeting. The Mary Lou McNabb Master Gardener of the Year, Gary Murray Outstanding Service and Dedication, and the Jean Lee Lifetime Hours awards will be presented during the Banquet.

A special thank you to LeeAnn Marona for your service on Reach for the Stars. You will be missed. Thank you for your patience and guidance to the dedicated Awards committee: Wray Dillard, Patty Householder, Dottie Pierce, Amanda Redman and Tanys Waldron.

## AMGA NEWSLETTER

Patricia Peoples, Editor

I want to draw your attention to the photo on the front page of Pathways and Happenings. Jason Powell, Petals From The Past, has a new path, and I thought it was only appropriate to use his path. Jason has been so accommodating to the master gardeners. Especially now, since I've moved from St Clair Co to Lee County and being too far removed to take new pictures. Quoting Jason, *this path leads into our next addition, which will be a shade garden. An area that will*

*allow us to showcase great tough plant options that prefer shade for their exposure.*

I sent a plea letter out asking for more articles as what I had was mighty slim – you paid off big time. I haven't met my goal of 100 percent participation, but it's better than when I started nearly seven years ago. I couldn't do it without the Pathways reporters; Terri Scheffler, editor apprentice; Patricia Patty, copy editor; and Carolyn Wade, proofreader.

I'm looking forward to seeing lots of my friends from far away at the 2022 AMGA Annual Conference in May.

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## AMGA PROJECT FUNDING

Sheila Bolen, Chair

Project Funding has completed another successful campaign. Four local associations will be recipients of funds and be announced at the AMGA Conference in Montgomery, May 2—4, 2022. Project Funding has funds available every year to grant LMGAs for projects that meet the established guidelines. The application, project criteria and guidelines

can be found at [alabamamga.org](http://alabamamga.org). Only good things come from receiving Project Funding monies! Look around your communities, schools, your local association, see if you can identify a need, a repair to raised beds, expanded community gardens, electronics for your association, etc. Thank you to everyone who assisted me during the last three years. It has been great! To all local associations, put your thinking caps on and apply.



[http://www.clipartpanda.com/clipart\\_images/model-funding-project-by-62634426](http://www.clipartpanda.com/clipart_images/model-funding-project-by-62634426)



## **AMGA VOLUNTEER TRAINING COORDINATOR**

Emily Bornstein

Hello Everyone,

My name is Emily Bornstein, and I am the new volunteer training coordinator for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. This is a brand-new position! I am excited to mold it into something that will benefit our programs and everyone involved. Thank you for the warm welcome I received at the AMGA Advisory Council meeting on February 1, 2022. To the rest of you, I am writing to formally introduce myself and share a little bit about the work I'll be doing.

As the volunteer training coordinator, I coordinate and manage training for the Alabama Master Gardener and Master Naturalist programs. I am eager to work with

Master Gardener and Master Naturalist leaders to help meet their needs for volunteer training – especially intern training! – and create strong connections between the training and local volunteer activities.

Prior to accepting this position, I earned my bachelor's degree in Agriscience Education and will be graduating this spring with a master's degree in Horticulture, both from Auburn University. While in graduate school, I learned how crucial volunteer programs are to ACES. My research with the Alabama Master Gardener Strategic Assessment Surveys made me excited to accept this job offer. I live in Auburn and enjoy anything outdoors, traveling, baking (and eating), and floral design!

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## **THE EXTENSION-MASTER GARDENER STEERING COMMITTEE**

Kerry Smith

Amanda Redman (Blount MGA) and Phyllis Clay (Jefferson MGA) continue to lead our promotional campaign, Zooming Zinnias. This year, we added "& MORE" to emphasize our passion for all things gardening. Please help us promote Extension Home Grounds and Master Gardeners as Alabama's go-to resources for trusted information. Find "Zooming Zinnias & More" on Facebook and Instagram!

Endless thanks to Nancy Waggoner and Karen Powell (both Autauga MGA) for building the foundation of the MG Library. This took much longer than expected, but we agree it was worth the wait. Nancy has departed our committee to pursue other

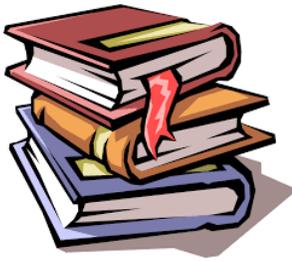
other interests. Advanced MGs, we'll soon be asking your help to build these resources.

Many thanks for feedback to updating the MG Program's Mission Statement and a brand-new Vision Statement. Skip Coulter (Chilton MGA) led this effort, and we are very grateful for his wordsmith talents. Our committee will meet soon and discuss your feedback.

Expect a very short survey coming to all MGA presidents this spring. Harriett Jackson (Chilton MGA), Lyn Webb (Chilton & Calhoun MGAs), and Lucy Edwards (ACES-HG) are strategizing methods to help strengthen teamwork across our many MG Program partners. We want your input here too.

This committee is dedicated to a strong future for our Alabama Extension Master Gardener Program.





# Blount County Master Gardeners' Fall Conference (4 CEUs)

## Stories from the Garden

September 29, 2022  
D.S. Loyd Building,  
1225 Palisades Park,  
Oneonta, AL 35121

Registration begins 9:00 am.  
Sessions are from 9:30 am to  
3:00 pm.  
Cost is \$20, including lunch,  
program and snacks

### Speakers' Schedule:

9:30 am Sherry Blanton, "Shady Tales"

10:30 am Bethany O'Rear, "Adventures of a Farmer's Daughter"

11:30 am-1:00 pm Plants with Jason Powell and  
Lunch

1:00 pm Jason Kirby, "Emily Dickenson's Garden"

2:00 pm Dolores Hydock, "Dishing the Dirt"

For information, contact Sherilyn Osborne, 205-382-0791 (leave  
a message please) [sherilynosborne@bellsouth.net](mailto:sherilynosborne@bellsouth.net)



Registration form, please print

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email / Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Make \$20 non-refundable registration fee check payable to Blount County Master Gardener Association. Mail to Sherilyn Osborne, P.O. Box 13, Locust Fork, Alabama, 35097

# PLANT SALE

## **AUTAUGA CO**

4/30/2022 Prattvillage Garden, Prattville, AL  
5/21/2022 Garden Tour, Prattvillage Garden,  
Prattville, AL

## **CALHOUN CO**

LBG Gardens  
920 Museum Dr., Anniston, AL 36206  
April 22, 8am-5pm, April 23, 8am-12noon.

## **CENTRAL ALABAMA MGA (CAMGA)**

Saturday May 7, 8am-noon  
Elmore Co Extension  
340 Queen Ann Road, Wetumpka AL

## **CHEAHA MGA**

May 7, 8:00 am until noon  
Cleburne County Farmers Market  
51 Adams Street  
Heflin, AL 36264

## **CHEROKEE MGA 4/2/2022 Centre. AL**

## **CHEROKEE MGA 4/9/2022 Leesburg, AL**

## **Chilton MGA 4/15 - 4/16/2023**

## **DEKALB CO MGA**

April 9, 7am to 11am  
VFW Fair Grounds Fort Payne.  
151 18th St NE, Fort Payne, AL 35968

## **EAST CENTRAL MGA**

May 14, 2022, 8 am - 12 Noon,  
Kiwanis Park in Wedowee, AL

## **ETOWAH CO MGA**

Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16  
8 am until 2 pm,  
3200 West Meighan Blvd., Gadsden

## **Limestone MGA**

4/30/2022 Athens Middle School Greenhouse,  
Athens, AL

## **MARSHALL COUNTY**

April 30, 2022 8am-noon  
Lurleen B. Wallace Pavilion  
2000 Lurleen B Wallace Dr  
Guntersville, AL 35976

## **MGs NORTH ALABAMA**

April 22-23, 8am-2pm.  
Alabama A&M University Agribition Center  
4925 Moores Mill Rd. Huntsville, AL 35811

## **Mobile Co MGA**

4/18 Online Catalog Mobile Botanical Gardens,  
Mobile, AL

## **ST. CLAIR MGA**

4/22 -4/23/2022, Pell City Rec Center

## **MORGAN COUNTY**

Annual Spring Plant Sale  
April 23; 8am-4pm. April 24; 1pm- 4pm  
Pt. Mallard Pavilion - Pt. Mallard Park  
Decatur, AL

## **TUSCALOOSA CO**

Friday, April 29, 12:00-5:00  
Saturday, April 30, 10:00-2:00  
Tuscaloosa County Extension Service Office

## **WIREGRASS MASTER GARDENERS**

April 8 - 10, 9am-5pm Friday -Sunday,  
Dothan Area Botanical Garden  
5130 Headland Avenue, Dothan, AL

# PLANT SALE

# HAPPENINGS

Spring 2022

courtesy of Petals From the Past, Abby Messer

## AUTAUGA CO MGA

Nancy Waggoner

ACMGA's Garden Glimpses tour is scheduled for May 21 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm; the rain date is June 4. Tour locations are within the city of Prattville.

In addition to our Demonstration and Prattvillage Gardens, the tour includes gardens of community members and Master Gardeners. Each garden is unique, reflecting varied gardening interests, experiences, and knowledge. The spectrum includes a property with fruit propagation and production, a neighborhood backyard beekeeping operation, and an artesian well oasis. In a lovely east side neighborhood, a property has backyard beds of flowering shrubs and trees in dappled shade and sun against a backdrop of natural woods. There are delightful seating areas, birdbaths and feeders, statuary, a small vegetable garden, and plants with both a story

and a rich history.

Downtown, in the Historic District, a circle of mature bamboo by a vintage home greets you at the driveway as you enter the backyard and find a sweet cottage by mature planted beds. Nearby, a large stately historic home is surrounded by landscaping installed by Southern Homes and Gardens years ago; a patina has enriched this lovely garden over time. Nestled next door is a cottage; its lawn has been transformed into a garden that immediately greets you. There are informal, dense arrangements of plants, pots, and statuary. An iron fence defines the property, and a brick walkway leads you around the back, where there is a seating area among more plantings. It is at once enchanting and intimate.

Tickets, reasonably priced at \$20, will be available from any ACMGA member or the day of the tour at Prattvillage Garden.



Garden Glimpses. Free stock graphic provided by Debbie Boutelier

## BALDWIN CO MGA

Joni Trusty Euler

The pandemic forced us to change how our meetings were conducted and rethink educational opportunities. Those changes are the "new normal" for BCMG. Membership meetings are now hybrid (in-person and via Zoom). Our monthly Zoom one-hour armchair/educational webinars have been renamed *Let's Get Growing with BCMG*.

The Membership Committee stayed in contact by phone and email with members during 2021. For 2022, BCMG has 195 members: 147 active, 19 lifetime, seven honorary, and 22 interns.

BCMG participated in numerous Arbor Day events. Our *open to the public* March Tuesday Evening Spring Workshops had maximum capacity attendance. These two-hour workshops have members from our Speaker's Bureau speaking on a wide variety of topics.

A luncheon was held in January welcoming the new intern class. The March and April editions of *Grass Roots* featured the *Meet the Interns* interviews conducted by mentors. Interns have been busy with their class projects, attending membership meetings, and volunteering at events.

BCMG hosted a Technology Workshop on websites/programs that members access and use. Topics included: an in-depth presentation of the BCMG website [www.baldwinmastergardeners.com](http://www.baldwinmastergardeners.com), a hands-on presentation on logging volunteer hours and updating ACES profiles, and downloading/logging into Zoom, including how to use the reaction buttons and chatbox.

BCMG's Spring Plant Sale was held April 7-9. Proceeds will benefit the Scholarship Fund. Many thanks to volunteers, who propagated and grew plants, and to everyone who worked the sale.



Baldwin Co MGA Intern Class. Photo by Joni Euler

## BLOUNT CO MGA

Irene Latham

### Meet Our New AMGA Webmistress!

When Caroline Etheriedge's mother, Patsy Gibbs, told her she was taking the Blount County Fall 2021 Master Gardener class through Alabama Extension, she decided to join in the fun. Caroline had this to say about the experience: "What I thought would be a nice, peaceful gardening class with my mom turned into a non-stop roller coaster ride of social events, meetings, and projects!"

Because Caroline has IT experience, she soon volunteered to help with the AMGA website. This has helped her increase her gardening knowledge and she hopes it will help turn her thumbs a bit greener. But, Caroline says, the number one thing she's learned in her new position is that "Master Gardeners are an active bunch!" Her mother Patsy is proof: Patsy

earned all her volunteer hours before the end of internship training and has already been awarded her Master Gardener certificate. Congratulations to both!



AMGA Webmistress, Caroline Etheriedge. Photo by Caroline Etheriedge

## CALHOUN CO MGA

Tim Kaylor

Ah, Spring! I have waited for you, and now you are here. So exciting!

We are busy here in Calhoun County. The speaker schedules for Lunch & Learn and monthly MG meetings are complete. Three Board meetings are completed with newly installed officers. Our greenhouse has a new roof, and the team is actively planting to prepare for the plant sale. We have added hydroponic growing areas inside our greenhouse, and those plants are thriving. The grounds team is working hard to remove last year's growth by pruning and pulling up dead plants. The newly installed beehive is flourishing, and the bees are waking from their winter rest. We've had presentations by Master Gardeners, local gardening supply businesses, and others. Master Gardener interns are nearing completion of their course work. They have been actively supporting our home grounds and community projects, such as the Jacksonville "Pocket Park" and the Munford School Atrium

demonstration and renewal project. Master Gardeners have contributed to Arbor Day Tree Give Aways in Jacksonville and Alexandria. At Cane Creek Community Gardens, our home grounds, "Raised Bed," users have begun preparing to plant crops for the current growing season.

As I mentioned, it is a busy and exciting time! We have scheduled various events this year, and hopefully, the pandemic is loosening its control over our daily activities. For us, this is a renewal year, and we look forward to improving our standing on our home grounds, in our community, our county, and our association.



Daffodils at Cane Creek Community Gardens.  
Photo by Tim Kaylor.

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## CAPITOL CITY MGA

Mary Eleanor Hines

CCMGA ended 2021 in December with a Christmas brunch and garden skit, announcements, prayer and a delicious meal.

The January meeting is always business only with no program. It focused on opportunities for the membership to volunteer on the five CCMGA projects. The chairmen of each project explained to the membership the day, time and purpose of each garden with slides showing photographs of each project site. CCMGA has a calendar of garden workdays and events on the Master Garden section of the ACES webpage.

The AMGA 2022 conference planning committees continue to complete plans for a successful conference in May. At this date, there are 142 registrants, and \$21,700 has been raised from fundraising efforts.

On January 22, Eat South project committee members helped with Seedy Saturday. Volunteers had about 500 seed packets donated by Whole Foods, plus seeds from members' gardens. Over 150 people visited the farm. A knowledgeable CCMGA member taught seed starting and transplanting.

The Montgomery Botanical Gardens (MBG) Project Committee members visited the Dothan Master Gardener's Greenhouse to observe the plants, techniques, and processes. They were guided through the greenhouse and nursery area and were told the history and progress. CCMGA members subsequently applied what they had learned in Dothan to expand their propagation efforts in the MBG Greenhouse. Plants are being grown and nurtured in the MBG greenhouse for future use in plant sales and the MBG gardens.

The remaining three CCMGA projects have served to clean up and clear out winter debris to prepare for spring growth. This is certainly one of the busiest times of the year for our many volunteers.

## CHEAHA CO MGA

Debby Mathews

Cheaha Master Gardeners made the most of the long, wet winter! This is what we've been up to in the last few weeks:

We celebrated Arbor "Day" twice!

- We assisted the Soil and Water Conservation District with the Tree City 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary event for the City of Heflin on February 17. Debby Mathews brought Leadership Cleburne County Class XVI to observe.
- On February 24, Master Gardener Mary Humphries and MG Intern Michelle Bain assisted with the Tree Giveaway at the Alabama Forestry Commission building. Mary helped organize trees by category and made fact sheets for the trees. Michelle assisted with distribution along with Humphries. Debby Mathews added fact sheets for the Kousa dogwoods and Witch Hazel trees.

We made our Demonstration Garden a priority program. All hands were "on deck" in the late winter cleanup phase. Our president Marie Rhoden, Mary, and Debby Mathews pulled garden weeds with abandon! Next, we added the following to our garden:

- Cool-season vegetables: broccoli, cauliflower, and

cabbage

- Four Blueberry plants
- Perennial bulbs: daffodils and amaryllis
- Fig tree (Planted in the back corner to give it plenty of room to grow!)

Meetings were held in January, February, and March, business portions followed by programs. At our March meeting MG, Steve Jones shared best practices for watering and potting orchids and orchid identification tips.



Steve Jones shares his orchid knowledge and experience. Galena Rhoden, Marie Rhoden, Steve Jones, Michelle Bain. Photo by Debby Mathews

## CHILTON CO MGA

Audrey Giles

Chilton County Master Gardeners are looking forward to good things in this year. Plans for more community outreach programs are being developed. We are busy getting ready for our Plant Sale to be held at Goose Pond Park in Clanton April 15 from 12-4 pm and April 16 from 8 am until...

Jason Powell, area expert on Antique Roses, was our January speaker and his talk focused on antique climbing roses.

Our February program was *Edibles in the Landscape*, presented by Autauga County Advanced MG Debbie Boutelier. Debbie showed us great ways to incorporate vegetables and fruits into our ornamental gardens. We especially liked her own yard with a front landscape where her husband did not want edibles. Pears, apples, blueberries, and strawberries are not edibles, are they? We won't tell!

Our March meeting speaker, Holly Wadleigh with the University of Montevallo Organic Community Gardens, taught us how to successfully start plants from seeds.

We also learned the mission of the UM Organic Community Garden.

Our Demonstration Garden is ready for visitors; you can visit between 8-4 on weekdays. The location is 120 County Road 756, Clanton, 35045. CCMGA Demo Garden tours can be scheduled by contacting us at [chiltonmga@gmail.com](mailto:chiltonmga@gmail.com).



Deborah Boutelier Presenting *Edibles in the Landscape*. Photo by Diane Clapp

## **COFFEE COMGA**

### **Jacque Hawkins**

#### **COFFEE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION'S BEGINNINGS**

In the Fall of 2007, twenty-two individuals attended the first Master Gardener class held in Coffee County.

After the class, twenty signed up to form the Coffee County Master Gardener's Association. The first set of bylaws was dated June 18, 2008. Charles Block (Ret, Marine Col) served as the first President and Gayle Smith was the first Vice-President. Block served as president for four years and remained active in the club until moving to Opelika. Certified Master Gardener Helpers were Ona Garwood, Delores Swenson, Anne Edwards and Caroline Fulbrook. Their first project was to see what they could do to enhance the landscape at the city cemetery on Main Street in Enterprise. It had some damage from a tornado and needed some volunteer help. With the guidance of an Alabama Cooperative Extension Service Agent, the CCMGA members drew up a plan. They proceeded with the work of trimming, removing dead material, planting flowers and installing irrigation in one of the flower beds. This gave new club members their first opportunity to earn volunteer hours.

CCMGA members have been involved in various projects in Coffee County. To name a few: design/plant flower beds at Habitat Houses when they were completed; made and gave away peanut butter at Peanut Day at the Farmer's Market; volunteered at annual Groundwater Festival teaching filtration/aquifers to fourth-grade students; taught students at an elementary school how to plant in containers and in-ground; set up a table each Saturday in March at local Lowe's for "Ask the Master Gardener"; volunteered as clerks at the annual

Camellia Show; volunteered at national Peanut Festival to man the agriculture/agribusiness booth and the fire ant booth; volunteered at Landmark Park in the kitchen garden and participated in the *Grow More Give More* and the *Harvest for Health* programs and held plant sales at downtown festivals.

CCMGA members meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at noon in the Community Room of the Coffee County Agriculture Center in New Brockton. Gavin Mauldin is the Coffee County Extension Coordinator and has his office in the Extension Office next door to the Community Room. The current officers of CCMGA are President Ed Speigner, Vice-President Jacque Hawkins, Treasurer Janine Coles and Secretary Rodney Peneul. To become a member of a Master Gardener Association, complete the twelve-week training course, complete fifty accepted volunteer hours to move from an Intern to a Master Gardener and then complete twenty-five hours of accepted volunteer work each year to maintain your active status.

The Alabama Master Gardeners celebrated 40 years of service this year. A joint resolution in the Alabama legislature recognized Master Gardeners for their service during the past 40 years by commending "the Alabama Master Gardener Program for its contributions to the State of Alabama and hereby recognizes its impact toward making our state more beautiful and its citizens more capable of environmentally safe and sound decisions for their home landscapes."

Under the "Grow More, Give More" campaign, volunteers statewide donated 13 tons of fresh produce to area food banks for local families experiencing food insecurity in 2020. "Harvest for Health" pairs cancer survivors with Master Gardener volunteers who mentor them while growing a four-season backyard garden.

## EAST CENTRAL MGA

Sheila Bolen

East Central Alabama is getting ready to hit our gardens at home and Wedowee Elementary School. The students have planted potatoes and are anxiously waiting for the right soil temperature to plant lettuce, radishes, salad turnip greens, beans, onion sets and snow peas along with other quick-growing vegetables, so they can taste them before school ends. Zinnias,

sunflowers, and marigolds are among the flowers that will be planted in the pollinator gardens. The students love the gardens and outdoor classroom. They're gaining knowledge about plants, from planting the seeds to harvesting and tasting.

A tour of Kiwanis Park in Wedowee with a guide to identifying native Alabama trees is on our March agenda. At our February meeting, Chip East, ACES Regional Agent, spoke on transitioning gardens from winter to spring. We're all getting busy with plants and starts for our plant sale, which will be held May 14 at Kiwanis Park in Wedowee.

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## ETOWAH CO MGA

Carol B. Link

In January, MGs set up three raised planters at the Love Center, a homeless shelter in Gadsden. The beds are for planting seeds obtained from the seed library at Gadsden Public Library. The planters are to help with emotional and physical healing for homeless women.

On December 4, members of ECMGA, Inc., set up a table at Tractor Supply in Glencoe to recruit students for the upcoming Master Gardener training class. Participants in the recruitment were Richard Davis, Leslie Ware, and Micah Cochran.

Throughout the winter months, Etowah County MGs have been busy. Crews of workers have met at the greenhouses each Monday through Friday to get plants ready for the annual sale.

In addition, work has been ongoing at the Kiwanis Building, located at Noccalula Falls. A small team of workers meet each Tuesday to maintain the landscape and planting beds.

ECMGA, Inc., will hold its annual spring plant sale on Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16, from 8 am until 2 pm, at 3200 West Meighan Blvd., Gadsden. Association greenhouses are located at the rear of the property. Everyone is welcome. Please make plans to attend and get new plants for the upcoming season. Flowering plants, vegetables,

shrubs, blueberry bushes, and much more will be available.

A new spring MG class began on February 3 and will continue for 12 weeks. The class will be held on Zoom, but participants that prefer to meet in a classroom may attend classes in Cherokee County.



In December, a team of MGs completed the landscaping of Habitat for Humanity House #57, in Gadsden. Barbara Harrington, project coordinator, is wearing the green MG apron. The other workers (not listed in order) are Ron Reeves, Silvia Ray, Coco and Haley Ray, Amber McFadyen, Tony Wallace, Becky Crane, & Regina Ford. Photo by Regina Ford

## JACKSON CO MGA

Bill Caudill

Happy Spring from Jackson County!

We had to cancel our January meeting due to the weather but managed to have regular meetings in February and March. You may see/replay any of our programs by selecting them from the website summary.

We have two new interns in the current Master Gardeners Course. Go, Interns!

We have entered the social media age. You can keep up with us by our new [Web page](#), on [Facebook](#), and on [Instagram](#).

Jackson County Master Gardeners continue supporting the annual Tree Commission/Forestry Service Tree Giveaway. Fourteen members helped sort, hand out, and answer questions about the trees available. There were twenty-three different varieties available this year—more pictures from the tree giveaway on our website.

We continue to do maintenance and revitalization on the Jackson County Parks Vernon Bush Walking Trail and flower beds. Help is always welcomed. We meet

Thursdays from 7-10/11, as weather permits. We work in flower beds and walk the trails to ensure they are kept open. Some trimming and weeding, etc., is usual.

Our annual plant sale will be in April, the date to be determined.

We wish you a bountiful spring planting and subsequent harvest; you can donate any extra to the Grow More/Give More Project!



Jackson County MGA volunteers at the tree giveaway.  
Photo by Unknown

## JEFFERSON CO MGA

Fletcher Harvey

Jefferson County Master Gardeners started the new year in fine style by hosting Bill Finch at our January meeting. Rarely one to disappoint, he drew on his years of writing experience and his experiences as a working horticulturist and presented a fine program dealing with Alabama's extraordinary biodiversity.

We celebrated ourselves at our annual *Reach for The Stars* program in February. In all hues and metallic flavors, our folks earned a total of twenty-one stars. Linda Massey earned her gold badge, and Hope Cooper earned her platinum name badge. Special kudos go to Alicia Hall, who is now 'bejeweled,' having

earned her ruby advanced star reflecting over 4,100 volunteer hours!

At our March meeting, we welcomed Ben Wegleitner, Sustainability Director at the Cahaba River Society. A product of the mid-West, Ben obviously hit the ground running when he arrived in Alabama. He was very well aware of his new state and position, and we thoroughly enjoyed his presentation on stormwater management in the garden with an emphasis on rain gardens.

This meeting should become at least a local holiday, as it marks our return to in-person gatherings. Though still a hybrid meeting, it was nice seeing some folks in person. Let us hope this trend continues.



Hello Spring. Free stock graphic courtesy of Alexa Konal/Pixels.

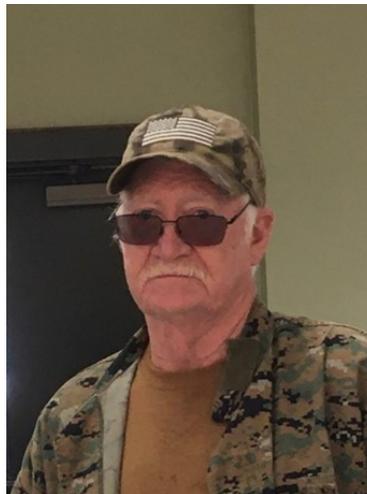
## MARSHALL COMGA

Jo Druen

Congratulations to Jane Stanton. Jane will be receiving her Gold Badge this year. It only took her six short years of tireless dedication to achieving over one thousand volunteer hours. Way to go Jane!!!

Congratulations, also, to Harry Williams. Harry was awarded the Marshall County 2021 Master Gardener of the Year. Harry's efforts do not show all he did in his over 300 hours and 4,900 miles of drive time. Harry tirelessly hauled mulch from the city to the garden, pressure-treated the tool shed, created, and erected more trellises for vertical farming (wow, did that save ALL our backs)!!! Additionally, he packed up his lawnmower and mowed the "grass" area of the garden, laid down the dripline irrigation piping; all of this was

accomplished on a pop tart and cup of coffee for breakfast. Harry is truly a man of action, and we Master Gardeners of Marshall County are very proud to be working with him.



Pictured: Harry Williams.

Photographer: Jo Ann Druen

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## MASTER GARDENERS OF NORTH ALABAMA

Barbara K. Stansky

MGNA celebrated 2021 with a beautiful potluck dinner, silent auction, and awards ceremony on December 09. The well-attended event began with appetizers and an opportunity to peruse and bid on the many quality items available in the Silent Auction. In addition to being just good old-fashioned fun, the silent auction gave members an incentive to mingle and chat as they viewed the items. The auction generated more than \$1,200 that will be utilized to fund our many great community projects next year.

Following the dinner segment, winners of the silent auction were announced, and the Awards ceremony began. Master Gardener of the Year was awarded to Soozie Pline.

Group Project of the Year was Lewter's Adopt-A-Spot in Downtown Huntsville under the guidance of Helen Carr. Lifetime Achievement award was presented to Elouisa Stokes. Intern of the Year was presented to Carlita Edwards. The New Initiative Award was presented to Josie Asquith. Community Fellowship Baptist Church and Morris Elementary were honored with the Friend of Master Gardeners award. Several interns were recognized for completing their hours. The 2022 MGNA Board of Directors was also installed at this event.

Looking ahead into a new year of gardening and community service, MGNA is hard at work preparing for our Spring Plant Sale. We're excited about our new bigger location and invite everyone to shop from a huge selection of plants and gently used gardening-related rummage items!

## MOBILE CO MGA

Carol Williams

Mobile County Master Gardeners  
Grow More, Give More

“The Alabama Cooperative Extension System’s Grow More, Give More initiative helps experienced and novice gardeners find information and resources to have a successful garden. It also encourages gardeners to share with neighbors or with a local food pantry or a regional food bank.” In 2020, over 38,000 pounds of fresh produce was donated statewide through this program.

Mobile County Master Gardeners were recently featured in Alabama Public Television’s Highlight on Agriculture production of Grow More, Give More. From the top left, Carol Dorsey, Marsha Stolz, Mary Ann Days, and our Home Grounds Agent, Jack LeCroy, detailed the success of Grow More, Give More through various programs in Mobile County.

Carol Dorsey highlighted the community gardens where vegetables are grown and shared in the community. The Strickland Youth Detention Center residents garden to donate vegetables to Central Presbyterian Church’s family food program that gives supplemental food to over 800 families a week. MCMGs plant and maintain demonstration gardens at our extension office, including a productive vegetable garden led by Marsha Stolz and Mary Ann Days. The produce is donated to a local shelter for women recovering from addiction. Carol Dorsey also shares gardening know-how with Full Life Ahead, giving hope to adults with disabilities. To watch the program online, go to <https://aptv.org/watch/spotlight-agriculture/grow-more-give-more-ucp0se/>.

Our MCMG Master Gardeners of the Month are January, Olivia Reinhaus, class of 2021; February, Kenny Helton, class of 2018; and March, Barbara Boone, class of 2022. Congratulations!



Photo Credit: Alabama Public Television, all the pics were copied from their video.



<https://www.pencilpart.com/maxpin/IR1fmb1/>

## MORGAN CO MGA

Norris Johnston

Our plant sale is a perfect place to get inspired with gardening ideas! A wide variety of plants will be available to choose from to satisfy any gardening need or skill level. We will present approximately 4,000 plants at the sale on April 23 and 24 at the Point Mallard Pavilion in Decatur, Alabama.

The sale will include unusual plants, succulents, native plants, vegetables, herbs, wildflowers, mixed containers, and some of the South's top pass-along plants.

There will be hanging baskets and containers ready for gift-giving (think Mother's Day!). Also, experienced gardeners will be at the Ask-a-Master-Gardener table to answer questions and to do soil pH testing.

The flyer for our sale is being distributed all over the area; its design is courtesy of Rick Adams, a local artist, and husband of fellow Master Gardener Cecilia Adams.

The annual plant sale is our primary fundraising event for the year and supports our various community efforts including:

- Monthly Lunch and Learn sessions
- Meeting guest speakers
- Grants to local schools for horticulture projects
- Scholarships to local students
- Grants to Auburn University
- Local beautification projects
- Public garden support

Come join the fun and support the Morgan County Master Gardener Association – hope to see you there!



Plant Sale banners will be popping all over the county! Pictured: Bob Honea and Norris Johnston. Photo by John Godbey

*All that is gold does not glitter,  
Not all those who wander are lost;  
The old that is strong does not wither,  
Deep roots are not reached by the frost.  
From the ashes a fire shall be woken,  
A light from the shadows shall spring;  
Renewed shall be blade that was broken,  
The crownless again shall be king.*

— J.R.R. Tolkien

## PIKE COMGA

Nell Haigh

Pike County Master Gardeners are involved in our community, supporting activities and special projects through education and action.

PCMG labeled and managed the distribution of 1600 seedling trees furnished through the Alabama Forestry Commission/Treasure Forest program. This one-day event gave away trees to over 125 citizens of Pike County.

Our ongoing project is planting and maintaining the period herb garden at the Pioneer Museum of Alabama and assisting with educational tours and special events.

We assist teachers with the education of fifth-grade students in an outdoor classroom with planning and planting raised bed gardens.

Community programs offered recently include Jason Powell speaking and sharing information on Petals from the Past. PCMG hosted this county-wide event, encouraging the growth, care, and preservation of heritage plants.

TroyFest Arts and Crafts weekend, April 23-24, will be our annual plant sale with members sharing horticultural information, selling plants, and promoting the Master Gardener education program.

Pike County Agricultural Academy at Goshen High School will receive a monetary gift supporting their program during their annual plant sale later in March.

Our members will tour the greenhouse facility and interact with students and teachers involved in this unique program.

Continuing educational opportunities in future lunch and learn meetings include Ticks and Diseases They Transmit, Toxic Plants, and touring the Jim Scott garden at Lake Martin in May.

Our members interact daily with friends in other community organizations and willingly share experiences, plants, seeds, and knowledge.

WE DIG IT!



PCMG label trees for distribution: Deborah H. Davis (seated) Nell Haigh (FG) and Kaye Jinright. Photo by Cathy Jorgesen.

## SHELBY CO MGA

Kate Vogel

Shelby County Master Gardeners returned to in-person meetings in January and February at the Extension Center in Columbiana. In January, newly elected president Cindy Hearn presented a program on her trip to Butchart Gardens in western Canada [www.butchartgardens.com](http://www.butchartgardens.com).

Member Deb Elliott's February program was on Gibbs Gardens in Georgia at [www.gibbsgardens.com](http://www.gibbsgardens.com).

SCMGA was awarded a \$1,000 AMGA grant to begin replacing the raised beds in Montevallo's Seed-to-Table Community Garden. Work started on March 5 and was finished at the March 11 association meeting. Seven beds were replaced and prepared for spring planting.



Shelby County Master Gardeners gathered at the Seed-to-Table Community Garden on March 11 to replace seven raised beds. Left to right: Karen Mims, Cindy Hearn, William Adair, Lisa Wade, Sandy Hixon, Sue Owen, Joy Morris, Elizabeth York, Gretchen Boling, Dennis Stanek, Kate Vogel, Joy Deering, Barbara Williams. Photographer, unknown

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*Spring is made of solid, fourteen-karat gratitude, the reward for the long wait. Every religious tradition from the northern hemisphere honors some form of April hallelujah, for this is the season of exquisite redemption, a slam-bang return to joy after a season of cold second thoughts.*

—Barbara Kingsolver, good reads.

## SHOALS CO MGA

Lisa Maples

The Shoals Master Gardeners have enjoyed the true Southern weather in our area. At Calvary Learning Center, our ongoing raised bed project helps the children learn about gardening. The kids were amazed at the carrot harvest they had gotten from the seeds they had planted; some had never seen these vegetables grown fresh from a garden bed.

The Florence Library Backpack program was a success for all involved. The Master Gardeners and the library staff partnered for the first of the monthly family backpack offerings. The library staff kickstarted the session by reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle. Our gardening segment included children planting and watering sunflowers and lettuce to take home. Cynthia Kershaw headed the program and had zinnias in peat pots ready for the kids to take with them, along with handouts about care and feeding of their plants. She taught the group about pollinators and shared how the seeds they had sown were beneficial to humans and insects. James Hea, Lisa Maples, Kaye Hillis, and

Patty Collier were on hand to assist. Interns Mario Mighty, Lisa Russell, Dianne and Al Freeze also helped with the program.

Our Master Gardeners have been assisting the intern class with instruction and gardening tips. John Baker shared his knowledge on Gardening Tools and their Maintenance. Kaye Hillis demonstrated Composting 101, while Barbara Wilson and Kathryn MacNeil put together a demonstration on Growing and Cooking with Herbs.



The Hunter family is planting seeds.  
Photo by Lisa Maples

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## ST CLAIR CO MGA

Pam Garrison

The Master Gardeners of St. Clair County were honored at a meeting of the Moody City Council on February 28, 2022; Master Gardeners Pam Garrison and Candace McElroy were present at the meeting where Mayor Joe Lee read a proclamation that praised the group for their efforts in landscaping the grounds at city hall and the police department building.

*The members of St Clair Master Gardeners have volunteered countless hours with the latest gardening techniques and to inform others about the benefits of gardening, Lee read, As well as spearheading numerous special projects to benefit not only the city of Moody but the surrounding areas of the county.*

Lee also presented a plaque crediting the group to be put on the city hall building.



Moody Mayor Joe Lee presented a plaque to Master Gardeners L, Candace McElroy and R, Pam Garrison.  
Photo by Nathan Prewett.  
Story by Trussville Tribune

## TUSCALOOSA CO MGA

Dan Sutton

Just as many plants have gone dormant this winter, so too have many of our activities. But Spring is coming! In anticipation of warmer weather, our MGA group had a Seed Starter Saturday at the University Arboretum on 02/26/22. While it was still quite cold, several members showed up to get a head start on plantings. Many of the seeds planted during this event will be sold in our upcoming Plant Sharing Sale on Friday, April 29, 12:00-5:00 and Saturday, April 30, 10:00-2:00 in the Tuscaloosa County Extension Office.

We are also continuing to plan for the 2023 Alabama Master Gardener Annual Conference, which we are sponsoring, to be held April 3-5, 2023, on the University of Alabama campus.



Seed Starter Saturday. Pictured Left to right: Nancy Seyfried, Bob Blakney, Jeanie Gray, Anne Wynn, Ida Gleaton, Ann Hewitt, and Dan Sutton, Not shown: Barbara Sullivan. Photo provided by Dan Sutton



Free stock photo courtesy of Pexels.



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**Got Questions**



**We've Got Answers**

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



**NEXT ARTICLE FOR PATHWAYS DUE JUN 15 2022**

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