

# PATHWAYS

SUMMER 2024

Courtesy of Pexels

## What's Inside?

P2: AMGA Vice President  
Dates to Remember

P3: AMGA Awards

P4: AMGA Endowment &  
Transformation Garden  
AMGA Membership

P5: AMGA Newsletter  
AMGA Nominating  
AMGA Project Funding

P6: AMGA Treasurer  
AMGA 2025 Conference  
Info

P7: AMGA Fall Seminar

P10: Blount County Fall  
Conference

P11: Help Wanted/  
Newsletter

**AMGA Website**  
[alabamamga.org](http://alabamamga.org)



## AMGA PRESIDENT

Devonne Ellis

Hello, my gardening friends! I hope your summer is relaxing and your gardens are blooming with beautiful flowers. Whether you are growing flowers or vegetables, I hope you are having an abundance of them.

For those of you who went to the 2024 AMGA Conference in Daphne, I hope you are sharing your experience with others. I heard the tours were good and the workshops were amazing. A special thank you to all who attended them. The speakers came to inform us with clever ideas, better choices, and moments of laughter. Our 2025 AMGA Conference is in Prattville next year. I hope you choose to enjoy the fellowship along with learning innovative ideas.

Shortly after the Conference, I attended the Advisory Council. We had a wonderful group come to the meeting. Do not forget to bring a carload on August 6, 2024. Be sure to check your emails about the snack/food options to bring and share along with current ideas.

Our AMGA Fall Seminar this year is in Auburn. This will be a wonderful opportunity to visit the Transformation Garden and the rooftop garden. I hope you make plans to come. I do hope we can have our projected money total completed for the pathway naming rights by then so we can celebrate big time.

This year has been an enjoyable time to visit Extension Master Gardener groups. Kerry and I are traveling around visiting all Extension Master Gardeners across the state. I am in awe of everyone and the volunteer efforts you tackle and achieve. I want to thank all Extension Master Gardeners, Extension Agents (yes, they read our newsletters) along with Kerry Smith. We work together as a team achieving goals to better serve our communities.

I grow plants between the weeds,

Devonne

## AMGA VICE PRESIDENT

Debbie Boutelier



Summer arrived this year with a bang! The heat, and no rain for weeks, is making for an uncomfortable start to the season. I guess dragging hoses around the yard will be on my to-do list for the foreseeable future. Oh well, that's what we do as gardeners.

I want to personally thank Baldwin County Master Gardeners again for the wonderful conference they hosted this year. I have heard great comments from members who attended. And weren't the decorations absolutely gorgeous! How wonderful to have the nursery resources they have down south.

Next, in 2025, we will be visiting Prattville, hosted by the Autauga County Master Gardeners. Some great plans are in the works, and you don't want to miss this conference. Mark your calendars now for April 3 through April 5. The theme of the conference is Fountains of Knowledge: Learn—Grow—Share. More information to come!

Then, it will be on to Huntsville in 2026. The dates for that conference will be May 6 – 8, 2026 with the theme Gardening to the Moon and Back. Members from Limestone, Morgan and Master Gardeners of North Alabama are already planning for the event.

Where will we go in 2027? If your association has not hosted a conference in the past, this would be a great time to consider inviting AMGA to your area. There are wonderful assets in every part of the state and we would love to visit! Please contact me if you have any questions or want to consider hosting.

Always remember, time began in a garden!

Debbie



August 6 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
The AMGA Advisory Council Meeting  
Petals from the Past 16034 County Road 29, Jemison, Alabama

September 3 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
AMGA Board Meeting  
Petals from the Past 16034 County Road 29, Jemison, Alabama

October 3 @ 8:30 am - 3:30 pm  
Blount County Master Gardeners' Fall Conference  
Locust Fork Baptist Church 30580 AL-79, Locust Fork, AL

October 10, 9 am - 4 pm See registration on page 7  
AMGA Fall Seminar

## AMGA AWARDS

Julie Conrey, Chair

Thanks to all who nominated hard-working Master Gardeners and association newsletters for awards this year. Congratulations to the following 2023 award winners:

- Claybank Master Gardener Association Newsletter, 'Flowers and Friends.'
- Shelby County Master Gardeners Association Newsletter, 'Gardeners' Gab.'
- Wiregrass Master Gardener Association Newsletter, 'The Garden Plot.'
- The Top Hours of the Year Award was given to Mary Calvin, Baldwin County Master Gardener.
- The Jean Lee Lifetime Hours Award was given to Carolyn Wade, Master Gardeners of North Alabama.
- The Gary Murray Award for Outstanding Service and Dedication to the Alabama Master Gardener Program was given to Hayes Jackson.

For the first time in 27 years, the Mary Lou McNabb Master Gardener of the Year Award was not given at this year's conference. While all the nominees were stellar on the local level, none had served the AMGA at the state level. The AMGA Board of Directors and the Awards Committee have clarified the requirements for a MG to receive this state award which includes a \$1,500 stipend. Please visit [alabamamga.org](http://alabamamga.org) for the complete list of requirements.

Newsletters provide a key strategic tool for Master Gardener associations. Through the written word and pictures, we teach, recall, celebrate, recruit, thank and plan. We hope each association distributes these newsletters to not only Master Gardeners, but key community stakeholders with whom we have relationships and those with whom we'd like to work. Because of our mission, Master Gardeners are the most public facing entity of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. To support and promote the work of our ACES partner agencies, we are now requiring association newsletters to include a comprehensive calendar of events for the extension office with which it's affiliated. We have also clarified what we need to see in association newsletters that are submitted for awards review. These criteria go into effect immediately and will be used for award submissions next year. Please check out this complete list at [alabamamga.org/amga-awards/](http://alabamamga.org/amga-awards/).

Questions regarding these clarifications can be directed to [awardsamga@gmail.com](mailto:awardsamga@gmail.com).



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“Butterflies are self-propelled flowers.”



Robert A. Heinlein

## **AMGA ENDOWMENT AND TRANSFORMATION GARDEN COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Roger Clarke, Chair

### **TRANSFORMATION GARDEN**

GET READY!! Total contributions toward our \$200,000 pledge to Auburn are \$174,300, leaving a balance of \$25,700. If all the stars line up just right and the 2024 AMGA conference was as successful financially as it was in person, with your help we could complete our pledge in 2024! Get out your checkbook. Send in donations NOW; let's see if we can close this before the end of this year.

I visited the Transformation Garden with a group of Jefferson County Master Gardeners recently. Alabama Master Gardener Trail, our name for the pedestrian walkway, is front and center throughout the garden and will become the main reference point when everything is built out.

THANK YOU – LETS GET OVER THE FINISH LINE

### **ENDOWMENT FUNDS**

The fund activity and balance are only reported by Auburn to us periodically. The last reported balance is December 31, 2023.

The Horticultural Scholarship Fund balance is \$156,828, and the Endowed Graduate Fund balance is \$142,679.

The total anticipated scholarship payout this year (both funds) has not been determined but is expected to be very close to \$10,000. These endowment funds are performing as expected and generating enough income to continue scholarship awards for many years to come. Although these funds have reached their intended goal, they are still open for contributions. What better way to remember an Association president or the passing of a long-time Master Gardener than with a donation to these funds?

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## **AMGA MEMBERSHIP**

Rose McCauley, Chair

AMGA active and lifetime membership is 1,938 as of the end of May.

Our programmer has almost completed the changes we requested on the Service Report. After completing that, he will begin working on the issues we have been experiencing in the Dues Tracker, such as duplicate membership entries. We are working to make this program more “user-friendly.” If you are experiencing any problems with Dues Tracker, please let me know what they are, so we can review it and possibly make an adjustment to the program.

## **AMGA NEWSLETTER**

Patricia Peoples and Terri Scheffler, Co-editors  
Sheila Bolen, Apprentice

We hope you enjoyed the conference as much as we did and are already looking forward to the next one! We'd also like to congratulate MGNA Master Gardener Carolyn Wade for winning the prestigious Jean Lee Lifetime Hours Award. Carolyn is a valuable member of the Newsletter team, serving as Proofreader. Well done, Carolyn!

If you are reading this article, you've already noticed that we have now split Pathways & Happenings into two separate documents to give us increased performance and room for future growth. If you have feedback on the change you'd like to share, please click [here](#).

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## **AMGA NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Doc Scheffler, Chair

What an exciting time to be part of the Nominating Committee! We just finished our 2024 AMGA Conference, and we already have to start working on the seven (7) vacancies to be voted on at the 2025 Conference.

Our committee will be Chaired by Doc Scheffler. Phyllis Clay returns to the committee for one more year, and Amy Weis won election to the committee at the recent Conference.

One of the challenges the committee faces will be educating what the Board and its Committees do for all Master Gardeners. It's incumbent on this committee to identify AMGA membership who have a talent and motivation to serve on our state Board.

As we are working to identify these individuals, we are working to educate members as to the roles and responsibilities of the positions on the AMGA Board.

Members that have an interest can contact me and we'll answer any questions. If any members believe that they know some Master Gardeners who might be future leaders, please contact [me](#), and we'll share knowledge.

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## **AMGA PROJECT FUNDING**

Sherlyn Osborne, Chair

The Project Funding Committee had a very successful year with a lot of extra help near the end when applications were slow and then the website quit communicating. Six worthy projects were applied for and approved. These projects and grant amounts are:

- \*Wiregrass, \$1,911 for the installation of greenhouses.
- \*Limestone, \$1,060 for help with a courtyard at Athens High School to be used to teach the planting and maintenance of the plants to students.
- \*MGNA, \$1,011 for a greenhouse misting system.
- \*Blount, \$1,850 for irrigation installation and community garden expansion.
- \*Calhoun, \$1,353 for improvements to existing greenhouses.
- \*Lawrence, \$1,011 for a Reflective Garden for the Signature School and Community.

All of these special projects had a theme of planting, teaching, and sharing with the community.

We thank each of you for helping bring them to AMGA's attention!



## AMGA TREASURER

Cecilia Adams

Alabama Master Gardener Association (AMGA) continues to have sound financial standing. Financial documents were included in the 2024 AMGA conference Brochure. Since the Report was submitted for the 2024 Conference, we have had \$14,299.59 income with \$44,258.89 in expenses, leaving a balance of \$118,358.74 reported at the June Board Meeting. Total Reserves \$36,634.36.

Included in the expenses were Awards presented at the conference:

Project Grants-\$9,996.00

Newsletter Awards \$300

2022 Mary Lou McNabb Award \$748.39

We continue to receive contributions to the Transformation Garden. Please remember when you send these donations to include the [Auburn Gift Commitment Form](#). This will ensure the acknowledgment goes to the correct person. Any money for AMGA should be sent to:

Cecilia Adams, Treasurer

PO Box 3031

Decatur, AL 35603

Checks should be made out to AMGA and the purpose of the check placed in the "FOR" line. Any additional information in a note with the check is appreciated.

When sending money to AMGA, please include your contact information in case there are questions.

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## 2025 CONFERENCE

Sondra Henley, Conference Chair

On June 4, the AMGA Board received a report. The vertical banner and conference T-shirt were displayed. Save the Date cards with the fountain charm will be available at the next Advisory Council meeting. Everyone enjoyed the tour of the First Baptist Church facilities.

All speakers have been scheduled and contracted. Rose McCauley, Speaker Chair, will now take over assigning hosts. A comprehensive area hotel list is created, and we are working on getting block rooms.

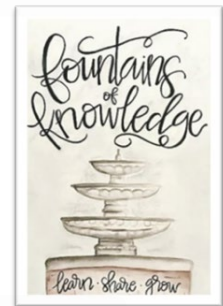
Our donations form is available for our membership to begin asking the community for their help in making the 2025 Conference successful. The conference packet will be sent to possible sponsors. We already have a \$1,000 donation from the Autauga County Commission.

The 2025 Conference Steering Committee briefly discussed past conferences, including things we want to avoid and other things to include or expound upon.

Workshop information has been completed and Tours are being finalized. The Registration Committee has previewed the Planet Reg YouTube tutorial and is working on the form.

Silent Auction items have started coming in. Amy Richardson and Soyna Moore are working on storing these items until the conference. A membership roster was created to post committee members to "preconference" and "during the conference" duties.

Because of upcoming outpatient procedures, it was decided that Sondra Henley, as chair, needed to appoint another Co-Chair who has conference experience. Rose McCauley agreed to take on that role.



Join us at the

Alabama Master Gardeners Association

# Fall Seminar

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THURSDAY

10  
OCT 2024

9AM-4PM



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Register online at <https://aub.ie/AMGAfallseminar24>

Price: \$40/person

Speakers, Raffle, Lunch Provided

Located at the Auburn University Nursing Building  
710 S Donahue Dr Auburn, AL 36849

Questions? Email [kmj0068@auburn.edu](mailto:kmj0068@auburn.edu)

# AMGA 2024 SCHEDULE

Registration 8:30am-9:30am

**Welcome announcements 9:45am**

**Dr. Layne 10am**

Transformation Garden and FoodU

**Prize perusal & break 10:45am - 11am**

**Ms. Blanchard 11am**

Empowering Students with Hands-On Learning:  
The Vertical Farm

**Lunch 12pm**

**Dr. Gamble 1pm**

Enhancing Agricultural Sustainability:  
Insights over 128-Years

**Prize perusal & break 2pm - 2:15pm**

**Dr. Robinson 2:15pm**

Growing Wonders: A Children's Garden

**Raffle winners & closing remarks 3:15pm**



Department Head  
& Professor  
Horticulture



Research Associate II  
Horticulture



Associate Professor  
Crop, Soil &  
Environmental Sciences



Associate Professor  
Horticulture





# AMGA 2024 DIRECTIONS

- Meeting to be held at the Nursing Building (710 S Donahue Dr, Auburn, AL 36849)  
See the highlighted nursing building on map below

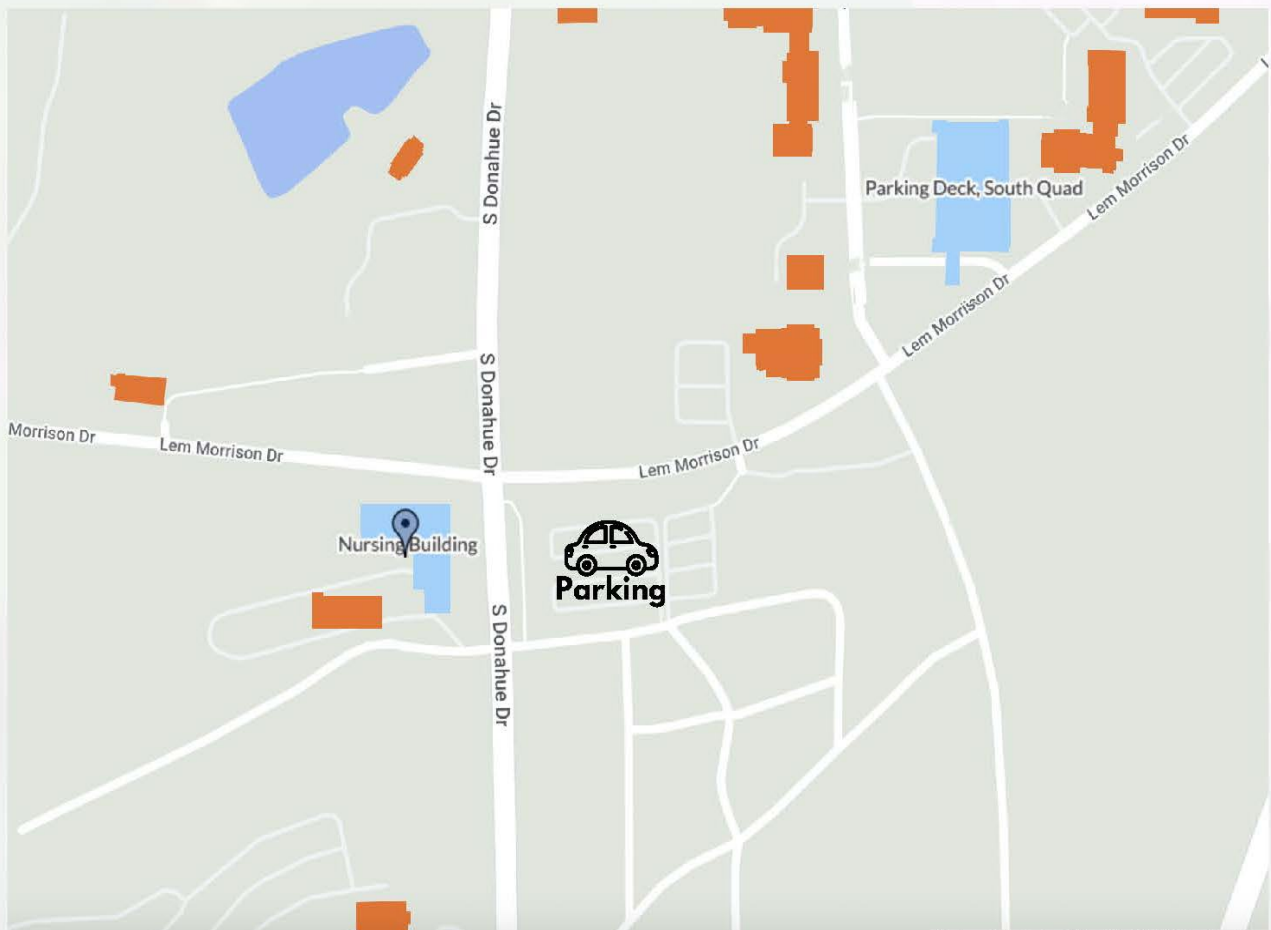
- Free parking is to the east, gravel lot, across from the Nursing Building  
Look for the parking lot entrance signage

### If you selected ADA parking on your registration

- ADA parking is locating directly behind the nursing building  
Make sure your placard is visible

### If you did not select ADA parking on registration but need it

- Register your car and ADA parking license at Parking Services (highlighted on map)
- Located on the 2nd floor of the South Quad Parking Deck at 330 Lem Morrison Drive
  - (334) 844-4143 or email at [parking@auburn.edu](mailto:parking@auburn.edu)



# Where the Natives Have Gone



## Blount County Master Gardeners' Fall Conference October 3, 2024 (4 CEUs)

Locust Fork Baptist Church  
30580 AL-79, Locust Fork, AL 35097

8:30 a.m.— Registration

9:00 a.m.— Brian Keener, UWA Cahaba Biodiversity Center and Alabama Plant Atlas

10:00 a.m.— Jason Powell, Native Plants for the Home Landscape

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.—lunch and shopping with Jason

12:30 p.m.— Keith Turney, Natives at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens

1:30 p.m.— Soozie Pline, Natives in the Home Yard

**Cost: \$40, including lunch by Lulu's – chicken or pork barbeque and sides  
(please note vegetarian preference on registration form)**

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



Registration form, please print

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

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

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

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

Vegetarian requirement: \_\_\_\_\_

Make \$40 registration fee check payable to Blount County Master Gardener Association.  
Mail to Sherilyn Osborne, P.O. Box 13, Locust Fork, Alabama, 35097

# HELP WANTED

## Newsletter Copyeditor

The Copyeditor shall:

- be familiar with a style manual such as the AP Style Guide for current guidelines relating to usage “for the digital age.”
- check all articles for readability, correct spelling, grammar and punctuation
- check that names of individuals, places and organizations are spelled properly and that facts, dates and statistics are accurate.
- check that illustrations and photos are correctly captioned.
- when necessary, research cited sources to make sure they are reputable and that proper credit is given.
- make sure the writing is easy to read, and rewrite and update written content when needed.
- make necessary changes to articles to meet AMGA's standards.

Please notify Patricia Peoples if interested.

[amganewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:amganewsletter@gmail.com)







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MASTER  
GARDENERS  
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Got Questions?



We've Got  
Answers  
ACES Helpline  
1-877-252-4769



Keep your  
garden &  
yourself  
hydrated  
this summer!



Courtesy of Pexels

NEXT ARTICLE FOR PATHWAYS DUE SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

**2023 - 2025 AMGA BOD OFFICERS**

**President:** Devonne Ellis, Wiregrass  
**Vice-President:** Deborah Boutelier, Autauga  
**Secretary:** Amanda Redman, Blount  
**Treasurer:** Cecilia Adams, Morgan

**BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE**

**TERM 2022 – 2025**

Susan Hagen, Blount  
Kelly Lafreniere, Central

**TERM 2023 – 2026**

Kate Vogel, Shelby  
Julie Conrey, Mobile

**TERM 2024-2027**

Janell Diggs, Capital City  
Kim Johnson, Jackson  
Susan Steele, Lawrence County

**AMGA COMMITTEES**

**AMGA AWARDS**

Julie Conrey, Chair, Mobile

**AMGA COMMUNICATIONS**

Caroline Etheridge, Chair, Blount  
Pathways Editor: Patricia Peoples, Lee  
Pathways Co-editor: Terri Scheffler, Jackson  
AMGA Webmaster: Caroline Etheridge

**AMGA ENDOWMENT**

Roger Clarke, Chair, Jefferson

**AMGA MEMBERSHIP**

Rose McCauley, Chair, Autauga

**AMGA NOMINATING**

**TERM 2024 - 2025**

Doc Scheffler, Chair, Jackson

**TRANSFORMATION GARDEN NAME**

Michael Thomason, Chair, Shoals

**AMGA PROJECT FUNDING**

Kate Vogel, Chair, Shelby

**AMGA RECORDS & RETENTION**

Michael Thomason, Chair, Shoals

**AMGA SPEAKERS BUREAU**

Susan Hagen, Chair, Blount

**AUBURN TRANSFORMATION GARDEN**

Roger Clarke, Chair, Jefferson

**AMGA STATE CONFERENCES**

Deborah Boutelier, Chair, Autauga

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEES**

**2024 BALDWIN CO MGA**

Paula Pritchett, Sandra Stepan, Wanda Martin,  
Terri Wallace

**2025 AUTAUGA CO MGA**

Sondra Henley, Rose McCauley

**2026 MGNA/LIMESTONE/MORGAN MGAs**

Jennifer Johnson (MGNA), Soozi Pline  
(Limestone), Doty Henry (Morgan)

**ACES CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Kerry Smith, Chair

**ACES VOLUNTEER TRAINING**

Emily Burchfield, Coordinator

**AMGA ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Edwin (SKEETER) Sims, Chair, Calhoun

**AMGA WEBSITE**

Caroline Etheridge, Blount, Webmaster  
Devonne Ellis, Wiregrass  
Deborah Boutelier, Autauga

**AMGA WEBSITE INFO APPROVAL:**

Caroline Etheridge  
Devonne Ellis  
Deborah Boutelier