

HAPPENINGS

WINTER 2024-25

Courtesy of [Pexels](#)

AUTAUGA COUNTY MGA

Nancy Waggoner

Preparations are in high gear for the AMGA Annual Conference to be held here in Autauga County April 3-5, 2025. Look for pre-registration and speaker information on the AMGA website. We hope to see you in historic and interesting downtown Prattville!

ACMGA provides information to members of the community about gardening. The Ask a Master Gardener Program in Prattville was determined to be successful. Each Saturday during the program, members made approximately 10-20 contacts with the community members who sought gardening information at Home Depot. Tentative plans are to continue the program and possibly expand to an additional home supply center.

The walkway along Autauga Creek in Prattville is lined with Christmas trees that businesses and associations in the community have paid to decorate to benefit the Family Support Center. ACMGA has decorated a tree with "ornaments" of laminated cards that visitors may take with information on the care of Amaryllis and the Camellia. The back of

each card has QR codes to access information regarding Alabama Master Gardeners Association, Autauga Master Gardeners Association, and Extension.

Autauga County Master Gardeners are always teaching but learning as well. In October, our own Debbie Boutelier, Advanced Master Gardener and Herbalist, presented a program on Herbs in the Landscape. In November, Nate Taylor, Arborist and owner of Taylor Tree Services, discussed trees in the landscape: health, planting, and trimming.

Also in October, members enjoyed a trip to Botanic in Opelika for lunch and shopping.



Autauga County Master Gardeners support community fundraising activities.

Photographer unknown.



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BALDWIN COUNTY MGA

Pat Greer

The State Conference held in Baldwin County in April was an excellent success. We are grateful for the attendance and support of our fellow Master Gardeners from the 32 MG organizations within Alabama.

Our new slate of officers for our Board of Directors was installed at our Awards Luncheon on December 11th. For 2025 five of our new Board Members are from the 2024 class, two of whom are Members at Large.

This year our Wayne de la Rue award was awarded to Mary Calvin. Mary was our

president in 2023 and will be spending another year as past president. She oversees one of the 3 greenhouses the Baldwin County Master Gardeners use for the plants we sell at our Plant Sales. She has many other qualities that were in consideration of this prestigious award that I do not have space for in this article.

In February our ACES Agent, Carmen Flammini, will be conducting two sessions for our volunteer leads, and will also conduct a Volunteer Fair for all the Baldwin County Master Gardeners in February.

BLOUNT COUNTY MGA

Dee Scott

Wow! What a jam-packed FULL Fall Ya'll! The Blount County Master Gardeners had a FULL Fall lineup of activities. First up was the move into our brand-new meeting location at the newly opened Blount County Multipurpose facility in Cleveland, Alabama. What a lovely new home for us and an incredible asset for the communities in Blount County. The opening of this new facility also heralded the return of the Blount County Fair after a five, yep, five-year hiatus. As in the past the Blount County Master Gardeners took up the reins of volunteerism and returned to their job of managing the intake, overseeing the judging, and the safe return of all the Fair exhibits once the fair ended. This process was made possible by the hard work of MG Amanda Redman. Amanda planned, supervised and generally guided all our volunteer efforts which facilitated the Master Gardeners' many successful contributions to the smooth return of the Fair. Fast on the heels of these efforts came the Blount County Master Gardeners Fall Conference in early

October. Utilizing her considerable organization talents, Master Gardener Sherilyn Osborne treated conference attendees to a stellar lineup of informative guest speakers on the topic of "Where the Natives Have Gone." Lastly, this Fall many of our Master Gardeners attended the Master Gardeners Fall Seminar in Auburn. Whew, now that was a FULL Fall Ya'll! Season's Greetings and see you next year.



Blount County Master Gardeners at AMGA Fall Seminar in Auburn, 2024. (L-R): Sherilyn Osborne, Amanda Redman, Susan Hagen. Photographer unknown.

CALHOUN COUNTY MGA

Teri Gilbert

Our hours coordinator, EMG Linda Kaylor, held a Service Report workshop and helped EMGs through the process of logging their hours on the Service Report. The workshop was very beneficial.

Annual elections took place in November for Vice President and Treasurer, as well as representatives for Cane Creek grounds, Coosa Valley/Tree Amigo, Longleaf Botanical Gardens, and the Cane Creek/Sherron Pritchett Greenhouse. President Ruth Sarro installed the 2025 officers and passed out job descriptions to all officers, both new and returning.

Fourteen Calhoun County EMGs met at Yahoo Lake mid-November and, on a tour led by EMG Everett Studdard, learned about the features of the lake. Next they toured the Camp McClellan Horse Trails, led by EMG Susan Waldron. The Camp McClellan Horse Trails include the Sassy Trail, used with special needs children.

EMGs Tom and Teri Gilbert painted fresh box numbers on the seventy raised beds on our home grounds at Cane Creek. A committee has been

formed for the Raised Bed Renovation Project. Plans include replacing worn-out boards and adding fresh soil to the garden beds. The raised beds are used by members of the community at no cost to them.

Our annual Awards Program Meeting was December 6 at our Cane Creek clubhouse/classroom. Many members attended and participated in the "Dirty Santa" gift exchange. The cleverest gift was a Santa figurine inside a zip lock bag full of dirt.



CCMGA members toured Yahoo Lake. Photographer: Susan Waldron

CAPITOL CITY MGA

Mary Eleanor Hines

For gardeners, this is a special and busy time of the year. Pansies and snapdragons are planted and in full color, camellias grace the community with their vibrant colors. Spring bulbs are planted, and flower beds are mulched, so all is ready for the winter.

CCMGA project gardens that have been active with EAT (Eat, Act, Transform) South remain uncertain due to a soil problem. Our educational programs continue to be presented in the community. Lillie's Garden chairman held meetings in the fall with the teachers and principal of the school where the garden is featured. It was emphasized that the garden is a teaching tool for the students. Plans for our 2025 spring plant sale are discussed monthly.

The graduating interns were presented with their certificates at the November meeting. There were twelve graduates who volunteered a total of 800+ hours. Graduate Jane Ficquette earned 237 of those hours.

Montgomery, Autauga and Elmore Counties held a surprise luncheon in November for County Extension Agent Mallory Kelley in honor of her 15 years of serving master gardeners in these three counties.

A dedication was held in Montgomery Botanical Gardens remembering Allison Maddox Lucy, who died on August 1, 2024. She was the daughter of Cathy and Bruce Maddox. Two large, matching urns at the entrance of the gardens were presented in Allison's memory by friends.



Jane Martin and Tom McLemore putting the finishing touches on one of the memorial urns. Photographer: Mary Eleanor Hines

CENTRAL ALABAMA MGA

Cynthia Augustine

The Central Alabama Master Gardener Association, Inc. (CAMGA) has had a busy Fall. Events have included an intern graduation in August and providing lunch for the new Fall class of interns several times. In September, CAMGA members worked with senior adults at the Wetumpka Senior Center. Members taught the participants how to care for and propagate succulents. Each senior was able to pot up his or her own to take home. October saw our annual meeting at Lanark where members participated in a plant swapping time. A public education workshop entitled, "The Art of Autumn Gardening" was held on October 16th, and participants received bulbs for late fall planting. November brought a surprise party for our Regional Extension Agent Mallory Kelly, who has been the Extension Agent for CAMGA, Capitol City MGA and Autauga County MGA for

15 years. All three groups worked together to plan the event, and Mallory was truly surprised when she arrived.

In December, CAMGA's annual Christmas party was held on December 3rd. Wonderful food was brought by the members and Robin Synder and Rhonda Miles did a wonderful job organizing the event.

The new slate of officers for 2025 was installed at the party. They include Cindy Augustine, President; Jason Mattox, Vice President; Sherri Davidson, Treasurer; and Martha Rodgers, Secretary.

Members finished out the year with participation in Wetumpka's Dicken's Christmas event, where members dressed appropriately for the era and distributed sachets and organizational information. CAMGA is looking forward to the new year!

CHEROKEE COUNTY MGA

Bill Holland

The end of the year affords us two really good opportunities - the chance to take a retrospective look at the past year and the ability to plan for the coming year. This past year has been full of challenges and rewards for the Cherokee County Master Gardeners. We continued our mission of educating our community through the use of research-based horticulture solutions (City Park, Town Halls, Spring / Fall Plant Sales, 21st Century Youth Program, Fully Functioning Greenhouse, Grow More / Give More, Extension Helpline, etc.). All these activities were accomplished during some of the most severe weather conditions we have seen in quite a while. Our members have worked together as a team to meet any challenges they were given.

The new year offers additional growth opportunities. How do we continue to increase the education component of our mission while

still providing our community with an improved place to live and grow? What do our 2025 plans need to be to help achieve this goal? What other goals do we have for horticulture education in our community? How do we continue having our community fully involved with the work that we are doing? Stay tuned - I believe we will have a good set of answers to these and other questions.



(L-R): Julie Howell, Becky McMinchen, recipients of Service to Agriculture award they received from the Extension Office. Photographer: Sandra Ledbetter

CHILTON COUNTY MGA

Kerry Rush

As 2024 ends, Chilton County MGA has again made volunteering a priority. Our association led the participation in sprucing up the front entrance to the local Humane Society and assisted with the installation of a Sensory Path at Ollie Park in Clanton. CCMGA also volunteered in a variety of capacities for the 4-H Chick Chain Show and Auction, the Alabama Natural Resources Council's "Classroom in the Forest", and the Alabama Loggers Council Annual Meeting.

CCMGA set-up and manned MG information tables at both the Beeswax Stewardship Expo and Humane Society of Chilton County's "Howloween" event, all in promotion of AMGA.

Our monthly meetings provide learning opportunities with a slate of great guest speakers. Alisha Millican presented an informative, photo-rich talk on 'Fungi and the Home Gardener'. Beverly Williamson and Amy Baker, CCMGA members, shared their experiences with African Violets and Soil Blocking.

The CCMGA Conservation Group organized two field trips this quarter. First a tour of Recreative Natives Nursery in Cropwell, Alabama, then a site visit to report and maintain our adopted preservation effort of the Alabama Canebrake Pitcher Plant.

CCMGA closed out 2024 with winter preparation of our Demonstration Garden and Extension Office beds, and by celebrating Christmas with our annual lunch and "Dirty Santa" fellowship.



CCMGA members at Humane Society.
Photographer: Harriett Jackson

CLAYBANK MGA

Debi Breedlove

Members of the Claybank Master Gardeners (Dale County) closed out the growing year with several successful major projects. Last year CMGA built a Pollinator Garden at Vivian B. Adams School in Ozark, a center for developmentally disabled residents. This year they continued to make improvements and maintain the facility for the participants at the school. The garden includes perennials for pollinators, benches and a bird bath.

CMGA adopted the Gregory Meditation Garden at the Dothan Area Botanical Gardens, a nearby bed with evergreens, perennials, cedars and a Japanese Magnolia. The area looks beautiful after the attention given by CMGA. Also, a new community garden at a local

recreation facility received attention from CMGA.

Four Lunch and Learn programs, our monthly programs, and participating in Ozark's annual Make a Difference Day, kept members busy! The group closed out the year with a Christmas luncheon and December meeting.



Claybank MGs at Ozark's Make a Difference Day.
(L-R): Susan Kenny, Leah Richardson, Janet Shinaberry, Susan Rigsby, Dee Gilbert, Page Stephens, Darlene Enke, Kneeling : Mickey Breedlove. Photographer unknown.

CULLMAN COUNTY MGA

Ellen Hall

October was busy with the annual County Fair crop registration and CCMG fair booth. This year was the first annual Scarecrow Competition. CCMGs had fun putting together a Minnie Pearl scarecrow, a nod to her mid-1930s visit to Baileyton in Cullman County, where she met someone who inspired her comedic character Cousin Minnie Pearl. Our October plant sale was successful despite our fears that the summer drought might leave us with little to sell.

Our Extension coordinator had to turn over the Intern Class to Cullman's MG Pat Sharpton. Pat's report on the class, which ended in early November read: *"There are 16 MG interns who completed the class. They came from Cullman, Jefferson, and Lawrence County. The class project involved doing a landscape design for the outdoor classroom at the Wildflower Garden. All members of the class participated in this project. They*

recommended plants for planting in and around the area. Many of the plants have been purchased by CCMG and planted by several interns after the class ended in November." We look forward to working with these interns in the new year.

In our November meeting we elected officers, approved 2025's budget and selected our "Master Gardener of the Year" for 2024 - Susan Rodgers, who was acknowledged at our Christmas lunch on December 2.



Susan Rodgers, our 2024 MG of the Year, poses with her certificate and photo collage.

Photographer: Ellen Hall

EAST CENTRAL ALABAMA MGA

Sheila Bolen

Another year has come and gone. Gardens were planted, tended and harvested. Landscapes were planted and tended, admired and changed. And watered - they sure were watered a lot this year. Our School of Blooms Garden at Wedowee Elementary fared well this last summer thanks to the efforts of EMG Susan Turner. Her dedication kept the gardens alive and thriving.

We toured private gardens as well as public gardens this spring and summer and learned lots of interesting facts about each of them. We will be working with the Kiwanis in Wedowee to help them identify and label trees and plants along a birding trail they are developing at

Kiwanis Park, where we host our annual Spring Plant Sale. Pollinator gardens will also be established. Kiwanis have a 5-year plan for improving the park in Wedowee and East Central MGs are a big part of that plan.

Being a small group we're very excited to have six new interns in the fall class. All of them are eager to get involved so we have truly been blessed.

2025 looks to be a good year for ECAMGA and we hope to increase the education opportunities for our community, so all can improve where they live and what they grow.

May 2025 be all your association needs, hopes, and plans for.

JACKSON COUNTY MGA

Bill Caudill

Jackson County Extension Master Gardeners wish Everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year!

The Jackson County Fair went well. Sheila McCullough, Chairperson of the Flower House Committee, found some fabric in our leftover supplies. Sheila sent the fabric to her best friend, Mrs. Sunny Swartz in Pensacola, FL and had a quilt made solely for JCMGA who raffled the quilt at the fair as a fundraiser.

On Oct 3, we took ourselves to Estillfork, Alabama to The Graham Farm and Nature Center. After sightseeing and checking out the improvements at the farm we did lunch and our plant swap. There were many interesting specimens as usual to pick from.

On November 7, installed, we had a very interesting talk about Pine trees in Alabama with Licensed Forester Calib Killough.

December 5, we held our Annual Christmas Party. The new officers were installed, and we topped it off with Dirty Santa gifting.

We are still debating what should be done, how to gather adequate volunteers, and set schedules to ensure proper continuing maintenance is done on the Vernon Bush Trails and Gardens at Jackson County Park. Check our Facebook page for future info. Facebook: alabama_jcmga

We are scheduled to host a Fall 2025 Intern Class with registration open June 2025.



Quilt made for JCMGA and raffled as fundraiser. Photographer unknown

JEFFERSON COUNTY MGA

Fletcher Harvey

It's hard to believe that the Jefferson County Master Gardeners are speeding toward the end of another (productive) year!

In October we were treated to a visit from Charles Owens, City Arborist for the City of Gulf Shores. In a "previous life" he was Director of Horticulture for Bellingrath Gardens and Home. Chuck was also the power behind the cascading Chrysanthemum displays for which Bellingrath was so well known. After his fascinating presentation, many of us decided it was fine to admire the displays, but we probably wouldn't "try this at home!"

After our meeting, several members adjourned to Slice Pizza in Crestline for our first (hopefully) annual fundraising lunch. Slice graciously agreed to donate 10% of sales to JCMGA.

The highlight of our year was the graduation luncheon in November for our Intern Class of 2024. Following a delightful, catered buffet

lunch, we celebrated the unleashing of thirty-two newly certified Master Gardeners into the gardening world. This remarkable group has already documented more than two thousand volunteer hours! This is the first class to be conducted away from Birmingham Botanical Gardens. They met for their classes at Jones Valley Teaching Farm where they also accomplished their community involvement project. Hooray for "us."

We end 2024 with a sincere wish for "Happy Holidays and wonderful times ahead."



Bethany O'Rear (blue sweater), ACES Agent, surrounded by 2024 Graduation Class.

Photographer: Patricia Putnam

LEE COUNTY MGA

Shelley Aistrup

Lee County Master Gardeners ended the year with several fun events. The first was a Native Azalea Sale in Auburn. The sale was well attended with Extension Master Gardener volunteers and customers from the area. Funds raised will support our local demonstration gardens, scholarships, and grants.

Next, we gathered for a potluck luncheon and celebrated the accomplishment of eleven interns who have achieved their Master Gardener certification. Four of the eleven new Master Gardeners attended the luncheon and received their certificates and badges. We are excited to have such dedicated new members.

Third, many Master Gardeners gathered at the Caroline Dean Wildflower Trail in Opelika to decorate the fences and signage with holiday boughs and ribbons. The community regularly

uses the Trail for holiday family pictures and outings. The morning was a true celebration of our commitment to the community and appreciation for this beautiful space.



LCMGAs at Caroline Dean Wildflower Trail
(L - R): Mike Akins, Susan Parker, Susan Austin, Faye Andrews, Kat Anderson, Mike Hutchinson, Joan Jacobs, Julie Hutchinson, Mary Anne Hokanson, Lela Lofton, Betsy Akins, Terri Bisanz, Doug Deason, and Carolyn Plott.

Photographer: Betsy Akins



MOBILE CO MGA

Cindy Findlay

December got here quickly! Mobile County Master Gardeners (MCMG) have been so busy the last few months. Work began on our Christmas Greenery Sale early this year. Last year we moved the pick-up destination to our home base the Jon Archer Agricultural Center, and we did so well that we set up a Christmas Shop there. Okra can be made into anything in our Santa Shop and can then be sold along with other decorations and our Greenery Sale items!

Our Pinecone party was another year of decorating fun. Thanks go out to all of our Interns that helped! The Greenery Sale was a success, thanks to Paula Reeves and Emily Arellano who did an awesome job leading us to another great year!

Our Demonstration/Dream Garden has been shaping up and is looking very good. Our Interns worked hard with Marsha Stoltz and our other volunteers that work in the garden. Thanks to

Paul Barnes and Ted Atkinson. Marsha's happy with the new Compost Station built by Paul.

Our Awards Ceremony with great food and fun will be our last Hoorah for the year, however, we have eyes for '25! Every one of our MCMG works hard every year to make our big events a success and we applaud them all!

Carol Williams was our true guiding light as our President this year. Thank you, Carol!



MG Paul Barnes with the new compost station for the Demonstration Garden. Photographer: Cindy Findlay

MORGAN CO MGA

Julia Chennault

We continue to be a community presence with monthly plant donations to local hospice patients. Usually, a half dozen small plants are potted up and decorated according to the season for the patients. This endeavor is spearheaded by member Susan Kingsley. We also have a large number of members who write about gardening topics for our local paper. These are published every other Saturday.

Our Lunch & Learn programs are offered to the community at no charge monthly, except in December and January. Our final one in November this year was a presentation by member Aileen Russell on winter sowing. It was one of our more popular programs for the community, giving approximately 30 attendees a gallon milk/water jug of soil and two packets of seeds to take home in anticipation of planting on or after the Winter Solstice. They also received an instruction sheet that included a list of all the plants with which members had success last winter, along with some that didn't pan out.

In October, member Nancy Shannon headed up a group of members that planted fall flowers downtown in the courtyard of Hospice of the Valley.

Our Christmas Dinner Potluck was well-attended by our members and guests. We love to gather as friends and share our kitchen creations almost as much as we love to gather as gardeners.



The wind was cold, but the sun was bright and the sky was blue, as members happily trimmed their assigned Enchanted Forest tree with decorations, inspired by nature and crafted by the Association. Enchanted Forest in downtown Decatur is a fundraiser for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Photographer: Cecilia Adams

PIKE CO MGA

Buriece Gracey

Happy New Year from Pike County! We wrapped up 2024 with a flurry of exciting activities. The quarter began on a high note as we proudly received a blue ribbon for our booth at the Pike County Fair. Our vibrant display highlighted the importance of attracting pollinators to home gardens. Additionally, we engaged with local schools through three rewarding events. In October, we guided school groups on a tour during Pioneer Days at the Pioneer Museum of Alabama. In November, we collaborated with our local extension office by volunteering at Classroom in the Forest and Farm Day. Both events offered valuable learning experiences about Alabama's natural resources for local children. We concluded the quarter by decorating a cabin at the Pioneer Museum of Alabama with all-natural Christmas decorations and serving as Salvation Army bell ringers.

In addition to all the fun activities and hard work, we found time to enjoy each other's company, learn new information and grow relationships. We look forward to another rewarding year in 2025!



Pike County Master Gardener Amy Baker models butterfly wings at our fair booth. Photographer unknown

SHELBY CO MGA

Kate Vogel

This year SCMGA won the newsletter award at the State AMGA Conference. We had three Lunch & Learns that helped educate the community. We have our two pop-up gardens with Grow More Give More, Alabaster Senior Center, and Wilsonville Library, producing vegetables for seniors and others needing food. We raised nearly \$1,000 at our first plant sale. We had another great intern class, with 17 graduating and successfully completing their project at Heardmont Park Senior Center.

Our December meeting was our annual end-of-year luncheon and "Dirty Gardener" gift swap.

At the November meeting, Interns gave their presentations, and lunch was provided by members. At the November Lunch and Learn at the Alabaster Senior Center, member Deb Elliott spoke on pruning.

In October, Bionca Lindsey, Autauga County Advanced Master Gardener, provided a program on Hostas. Also in October, members manned a booth

at Beeswax Creek Park. The park has several hiking trails, and we have been asked to suggest deer-resistant/drought-tolerant plants and to oversee planting.



Pictured are: MGs Pam Crawford, Eric Brown, Marty Box, Michael Johnson, Pam Dyer, Susan Arvin, Mike Mahaffey, Julie Adams, Amie Rochelle, Joanne Headrick, Mikki Vineyard, Extension agents John Vanderford and Jessica Evans. Not pictured are Emily Brown, DeAnn Roy, Linda Clark, Natalie Dudchock, Sarah Barr, Allana Alexander.

Photographer: unknown

SHOALS MGA

Dwight James

In October, the Fall Conference hosted by the Blount County Master Gardeners was entitled "Where Have the Natives Gone". Our group turned out in full force at the Locust Fork Church with 14 members attending. It did not disappoint with outstanding speakers and topics. They always go above and beyond to host a great educational event.

Plans are underway to inventory a lot of clean pots in preparation for the spring plant rescues and diggings that we will participate in as a group. Penny Townsend has headed up two official "Pot Washing" workdays at the greenhouse. Hundreds of our most popular-sized pots have been washed, bleached, and stacked. This will save lots of precious time as Spring unfurls.

Recently, a very generous donor gave us boxes upon boxes of freshly dug iris bulbs covered in leaves. Hats off to Sally McGuire for heading up our workday at the greenhouse to pot up over 260 pots of various colored irises.

For true gardeners, there is literally no "off" season. But while we are only days away from the official start of winter, winter does represent a slowing-down of outdoor projects and the beginnings of planning for spring. Recently we have taken in a large number of donated ferns for our Plant Sale in April. Christmas ferns, Macho, Kimberly, and even Boston ferns. We are working toward having healthy plants in the spring!

Until spring arrives, enjoy your winter!



Shoals MGs attending the latest Fall Conference.
Photographer: Tim Kaylor

ST. CLAIR CO MGA

Pam Garrison

Fall has carried on for a long time with mostly moderate temperatures and a significant lack of rain. This October we looked over Lakeside Native walking trail. Maintenance needs were discovered, as well as a number of plants which suffered in the drought.

Several from our association attended the Blount County Fall Seminar. It was very informative and a great opportunity to interact with gardeners across the state. I was reminded at the seminar, to prune back my peonies as I hadn't done that yet.

November brought a gradual lowering of temperatures and the beginnings of much needed rain. We planted flowers at the Moody

Welcome sign in October and took turns hauling water to them. What a relief the rain was. Native plants have been purchased for the walking trail and now it is either wet or too cold to get them planted.

At our November meeting, we voted in new officers for the 2025 year. Several of the current officers were eligible to serve another year and graciously stepped up to do that. We are a small association, so it can be problematic to fill positions.

December 5th was our Christmas party. Tables were beautifully decorated by members who brought greenery to make it festive. The 2024 Officers were installed, and new interns were recognized and welcomed into the association. We are delighted to have the new members and look forward to a great 2025.

TALLAPOOSA CO MGA

Calvin Johnson

A Garden Project in December? Really!

Tallapoosa County completed its December project early so the City of Dadeville could thoroughly enjoy their artistic efforts, as well as their creativity. In early November, on a cold morning, 30 or so volunteer MGs gathered with their layout sketches, a half-dozen trees, and homemade decorations to add to Pennington Park's growing assortment of artistic Christmas nostalgia in downtown Dadeville. The theme was an "old fashioned Christmas" with all the trimmings. On site, an artificial tree was constructed from scratch, limb by limb, standing six feet tall ready for a host of homemade decorations. A dressmaker's dummy was presented wearing her finest attire for her big celebration, regardless of the predicted subzero weather that she might endure over the next several holiday weeks. Several smaller trees were beautifully decorated to surround the overall holiday atmosphere, linking together the several dozen competing displays surrounding their setup with themes of reindeer, Santa's sleigh, and lots of gift packages. Lights were abundant for evening viewing,

as well as some with music playing in the background. The half-acre park display has grown and attracted young and old visitors, as well as residents. The TCMGs hope their fancy Christmas Garden contribution will attract new members and provide the public with new gardening ideas.

Yes, there was a Christmas Garden in the Park in Dadeville!



Winter Wonderland – 2024. Photographer: unknown

WIREGRASS MGA

Kelly Bexey

This fall has been productive and fun for the Wiregrass Master Gardeners.

During our annual fall plant sale in October we saw many friends, old and new, returning to browse, buy and learn. We raised enough funds with our plant sales to fulfill our annual philanthropic contributions to local horticulturally and educationally based organizations as well as to complete our pledge for the naming of Auburn's Transformation Garden pathway.

We continued to "grow gardeners one kid at a time" by certifying eight new Junior Master Gardeners. Providence Christian School brought more than 60 students to the Dothan Area Botanical Gardens (DABG) to learn from our Master Gardeners about vegetable gardening, composting, herbs, and butterflies which included a visit to DABG's WOW - Wings of Wonder.

During Harvest Hay Days at Landmark Park, Master Gardeners taught more than 300 kids of all ages about the importance of peanuts to the Dothan area. In November, we completed nine days of teaching in the Kitchen Garden as part of Landmark Park's Living History program which brought nearly 900 students, teachers, and parents into the park to learn about

farm life at the turn of the century. In addition, Landmark's Fall Farm Day brought more than 100 kids and adults into the Kitchen Garden to learn about planting, growing and maintaining a garden in the "old days".

WMGA is looking forward to another year of teaching, learning, and growing.



Harvest Hay Days at Landmark Park. "Picking" peanuts and listening to MG Glenda Heney talk about her Mother's experience as a youngster of helping to stack peanuts.

Photographer: Jan Shirley



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Got Questions?



We've Got
Answers

ACES Helpline
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Courtesy of Pexels

It's never too early to get out the seed catalogs & plan this year's garden!

NEXT ARTICLE FOR PATHWAYS DUE MARCH 15, 2025

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