

# GARDENERS' GAB



## Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association

**Meetings: Monthly, 2nd Friday at 10 a.m.**  
Shelby County Extension Office  
Columbiana, Alabama

**Alabama MGA:** [www.alabamamg.org](http://www.alabamamg.org)  
**Alabama MG Program** [www.aces.edu/mg](http://www.aces.edu/mg)

Vol. 6, Issue 4

April 2013

## Pointers from the President...

OK—so is it really spring? I have been trying to clean out my garden beds, but it is hard wearing a heavy coat or avoiding the rain. Are you ready for a nice spring and planting season?

I hope everyone joins us for a great meeting on April 12. We have an expert coming to share his knowledge on native plants. You won't want to miss this meeting and you even have an opportunity to purchase plants.

Also, don't forget the Botanical Gardens Plant Sale April 4-7. Aldridge Gardens Spring Plant Sale is May 10-11. You see, there are opportunities to work and to buy all your plants. Please come, work, and buy!!

Our board is hard at work trying to make our Master Gardener group the best it can be. We need you at our meetings and finding your place to volunteer with your expert knowledge. Please come and support your group!

I hope to see you at our meeting and also hope to see some of you at the state conference April 15—17!

Your President,

*Susan*

### THIS MONTH'S MEETING:

**FRIDAY, APRIL 12th @ 10:00 AM**  
**LOCATION: Shelby County Extension Office**

Get ready to learn about native meadow plants and grasses appropriate for our area with Arnold Rutkis of Stoneshovel (details on page 2)

Potluck lunch to follow.

~Mary K. Tomas





Before we know it flowers will burst from their buds in a crazy explosion of color and beauty! The array of plants that greet us at the garden centers can dazzle us with their range and numbers. To help us harness all that good garden energy, Arnold Rutkis, design-build landscape professional and owner of Stoneshovel, will help us select native meadow plants and grasses appropriate for our area. In addition to his presentation, Arnie will have native plants available for sale, many of which he grows himself from local seed (and in the local soil), so bring along your checkbooks. I hope you all can join us on April 12 for this very special program!

If you would like to learn more about Arnie, check out his website: [www.stoneshovel.com](http://www.stoneshovel.com)

~Mary K. Thomas

### Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association Minutes – March 8, 2013

**Call to Order**– Susan Seng with recognition of a few guests. Pat and George Hare are transferring from Chilton County MG. Susan's sister, Freddie DePlacido was visiting. It was noted that there was an article in Shelby Living on Michelle Hill, her home, and her recipe for crepes.

**Minutes** of last meeting accepted as published in the *Gardeners' Gab*

**Treasurer's Report** accepted as published in the *Gardeners' Gab*

**Thank You Report:** Susan thanked Wayne Atchison and his wife, Connie for allowing us to have our meeting at Living Hope Baptist Church and for the nice room set up, drinks, and door prizes.

**Committee Reports:** Rita Forrest has taken on the job of Projects coordinator formerly held by Bill Legg. She has requested all new projects be filtered through her. She explained there is a form to be filled out. Jan will send a form to anyone who wants one.

#### **Announcements:**

- The new class begins August 7. Mentors will be needed. Sundra Smith has volunteered to be in charge of Mentors this year. Brenda Fitzgerald will be in charge of testing.
- There was a request for a coordinator for Extra Field Trips. A volunteer is needed.
- Reach for the Stars awards will be given out at our next meeting.
- The state conference is coming up April 15–17.
- Carol Beard needs volunteers for the Birmingham Botanical Gardens Plant Sale April 5 -7. This year it will be held at the old JC Penny location at Century Plaza.
- Oak Mountain State Park will host an Exceptional Anglers event for special needs kids May 8, 9, and 10<sup>th</sup>. Dianne McKinney is looking for volunteers. She mentioned they had lost sixty volunteers when one sponsor withdrew.

**Judy Helms introduced our host and speaker, Wayne Atchison and his wife, Connie.** Mr. Atchison spoke about their home schooling program as well as the aquaponics program he has created. Later we toured both the aquaponics system and the bee hives.

**The Blessing was said by Wayne Atchison and Lunch** was enlivened with several lovely door prizes the Atchison's provided. There were twenty- eight in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Heerten, Secretary



## Gardeners! Play, Stay and "Jazz up Your Garden" at the 2013 AMGA Annual Conference in Florence, Alabama!

"Jazz Up Your Garden" is the theme for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Master Gardener State Conference to be held April 15-17, 2013, hosted by The Shoals Master Gardeners.

Our speakers are ready to jazz you up with new garden plans and ideas that will have you excited and ready to return home to work in your garden.

Hospitality at the Marriott Spa and Hotel Conference Center will have the red carpet rolled out and ready to welcome everyone from Gulf Shores to our master gardeners in the northern part of our state. We are also thrilled to offer a self-guided garden tour on Sunday the 14th of April. Maps to local gardens allow you to drive and view gardens at your leisure.

To learn more, go to: <http://www.amgaconference.org/>



### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4—Cathy Canant  
5—Ginny Whitaker  
8—Aprile Hayes  
12—Edith Johnston  
18—Jo Lowden  
19—Diane McKinnon  
23—Judy Helms  
28—Sybil O'Brien

### ALABAMA GARDENER'S CALENDAR FOR APRIL

**FRUITS & NUTS** - Season for strawberry planting continues. Start spray program for all fruits. Plant raspberries and blackberries and continue budding apples and peaches.

**SHRUBS** - Prune spring flowering shrubs after flowering. Fertilize azaleas and camellias. When new growth is half completed, spray all shrubs with a fungicide.

**LAWNS** - Planting continues. New lawns may need supplementary watering. Also, fertilize at 3- to 6-week intervals. Keep ryegrass cut low, particularly if over planted on Bermuda lawns.

**ROSES** - Watch for insects and diseases. Keep old flower heads removed. Plant container-grown plants from nurseries or garden centers.

**ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS** - Plant early started annuals or bedding plants from nurseries or garden centers. Divide mums or root cuttings. Dig and divide dahlias.

**BULBS** - Plant gladiolus, fancy-leaved caladiums, milk and wine lilies, and ginger and gloriosa lilies. Feed bearded iris with super-phosphate and spray for borers. Avoid cutting foliage of narcissus or other bulbs until it has turned brown naturally.

**MISCELLANEOUS** - Spray camellias, hollies, etc., for scale insects. Carefully water newly planted shrubs and trees. Pinch out tips of new shoots to promote more compact shrubs.

**VEGETABLE SEEDS** - Plant tender vegetables such as beans, corn, squash, melons, and cucumbers. Plant heat-loving vegetables in lower South Alabama.

**VEGETABLE PLANTS** - Plant tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, sweet potatoes, and parsley.



## *Members Reach New Heights in 2012!*

*By: Cathy Canant*

*Quite a few of our Shelby County Master Gardeners will be moving up to a new level of volunteer achievement. Most of you, I am sure, are aware of our “Reach for the Stars” Program. For those members who are not familiar with the Program or may just need a little reminder— you may have noticed some members have different colored stars and/or no star attached to their badge, or may even have a different colored badge. The “Reach for Stars” Program was approved and implemented by the State Master Gardener Board of Directors in February 1999. Since the programs’ implementation in 1999, we now have 9 recognition categories. Categories are determined based on the total number of volunteer & C.E.U. hours you have reported since becoming a Master Gardener. The category & requirements for each level are:*

*Bronze Star 100 to 299 hours*

*Silver Star 300 to 499 hours*

*Gold Star 500 to 900 hours*

*Gold Name Badge 1,000 to 1,999 hours*

*Platinum Name Badge 2,000 to 3,999 hours*

*Ruby Colored Gemstone 4,000 to 5,999 hours*

*Emerald Colored Gemstone 6,000 to 7,999 hours*

*Diamond Colored Gemstone 8,000 to 9,999 hours*

*Lifetime Membership & Name Badge 10,000 plus hours*

*Please join me in congratulating the Shelby County members who will be recognized for their achievements at our April meeting:*

- **Bronze Star Recipients:** George Baldwin, Ruby Duncan, Susan Eagan, Michelle Hill, Edith Johnston, Sandra Jones, Linda Powers and Sundra Smith*
- **Silver Star Recipients:** Jane Harris, Phyllis Love, Diane McKinnon and Lloyd Mehaffey*
- **Gold Star Recipients:** Brenda Fitzgerald, Jan Rogers, Susan Seng and Mary K. Tomas*

*Congratulations to all & thank you for everything you have done & will continue to do to support Shelby County and the Master Gardeners!*



## First "Don't Bug Me" Webinar Slated for Early February

The inaugural *Don't Bug Me* webinar will provide answers on what works and what doesn't work to control fire ants. Dani Carroll, a regional home grounds agent with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System will host the free webinar on Friday, Feb. 1 at 1:00 pm Central time.

"Do a web search, and you will find lots of sites with home remedies for fire ant control," says Carroll. "They are all over the internet. This webinar will help ordinary people learn what works and what doesn't."

Carroll says that the webinar's expert is Wizzie Brown, a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension specialist working in integrated pest management who will debunk some myths about dealing with fire ants.

Brown says she will begin by explaining basic fire ant biology.

"I plan to talk about "organic" and how it means different things to different people," she says. "Then I will discuss what treatments work and those that do not work. People will learn about less toxic but effective techniques for fire ant management for home landscapes."

Carroll explains that this webinar and all of the *Don't Bug Me* Series webinars are specifically for average people who need answers they can use.

"This first webinar and the rest of the series will give people sound, research-based solutions for pests from some of the top experts in the nation," she says.

More information can be found at the [Fire Ant Home Remedies event page](#) including how to connect to the webinar. On February 1, participants can use [this link](#) to connect to the webinar.

The webinars are sponsored by [eXtension](#) and the [Alabama Cooperative Extension System](#). They are coordinated by the [Imported Fire Ant eXtension Community of Practice](#).

As upcoming webinars approach, watch eXtension's [Don't be Bugged Webinar Series page](#) for more information on that particular webinar.

### Upcoming Webinars in the First Friday of the Month Spring Series:

**March 1:** [Ants! Ants! Ants!](#) Tawny crazy ants and Argentine ants don't sting, but their large colonies are definitely annoying. Learn how these ants live and how to control them. Hosted by ACES Regional Extension Agent Bethany O'Rear.

**April 5:** [You Have Fire Ants Where?](#) Targeted fire ant management in sensitive and challenging areas including vegetable gardens, fish ponds, compost piles and electrical boxes. Hosted by ACES Regional Extension Agent Willie Datcher.

**May 3:** [Protect Your Loved Ones From Fire Ants](#) Learn safe, effective, research-based methods to protect your family and pets from fire ants. Hosted by ACES Regional Extension Agent Charles Pinkston.

**June 7:** [Get Rid of Those Bed Bugs](#) Learn how bed bugs live and get sound, research-based advice on how to get rid of them. Hosted by ACES Regional Extension Agent Chris Becker.

Hello Fellow Master Gardeners,

I have a couple requests:

1. Kathy Bass, Columbiana Resident, Class of 2004 is looking for a roommate for Conference. If you know someone or would like to cut your room cost...please contact me for Kathy's phone number.
2. I am arranging all the flowers and bouquets for a wedding on April 13th. Does a good neighbor Master Gardener friend have any curly willow I can cut?

My email address: [nauzer1@att.net](mailto:nauzer1@att.net)

THANKS!! Jeanon

Nelson:

Thank you for taking time to talk about a program for our **Mt. Laurel Garden Group**. We would like to schedule something for our January 2014 meeting. We meet the first Tuesday of every month at 10 am. We are interested in a class/program on invasive species. We try to keep our neighborhood planted with native plants.

I hope that someone will be able to come to Mt. Laurel and even help us spot invasive species.

Thank you so much,  
**CC Prickett**

Cell: 352-223-6719

Email: [ccjrp@aol.com](mailto:ccjrp@aol.com)

We are looking for Mondo Grass (not the dwarf). I have attached a picture of what we have started transplanting from my Mom's yard in Mississippi. We are landscaping our front yard and need more.

Is anyone is willing to share? We are willing to dig/thin it out with homeowner's supervision.

Thanks,

Julie and Corley Ellis  
205-907-1828



\$\$\$\$\$\$ Treasurer's Report as of 3-31-2013 ~ by Angie Ballew \$\$\$\$\$\$

BALANCE SHEET		INCOME STATEMENT		
<b>Assets</b>		<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
Checking Account	2,360.45	Memberships	88.00	440.00
MG Clothing	<u>447.00</u> ***	Ground Hog Day Dinner	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>2,807.45</b>	Round-Up Dinner	0.00	0.00
<b>Liabilities</b>		Field Trip	0.00	0.00
Clothing Deposits	0.00	Shelby Co. Fair	0.00	0.00
State Dues Payable	<u>0.00</u>	Donations	<u>0.00</u>	<u>19.00</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>88.00</b>	<b>459.00</b>
<b>Capital</b>		<b>Expenses</b>		
Begin of Year	3,658.47	State dues	40.00	200.00
<b>Net receipts YTD</b>	<u>-851.02</u>	Ground Hog Dinner	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Capital</b>	<b>2,807.45</b>	Round-Up Dinner	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Capital</b>		Stamps, Cards		
	<b>2,807.45</b>	& Admin Supplies	0.00	80.02
		Honorarium & Gifts	0.00	0.00
		Decorations	0.00	0.00
		Field Trip	0.00	0.00
		AMGA Scholarship	0.00	1,000.00
		Badges & Stars	<u>0.00</u>	<u>30.00</u>
		<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>40.00</b>	<b>1,310.02</b>
		<b>Net Receipts</b>	<b>48.00</b>	<b>-851.02</b>

\*\*\* MG apparel on hand had not been accounted for and should be shown as an asset. Therefore, a one-time adjustment to capital was made, since it was purchased in previous years.



**Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association  
Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2012–2013**



President	Susan Seng	991-7867	gaggy10@gmail.com
Vice-President	Mary K. Tomas	781-883-1523	maryktomas@yahoo.com
Secretary	Beth Heerten	991-5154	beth.heerten@charter.net
Treasurer	Angie Ballew	980-7695	aklballew@bellsouth.net
Advisory Council Rep	Cathy Canant	260-7748	ccanant@bellsouth.net
Communications	Jan Rogers	307-9733	janrogers@charter.net
Historian	Karen Jensen	670-0701	kkerr50@hotmail.com
Hospitality	Michele Hill	665-1206	michelerhill@gmai.com
Membership	Cathy Canant	260-7748	ccanant@bellsouth.net
Mentorship	Brenda Fitzgerald	620-0931	brendafitz@bellsouth.net
Newsletter Editor	Heidee Vansant	669-3284	heidee.vansant@gmail.com
Projects	Rita Forrest	620-1167	ritabe@bellsouth.net
Sunshine Committee	Karen Kendall	982-0614	kkendall247@bellsouth.net