

# GARDENERS' GAB



## Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association

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

[www.shelbycountymastergardenersassoc.com](http://www.shelbycountymastergardenersassoc.com)

Alabama MGA: [www.alabamamg.org](http://www.alabamamg.org)

Alabama MG Program [www.aces.edu/mg](http://www.aces.edu/mg)

Vol. 7, Issue 12

December 2014

## Pointers from the President...

Merry Christmas , master gardeners! I am so looking forward to our December meeting which will be Dirty Santa. Please come, bring a gift to share and of course some food!

Remember also that dues should be paid by this meeting date. Some have already paid and thank you!

Also remember all your volunteer hours should be recorded by the end of this month. I hope you are not like me and have already completed this!

Did you plant your spring bulbs? It is sure nice to see these pop up in the spring. It is also fun to force some bulbs for a winter treat.

Thanks for helping me these last two years as your president! I love this group of folks and look forward to the next year under new leadership.

Your President,  
*Susan Seng*



**OFFICERS** - Will be voted on at the December meeting. These members have been nominated: Karen Jensen (President), Byron Ford (VP), Randall Robertson (Secretary), Deb Kattus (Treasurer)



**Join us for some good clean fun at our annual Dirty Santa Party!  
Friday, December 12 @ 10:00 A.M.**

**Please bring a wrapped gift to exchange (\$15—\$20) and a covered dish to share!**

*Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.*



Save the date! **Friday, January 9**

Dale Dickens, an Urban Forestry Consultant, will be talking about Storm Resistant Trees. Those storms do occur early in the year and it behooves us to know something about this hot new topic!

Hope to see you then!



The Chilton County Master Gardeners Association is conducting their second annual **Christmas Home Tour, December 14, 2014, 1:00–4:00 PM**. There will be four homes featured this year: The home of Julia Wood in Thorsby, the homes of Gene and Geraldine Sorrell, Millard and Linda Abrams, and Richard and Sally Moore all in Clanton. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 the day of the tour. Tickets may be purchased at the Chilton County Extension Office, at the homes, from an active Chilton Co. Master Gardener, or online at [www.aces.edu/counties/Chilton/mg](http://www.aces.edu/counties/Chilton/mg). Tickets must be presented or bought at each home before touring. Directions to each home will be on the tickets. For more information please call 205-280-6268 or 205-755-0372.

### Treasurer's Report as of 11/20/2014

Submitted by Deb Kattus, Treasurer

Date	Check/Deposit	For	Balance
		<b>Beginning Balance</b>	\$2,963.19
	(76.01)	Expenses	
	420.00	2015 Dues Received	
		<b>Ending Balance</b>	\$3,307.18



### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 7—Brandon Rasnick & Paul Saeger
- 10—Susan Seng
- 12—George Hare
- 16—Betty Harris
- 20—Sunny Gilliam
- 25—Helen Titus



Alabama Master Gardener front tag plates available. Cost is \$20. \$10 goes to Extension for agents' use and \$10 goes to the AMGA Endowment. Contact me if interesting in purchasing.

Jeanon Massien ~ [Nauzer1@att.net](mailto:Nauzer1@att.net)

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## ALABAMA GARDENER'S CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

**FRUITS AND NUTS** – Plant young pecan and other deciduous fruit trees and grapes. Select bud wood. Start dormant pruning of established fruits. Protect all young trees from rabbit damage by placing wire around the base of the tree. Apply dormant oil sprays for scale.

**LAWNS** – control wild garlic, chickweed, *Poa annua*, dandelion, and other weeds. Read label on each package of weed killer used.

**ROSES** – Add plants to rose garden. Mulch all plantings.

**ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS** – Plant hardy annual seed without delay. Have you tried violas?

**BULBS** – Continue spring bulb planting.

**SHRUBS** – Planting is still the main activity but delay in case of freezing weather.

**MISCELLANEOUS** – Shrubs, trees, and indoor plants make excellent gifts.

### Membership Dues

It is time once again for paying your Membership Dues. Shelby County local dues are still \$12 & AMGA (State) dues are \$10. If you wish to pay both Local & State Dues, please make one check payable to "Shelby County Master Gardeners Association" in the amount of \$22. It is very important that we have your current address, phone numbers & e-mail address for communication purposes. A membership form is on the last page of this newsletter. We ask that you remit your payment along with your completed membership form to:

**Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association  
C/O Deb Kattus  
6538 Cahaba Valley Rd  
Birmingham, Al. 35242**

In lieu of mailing, you may hand deliver your payment & membership form at one of the local monthly meetings between now & December. We must remit state dues to the State Treasurer no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>. With this in mind, we ask that you pay your dues no later than **December 12, 2014** (December monthly meeting).

### Reporting Volunteer Hours

A critical element in the Master Gardener Program is the recording and reporting of volunteer hours. To provide credit for volunteer service and to measure the effectiveness of the Program, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System needs to know what we have done as Master Gardener Volunteers. Online reporting is the method of choice for most. You can find online reporting at: <https://apps.acesag.auburn.edu/mgmanager/login/>. If you do not have internet access or prefer to report hours in the written form, you may use the Alabama Master Gardener Volunteer Service Report Book (ANR-985). You can get one from Nelson Wynn, Shelby Extension Agent or online at [www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0985/ANR-0985.pdf](http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0985/ANR-0985.pdf). If you choose the written method, please have your completed form to Cathy Canant by **December 5, 2014**. The method you use is up to you, but hours must be on the service reporting system by the 31<sup>st</sup> of December to be counted towards the "Reach for the Stars" program.

If you need assistance, please contact Cathy Canant @ 205-260-7748, [ccanant@bellsouth.net](mailto:ccanant@bellsouth.net) or Cathy Canant, 101 County Road 104, Montevallo, AL 35115.

Butterflies of Alabama author Paulette Ogard and photographer Sara Bright showed how planting well-loved butterfly/bee/songbird species can INCREASE their dwindling populations! We learned: 1) National Audubon Society, alarmed at proposed loss of 1/3 N. American songbirds, selected Birmingham for an URBAN HABITAT INITIATIVE, 2) 5 parks will be renovated, and 3) *Butterflies of Alabama* has been placed in every public elementary school as resource. I know I feel determined to till up some unnecessary lawn and replace it with wild azaleas, a tulip poplar, Black-eyed Susans and partridge peas!

Take a minute to check out Brenda Fitzgerald's blog, [albackyard.blogspot.com](http://albackyard.blogspot.com); learn WHY she leaves flower seeds in the landscape and meet a good looking PIG! Master Gardeners DO make a difference. They raise awareness! ~Karen Jensen

Thanks Rita for taking these fun pictures & thanks Michelle for setting up our space!

Butterfly researchers inspired Karen's "Dirty Santa" rocker.



Ogard & Bright laugh about THEIR picture (2011) in Karen's shirt!



Kate Vogel chats with author Paulette Ogard

# MASTER GARDENERS IN THE NEWS!

From the Shelby County Reporter  
By GRAHAM BROOKS / Staff Writer

"Southern Tasty Treats opened Friday, Nov. 14 on Main Street in downtown Columbiana in the building where the former Donut Chef business used to be.

The treat shop will sell flavored pecans, honey, coffee and other gift items during the holiday season.

**Don and Ruth Driggers** decided to open the shop in downtown Columbiana on a spur of the moment as Ruth described it.

"We're from Vincent and have another business in Vincent and just opened this up for the holiday season," said Ruth. "We do pecans and honey at our garden shop and my husband just had an idea to have a storefront in Columbiana."

Ruth also added that customers can come in and try samples of the pecans and other treats before deciding to purchase anything."



Here is the interior of Southern Tasty Treats & Gifts in Columbiana. The store is owned by Don and Ruth Driggers and opened on Friday, Nov. 14. (Shelby Co. Reporter Photo/Graham Brooks)

## UPCOMING SCMGA PROGRAMS:

- **January 9, 2015**—Storm Resistant Trees, Dale Dickens, Urban Forestry Coordinator, AL Forestry Commission
- **February 13, 2015**—"Bees and Weeds", What NOT spray to protect our 19 species of Alabama bees, by Loyd Mehaffey



### Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2014—2015



President	Susan Seng	991-7867	gaggy10@gmail.com
Vice-President	Karen Jensen	670-0701	karenkjensen3@icloud.com
Secretary	Beth Heerten	991-5154	beth.heerten@charter.net
Treasurer	Deb Kattus	913-2703	dkattus@charter.net
Communications/Webmaster	Jan Rogers	307-9733	janrogers@charter.net
Historian	Diane McKinnon	620-3282	bamabeach@bellsouth.net
Hospitality	Michele Hill	665-1206	michelerhill@gmail.com
Membership/Advisory Council Rep	Cathy Canant	260-7748	ccanant@bellsouth.net
MG Class Coordinator/AMGA VP	Jeanon Massien	991-3125	nauzer1@att.net
Newsletter Editor	Heidee Vansant	669-3284	heidee.vansant@gmail.com
Projects/Webmaster	Rita Forrest	620-1167	ritabe@bellsouth.net
Sunshine Committee	Mary K. Tomas	781-883-1523	maryktomas@yahoo.com

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**ALABAMA MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION, INC.  
MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Dear Master Gardener:

The Alabama master Gardener Association (AMGA) Board of Directors has set \$10.00 as the annual membership dues for January 1—December 31, 2015. Members are very important to this Association, and we hope that you will join or renew your membership. To remain on the state membership list and to continue receiving the Garden Pathways newsletter, please complete this application and give it, along with your dues, to your local association Treasurer by December 12, 2014.

Association Name: **Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association**

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

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

Phone #'s: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

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

State and Local Newsletters will be delivered online. County of Residence \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_

Class Information: County of Training: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

In case of Emergency Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (Check one)

	<b>Local Dues</b>	<b>State Dues</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Active Member</b>	\$ 12.00	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Provisional Member (Interns)</b>	No fee	No fee
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Lifetime Member</b>	\$240.00	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Associate Member (Extension Employee)</b>	No fee	No fee
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Honorary Member</b>	No fee	No fee

**Amount Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAKE ONE CHECK PAYABLE TO SCMGA AND MAIL TO:**

Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association  
% Deb Kattus  
6538 Cahaba Valley Rd  
Birmingham, Al. 35242