

GARDENERS' GAB



Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association

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

Alabama MGA: www.alabamamg.org
Alabama MG Program www.aces.edu/mg

Vol. 8, Issue 3

March 2015

Pointers from the President...

March in Alabama is SO LOVELY! It's so lovely my little Yankee granddaughters are coming to visit, keeping me from our State Conference in Cullman. I have mixed feelings, as I am **so, so proud** of **Jeanon Massien**, candidate for President! I wanted to be there to VOTE & HUG her! Please, go to Cullman & do that for me: www.amgaconference.org.

Gosh, are we not PROUD of our certified Alabama beekeepers **George Baldwin** and **Loyd Mehaffey**? They had 52 students, including our **Heidee Vansant**, in this year's Shelby County Beekeepers Association weekly classes taught Jan-Feb at the Chelsea Senior Center. Who knew bees were crazy about dandelions, Dutch white clover, & Chinese privet? Mercy! It was so good to hear that our Alabama bees are healthy and thriving! Thanks George for that SWEET door prize **Edith Johnston** won!

It was exciting to hear staff member **Ricky Colquitt's** thoughts on a community workshop to eradicate invasive species such as Chinese privet (4 techniques) behind the extension office collaborating with Trade School horticulture students & Shelby County. With approval of **Michelle Hill's** motion, a committee was formed to study the feasibility of upgrading the "under-utilized" woodland behind our facility. If you would like to help, let Michelle know.

Remember **Jennifer Gregory** has a Bonnie Plants Tour scheduled for us on Tuesday, April 14. The early 10 a.m. tour, limited to 20, is filling up fast. The second tour is at 1:30 p.m., after lunch at Sinclair's Restaurant. Sign up at the March 13 meeting or email her jggdrg@aol.com for a slot! Bonnie Plants began in an Alabama 1918 backyard; now it's a NATIONAL plant wholesaler based in Alabama and it keeps our **Byron Ford** VERY BUSY this time of year!

Your President,
Karen Jensen

Friday, March 13 @ 10:00 a.m.
Michael Everson of Seedway presenting
"All About GMO's"
Bring a covered dish to share!



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

SHELBY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes – 13 February 2015

Meeting called to order by Karen Jensen—32 were in attendance. President Jensen recognized 2014 certification by Rosarian Society of member Paul Saeger. Kate Vogel presented report of Bill Legg Memorial committee. The committee recommended a 30 gal. River Birch, source identified, to be installed by Montevallo city workers in wetland garden at Montevallo library. Cost will include obtaining marker identifying tree and person in whose memory it was planted. Expected cost to SCMGA, \$200. Paul Saeger moved to accept. Motion seconded and approved by voice vote.

Program Presentations—See Addendum 1

Extension Agent Report—Nelson Wynn anticipates conducting a Shelby County Master Gardener class this year. Tuition is at \$125, SCMGA perhaps assisting recruitment of interns. Jennifer Gregory has already submitted a notice to the Alabaster newsletter soliciting sign-up.

Treasurer's Report—Proposed budget included on the back side of the agenda for the meeting. Approved with out change on voice vote by attending members.

Old Business

- Harvest for Health volunteer MG's are meeting with their new participants Feb 17, at N. Shelby Library to begin the three-season gardens.
- Forms for nomination of the "Master Gardener of the Year" were available on sign-in table, to be returned to Cathy Canant.
- Please do not forget to register for the Annual Conference March 23—25 in Cullman, AL. An insert with schedule, maps, points of local interest and registration form are included in the Winter 2014 Garden Pathways. Forms are also available online at www.amgaconference.org. SCMGA is contributing an item for the Silent Auction—a tablescape similar to the one on display at our January meeting. This item is budgeted in the Treasurer's report and Angie Ballew was asked and has agreed to assemble one.
- Bonnie Plant Farm tour sign-up – form sent around to identify 20-person groups.

New Business

Projects

- Beth Glasgow reminded all to contact our city governments to advise them of the forestry counseling to become TREE CITIES.
- Ricky Colquitt – Regional Extension Agent, thanked the Association for our long term support of the Extension outreach. He discussed some potential projects around the grounds of the Extension property. On the possibility of irrigation for any projects he discouraged this as unlikely. Possibilities suggested: Clear the undergrowth at the entry to the Extension and treat the mimosa stumps to prevent regrowth, perhaps planting oakleaf hydrangea to enhance appearance. Begin education program with county to improve roadside vegetation management versus the current repetitive use of vertical bush hogging. Rehabilitation of Horticultural Walk in coordination with the Vocational School. Mr. Colquitt will present any offer developed along those lines to the action agent at the school. Michele Hill moved to form a committee to discuss those items and form a project proposal. Motion seconded and passed. List sent around to those who would assist on committee.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Special Needs Fishing Derby May 13-15. Dianne McKinnon states this recurring event needs 200-300 volunteers each day, from fishing with child to rigging tackle. If you will volunteer, email her at fishlady3@gmail.com .
- Plant Sales—more info later
 - BBG Spring Sale April 9—12. Contact Carol Beard at cabbeard@bellsouth.net
 - Aldridge Gardens Spring Sale May 7—9. Contact Phyllis Giles at volunteer@aldrigegardens.com

VP Ford—March meeting will be Michael Everson presenting on GMO's. April will be Joyce Darby speaking on organics.

Board recommendation on future memorials—Upon the loss/death of a SCMGA member, a donation of \$100 will be made to the Endowment Fund or to the decedent's favorite garden charity (BBG, Aldridge Gardens, other), if funds permit. Recommendation accepted on voice vote.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Randall Robertson, Secretary

Treasurer's Report as of 2/20/2015

Submitted by Deb Kattus, Treasurer

Date	Check/Deposit	For	Balance
		Beginning Balance	\$3,613.77
	44.00	2015 Dues Received	
	(20.00)	AMGA 2015 Dues Paid	
		Ending Balance	\$3,637.77

APPROVED BUDGET FOR 2015

BALANCE ON HAND 2/13/2015 \$3,613.77

PROJECTED EXPENSES:

Badges & Stars	20.00
Supplies for meetings	150.00
Supplies for GAB	100.00
Website Upkeep	100.00
Sunshine Committee	100.00
Lunch for all day presenters	100.00
Raffle prizes for membership	100.00
Supplies, gifts for intern graduation	150.00
Honorariums, gifts SCMGA speakers	100.00
Historian Scrapbook Supplies	50.00
Directory	50.00
Silent Auction Item for AMGA	50.00
TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENSES	\$1,070.00
PROJECTED ENDING BALANCE	\$2,543.77



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



ADDENDUM 1 TO FEB 13 MINUTES - PROGRAM SUMMARIES

(Actions supportive of early season bee health)

Loyd Mahaffey – To Weed or Not to Weed, A Gardener's Existential Crisis

Early in the year there are few cultivated sources for nectar and pollen, while overall warm up draws bees foraging. Weeds are frequently the only sources and efforts to control them for aesthetic or IPM reasons further degrade the available food sources. Dandelions are THE primary early source, as well as henbit, Blue Violet, foam flower, buttercup, bluettes, even POISON IVY! Later in the season when other sources become available, use of Roundup® to knock down the poison ivy doesn't negatively affect bees. White Clover in the lawn is a well used source of nectar. This plant will diminish in summer heat so allow it where it exists and consider over seeding existing lawn to enhance bee forage.



George Baldwin and Loyd Mahaffey

George Baldwin – Gee's Bees in Sterrett, AL – Trees for Bees

Some naturally occurring and even invasive species provide forage for bees, giving the gardener another perspective on those species. Elaeagnus is a strongly worked tree in the fall, as is Chinese privet. Willow trees may yield up to 150 pounds honey per acre and 1,500 (no typo) pounds pollen per acre. Sumac, chokecherry, black locust and crabapple, while not the most favored by gardeners are all in the "We Like It" column for bees. Those agreed upon by we gardeners and our pollinators are many: all varieties of hollies, blueberries, tulip poplar, Vitex Agnus (chaste tree or pepper bush) and the Southern Magnolia among them.

General discussion after the presentations brought to light some additional good news. For example, the Colony Collapse Disorder is less noted in Alabama compared to other areas of the country. And, did you know, there are 19 different varieties of bees in the Shelby county area making our fruiting crops possible? That bumblebees, being large and heavy, are effective in stimulating tomato blossoms' nectar and pollen making visits by honeybees that much more effective at fruit set?

We thank our presenters for their time and our new knowledge! You can go to shelbybees.org to find a local beekeeper source.

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SAVE THE DATE!! Upcoming SCMGA Meeting:

Friday, April 10, 2015—Joyce Darby, Certified Organic Gardener, restoration wood carver, who also raises animals including milk goats.



THERE ARE NUMEROUS GARDEN-RELATED CLASSES & EVENTS IN OUR AREA! Please visit these websites to check out classes and events you may be interested in attending:



ALDRIDGE GARDENS
BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS
PETALS FROM THE PAST
SHELBY CO. MASTER GARDENERS

www.aldridgegardens.com/education/events/
www.bbgbgarden.org/all-events.php
www.petalsfromthepast.com/events.html
www.scmastergardeners.com/events/

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES from Beth Glasgow, Projects Chair

Consider these opportunities as you plan your spring:

Living Waters - The Betty Wilson Garden at Living Waters has asked for volunteers in the following areas:

- monetary donations
- donation of any of the following plants: Broom sedge, pink Muhly grass, oak leaf hydrangea, clumping ferns, phlox, columbine, dwarf iris, trillium, Solomon's seal, coreopsis, bee balm, black-eyed Susan, purple coneflower, asters, butterfly weed, milkweed, cardinal flower
- information on convenient sources for plants
- hands on help every Saturday in March planting the plants

Contact Leland or Marty Keller (kellers@myexcel.com)



SCMGA 2015 Project at the Exhibition Center in Columbiana

Ricky presented an idea for improving the park behind the exhibition center at the last SCMGA meeting. Most of the work would probably be done in the fall. Members may volunteer to serve on the committee to check feasibility and make plans.

Contact Michele Hill (michelerhill@gmail.com) to join the committee.

Aldridge Gardens Training for new education docents for spring field trips (joining Jan Rogers, Deb Kattus, Susan Seng, Mary Jo Kynerd, Trish Paden and Sundra Smith)

- Training Dates February 24 or February 26 from 9:30 until 11:30. Choose one.
- AG is booked solid Monday - Friday for Spring 2015 field trips for local children. Field trips begin at 9:30 and end by 11:30.
- "Newbies" are provided training, cue sheets and opportunities to shadow an experienced docent.

Contact Jim Wilson (jwwilson43@gmail.com) to join in the fun!

PLANT SALES - more information to follow later.

- **BBG Spring Sale April 9-12. Contact Carol Beard (cabbeard@bellsouth.net)**
- **Aldridge Gardens Spring Sale May 7-9. Contact Phyllis Giles (volunteer@aldridgegardens.com) to sign up.**

Fishing Fun at Oak Mountain State Park

Don't miss this one! Fish with a kid and have a blast.

Check it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBwGR0SmXjY>

- This event is for special needs children from our area. 200 - 300 volunteers are needed since each child is GUARANTEED to catch a fish! If you don't fish that is OK because there are many other jobs available.
- Dates are May 13, 14 and 15 from 8:30 until noon. At noon you get a **FABULOUS** free lunch.

Contact Diane McKinnon (fishlady3@gmail.com) to register.

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Please send Pat Hare information about members (or relatives) who are sick, facing surgery or the loss of a loved one. We want to make sure all of our members

know they are loved and are a vital part of our organization. Pat will send a card to let that member know that we are thinking about them. Here are two ways for you to get in touch with Pat, our Sunshine Committee chairperson.

Email: pat.hare@outlook.com
Phone: 205-621-3848



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1—David Thomas
- 5—Mary Jo Kynerd
- 12—John Driver
- 14—Phyllis Love
- 17—Cindy Ferlittl
- 25—Trisha Williams

"The air is like a butterfly
With frail blue wings.
The happy earth looks
at the sky
And sings."

- Joyce Kilmer, *Spring*



Aldridge Gardens Educational Coordinator, Audrey Ann, is collecting the following items for summer camp. If you have any of these items to donate I will be happy to give them to her. Yarn, fabric scraps, elastic pieces, thread, sequins, stuffing for little pillows, fleece scraps, Velcro, paper towel cardboard tubes, clean (washed) all sizes tin cans, Lego bricks children or grandchildren no longer need, all sizes **clay** pots and saucers, oatmeal containers.

Thank you! **Jennifer Gregory: jggdrg@aol.com or 205.532.0675**



ALABAMA GARDENER'S CALENDAR FOR MARCH

FRUITS & NUTS—Continue strawberry and grape plantings. Bud apples and peaches. Start planting blackberries. Remember, if weather conditions prevent prompt planting, heel the plants in by placing the root system in a trench and covering the soil.

SHRUBS—Fertilize shrubs (except azaleas and camellias) according to a soil test. Late plantings may be made, particularly if they are container-grown. Watch shrubs for harmful insects.

LAWNS—Plant Bermuda, Zoysia, and Centipede in South Alabama. Seed bluegrass and grass mixtures in North Alabama. Fertilize established lawns.

ROSES—Watch new growth for aphids. Begin a spray or dust program. Begin fertilizing.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS—Tender annuals may be planted in South Alabama. Check garden centers for bedding plants.

BULBS—Plant gladiolus every two or three weeks if a long Blooming season is desired. Plant tuberous begonias in pots. Plant dahlias.

MISCELLANEOUS—Check and repair sprayers, dusters, and lawn mowers. Control lawn weeds with chemicals. Delay pruning of fruiting shrubs such as cotoneasters, pyracanthas, and hollies until after flowering.

VEGETABLE SEEDS—Plant hardy crops recommended for January and February. After danger of frost is past, plant tender vegetables.

VEGETABLE PLANTS—Plant cabbage, onions, lettuce, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts in North Alabama; plant tomatoes and peppers in lower South Alabama.

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BONNIE PLANTS TOURS

Tuesday, April 14, 2015



SIGN UP AT FEBRUARY 13 AND MARCH 13 SCMGA MEETINGS

PLEASE NOTE: **Due to limited space the tour is for paid 2015 SCMGA members then if there are openings we would like to extend an invitation to non-members. *Each tour is limited to 20 people.*

Email Jennifer Gregory at jggdrg@aol.com (or call 205-532-0675) to sign up for Tour 1 or 2 and if you can drive how many folks can your vehicle accommodate. Also, what location will you be meeting at - Lowe's or Alabama Furniture Market.

TOUR #1 10:00 AM—Limited to 20 Shelby Co. MG's per tour

Carpool from the following locations: Lowe's (Valleydale Road) parking lot depart at 7:00 AM drive to next location, AFM. Meet at Alabama Furniture Mart (Exit 231) depart at 7:30 AM drive directly to Bonnie Plants. Following tour we'll eat lunch at Sinclair's Restaurant at approx. 12 Noon.

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Karen Kendall | 7. Merle Schukoske | 13. Jessica Joslin |
| 2. Brenda Fitzgerald | 8. Beth Heerten | |
| 3. Joy Dearing | 9. Deb Kattus | Guest (Non-members): |
| 4. Emily Gravitt | 10. Cathy Canant | Becky Wigginton |
| 5. Sundra Smith | 11. Jeanon Massien | Margot Glenboski |
| 6. Dot Kachelhofer | 12. Jan Rogers | Linda Powers |

TOUR #2 1:30 PM—Limited to 20 Shelby Co. MG's per tour

Carpool from the following locations: Lowe's (Valleydale Road) parking lot depart at 9:30 AM drive to next location AFM. Meet at Alabama Furniture Mart (Exit 231) depart at 10:00 AM drive directly to Sinclair's Restaurant for lunch. Depart restaurant at 12:30 PM drive directly to Bonnie Plants.

1. Rebecca Robertson
2. Karen Jensen

ADDRESSES:

- **Bonnie Plants:** 1727 Hwy 223, Union Springs, AL 36089 (www.bonnieplants.com)
- **Sinclair's Restaurant:** 7847 Vaughn Rd, Montgomery, AL 36116 (www.sinclairsrestaurants.com)

TOUR

- Observe the Seeder and Plug operation.
- See how the harvest is cataloged and weighed which helps determine if it's a right fit for their mix.
- Propagation operation - amazing to walk into greenhouses and almost be knocked over by the smell of rosemary, plus seeing green for what seems like forever.
- Watch where the potters step up the plugs into larger pots that get sent the stores.
- Visit the trial garden where they test plant varieties before committing to grow them.

DRIVERS NEEDED—SIGN UP AT THE SCMGA MEETING

- Wear comfortable shoes or possibly boots (could be muddy).
- Bring your own water/drink/camera.
- \$10 will be collected from each passenger for gas on the day of tour.
- Wear your SCMGA shirt/nametag.

Tour Organizer: Jennifer Gregory (jggdrg@aol.com) or (205-532-0675)



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AMGA 25th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

hosted by Blount and Cullman Counties
March 23-25, 2015

ALABAMA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION



WOW! The Alabama Master Gardeners Conference is early this year! But that gives us plenty of time to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of our organization, not to mention time to implement all that we will learn from the outstanding slate of speakers and workshops we have lined up for this conference. We hope you will join us as we host "Gardening...WOW!" on March 23rd, 24th, and 25th, 2015 at the Cullman Civic Center in Cullman, AL.

The conference will begin with a terrarium workshop on Monday afternoon given by internationally renown Tova Martin, followed by a fish fry Monday night. In addition, Blount and Cullman Counties have some amazing sights to see. Some are well known, like the Ava Maria Grotto in Cullman and the Covered Bridges of Blount County, and some are local treasures just waiting for you to discover, like the Palisades Park in Oneonta and the CCMG Demonstration Garden in downtown Cullman. We have several more features within a two-mile radius of the Civic Center that you can easily explore if you come early or stay later.

Conference registration is open to the public, so invite your gardening buddies and come discover new ways to put the WOW! in gardening. **For more information, go to: www.amgaconference.org**



Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2015—2016



President	Karen Jensen	670-0701	karenkjensen3@icloud.com
Vice-President & Webmaster	Byron Ford	334-473-0707	Byron@byronford.com
Secretary	Randall Robertson	663-0459	msptngc96@charter.net
Treasurer	Deb Kattus	913-2703	dkattus@charter.net
Parliamentarian	Sundra Smith	985-7360	sshealeysmith@aol.com
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Awards Committee Chair	Cathy Canant	626-8105	ccanant@bellsouth.net
By-Laws Chair/MG Class Coord	Jeanon Massien	991-3125	nauzer1@att.net
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Hospitality	Michele Hill	690-7019	michelerhill@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Heidee Vansant	669-3284	heidee.vansant@gmail.com
Nominating Committee Chair	Susan Seng	991-7867	gaggy10@gmail.com
Projects Coordinator	Beth Glasgow	669-7981	bethglasgow@bellsouth.net
Sunshine Committee	Pat Hare	621-3848	pat_hare@outlook.com

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