

GARDENERS' GAB



Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association

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

www.scmastergardeners.com

Like Us on Facebook

Alabama MGA: www.alabamamg.org

Alabama MG Program: www.aces.edu/mg

Vol. 8, Issue 12

December 2015

Pointers from the President...

"Thanks for the Memories"

In 2015, we:

- ◆ Honored the memory of SCMGA longtime member & historian Bill Legg with the planting of a River Birch at Montevallo Library's Wetland Garden
- ◆ Contributed \$1,000 to Auburn University's Graduate Endowment Fund
- ◆ Voted to provide a restaurant lunch for our Agent & all-day Intern Class presenters now and in the future
- ◆ Renovated our Backyard Learning Center (Michelle Hill & crew)
- ◆ Ricky Colquitt removed backyard privet for us while providing an Eradication of Invasive Species Workshop for county workers.
- ◆ Toured Bonnie Plants Headquarters, Green houses, & gardens (Jennifer Gregory & Byron Ford)
- ◆ Raised funds to defray costs for Marvin Nelson's kidney transplant medicine while learning Philip Inman qualified as a donor. Jennifer Gregory monitored this humanitarian effort!
- ◆ Jeanon Massien, class of 2004, is elected President of the Alabama Master Gardeners' Association
- ◆ We attended the AMGA Fall Seminar at Clanton's Jeff State with our 2015 Intern Class
- ◆ Our awesome Intern Class put together a stellar County Fair Booth & remodeled the Columbiana Health & Rehab Facility interior garden to applause - we are so proud of our Interns!

Join us December 11th, 10 a.m., for an election of officers, Dirty Santa (\$15-20 gift), & a festive pot luck lunch.

Keep gardening!

Karen Jensen

This Month's Meeting—Friday, December 11 @ 10:00 am
Election of Officers and our annual "Dirty Santa" Christmas party. 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
 Next Month's Meeting—Friday, January 8
 Installation of Officers
 Program & Presenter—To Be Announced

**Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association
 Meeting Minutes – 13 November 2015**

- Meeting convened by President Jensen 10:10 a.m., 34 persons in attendance.
- Minutes of previous meeting, as published in GAB, approved on voice vote.
- Financial Report, as published in GAB, approved on voice vote.

Old Business:

- Michelle Hill recognized for work on preparation of Grant Request for completion of Outdoor Learning Center in wooded area adjacent to Extension Service Building.
- Announcement of volunteer opportunity assisting with "Water Festival" education program in Montevallo, 15-16 December.

New Business:

- Susan Seng, Chair of Nominating Committee, presented proposed slate of Association Officers for 2016 term:
 President: Rita Forrest
 Vice President: Edith Johnston
 Secretary: Randall Robertson
 Treasurer: Myra Healey
 Parliamentarian: Paul Saeger
 Election to be held at December 2015 SCMGA Meeting.
- Recognition of pending retirement of Robbie Willis. Resolution prepared and read by Tom Harrison expressing best wishes and thanks for past support by Mrs. Willis as Office Manager for Extension Service.
- Meeting adjourned 10:30 a.m., followed immediately by Graduation of Master Gardener Class of 2015.
- Jeanon Massien, Intern Coordinator, introduced Hunter McBrayer, Extension Agent for Marshall County, as Graduation Speaker. Mr. McBrayer addressed the group with "What it means to be a Master Gardener" as a challenge to the graduates to represent the Extension Service and University system in each encounter, and to continue learning in service to the population of Alabama.
- Following the address, six graduates were recognized as having met the certification requirement as of November 13, 2015. Those individuals were; Deloris Davis, Judy Donaldson, Carolyn Friday, Brent Gage, Jim Strickland and Julia Wright. Ms. Wright was Top Volunteer Hour graduate with a figure of 153 hours. Peer recognition designations, from polling of the graduates, named Jim Strickland as Outstanding Leader of Intern Class, and Special Recognition to Curly Koetter.
- In total 13 of 15 original Interns completed the course of instruction and met academic requirements in testing. Attainment of 50 volunteer hours before November 2016 will support certification of the remaining seven of the graduates not certificated at graduation.
- Graduates, guests and members enjoyed pot luck lunch following the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
 Randall C. Robertson, Secretary

**TREASURER'S REPORT as of 11/20/2015
 Submitted by Deb Kattus, Treasurer**

Check/Deposit	For	Balance
	Beginning Balance	\$2,060.53
88.00	Dues Received	
150.00	Fair Booth Prize	
(74.85)	Jim Strickland	
(51.62)	Jeanon Massien	
(70.20)	Wal-Mart	
(49.00)	Pat Hare	
	Ending Balance	\$2,052.86

ATTENTION!! In order for us to submit our information to the AMGA by December 31, we encourage members to **renew their membership now!** Please use the membership form provided on the last page of this newsletter and mail your dues to Deb Kattus or turn it **no later than our December 11 meeting.** Thank you!

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
HOOVER PUBLIC LIBRARY
PETALS FROM THE PAST
SHELBY CO. MASTER GARDENERS

www.aldridgegardens.com/education/events/
www.bbgardens.org/all-events.php
www.hooverlibrary.org/events/calendar/
www.petalsfromthepast.com/events.html
www.scmastergardeners.com/events/

2016 ALABAMA MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE

Wiregrass Master Gardeners and the AMGA Board of Directors are working to provide an Educational and entertaining experience for attendees.

Mark May 12–14, 2016 in your calendar,

and come back to our website often to check for updates on our speakers and agenda. If you are interested in becoming a Sponsor, Vendor, Donor, or Advertiser please check our website access our conference package webpage.

<http://alabamamg.org/2016-alabama-master-gardener-conference-sculpting-the-garden/>



2017 International Master Gardener Conference
"Follow the Oregon Trail to Great Gardening"

In 2017, the Oregon State University Extension Master Gardener Program and the Oregon Master Gardener Association will host the 2017 International Master Gardener Conference at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, OR, July 10-14, 2017, with support from many generous sponsors and friends. Find more info on Facebook or at <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/2017imgc/>

If you attended these 2015 SCMGA meeting/tours, **DON'T FORGET TO LOG your CEU hours:**

January 9: Dale Dickens (Urban Forestry)—1.0 CEU
February 13: Spring Foraging of Honeybees—1.0 CEU
March 13: GMO's—1.0 CEU
April 14: Bonnie Plant Tour—2.5 CEU's
April 17: Joyce Darby (Organics)—1.0 CEU
May 8: Plant Swap—No CEU's

June 12: Keep Oak Mountain Wild—1.0 CEU
July 10: Tomato Taste Test—1.0 CEU
August 14: Identifying Invasive Plants—1.0 CEU
September 11: Edible Landscaping—1.0 CEU
October 9: Byron Ford Techie Talk—1.0 CEU
November 13: Hunter McBrayer—1.0 CEU



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 interested in purchasing. Jeanon Massien ~ Nauzer1@att.net

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.



Please send Pat Hare, Sunshine Committee Chair, information about members (or their relatives) who are sick, facing surgery or have lost a loved one. We want to make sure all our members know

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

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



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

Have you 'LIKED' us on Facebook?



New Shelby County MG Interns Sprout

Congratulations to our 2015 Master Gardener Class Graduates! Graduation for 13 interns was held on November 13th. Program completion certificates were handed out to all those present. In addition to completing the course, we would like to congratulate Deloris Davis, Judy Donaldson, Carolyn Friday, Brent Gage, Jim Strickland and Julia Wright for not only completing the course, but also completing the 50 volunteer hour requirement. Julia Wright deserves a big pat on the back for logging a whopping 153 hours. Obviously Julia was presented the Top Intern Volunteer Hours Award. Hats off to you on your accomplishment! On the last day of class we asked the interns to select one class member they felt was their strongest team leader. Jim Strickland was chosen by his classmates for his leadership, organization and enthusiasm on the Columbiana Health and Rehab facility's garden project. Special recognition was also awarded to Curly Koetter for arriving early each day to set up the snacks, coffee, name tags and as one classmate said, for being so pleasant!



Jeanon Massien, Karen Jensen, Diane McKinnon, Michelle Hill, Rita Forrest, Edith Johnston and I had a great time the day before, setting up the room for the big event. Thank you Ladies for another wonderful job.

Cathy Canant

November 13, 2015 MG Class Graduation featured Hunter McBrayer speaking on "What it means to be a Master Gardener"



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NOVEMBER 13 MEETING



Karen Jensen (L) and Tom Harris (R) congratulate Robbie Willis on her retirement from the ACES office.



Brent Gage, MG Intern, graduated and was certified with 51 volunteer hours.



Judy Donaldson, MG Intern, graduated and was certified with 55.5 volunteer hours.



Jim Strickland, MG Intern, graduated and was certified with 60.5 volunteer hours.



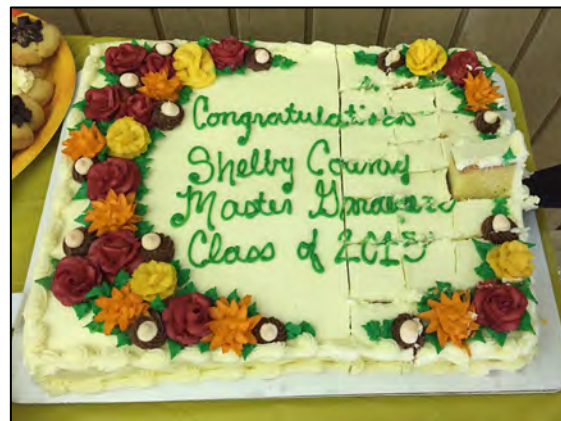
Deloris Davis, MG Intern, graduated and was certified with 61 volunteer hours.



Julia Wright, MG Intern, graduated and was certified with 153 volunteer hours!



Jeanon Massien presents **Outstanding Leader** award to **Jim Strickland**



Karen Jensen presents **Top Volunteer Hours** award to **Julia Wright**

Dear Karen and Shelby County Master Gardeners—

We loved meeting with you last November! Its hard to believe that a year has passed. Your members were so enthusiastic about butterflies and what they could do in their yards to help them! That is why we want to tell you about the upcoming Alabama Butterfly Atlas and to ask for the group's help with funding it. It is a project near and dear to our hearts.

Alabama has a rich diversity of butterflies but for years they have been overlooked and understudied. The Alabama Butterfly Atlas (ABA) will be a user-friendly website that brings butterfly education to the forefront with distribution maps, flight charts, identification tips, photographs, life history and gardening tips. An overview of the project is attached, but we think that there are specific features that will be particularly important to you. We have found that gardeners are hungry for specific information about what they can plant in their own landscapes to attract and benefit butterflies. Many are frustrated because they have used plant lists devised for other parts of the country and have found that they don't work well here. The Alabama Butterfly Atlas will address that problem head on with gardening tips and plant lists that are specific to OUR state. Each butterfly species account will list caterpillar host plants that have been verified in Alabama. You will be able to see the list of butterflies that are currently recorded in your own county so that you can choose your plants accordingly. It is also live-linked to the Alabama Plant Atlas (floraofalabama.org). The ABA will put all of this science-based information into the hands of those (like you) who need it!

We are also excited to let you know that AL.com has featured a "Butterflies of Alabama" slideshow, accompanied by an article that features the Alabama Butterfly Atlas!

http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2015/11/meet_the_butterflies_of_alabam.html#incart_gallery

Please share the link with your members and ask them to share with their friends and families. Please share the link with your members and ask them to share with their friends and families. It is a wonderful opportunity to spread the word about Alabama's amazing butterflies as well as the need for education and conservation—the goal of the ABA. We are part of a small group of volunteers who are willing to give our time to bring a state-of-the-art educational butterfly website to Alabama. We hope that groups like yours who treasure our state's rich butterfly heritage will support this effort. Contributions can be made online: <http://wildsouth.org/help-al-butterflies/> or by mail: Wild South; 13 1/2 West Walnut Street; Asheville, NC 28801. (Be sure to write "Alabama Butterfly Atlas" on your check). Donations are tax deductible.

Thank you so much for all your good work and for considering this request for help!

Your friends,
Paulette Ogard and Sara Bright



Paulette Haywood Ogard/co-author, Butterflies of Alabama: Glimpses into Their Lives/ Birmingham, AL

ALABAMA BUTTERFLY ATLAS OVERVIEW

- Until recently, Alabama butterflies have been overlooked and under-studied. Many states report sharp declines in butterfly populations, and the drop in Monarch numbers has even sparked a national recovery campaign. Unfortunately, the status of most Alabama species is unknown.
- In response to this need for knowledge, a small group of butterfly specialists and wildlife professionals convened at the University of West Alabama in 2013 to begin the process of creating an online butterfly atlas. A small group of volunteers has worked to develop and fund the project.
- Website launch is anticipated by Fall, 2016, but funding is still needed.
- The Alabama Butterfly Atlas (ABA) will include distribution maps, flight charts, identification tips, photographs, life history and gardening tips. This information will be included in individual species accounts, and users will be able to access data by county, region, and selected public lands. The ABA will be live-linked to the Alabama Plant Atlas (floraofalabama.org).
- More than 50,000 records will form the initial database for the atlas. Additional records can be submitted by scientists and citizen scientists.
- Each species account will include photographs of butterflies with clearly identifiable field marks as well as each life cycle stage. Photos will be taken in Alabama whenever possible. Life history information will be a vital part of the species accounts and will be as specific to Alabama as possible. The use of native Alabama plants will be emphasized in gardening and landscape sections.
- The project has a five-year budget of \$35,000. This includes initial development costs as well as funding for yearly maintenance.
- Wild South and the University of West Alabama Foundation have agreed to act as fiscal agents; therefore contributions are tax deductible. Donations may be made online: <http://wildsouth.org/help-al-butterflies/> or by mail: Wild South; 13 1/2 West Walnut Street; Asheville, NC 28801. (Be sure to write "Alabama Butterfly Atlas" on your check).

ABA Committee Members: Sara Bright, Vitaly Charny, Dr. Grant Gentry (Samford University), Dr. Mike Howell (emeritus, Samford University), Dr. Mary Jane Krotzer (Stillman College), Paulette Haywood Ogard, and Dr. Andrew Rindsberg (University of West Alabama)

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.



Celebrate 100 Years
of Extending Knowledge
and Changing Lives

visit: www.Extension100Years.net



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 spays 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.

Annual elections will take place during the December 11, 2015 meeting.

The Slate of Officers for 2016 proposed by the Nominating Committee is as follows:

President—Rita Forrest
Vice President—Edith Johnston
Secretary—Randall Robertson
Treasurer—Myra Healy
Parliamentarian—Paul Saeger

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

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
Advisory Council Rep	Rhonda Cowan	678-4994	cowan_r@bellsouth.net
Awards Committee Chair	Cathy Canant	626-8105	ccanant@bellsouth.net
By-Laws Chair/MG Class Coord	Jeanon Massien	991-3125	nauzer1@att.net
Communications	Jan Rogers	307-9733	janrogers@charter.net
Events Coordinator	Jennifer Gregory	444-0742	jggdrg@aol.com
Historian	Diane McKinnon	680-3282	bamabeach@bellsouth.net
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

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

**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, 2016. 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 to receive the Garden Pathways newsletter, please complete this application and give it, along with your dues, to your local association Treasurer by December 11, 2015.

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)

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

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO SCMGA AND MAIL TO:

Shelby Co. Master Gardeners' Assoc.
% Deb Kattus
6538 Cahaba Valley Rd
Birmingham, AL 35242