



DIRTY DIGS



Autauga County Master Gardeners Association

April, 2016

ENTERTAIN, EDUCATE, ELEVATE

Next Meeting

April 14, 2016

Meeting Location:

Prattville

Garden

9 AM

Guest Article: Submitted, Glen Huovinen



GRANDULATE AMBROSIA BEETLES BAD BUG...GOOD BUG

Glenn Huovinen

Autauga County Master Gardener
Intern



BAD



BUG

Ambrosia Beetles attack certain thin barked trees and shrubs in the early spring such as Ornamental Cherries, Maple, Red Bud, Dog Woods and Japanese Maples. I noticed the white thin sticks protruding from the trunk of an Ornamental Cherry in my yard. I contacted Mallory Kelly and she identified it as Ambrosia Beetles. The female beetle bores in, hallows out a cavity and lays eggs. The female beetle inoculates the area with a fungus which interferes with the transport of water and food through the tree and is usually fatal.



GOOD BUG



Even though the Grandulate Ambrosia Beetle kills the tree, the wood that results from the tree is valuable to wood workers. Here is a bowl that I made from a piece of Maple that was infested by the Ambrosia Beetle. This wood is called Ambrosia Maple due to the infestation, and it makes for an attractive contrast for wood working.

Important Dates to Remember

Demo Garden - Every Tuesday

Prattvillage Garden - Every Thursday

ACMGA Meeting - April 14 - Prattvillage

Installing Edgers at Prattvillage - April 21

Mushroom Workshop - April 22 - Autaugaville

Plant Sale - April 30

Lunch & Learn - May 5

City Fest - May 14

State Conference - May 12 -14 --Dothan (Takes Place of May Meeting)

Birmingham Botanical Garden Tour—May 26

AMGA Fall Seminar—September 29—Birmingham

Handbooks are
completed and will be
distributed to those at
the meeting



By Mallory Kelley
Regional Extension Agent
Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests

The Home Invasion of Ladybugs

Having the problem of ladybugs invading your home, you're not alone. Asian Ladybird Bugs are notorious for coming into homes in fall and winter seasons. On a warm winter's day the ladybugs emerge and then when the temperature begins to drop they try to find an entry point into a protected space from the elements "your home."

Ladybugs indoors will not bite you or your pets and will eventually die from the lack of food. Ladybugs eat only small "juicy" insects, so they will not cause damage to plants, paper, cloth or any other household items. They are actually beneficial insects outdoors as they are predators of those problem insects such as the aphids, mealy bugs and scale, but when these ladybugs come indoors they can be a big nuisance. Ladybugs release a yellowish and smelly liquid when they are disturbed or distressed, this will leave yellow markings on your wall and windows.

Even though they are beneficial insects, we do not want them inside our homes. I do not suggest applying pesticide to kill them indoors. The most popular way to get them out is vacuuming them up and releasing the unwelcome guests outside.

Is there other means to get rid of them? There is a trap called a Ladybug Black Light Trap, but there is no research data as to its effectiveness and sticky traps have little effect on ladybugs. You can spray an insecticide outdoors around the perimeter of your home and also pull back the mulch from around the foundation. Also pruning back shrubs where more light and air can circulate around the foundation will reduce ladybugs as well as roaches, lizards or skinks and many other home invading insects.

Please make plans to join us for any of these FREE programs!

EVERY MONTH from 12:00-1:00, Bring a Sack Lunch, Drinks Provided!

Locations:

Prattville: The 1st Thursday of EVERY month, Christ Lutheran Church, 2175 Cobbs Ford Road
information: (334)361-7273

For more

SHIITAKE MUSHROOM GAR- **DENING**



**Would you like to learn how to grow Shiitake Mushrooms in your own backyard?
Inoculate your own log to take home with you.**

The Autauga County Master Gardeners are hosting a Shiitake Mushroom Gardening Class

Mallory Kelley – Instructor

FRIDAY, 22 APRIL 2016

9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

EXTENSION CLASSROOM

2226 Highway 14 West

Autaugaville, Alabama 36003-2540

COST – \$20.00 Per Person

REGISTRATION IS LIMITED TO 40 ATTENDEES

Make your check payable to Autauga County Extension Office and Mail to:

Tana Shealey, 2226 Highway 14 West, Suite E, Autaugaville, Alabama 36003-2540

For additional information, Contact Tana Shealey to make your reservation:

Call (334) 361-7273

Email tshealey@auburn.edu



Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

AMGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SCULPTING
the GARDEN



Dothan, Alabama

May 12-14

Mail in Registration
available at
www.amgaconference.org

Our Newsletter Editor was not able to begin at this time so I will be providing mini-newsletters for now. Any comments are welcome.



Anthony Yarbrough, Editor
Email: ayarb@knology.net
May God Bless