



Our Mission

Committed to volunteering to beautify our communities, to share our knowledge of gardening, and to promote environmental awareness.



DIRTY DIGS

Autauga County Master Gardeners Association Newsletter

November 2018



Where did 2018 go? Was I so busy that I don't notice the months slipping by, one by one until I bumped into the end of the year? Do MGs count the days and months passing by based on what needs to be planted this month? Is our focus on conferences and workshops or when

to begin propagation for the Plant Sale so intense that we don't notice the change in the weather, in our families, in ourselves? We are right around the corner to a new January 2019, a time which promises a clean slate and a new beginning. And, with that in mind, let's consider the quote from Josh Billings who said, *"Consider the postage stamp: its usefulness consists in the ability to stick to one thing 'til it gets there."* And we, ACMGA, have stuck to our goals and purpose with tremendous results. You, my friends, are great and it has been an honor and privilege to serve as your President.

2017 and 2018 have seen great accomplishments by you, the MGs of this association. I have heard people say that they are amazed at the number of ways we help, educate and elevate the quality of life in our community. We help feed the hungry, educate adults and children, provide recreation for the children, partner with our City to beautify anywhere we are invited in and respond to requests from the community for speakers on gardening issues. We provide scientific information to our friends, neighbors and people we meet at nurseries and elsewhere. We are ever willing and able to share our knowledge and have earned respect and a reputation for follow-thru in our community. Kudos to ACMGA!

When I was elected president of ACMGA two years ago, I had been an MG for one year. Yet your acceptance, trust, and friendship for a displaced "Yankee" made me feel right at home and comfortable. My very first challenge was replacement of the sprinkler system at Prattville, a project which I knew nothing about and which would have busted our budget. Through sound advice from the previ-

ous president, research and a partnership with the City of Prattville, we avoided the cost and solved the problem for zero dollars! That was the beginning of my presidency. To say this position has been fun and satisfying would be an accurate statement; to say it has been tough at times would also be true. I have enjoyed the challenges and have sought to lead us in the right direction. Due to personal considerations, I have decided not to run for a third year as your President. There are outstanding challenges and issues which I leave on the table, but new leadership will provide new insight and vision to complete these challenges. The Nominations Committee consisting of Glenn Nichols, Jean Hare and Lanell Tatum will present a slate of recommended officers for 2019 at the November 8, 2018, membership meeting.

I have full confidence that this Association, which has rightfully earned a reputation of integrity, concern for our community and a willingness to work hard, will accept new opportunities to beautify our community, educate our residents, and bring environmental awareness to everyone we teach and touch. Dave Barry said, *"My therapist told me the way to achieve true inner peace is to finish what I start. So far, I've finished two bags of M&Ms and a chocolate cake. I feel better already."* Well, my friends, we too have finished our M&Ms and are munching on our chocolate cake.

During my first membership meeting as your president, I said that what we can accomplish is limited only by our vision. I quoted a Japanese proverb which states, *"Vision without action is a daydream. Action without vision is a nightmare."* Mark Twain said, *"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do."* We will not be disappointed. We have vision and action. I'm happy that I can answer a quote by Ronald Reagan who said, *"The problem with being a leader is that you're never sure if you're being followed or chased."* I'm proud to say I know which is true for me. Thank you all.

Hummingbird Award

Ofie McCoy is the Hummingbird Award winner for October. For all of the work that she has done organizing and working behind the scenes helping make the association an active part of Autauga County.

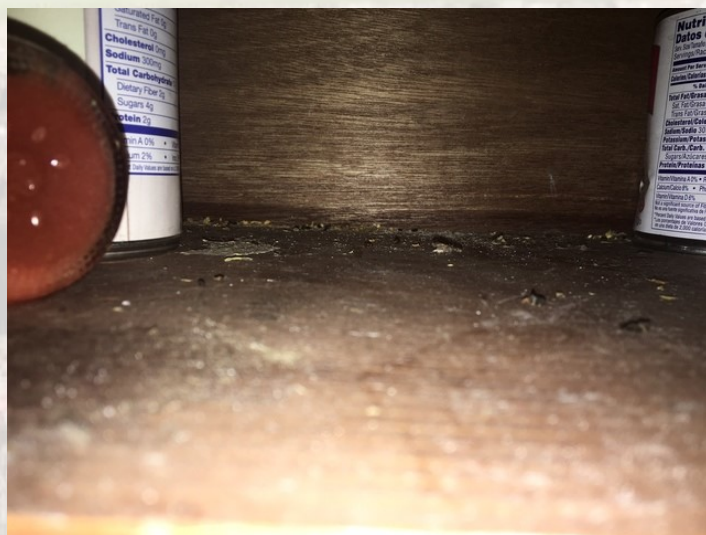


2018 All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar Series: Pantry Pests

Kitchen pantries tend to stay full over the holidays with company passing through and more baking! Don't let pantry pests get the best of you! Join [Dr. Dan Suiter, Extension Entomologist, UGA Extension](#) as he discusses the identification and biology of pantry pests to make control easier. Moderated by [Taylor Vandiver](#) and [Marcus Garner](#), Regional Extension Agents, [Alabama Extension](#). The link to the event will be added asap. Note: on December 7, the link to the live webinar opens about 15 minutes before the webinar. If you try to log in earlier, you will get an error message.

For more webinars in this series, see [2018 All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar Series](#). The webinars are brought to you by the following [eXtension](#) Communities of Practice: [Ant Pests](#), and [Urban IPM](#); and by the [Alabama Cooperative Extension System](#), the [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service](#), [Clemson Cooperative Extension](#) and [University of Georgia Extension](#).

Photo Courtesy Dani Carroll, ACES



<https://learn.extension.org/events/3264>

5369464

Best Ever Mac & Cheese Recipe

INGREDIENTS

1 pkg (16 oz) uncooked elbow macaroni
4 slices hearty white bread, torn into large pieces
6 tbsp butter, cubed & divided
½ c grated parmesan cheese
1 tsp salt
1 tsp pepper
¼ c finely chopped onion
1 tsp ground mustard
¼ tsp cayenne pepper
¼ c all-purpose flour
3 c whole milk
2 c half & half cream
1 c cubed process cheese
8 oz sharp cheddar, shredded
8 oz Monterey jack cheese, shredded
1 tsp worcestershire sauce

PREPARATION

Cook pasta for al dente; drain and return to pan. Pulse bread, 2 tbs butter, parmesan cheese, ½ tsp pepper in a food processor until coarsely ground. In large skillet melt remaining butter. Add onions and cook until tender, about 3 minutes. Add ground mustard and cayenne; stir until blended. Stir in flour until smooth, about 3 min. Slowly whisk in milk and cream; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium low; simmer, stirring constantly until thickened, about 4 min. Remove from heat; stir in Velveeta and slowly add remaining cheeses a handful at a time, stirring until cheese is melted. Add worcestershire and remaining salt & pepper. Pour over pasta; toss to coat.

Transfer to greased 13 X 9 baking dish. Sprinkle bread crumbs over top of casserole. Bake at 400 degrees until top is golden brown and sauce is bubbly, 10-12 minutes.

Meet Our Interns



Bionca Lindsey

Prattville AL

Chief Master Sergeant USAF, Retired

I served in the Air Force for 30 years. My husband and I settled back here in Alabama to be close to his family after being away from family for so long. I'm originally from Chicago and was not eager to return to the Windy City.

We have three children, two sons, one daughter, and three grandchildren who happen to be all girls.

My mom had a green thumb and she could grow any and everything. I remember walking in the yard with her many days. I always wanted to be able to grow flowers like her. Earlier this year, my mom passed away and I'm becoming a Master Gardener in her honor, so I can carry on something that she loved and become something that I love. I enjoy the classes and I'm learning so much and have met some awesome people and look forward to meeting you all.



Darrue Stewart

Prattville AL

County Extension Coordinator for Autauga County

Darrue is the coordinator for all of the projects that the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) is involved in around Autauga County. She is taking the Master Gardener class to enhance her job in ACES. The gardening that she likes to do is flowers. Darrue wrote that she likes to volunteer for seminars and projects that the master gardeners are involved in.



You don't
want to miss
any of these
seminars.

2018 Classes

Presented by Autauga County Master Gardeners Association & City of Prattville

classes!

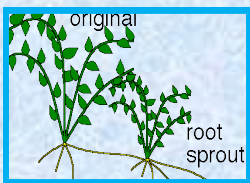
All classes are held at the Doster Center at 9:00 am

March 24— “Introduction to Hummingbirds in Alabama” presented by Fred Bassett. Don’t miss this exciting presentation from a man who devotes his life to hummingbirds and travels around the United States banding them.



May 11— Karen Weber will present “Growing A Beautiful Garden” and share ideas about plants, pruning, ergonomics and bulbs.

July 14—”All About Bonsai” presented by Mark Waldo. Learn how to choose plants for bonsai, pruning techniques and examples using the instructor’s many plants. Another class you will not want to miss.



September 15— “Tips and Demonstration on Plant Propagation” presented by Rona Watson. Double your plants through propagation.

November 7—”Holiday Decorating” presented by Charlotte Hall who will discuss how to decorate for the holidays through natural materials.



Pierce's Disease Resistant Cultivars for Our Area

ACES Timely Information Post

I have always wanted to grow my own grapes ever since I was a teenager. My aunt and uncle next door had a grape vine where they grew concord grapes, and it always amazed me how much the vine would grow each year and the amount of grapes they always seemed to have growing on the vine. The grapes were actually not very good tasting by themselves. My aunt would always make jars of concord grape jelly each fall. It was always a treat to have toast and grape jelly at her kitchen table in the morning.

Moving to Alabama and having time and space for some gardening gave me the opportunity to try my hand at growing my own grapes for eating and grape jelly. As I was researching the types that would grow here I came across this little article on the ACES web site. So, if any of y'all are looking to grow some grapes other than Muscadines, this might help you decide on which cultivar you want to try.

Since Alabama is located in a high PD risk zone, it is critical for the grape growers to select and plant cultivars with PD resistance or tolerance. Most cultivars of native grapes such as muscadines are known to be resistant or tolerant to Pierce's disease. Several American and French-American hybrid bunch grape cultivars are found to have PD tolerance such as 'Black Spanish', 'Blanc du Bois', 'Champanel', 'Chardonel', 'Conquistador', 'Cynthiana', 'Favorite', 'Lake Emerald', 'Seyval Blanc', 'Stover', and 'Villard Blanc'.

'Black Spanish', also known as 'Lenoir', is a cultivar of the American *Vitis aestivalis* species of grape vine native to Texas. 'Black Spanish' has a vigorous vine with large, dark green foliage and small black berries. It has resistance to phylloxera and PD. It does not lose acidity in the heat, so it makes a decent quality red wine in hot areas.

'Blanc du Bois' as an early ripening French-American hybrid bunch cultivar released by the University of Florida as a vigorous and long-lived variety of Florida grape for using in making white wine. It is an early ripening cultivar which grows and fruits well on its own roots. The clusters are medium-sized and berries are round, light green, slip-skin, juicy with a muscat flavor. It is resistant to Pierce's disease, downy mildew and grape leaf folder. 'Blanc du Bois' is susceptible to anthracnose, black rot and ripe rot, but these diseases could be managed by spraying preventively with fungicides.

'Champanel' is an American hybrid bunch

grape cultivar used for red jelly and developed by T.V. Munson of Denison, TX. It has high resistance to heat and drought and is extremely well adapted to South and East Texas. The cluster is small with large, black, seeded berries which are very acidic until fully ripe. The vine is extremely vigorous and grows well in a wide range of soils; however, it can have serious iron chlorosis problems on some poorly-drained, high pH soils. It is resistant to Pierce's disease, black rot, downy mildew, anthracnose, and powdery mildew. It is also resistant to insects except the grape leaf folder.

'Chardonel' is a late ripening white wine variety developed by the New York State Experiment Station. It has moderately vigorous vines that may be grown own rooted in phylloxera infested soils. A moderately cold hardy variety (-10 to -15 degrees F), 'Chardonel' is the result of a 'Seyval' x 'Chardonnay' cross conducted in 1953. With a medium-late bloom following a late bud break, cluster thinning is seldom necessary. 'Chardonel' is considered moderately susceptible to downy mildew, botrytis bunch rot, crown gall, black rot, and anthracnose, and highly susceptible to phomopsis cane, leaf spot, and powdery mildew.

'Conquistador' is a multipurpose, self-fertile Florida hybrid cultivar having *V. aestivalis* and 'Concord' parentage. Vine growth is moderate. The clusters are small with a slip-skin type berries. Unevenly ripened berries appear in bunches occasionally, and some bunches mature later than others. 'Conquistador' is resistant to PD and somewhat resistant to anthracnose, downy mildew, and black rot.

'Cynthiana', also known as 'Norton', was found growing in the wild in Arkansas. 'Cynthiana' prefers sandy or gravelly loam soils. It has phylloxera resistance and is also used as a rootstock. Fruit has blue-black color berries on small to medium clusters. Cluster thinning is generally not needed for the late blooming and vigorous vines which require approximately 125 days from bloom to maturity at harvest. 'Cynthiana' ripens very late and keeps well on the medium and small clusters. Berries are small and considered good for processing. 'Cynthiana' is considered moderately susceptible to downy mildew, black rot, botrytis bunch rot, crown gall, phomopsis cane and leaf spot, powdery mildew, and anthracnose. 'Cynthiana' is sensitive to injury from sulfur. It is moderately cold hardy (-10 to -15 degrees F), but requires 180 frost free days for maturation. 'Cynthiana' does not tolerate extended periods of wet soil.

'Favorite' is a more disease resistant clone of 'Black Spanish'. It is apparently a clone or seedling of 'Black Spanish'.

'Lake Emerald' was developed by the University of Florida breeding program and released in 1954 as a home garden variety. It is an American hybrid cultivar having *V. vinifera* background. It produces medium size clusters and

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**Autauga County
Master Gardeners Association
Lunch & Learn 2018**

**THURSDAY, 6 DECEMBER
12:00-1:00 P.M.**

**Trinity United Methodist Church
610 Fairview Avenue, Prattville 36066**

BRING A SACK LUNCH FREE PROGRAM DRINKS PROVIDED

**Insects
Good Guys or Bad Guys
Feed Them or Squash Them**

**Dr. Fudd Graham
Entomologist, AU**

**Control
Predator
Bad Guys
Good Guys
Host Plants
Identification**

**For more information, please contact
Autauga County Extension Office
(334) 361-7273**



Cahaba Lily

L. J. Davenport, Samford University



The Cahaba lily (*Hymenocallis coronaria*) is an aquatic flowering plant native to the major river systems of Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina. A type of spiderlily belonging to the amaryllis family, the Cahaba lily is noted for the striking beauty of its three-inch-wide white flowers.

The lily requires a very specialized habitat—swift-flowing water over rocks and lots of sun—and thus is restricted to shoal areas at or above the fall line. In Alabama, the Cahaba lily is restricted to the Black Warrior, Cahaba, Coosa, Tallapoosa, and Chattahoochee river systems. Plant bulbs and seeds spend the winter buried in the rocky riverbed. There the water's current securely wedges the seeds and bulbs into the rock crevices. Leaves begin to emerge above the water line in mid-April, following the spring floods (dates are approximately two weeks later in eastern Georgia and South Carolina). Flower stalks develop after the leaves are fully emerged, with each stalk capped by six to nine buds surrounded by protective casings called bracts. Flowering commences in mid-May, reaching its peak in late May and early June, with sporadic flowering until late June.



Pipeline Swallowtail

Flowers open in the early evening at a time when they are most fragrant and full of nectar. The six petals surround a membranous corona, which connects the lower portions of the stamens. The lily's scientific name, translated as "beautiful crown-like membrane," accurately depicts these characteristics. The development of the individual flower buds on a stalk takes place in a set sequence, and a fresh flower opens each day for pollinators. Both nocturnal and diurnal pollinators have been observed visiting the flowers, notably the Plebeian Sphinx Moth (*Paratrea plebeja*) and the Pipevine Swallowtail (*Battus philenor*). Following fertilization, the ovaries gradually expand until they split, and the oblong, olive-sized green seeds complete their development outside the ovary wall. The heavy seeds bend the flower stalk down into the water, and the mature seeds drop to the stream bottom and are swept into rock crevices by the current. Germination follows in about a week, resulting in small bulbs with strap-like leaves.

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October Meeting

Ofie McCoy

The meeting started with AICC Executive Director, Denise Brown, sharing the history of the organization. She stated that two volunteers began by distributing food out of the trunk of a car to the present time where ministry is provided out of a large building and clothing and money for utilities have been added to the food assistance. Clothing is given out liberally since the clothing closet is filled with donations from a generous public. She shared that the ministry receives no government monies and is fully supported by individuals and churches who have banded together to provide this ministry to the community. It was a great presentation enjoyed by all.

There was a discussion about the upcoming Farm City Day on November 14 and the following members volunteered to help; Lynn Yarbrough, Rose McCauley, Charlie French, Ofie McCoy, Tim McCoy, Shari McCandless, Elsie Jones, Jo Felio, Carolyn Gray, Glenn Houvinen, and Lisa Carswell. A fundraising idea was discussed to create a cook book and the completion date was extended to February, 2019. Donations to AF&WSC Landowner Tour and the 2019 Conference were discussed with Debbie Boutelier and Cheri Cook offering to make a basket for the Landowner Tour. Don Armstrong and Rose McCauley will work at the registration booth and Tim McCoy and Charlie French will work at the ACMGA information booth. Debbie Boutelier will be the next speaker and she will teach on aromatherapy.

It was reported that 1,067 pounds of fresh produce has been delivered to AICC for feeding the hungry. Don Armstrong presented the 2019 Lunch and Learn schedule and Rose McCauley passed around a list of viable businesses to approach for an ad in the 2019 Conference booklet. She asked everyone to look over the list and identify someone they could approach for an ad. The Christmas celebration will be held on December 13 at 11:00 a.m. at the ACES Conference Room. Debbie Boutelier and Cheri Cook volunteered to head up this committee. President Ofie McCoy announced that she has appointed Carroll Bonifay as the alternate representative to the AMGA Advisory Council.



A number of human activities threaten the survival of the Cahaba lily, and lily populations have been completely destroyed in some areas. Historically, the major threat has come from the damming of rivers for navigation and power generation. Alabama's largest populations of Cahaba lily, however, remain in the Cahaba River, which has no high-level dams. More recently, the lily has become threatened by increasing levels of sediment from development, logging, and mining. In addition, Cahaba lily bulbs are sometimes "poached" and sold to nurseries, a practice that has decimated smaller populations. In May 1990, the town of West Blocton, in Bibb County, established the annual Cahaba Lily Festival. Activities include presentations about the lily and other local wildflowers, the crowning of the Cahaba Lily Queen, and the opportunity to view the lilies in their best-known natural habitat, the shoals of the Cahaba River.



berries with 18% sugar content. 'Lake Emerald' is resistant to black rot, downy mildew, and tolerant of PD, but the fruit does not have the keeping quality necessary for a fresh market grape.

'Seyval Blanc' is a French-American hybrid bunch cultivar that was found to be one of the wine cultivars best suited for the region of Ozark, Missouri. 'Seyval Blanc' combined higher yield with a good balance in wine quality, and it has become widely planted in Missouri. Vine pruning weights were generally low to moderate in the Ozark region because the shallow soil profile typical for this region restricted vine growth. 'Seyval Blanc' produced the largest clusters among the cultivars tested. This cultivar required crop thinning to balance fruit production and vine growth in high crop load years.

'Stover' is another hybrid cultivar developed by the University of Florida's breeding program. It is resistant to PD, downy mildew, and moderately resistant to black rot, but susceptible to anthracnose and powdery mildew in Florida. Clusters are medium size and the sugar content is 17-18% with a mild taste. 'Stover' is a golden-fruited, long-lived variety with improved dessert and holding qualities.

'Villard Blanc' is a French-American hybrid cultivar developed by crossing Seibel 6468 and Seibel 6905 that was planted on the Texas South Plains during 1974-1986. 'Villard Blanc' produced the highest cumulative yield of 61 kg/vine during a six year study in Crossville, Alabama. It was also established that 'Villard Blanc' had the largest cluster size among all cultivars in our test and had the best overall performance with vigorous and productive vines and a good fruit quality.





Holiday Decorating

Presented by Charlotte Hall

Hosted by the

Autauga County Master Gardeners Association

and Prattville Parks & Recreation Department

Wednesday, November 7, 2018

9:00 - 11:00 AM

At the Doster Center, 425 S. Northington St., Prattville, AL 36067

The holidays are approaching and it will soon be time to decorate. In addition to looking nice, the scents associated with plants and other natural materials we can use to decorate for the holidays are some of the most popular. You will get some ideas for decorating for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Charlotte has been a Master Gardener since 2013 and has been decorating with natural materials for as long as she can remember.



To sign-up or for more information,
contact Prattville Parks & Recreation office at 334-595-0800.
Free to the Public, but Pre-Registration is requested.

Lunch and Learn 2018

1st THURSDAY of EVERY Month

12:00-1:00 PM

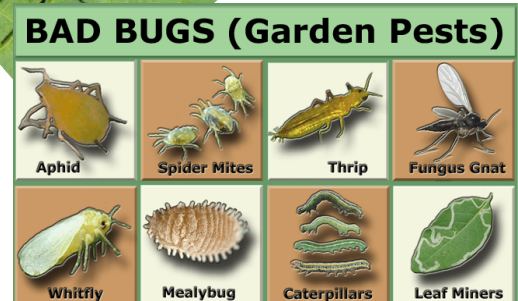
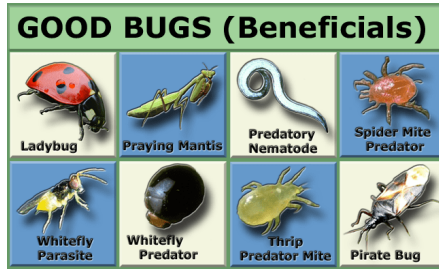
Trinity United Methodist Church
610 Fairview Avenue, Prattville 36066

- 4 January** Gardening 101
Amanda Borden, Advanced MG
- 1 February** Roses
Gloria Purnell, Master Rosarian
- 1 March** Butterflies, Bees, and Other Pollinators
Dr. David Held, Entomologist AU
- 5 April** Blueberries
Dr. Chip East, Horticulturist ACES
- 10 May** Figs
Dr. Arlie Powell, Petals from the Past
- 7 June** Herbs
Tia Gonzales, Medicinal Plant Garden AU
- 12 July** Cooking with Herbs & Spices
Janice Hall, Food Safety & Quality, ACES
- 2 August** Plant Propagation
Don Armstrong, Master Gardener
- 6 September** Drought Tolerant Plants for the South
Dr. Sue Webb, Petals from the Past
- 4 October** Shade Loving Plants
Jane McCarthy, Master Gardener
- 1 November** Growing Citrus Trees in Containers
Tom McLemore, Master Gardener
- 6 December** Insects-Good Guys or Bad Guys
Dr. Fudd Graham, Entomologist, AU

For more information, contact
Autauga County Extension Office 334.361.7273

BRING A SACK LUNCH

DRINKS PROVIDED



Monthly Meetings

Second Thursday of each month at First Baptist Church, Prattville (unless otherwise notified)

- ⇒ All odd-numbered months: January, March, May, July, September, November will have 6:00 p.m. meetings.
- ⇒ Most even-numbered months: February, April, June, August, October will have 9:00 a.m. meeting.



Things to do.....

- ♦ Start mulching strawberries, blackberries and grapes.
- ♦ Use proper herbicide to kill germinating winter weeds.
- ♦ Get rose planting underway.
- ♦ Continue spring bulb planting.
- ♦ Plant cabbage and lettuce in the cold frame.



**Autauga County Master Gardeners
Assoc.
c/o Autauga County Extension Office
2226 Highway 14 West
Autaugaville, AL 36003**

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

To: