



DIRTY DIGS

Autauga County Master Gardeners Association Newsletter

October 2018



It was the time of the interns. This is how a great story might begin to prepare your hopes for a spectacular mystery or perhaps a dynamic historical novel. The historical novel comparison best applies with the history to be made by the Autauga County

Master Gardeners Association with the enthusiasm, strength and commitment that this new group of interns adds to the mix. As I listened to them share about their past experiences, my thoughts went back to the days of my first class as a new intern in 2015.

I remember feeling excited and interested in interacting with the other interns and making new friends. But I was also somewhat intimidated by the size of our resource book and the fact that I knew close to nothing about gardening. I had no opportunity to learn gardening as I was raised in the Santa Clara Valley of California where anything grows anywhere you stick it in the ground. I was further horticulturally stymied when I moved to the southern part of the San Joaquin Valley in California, a huge fertile valley stretching from Sacramento in the north to Bakersfield in the south. This land was once underwater, a sea which eventually dried up but left rich, black, soft, nutrient-rich soil which grows much of the world's produce, or at least it did when I grew up in California. I didn't need to study gardening then. Anything I put in the ground magically grew. And other than stink bugs which I handled manually, I knew nothing about spraying and such.

Then my life changed. I drove down the highway and saw a sign that read, "Welcome to Beautiful Alabama" and I was hooked on this state! Beauty is everywhere; it's in the mead-

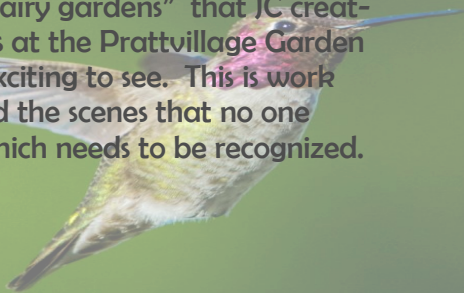
ows, hills, mountains, rivers and streams. But here people's gardens are where some of the most beautiful sights are located. The individuality and styles are amazing. From floral jungles to very formal geometric patterns, everything is out there. And size means nothing, beauty in a few square feet to several acres.

When Tim and I were invited to take the Master Gardener classes, I thought, "If we're going to garden, let's learn to do it right!" I remember our first or second class was entomology and I thought, "Oh no, how am I ever going to remember all this scientific jargon and be able to look at bugs close enough to identify them?" But, little by little it has come together. The 2018 sixteen-member class is as diverse as we were in 2015. I am so encouraged and re-energized to listen to the interested, sharp minds of the new interns who are willing to make our community a better place to live. Our future looks brighter with the infusion of such enthusiasm, energy and willingness to accomplish our three-pronged mission: to educate, to beautify and to promote environmental awareness in our community.



Hummingbird Award

JC Schofield was the recipient of the Hummingbird Award in September. Her work and dedication in developing the two pollinator beds that were added to the Autauga Prattville Demonstration Garden this year has been outstanding. Also the “fairy gardens” that JC created around two trees at the Prattville Garden are beautiful and exciting to see. This is work that she does behind the scenes that no one knows about but which needs to be recognized.



2018 All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar Series: Lice, Scabies, and Mites

Presenters

Dr. N.C. Hinkle

<https://learn.extension.org/events/3263>

Insects pests are definitely a nuisance on our landscapes and lawns. When the pests are associated with humans, the nuisance factor multiplies. Get a plan! Learn about their biology, distribution, and management strategies in this webinar presented by [Dr. Nancy Hinkle, University of Georgia](#). Moderated by [Tim Crow](#) and [Eric Schavey](#), Regional Extension Agents, [Alabama Extension](#). The link to the event will be added asap. Note: on November 2, 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 Susan Ellis, Bugwood.org



Green Beans *Tim McCoy*

INGREDIENTS:

1 pound green beans
2 tbsp bacon grease (substitute butter)
2 cloves garlic minced
1 lg yellow onion sliced
1 cup chicken broth
1/2 cup chopped red bell pepper
1 tsp course sea salt (substitute 1/2 tsp salt)
Black pepper to taste

Preparation:

Snap the ends of the green beans, or cut them off if you prefer. Melt the bacon grease in a skillet over medium heat. Add the garlic, onions and red pepper and caramelize for about a minute.



Then add the green beans and cook until the beans turn bright green, about a minute. Then add the chicken broth, salt and pepper to taste. Turn the heat down to medium-low and cover with a lid, leaving the lid cracked to allow the steam to escape. Cook until the liquid evaporates and the beans are fairly soft, yet still a bit crisp, about 20 minutes.

Don't be afraid to let the liquid all cook away so the onions and peppers can caramelize fully. Yield is 6 servings.



Your Sanctuary Garden

Tim McCoy

The AMGA Fall Seminar was held in Montgomery the 27th of September. The seminar was a one day event that featured four dynamic speakers. Each speaker talked about how your garden could be a sanctuary for you. The speakers talked on totally different topics but each tied in to how make your desires in a garden be a place of sanctuary.



Autauga County Master Gardeners was well represented with several members present.

The first speaker was Peggy Hill. Ms. Hill talked about putting your ideas of what you wanted in a sanctuary garden to work and how you could get inspiration from other gardens and the importance of visiting other gardens to refine your desires.

Mary Beth Shaddix brought the idea of making edible plantings a part of your sanctuary. She spoke of how to put together different shapes and colors of your vegetable or herb garden and bring them into your sanctuary garden.

Tyson Farmer presented a different perspective of inviting birds into your sanctuary, providing a sanctuary for them also. He talked about different ways to attract the birds and ways of keeping them coming back.

The last speaker was Brian Dable. He spoke of how to bring a water feature into your sanctuary. He showed how even a small water feature can make a difference in our garden. No matter the size, it can have a water feature.

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

2018 Classes

Presented by Autauga County Master Gardeners Association & City of Prattville

classes!

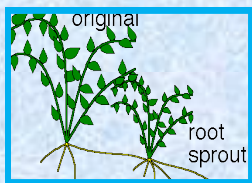
All classes are held at the Doster Center at 9:00 am

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.





Introducing KC Tillerson, intern 2018 Master Gardener Class

It has been the desire of my heart for decades to become a "Master Gardener".

I had no clue what that actually meant. I thought one had to be highly experienced and educated to be a "Master Gardener". Thank heavens that is not the requirements, just the love for growing things and the desire to share that love with our community.

As a member of the 2018 Master Gardener Intern class, I am in hog heaven; I am wallowing in the soil with glee. Notice I didn't say the dirty word. I'm not alone; the whole lot of us in the Intern Class are soaking in everything presented to us from the choicest instructors. I've met doctors of bugs, soils, annuals and Smokey the Bear. And, a very cool organic gardener who has "played" in billionaires gardens.

The icing on the cake with the cherry on top is you, dear master gardeners. I am basking in your kindness towards me. You are nurturing my plant-loving soul in every way possible. Thank you so much for all of the tasty morsels of food and knowledge you are presenting. It's because of you, I am able to make my dream come true of becoming a Master Gardener.

are working to complete this. Part of that effort is to enlist sponsors, vendors, donors and advertisers.

Sponsors - Considered the big "corporate" companies who donate \$500 - \$2,500 and these folks are contacted by the AMGA fundraiser, Ann Vaughn. If you think of a sponsor, ask them if they would consider and get their information so it can get sent to Ann. Our job is to get all the others!

Vendors - The subcommittee has asked as many possible vendors as we could think of to participate. Vendors' booths should be gardening related. If you have someone you believe would be interested in becoming a vendor, please sign them up and let me (Ofie) know. Booths are \$125 for a 10 X 10 and \$250 for a 10 X 20. These are very reasonably priced.

Donors - These are companies or individuals who wish to contribute a prize, materials, supplies and/or services. They are recognized in the program and other perks. Please see the registration form.

Advertisers - Everyone should get their business and/or name in this booklet. The conference is budgeted for 400 participants (plus spouses and guests). The booklet is funded for full color. A full-page advertisement is \$100, half-page is \$75 and quarter page is \$50. It's easy to see that 4 quarter page ads bring in \$200! The conference package for vendors, donors and advertisers is being emailed to every member with hard copies available at the next membership meeting on October 11 at 9:00 am at First Baptist Church.

To date, Chilton County has brought in 13 advertisements. Autauga County has one in the pocket with other advertisements promised; now is the time to bring them in.

Autauga County Members Challenged to Bring in Advertisers by Ofie McCoy

Wow! We are well on our way to helping put together a great AMGA Spring Conference to be held in Clanton, Alabama on May 8, -10, 2019. Almost a year and a half ago, Clanton AMGA asked Autauga County and Shelby County MGs to help them put together the AMGA Spring Conference and we agreed. A subcommittee was formed comprised of Ofie McCoy, Tim McCoy, Nancy Waggoner, Rose McCauley and Glenn Huovinen. We were charged with shopping and providing all printing needs for this conference and we

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

**THURSDAY, 1 NOVEMBER
12:00-1:00 P.M.**



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

BRING A SACK LUNCH FREE PROGRAM DRINKS PROVIDED

**Growing Citrus Trees
In Containers
An Orchard on the Patio**

**Tom McLemore
Master Gardener**

**Pests
Feeding
Pot Size
Watering
Soil to Use
Plant Selection**

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



Purple Coneflower and Russian Sage

Purple coneflower and Russian sage make an all-star combination for late-summer and fall perennial beds. Purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*, zones 3 to 8), native to Eastern North America, are cold-hardy perennials that bloom for months, attracting native bees and butterflies. After the bloom, the flowers' spiky deep-orange centers can be left in the garden as decorative seedpods (and a feast for birds).

With its pale stems and delicate lavender-blue flowers, Russian sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*, zones 5 to 9) adds an airy quality to beds, appearing like a pale-colored cloud when planted in drifts. Russian sage blooms from July to October.

Both plants are drought-tolerant, making them a good pair for a tough, low-water environment.

Light requirement: Full sun

Water requirement: Moderate to low, once established



September Meeting Tim McCoy

September's meeting was an evening meeting and was well attended. The meeting was held in room 102 of the First Baptist Church in Prattville.

The guest speaker was Tyson Farmer owner of Wild Birds Unlimited. He talked about attracting wild birds to our yards using planting techniques and supplemental feeding sites. He also talked about how to attract migrating birds as they travel along the flyways. Tyson gave a very informative narration. He explained a 5 step plan to getting different species and more birds into our yards.

The meeting started with a devotional from Lee Ann Marona. Membership concerns included Pam Olson getting well and Bea Hill has had a setback in her recovery.

A nominating committee of Jean Hare, Lanell Tatum and Glenn Nichols has been selected to prepare a slate of candidates for the 2019 year. On the second fund raising idea of a cookbook, Dian Owen and Lanell Tatum have volunteered to receive recipes from the membership and put together a cookbook. Barbara Montgomery said she would look into pricing a filing cabinet for the MG office in Autaugaville.

Cheri Cook reminded everyone that association and state dues are payable now. The cost is \$10 for association dues and \$10 if you want to be in the state association.

Glenn Huovinen reported 947 pounds of produce had been donated to AICC so far this year. The demo garden is getting ready for the fall planting.

Glenn H also said the Marbury classes are going well with good participation from both the membership and the students.

Cheri Cook said that Prattvillage Garden is looking like late summer and that a wedding was planned for the 29th. A bit of cleaning before would be good.

Lunch & Learn is flourishing and growing. A few more volunteers to set up and tear down would be helpful.

Cheri Cook and Deb Boutelier have volunteered to start working on the Christmas celebration meeting.





come to fruition! Now, if you want black olives on that pizza figure in another two years. It takes five years for an olive seedling to produce fruit. So that 45 minutes has stretched into five years. Whew! Makes me tired just to think about it!!!!

We then took the students out to plant their very own pizza garden. Their pizza garden contains: wheat, tomatoes, garlic, onion chives, basil, and oregano. The students have been doing a great job tending their garden. The wheat and garlic are beginning to sprout, the tomato plants have fruit and the herbs are taking root. They are definitely looking forward to making a pizza with the fresh ingredients augmented with a few items from the grocery store. If they had to wait for the cheese or olives they might be ready to graduate!

If you are interested in working on this very rewarding project, contact Glen Houvenin.

Marbury Middle School Project

by Debbie Boutelier

Let's call Pizza Hut and ask to have a pizza delivered. The pizza will be there in 45 minutes. Great! But, how long does it really take to make a pizza? Does pizza come from a plant? These were questions that the Master Gardeners posed to Ms. Spring Bruner's class in late September. It's amazing that in just a few short generations we have forgotten from where our food is derived. We presented a fun activity to show the students that all of the ingredients in a pizza could indeed be traced back to plants. Sometimes, it's a messy and graphic procedure. And, sometimes, it is a very lengthy process.

So how long does it really take to make a pizza? Any guesses? If you just want a cheese pizza let's explore how long it takes for the production of the item that takes the longest to produce – the cheese! First, figure the gestation period for a calf, letting that calf mature until it can itself produce a calf and the milk necessary to feed the calf. Then the milk is made into cheese and depending on the type of cheese, the length of time for the cheese to age can vary. On average, a cheese pizza can take up to three years to





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.....

- ♦ Overseed warm season grasses with annual ryegrass for a green lawn for the upcoming winter months.
- ♦ Remove spent summer annuals, prepare the soil and plant cool-weather annuals.
- ♦ Sow seeds of mustard, collards, turnips and lettuce for a fall garden.
- ♦ Start planting hot weather varieties of spring flowering bulb.



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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

To: