



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

December, 2018



Wow!! Here we are at the end of another year of master gardening. Where has all of the time gone? Surely there is a season missing somewhere. This year has gone by so fast that it spins

my head at times.

I look around at all we have accomplished this year and I am amazed at what a dynamic organization the Autauga County Master Gardeners Association is.

There is a tremendous range of people that belong to this association. The range of the member's ages bespeaks of hundreds of years of experience. Not only in gardening but also experience in the business world which makes any our organization run smoothly.

My tenure as president of ACMGA has been a satisfying and fulfilling journey. I am so glad that Nancy Wagoneer talked me into taking the Master Gardener Class and becoming an intern is this association. My admiration of all the work and volunteering that ACMGA members do was only enhanced when I became president.

The work of our association and the projects that have been started and completed are an outstanding example of membership commitment and desire to make an impact in our county. No longer can anyone say that we only seem to do projects in Prattville.

Two years ago the desire of ACMGA members to get the new provisional members involved right away in making a difference in our county resulted in their designing, planning and implementing a new low-maintenance land-

scaping project at the Autauga County Agricultural Center in Autaugaville. The project turned out to be a huge success with new provisional member Glenn Huovinen being named Intern of the Year at the 2016 AMGA Spring Conference.

The provisional members and newly certified members of our association are a dynamic part of ACMGA. They have dived into volunteering and leading. Making them feel welcome and necessary by the members is very gratifying to me.

Another big development in our organization was becoming a legal 501(c)3 non-profit association. This opened the doors to us as a legal non-profit to apply for grants and donations from government organizations and businesses. Individuals can donate to ACMGA and receive tax benefits.

Shari McCandless and Linda Parrish turned Prattville Garden into a beautiful green island in downtown Prattville. Along with the work of so many members, they have put color and vibrancy into the garden.

Rose McCauley and Glenn Huovinen have led the group working the Prattville Autauga Demonstration Garden into a demo garden that provides so much produce to AICC. They have made the beds produce year round.

Bea Hill and Glenn H. led a committee of master gardeners in forming a Junior Master Gardener class at Marbury Middle School. The committee has put on classes at the school for 2 semesters now and the program is very successful in getting the students involved in gardening. We are also raising their awareness of the ecology and well-being of their planet.

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FARM CITY HAPPENS

By TIM MCCOY

November the 14th found the arena at the ACES building full of noise and sixth graders as the Autauga County Extension Service hosted all of the county sixth graders in a series of programs about different types of agriculture in Autauga County.



The event opened with a presentation by the Auburn University Raptors. The group showed several raptors and explained each raptors place in our ecology. From tiny owls to the majestic bald eagle several species of rap-

tors were presented to the group.



After the presentation the sixth graders were broken down into several groups. Each group started at a station on the arena floor representing a different agricultural enterprise or organization. There a moderator explained their niche in the farming world. As the children rotated around the different stations, they were introduced to different aspects of the agricultural world from small mom and pop agribusinesses to large agribusiness. From raising goats to



raising fish.



The Farm City event ended with a sack lunch that each child brought. The noise and energy made for a boisterous combination of fun and learning for everyone. The introduction to these kids about how important agriculture is to this county can only help our county.



Microwave Fudge

Ingredients:

1/2 cup butter
1/4 cup milk
1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
3 cups powdered sugar
1 tsp vanilla extract

How to Make:

Step 1

Line 8-inch square pan with aluminum foil, extending foil over edges. Grease foil with butter.

Step 2

Combine butter, milk and chocolate chips in large microwave-safe bowl. Microwave 2-3 minutes or until butter and chocolate chips are melted.

Step 3

Stir in powdered sugar and vanilla; beat at medium speed, scraping bowl often, until smooth. Spread into prepared pan. Cover; refrigerate 1-1 1/2 hours or until firm. Lift fudge from pan using foil ends; cut into squares.

Yield: 36 Prep Time: 15 min. Total Time: 1 hr. 15 min.

Tip #1

You can easily place foil into the pan by first tearing a piece that is larger than pan. Flip pan over and shape the foil over outside of pan bottom. Gently lift foil off pan. Turn pan over and place foil into pan. Be sure to leave an extra foil overhang to help lift fudge out of pan.

Nutrition:

90 calories • 4 fat (mg) • 5 Cholesterol (mg) • 30 Sodium (mg) • 13 Carbohydrates (g) • <1 Dietary Fiber • 0 Protein (g)

November Meeting Tim McCoy

The November meeting was held the 8th at 6 PM. It took place in room 102 of the First Baptist Church.

Master Gardener Debbie Boutelier was the featured speaker. Debbie presented a talk and power point on aroma therapy. She explained all the different ways to extract the oil from different herbs and how to use the oils to make different items that can be used to release their aromas to make us feel differently.

Several of the interns were present at the meeting and were introduced to the membership. It is great to see them attending the meetings.

The upcoming Farm City event was discussed. All of the volunteers were reminded to be there at 7:30 to help set up. It was explained what the volunteers would be doing during the event.

The Landowner Tour was also discussed. The master gardeners that were working the tour were updated on their duties and all the other members were encouraged to attend and enjoy the tour.

With the uncertainty of the continued use of Prattville Garden, there was discussion about going ahead with the turf replacement project. It was finally decided that the grant money should be returned to AMGA so another association could do a project.

The Prattville Autauga Demonstration Garden (demo garden) has donated 1,149 pounds of produce to AICC so far this year, surpassing last years total. Glenn Huovinen said that the garden is doing good and that they are starting to put in the winter garden.

Prattville Garden is scheduled to have a wedding in November. The grass should be cut and some weeding and clean up right before the wedding.

The Christmas luncheon will be on December the 13th starting at 11 AM. It will be held in the conference room of the ACES building.

A slate of candidates for next year's officers was presented. Debbie Boutelier president, Glenn Huovinen vice president, Tim McCoy secretary and Cheri Cook treasurer. With no nominations from the floor a vote was taken and all were elected to serve next year.

Hummingbird Award

Glenn Nichols was awarded the hummingbird award in November. He has worked tirelessly at the Prattville Autauga Demonstration Garden. Glenn works in the garden almost every Tuesday keeping the garden looking good and making sure there is a good harvest of produce for AICC. He helps with the setup and tear down of the City Fest booth each year and Glenn works during the plant sale each year.



Weed Management in the Garden & Landscape: Understanding Herbicides

Event starts: Monday, December 17 at 1:00 pm CST
Event ends: Monday, December 17 at 2:00 pm CST

Pre-register by clicking the 'Location' link above (use a desktop, laptop or the Zoom app on mobile devices).

This webinar is part of the 2018 series of Advanced Training Webinars for Master Gardeners sponsored by Oregon State University Extension.

Master Gardeners receive many questions about herbicide use in gardens and landscapes that can be tricky to answer. Join Kaci Buhl (OSU Extension) for a session focused on understanding how herbicides work, how to choose the 'right' herbicide, debunking myths, and sharing safe application techniques. Resources for further reading will be shared.

About the presenter: Kaci Buhl is an Associate Professor of Practice at Oregon State University (OSU). She coordinates the Statewide Pesticide Safety Education Program, working to educate professional pesticide applicators. On the national level, Ms. Buhl is the Deputy Director of the Pesticide Educational Resources Collaborative, which creates pesticide manuals, exams, and other resources for professionals. She studied integrated pest management (IPM) at Michigan State University and previously coordinated the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC).

Photo credit: avias14 via Flickr CC BY 2.0

Presenters

Kaci Buhl

<https://extension.zoom.us/j/189114564>

JR. MASTER GARDENERS

By TIM MCCOY

November found the Junior Master Gardeners of Marbury Middle School trying a new to them and the instructor (Ofie McCoy) propagating method. Ofie had seen a picture of a rose stem inserted into a potato in an internet photo. She wondered if it would work or was just a spoof.

Ofie decided that a good place to try out this method would be to conduct an experiment with the Jr. Master Gardeners participating.



She asked teacher Spring Bruner if she thought the students would be willing to try and Miss Spring said the students would love to.

Ofie collected enough cuttings off of her yellow rose so that each student could propagate one rose. The rest of the supplies consisted of some potting soil mixed with vermiculite and some rooting hormone. Enough 6 inch pots for the class

and 2 bags of red potatoes.

After presenting a power point demonstration of how to propagate the rose, each student chose a cutting and a potato. The class then went to their raised bed garden. A hole was drilled into each potato and after putting the end of the cutting in the rooting hormone it was inserted into the potato. Then each student filled a pot with the potting soil mixture. The cutting and potato was placed into the soil of the pot and watered in. The students put a tag in their pot with their name.

Ofie asked each student to keep track of how they took care of their cuttings. If they brought them inside, if they used a clear 2 liter bottle as a green house or left it open. She asked them to make not of when any growth started and how much their cutting grew. The students were asked to report back to Ofie all of their findings.



Don Armstrong has made the Lunch & Learn program into an integral part of the education part of our association. Don's leadership along with Glenn H. has made the monthly seminars a "must attend" program for many members of the county. The program has grown and expanded.

We were contacted by the Prattville Parks and Recreation Department. They asked if ACMGA would partner with them and lead a program of gardening classes meeting at the Doster Center once a quarter. Lisa Carswell took up the torch. With the help of several master gardeners a program was developed and implemented. The success of the program has turned it into a bi-monthly program for next year.

Another major undertaking of our association is identifying the different species of bamboo in the Wilderness Park. Parks and Rec asked if we would take this project. Glenn H. and Pam Olson got the bamboo identified and designed signage to show visitors the species that are there.

Lastly I want to acknowledge all tireless work that was done in creating a logo for our great ACMGA that would identify us and would be usable in any of our association graphic designs. The final is a beautiful design that can be used on signs, correspondence, clothing and garden items.

There is so much more that ACMGA has accomplished while I was president. I cannot thank each of you enough for all of your teamwork and volunteering to make us a viable name in Autauga County. Your support of me is not taken lightly. I know that nothing gets done without you all. Without your support and friendship I would not have been able to succeed in facilitating the meetings and projects that ACMGA has accomplished.

I again want you all to have my heartfelt thanks for supporting me during my time in office and I am so looking forward to our new officers making ACMGA even bigger and better in 2019. With all of the energy and drive that this great as-
that is
we can



sociation has,
the only way
go.

Selecting, Planting and Caring For Shrubs

Extension Daily

AUBURN, Ala. – Shrubs are great additions to any landscape. There are a variety of colors, shapes, textures and mature heights to accommodate any design need. Planting a variety of shrubs that bloom at different times of the year add year-round color to a landscape. Extension professionals provide information on selecting, planting and caring for shrubs

Choosing a Shrub

Hayes Jackson, an Alabama Extension regional agent for home grounds, gardens and home pests, said to choose a shrub that will grow to its full potential in a particular area's soil and light conditions.

"Always choose shrubs that are suitable in the area they will be planted," Jackson said. "Make sure the plant has a suitable mature height and the correct soil and light requirements for the area you want to plant it."

Underestimating mature plant size is an all too common mistake. Planting shrubs too close to a house or other plants can cause unneeded maintenance issues.

To narrow down shrub options, decide whether the shrubs needs to be an evergreen or deciduous shrub. Also make sure the shrub is suitable to the USDA climate zone it will be planted.

Jackson also said to avoid insect and disease prone shrubs.

"Always select plants that have fewer insect and disease problems to make your landscape maintenance easier," he said. "Choosing the right plant is the best way to start."

Planting Shrubs

Fall and winter are the best seasons for planting shrubs. According to Jackson, once soil moisture increases, typically in mid-November, people can plant shrubs through February. Planting shrubs in fall and winter allows root systems to become established before the hot, dry summer.

Mallory Kelley, also an Alabama Extension regional agent of home grounds, gardens and home pests, said there are a few tips for planting shrubs.

"When planting, space the plants to their mature size to allow for maximum growth," Kelley said. "When digging a hole, a good rule of thumb is dig the hole twice as wide and no deeper than the pot the plant is in. If you cover up the main trunk you

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**Autauga County
Master Gardeners Association**
Lunch & Learn 2019

THURSDAY, 3 JANUARY
12:00-1:00 P.M.



Trinity United Methodist Church
610 Fairview Avenue, Prattville 36066

BRING A SACK LUNCH FREE PROGRAM DRINKS PROVIDED

Alabama Butterflies
Beauty On The Wing!!!

Paulette Ogard
Co-author, *Butterflies of Alabama:*
Glimpses into Their Lives

Life Cycle
Survival Strategies
Plants That Attract
Alabama Butterfly Atlas

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



will kill the plant.”

Kelley said that mulching the plant is always a good idea to conserve moisture and suppress weeds and people might need to stake the plant to prevent it from blowing over.

Caring for Shrubs

There are some shrubs options that are low maintenance. Jackson said many of our native plants are really tough and underutilized.

“Some great native shrubs to plant are yaupon holly, wax myrtle and the rare fothergilla, which have interesting flowers,” Jackson said. “Camellias are great for winter bloom. In Alabama, they can bloom from September through April.”

Kelley stressed that every person’s environment is different. Just because a plant is easy to care for doesn’t mean that it can grow in your area. This is why knowing the suitable conditions for the plant is important.

“Reduce stress on plants by planting the right plant in the right place. Also, mulching and keeping the plant watered will reduce stress,” Kelley said. “A healthy plant is less susceptible to pests. I always recommend taking a soil sample to know what nutrients are lacking or in surplus and also if pH needs to be adjusted.”



More Information

The Alabama Extension website has many publications on care and maintenance for a variety of shrubs. For more information contact your county Extension office. Visit Alabama Extension to see which home grounds agent, as well as the other agents and specialists, is assigned to your county.

In Text Image: Yarygin/shutterstock.com

The Bend *in the* THE ROAD

Sometimes

*we come to life's crossroads
And we view what we think is the end.
But God has a much wider vision
And He knows it's only a bend—
The road will go on and get smoother
And after we've stopped for a rest,
The path that lies hidden beyond us
Is often the path that is best.
So rest and relax and grow stronger,
Let go and let God share your load
And have faith in a brighter tomorrow.
You've just come to
a bend in the road.*

~ Helen Steiner Rice

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The Homeowner's Guide to Bringing Houseplants Inside for Winter

Extension Daily



Summer is officially over and cool fall nights are setting in. Just as summer ended for us, vacation time is also over for houseplants.

For most plants, the transition is not as simple as moving a pot off the porch and into the kitchen. Taking a few basic steps will help ensure that your plants will survive the move indoors. Below are some tips to ensure that your plants will acclimate to the conditions inside your home.

Timing is Everything

Because some areas experience a decrease

in temperature sooner than others, experts cannot say which month or season is best for the indoor move. It varies for different geographical regions. Generally, tropical plants should be moved indoors before temperatures fall to the 40's, and some could even be damaged in the low 50's.

Dr. Dave Williams, a horticulture professor at [Auburn University](#), said drastic drops in temperatures could result in destruction to plants.

"If temperatures decrease gradually over several nights, plants can be a little more resilient to the cold, but sudden temperature drops after a warm period of active growth can cause injury," Williams said.

Mallory Kelley, an [Alabama Extension](#) agent specializing in home grounds, said some plants are an ex-

ception to the temperature rule.

"Citrus varies in its cold tolerance," Kelley said. "Lemons and limes for example can withstand mid 20's, while kumquats can withstand 15-17 degree's."

Preparing for the Move

Inspect plants and soil for spiders, worms, ants and other creatures that may have built a home in your greenery over the summer. If needed, spray with proper pest control products or repot the plant if insects have taken over the soil.

Williams also suggested cutting back on fertilizer since plants do not grow much while inside.

"Try to schedule moving so that you can water thoroughly and allow to them drain over a day or two before moving in," Williams said.

Remove dead leaves or weakened branches, but no heavy pruning is recommended or necessary.

Proper Indoor Care

An initial reaction when bringing plants inside is to place them in an area where they will receive direct

sunlight, like they are accustomed to. However, Williams says that a 'fairly brightly lit room,' is best. Be mindful when watering your plants. They often receive too much water, when very little water is actually needed.

Although there are many tips and tricks to making the transition easier, there is no specific secret to keeping your plants happy and healthy during the move indoors.

"Just get them through until weather warms up in the spring," Williams said. "Then it's time to do things

like repot, prune, fertilize and move them to their happy place outdoors."



Monthly Meetings

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

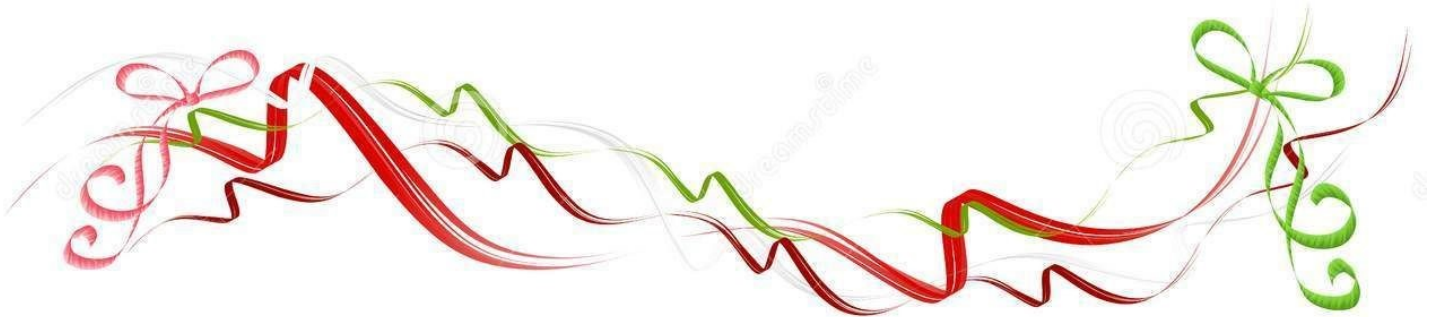
⇒ All odd-numbered months: January, March, May, July, September, November will have 6:00 p.m. meetings.

⇒ Most even-numbered months: February, April,



Things to do.....

- ♦ Plant pecan & other fruit trees & grapes.
- ♦ Start dormant pruning of established fruits.
- ♦ Put on dormant oil sprays for scale.
- ♦ Add plants to rose garden.
- ♦ Plant hardy annual seed without delay.
- ♦ Continue spring bulb planting.



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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

To: