



DIRTY DIGS



Entertain, Educate, Elevate

July-August, 2022



President's Message

August has been a fantastic month in the life of our association. We welcomed eight new certified Master Gardeners to our ranks. They have worked hard to get to this point and each should be very proud of their accomplishment. Collectively, they have already given well over 1,000 hours of volunteer service. They have joined us in the gardens, worked the Arbor Day events, the Plant Sale and the Garden Glimpses tour, shared their Information Technology talents and baked fabulous cakes!!!

We also started a new intern class this month. We have either 20 or 21 new interns. The number is a moving target! We have interns from Autauga County, Elmore County, Montgomery County and Dallas County. This class is a little different in its structure: there is an online lecture, an online Question & Answer session and an in person afternoon session with a lecture and some type of hands on activity. The class is meeting indoors through the month of September to escape some of the heat, then we will be moving to different gardens for the remainder of the class. This class is very enthusiastic and have already joined us for a couple of association events.

As we approach autumn we have several field trips scheduled to take advantage of (hopefully) cooler temperatures. We will be visiting the Shakespeare Garden in Montgomery where horticulturist and Master Gardener Karen Weber will give us a guided tour. Then we will be visiting the Dothan Botanical Garden to tour the new 'Wings of Wonder' Butterfly House. This exhibit is a collaborative effort between the Botanical Garden and the Wiregrass Master Gardeners. It features native Alabama butterflies.

This is also the time of year where the nominating committee is working to select a slate of candidates for the upcoming term. If you would like to serve or know someone you would like to nominate for an open position, please contact one of the nominating committee members: Lori Terrell, Nancy Waggoner or Sondra Henley.

Remember time began in a garden!

Debbie

Autauga County Master Gardeners Association
2023 Membership Renewal Form

Annual County membership dues for 2023 are \$15. State dues are \$10 and optional. State dues entitle you to State Membership and **Pathways Newsletter**. You can also receive state awards such as Reach for the Stars. Please complete this form and return it to the Treasurer, **NO LATER THAN OCT. 15th 2022**. After the deadline, there is a \$10.00 late fee.

NAME _____

____ Check if your information in the 2022 ACMGA Membership Directory is correct. If no changes, it is unnecessary to complete the information below.

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ CELL _____

EMAIL _____ DOB _____
(Only give email address if you wish to receive info via email) mm/dd

COUNTY OF TRAINING _____ YEAR OF GRADUATION _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

	Local Dues	State Dues
____ Active Member Local & State (Includes graduating interns)	\$15	\$10
____ Active Member Local Only (Includes graduating interns)	\$15	\$0
____ Active Member w/ current State Lifetime	\$15	\$0
____ Active member w/ new State Lifetime	\$15	\$150 (one-time fee)

____ Yes, I am a dual member. County of primary membership _____

Make check payable to ACMGA.

Mail or give to:

Dian Owens
1120 Newton Street
Prattville, AL 36066-5404

Check _____

Cash _____

Receipt # _____

Calendar of Events

Dates and times are subject to change



Recurring Events

Governor's Mansion, Mondays at 8am

September: 5, 12, 19, 26

Demo Garden Tuesdays at 7am, Tuesdays at Prattville 8:30am (see 'Weekly Happenings' for updates)

September: 6, 13, 20, 27

Intern Class Thursdays at 11:30am at Autauga County Extension Office

September: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29



September

Autaugaville Extension Office Clean up

Thursday, September 1
09:00AM

Clean up entry garden at Extension Office. Bring gloves, small tools and a trash sack.

Pumpkinology

Tuesday, September 13
12:00PM-1:00PM

Horticulturist and Extension Agent, Hayes Jackson will teach about all the different pumpkin types and uses. The program event is free to the public. Water is provided, bring a sack lunch and a friend!

First Presbyterian Church

Event web page: <https://www.aces.edu/event/pumpkinology/>

Add to your calendar: <https://www.aces.edu/event/pumpkinology/?ical=1>

Central Alabama Fruit and Vegetable Field Day

Field event highlighting IPM and management practices for various fruit and vegetable crops.

Thursday, September 15
10:00AM-3:00PM

Chilton Research/Extension Center

Event web page: <https://www.aces.edu/event/central-alabama-fruit-and-vegetable-field-day/>

Add to your calendar: <https://www.aces.edu/event/central-alabama-fruit-and-vegetable-field-day/?ical=1>

Rain Garden Design Workshop

Come learn how to design and install your own rain garden to help capture and store storm water runoff.

Friday, September 16
8:30AM-11:00AM

Crump Community Center

Event web page: <https://www.aces.edu/event/rain-garden-design-workshop-2/>

Add to your calendar: <https://www.aces.edu/event/rain-garden-design-workshop-2/?ical=1>

Preserving the Herbal Harvest- Autauga County Lunch & Learn

Advanced Master Gardener and Past President of the Herb Society of America, Debbie Boutelier will present methods to preserve your herbal harvest before the frost for winter use. This event is free to the public. Water provided, bring a sack lunch and a friend too!

Wednesday,
September 21
12:00pm – 1:00pm

Trinity Methodist Church

Event web page: <https://www.aces.edu/event/preserving-the-herbal-harvest-autauga-county-lunch-learn/>

Add to your calendar: <https://www.aces.edu/event/preserving-the-herbal-harvest-autauga-county-lunch-learn/?ical=1>

Talladega Forestry & PLM Workshop

This meeting will focus on providing professional loggers and foresters with continuing education within the forestry industry. This workshop will cover five topics related to forest management and will provide 5 hours of Category 1 CFE and 5 hours of PLM credits to attendees. Lunch will be provided.

Friday, September 23
9:00AM-3:00PM

Talladega County Extension Office

Event web page: <https://www.aces.edu/event/talladega-forestry-plm-workshop/>

Add to your calendar: <https://www.aces.edu/event/talladega-forestry-plm-workshop/?ical=1>

Dothan Botanical Garden - 'Wings of Wonder'

Wednesday, September
28 8:00am

Rain Date Friday,
September 30

The 'Wings of Wonder' Butterfly House is a new attraction at the Dothan Botanical Gardens. This exhibit focuses on native Alabama butterflies. We are scheduling a carpool field trip to visit. We will be departing from the First Baptist Church parking lot promptly at 8:00am.

Mark your calendar; more details to follow

Thursday, September 29
4:00PM-8:00PM

Wild Pig Management: Beyond the Basics

This workshop will include the following topics: Top 10 mistakes in pig control Top 10 must-do's for pig control Updates on soil and water conservation committee's feral swine program Update on USDA Wildlife Services efforts to control pigs Equipment demonstrations Dinner will be provided for attendees.

Autauga County Extension Office

Event web page: <https://www.aces.edu/event/wild-pig-management-2/>

Add to your calendar: <https://www.aces.edu/event/wild-pig-management-2/?ical=1>



October

Mushroom Mania- Growing Shiitake Mushroom Logs

Horticulturist and Extension Agent, Rhonda Britton will talk about growing Shiitake Mushrooms in your back yard, then if you would like to inoculate a log and take one home you can stay after and use the tools needed. You must call the Elmore County office (334-567-6301) to pre-register for the log so we know how many to prepare for. (Limit 3 logs per person- \$5 Each) Collected the day of the program. To attend the program is FREE, only a charge for a log and open to the public. Water is provided, bring a sack lunch and a friend!

Tuesday, October 11
12:00PM-1:00PM

First Presbyterian Church

Event web page: <https://www.aces.edu/event/mushroom-mania-growing-shiitake-mushroom-logs-2/>

Add to your calendar: <https://www.aces.edu/event/mushroom-mania-growing-shiitake-mushroom-logs-2/?ical=1>

Fermentation- Autauga County Lunch & Learn

Master Gardener, Deborah Kelso will present on the different fermentation methods used to preserve and make different foods like cheese, meats, breads and Kombucha too. This event is free to the public. Water provided, bring a sack lunch and a friend too!

Wednesday, October 19
12:00PM-1:00PM

Trinity Methodist Church

Event web page: <https://www.aces.edu/event/fermentation-autauga-county-lunch-learn/>

Add to your calendar: <https://www.aces.edu/event/fermentation-autauga-county-lunch-learn/?ical=1>

Event data courtesy of ACES

See: <https://www.aces.edu/calendar/>

Locations:

- First Presbyterian Church, 100 West Bridge Street, Wetumpka, AL
- Dothan Botanical Gardens, 5130 Headland Ave, Dothan, AL 36303
- Trinity Methodist Church, 610 Fairview Ave., Prattville, AL, 36066
- Autauga County Extension Office, 2226 AL Hwy 14 West, Autaugaville, AL, 36003
- Talladega County Extension Office, 132 N. Court St., Talladega, AL, 35160, US
- Chilton Research/Extension Center, 120 County Road 756, Clanton, AL, 35045
- Crump Community Center, 1751 Cong W L Dickinson Drive, Montgomery, AL, 36107
- Armory Learning Arts Building, 1018 Madison Avenue, Montgomery, AL, 36104



Happiness is a butterfly, which,
when pursued, is always just
beyond your grasp, but which, if
you will sit down quietly, may alight
upon you.

"L"¹

1 "L" worked for the Daily Crescent newspaper in New Orleans – See:
<https://quoteinvestigator.com/2014/04/17/butterfly/>



October 6, 2022 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

A Garden Transforming

**Alabama Master Gardener Association 2022
Fall Seminar**

Auburn University



AUBURN
HORTICULTURE

Registration: \$35
Lunch included
On-line Registration
Web Website:

<https://aub.ie/AMGA2022FallSeminar>

**Registration Deadline:
Sept 19, 2022**

Auburn University
Nursing Building
710 S Donahue Dr
Auburn, AL 36849

Nearby Hotels:

TownePlace Suites by Marriott
Auburn

1117 S College St,
Auburn, AL
(334) 466-8390

Holiday Inn Express & Suites
Auburn

2013 S College St,
Auburn, AL
(334) 502-1090

Courtyard by Marriott Auburn

2420 W Pace Blvd,
Auburn, AL
(334) 502-0111

For More Information Call:

Renee Thompson
Andrea Ramey
Auburn Extension Office
334-844-3041



RAIN GARDEN Design WORKSHOP

Fri, Sept 16 - 8:30-11:00am

Crump Senior Center, Montgomeray, AL

Learn how to design &
install your own rain
garden to help capture and
store stormwater runoff.



What's Bugging You?

By
Anthony Yarbrough



Do you know the name of this critter? Is it beneficial or destructive or both?

Answer and information can be found on Page 22



Sorry if your birthday is not listed.
Please contact Debbie Boutelier to
get your birthday added to our list.
- Thank You!

August

02	Bionca Lindsey
04	Margaret Smitherman
09	Robin Snyder
12	Jane Boysen
13	Bob Scheffler
22	Phillip Creel
25	Sue Brasel
	Linda Moscetti

September

03	Vicki Williamson
05	Albert Striplin
14	Glenda Harris
20	Lori Terrell

WANT TO GROW CARROTS THIS FALL?

Glenn Huovinen

Growing carrots is fun, rewarding and tasty. But there are a few things that you need to do if you want a great harvest. If you do not do the following you may get carrots that look like this!



...To avoid this you must do the following:

Create very loose soil a foot deep and incorporate organic matter.
When you plant your seeds, keep the soil moist until they germinate.
Use a fertilizer with a lower nitrogen number and higher phosphorus number.
Thin the plants to give them room to grow.

Do these things and this is what you will harvest! Enjoy!



The Power of One: A GreenBridges™ Story

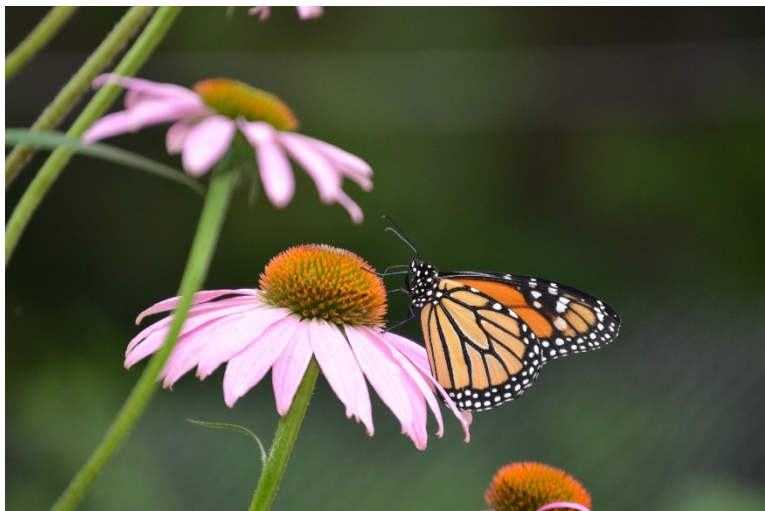
by Debbie Boutelier, Alabama Advanced Master Gardener, HSA GreenBridges™ Chair and HSA Past President

In one of my presentations on pollinators, the power of one is mentioned several times. I'd like to share a short story about how the power of one worked in my garden this summer. My garden was certified as a GreenBridges™ garden by The Herb Society of America a number of years ago and I have been slowly incorporating more native plants into my landscape each year. (We all NEED a reason to buy more plants, right ???)

When COVID hit and we all had to stay home more, I decided it was time to kick my garden projects into full speed and actually complete those projects that had been in the planning stage for a while. (I'm not going to admit how long they were in planning stage, so don't ask!) I made a pledge to myself at that time, that at least 90% of the plant material to finish these projects would be natives. I knew a lot of our local natives, but it was so much fun researching the lesser known species and then actually finding them.

Fast forward to this spring... When the weather started warming up, I noticed more pollinators busy in the garden collecting nectar from the early blooming plants. THEN, I noticed the number of butterflies that were enjoying my garden. Oh my gosh, for several weeks I would go out into the garden and literally feel like I was in a butterfly house at a botanical garden!!! The butterflies swarmed around me as I worked in the beds. It made my heart so happy! I wish I had made a video, but I was living in the moment. There were different Swallowtails, Gulf fritillaries, Skippers, Hairstreaks, Eastern Tailed-Blues, Sulfurs, American Painted Ladies, Viceroy's, Buckeyes and some I did not recognize. I enjoyed their presence immensely. Even though that period was totally glorious, I still have good numbers of the winged beauties visiting daily.

My granddaughter, Vivian and I enjoyed raising Swallowtail and Gulf Fritillary caterpillars this summer. So far, we have released 47 Swallowtails and 9 Fritillaries.



The Swallowtails are slowing down as they have eaten every morsel of parsley, dill and fennel in my garden. I'm seeing more Fritillaries at this time of the season as they voraciously attack the passionvine. By the end of the summer, those vines will be leafless, but that's fine with me. I know it will be back next year to provide for the new generations.

I also need to mention the bees. They have also immensely enjoyed the bounty in the garden. Earlier in the season, my granddaughter and I stood under the Vitex trees while they were blooming and listened to the buzzing. The trees were alive with movement and sound! Even though the *Vitex agnus-castus* is not native to our country, it is still welcome in my garden for the amount of nectar it provides for the winged visitors.

This has been a spectacular gardening season and it's not over yet! I truly believe that each of us can make a difference right where we are. The effort is so worth it!

Both Prattvillage Garden and the Demonstration Garden are certified as GreenBridges™ gardens. It is easy to get your garden to be a certified GreenBridges™ garden. The application is on The Herb Society of America website. <https://www.herbsociety.org/get-involved/greenbridges-initiative.html> Just answer a few questions and take a few pictures to send with the application. We are actively building green bridges across communities, towns, cities, regions, and the entire country. Let your power of one join with the rest to make a huge difference for our native plants and pollinators.

Fund Raising Committee Report by Sondra Henley

The committee started with Debbie Boutelier, Dian Owens, Linda Barry, Anthony Yarbrough, Vicki Williamson, and Sondra Henley, Chair. As we have discussed funding opportunities Sonya Moore, Lisa Carrick, Karen Powell and Nancy Waggoner have been added to the group. Although we meet on an average of every 2 weeks for 2 hours, we accomplish a lot.

Some of the projects for 2022:



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ACMGA Booklet: This booklet will gather information about ACMGA and growing plants in the Prattville area. We are hoping to capture newcomers, military and others who want this information in a handy booklet. Printing will be in-house, and booklets will be put together by a team of Master Gardener volunteers.

Friends of Autauga County Master Gardeners:
This project needs a few more tweaks before it can be presented to the association. But here's the gist: each of you know someone who likes what we do but does not necessarily want to go through the Master Gardener program. You will be asked to call on businesses that you shop with and individuals to give them the opportunity to become a *Friend of Autauga County Master Gardeners*. There will be an annual fee which will give the holders benefits. These annual dues will help to sponsor our projects.



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Spinners Park Booth : This event will be held on October 22-23 , 2022. ACMGA will have a booth there and sell crafts, trees, shrubs and plants. Members will be asked to donate 2- 1 gallon plants &/or crafts. More specific details to come!

Cake Auction: At our December 14, ACMGA meeting and Pot Luck Luncheon, Lisa Carrick, Dale Huff and Anthony Yarbrough will conduct a Silent Cake Auction. I believe this will be an exciting addition to our regular meeting and luncheon. Make plans to attend and bring your wallet so you can win your Christmas cake!



“More” About Tomatoes Advanced Tomato Workshop

**Jemison Municipal Complex
July 14, 2022
John Carrick**

A great big thank you and shout out to Mallory Kelley, Dr. Andre Da Silva, David Lawrence, Lucy Edwards, Bethany O'Rear, and everyone else who contributed to the advanced tomato workshop.

Special thanks to Mallory for providing us with some awesome bacon for BLTs!

This was an amazing workshop that was very educational and a lot of fun.

Mallory provided a very informative talk on tomatoes, Dr. Da Silva covered irrigation and variety selections, David showed us how to graft tomatoes to improve disease resistance, Bethany discussed Grow More Give More, and Lucy held a lab to identify tomato diseases.

There was also a tomato taste test and incredible BLTs.

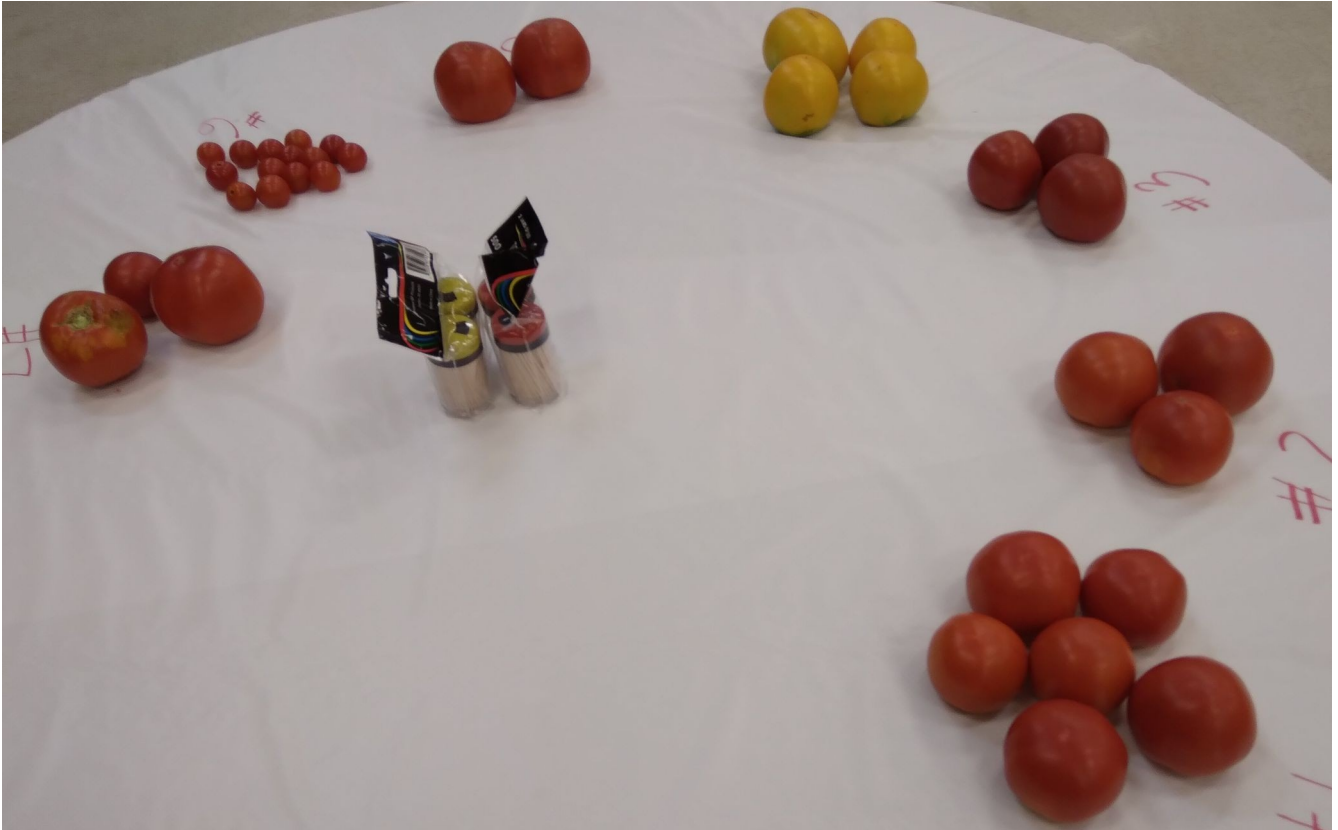
There were even door prizes!

Hopefully, this workshop will be offered again next year.

If it is, please do not miss it! You will NOT be disappointed.







"You need an entire life just to know about tomatoes."

Chef Ferran Adria



VEGETABLE QR CODES FOR THE DEMO GARDEN

Glenn Huovinen

John Carrick developed QR² codes for five of the main summer vegetables that we grow in the Demo Garden. Just scan them with your phone and you will get growing information on each of them.

We will do the same for our fall and winter crops. Very cool.
Come see them!



September Alabama Gardener's Calendar

Fruits and Nuts

- New catalogs will be arriving soon.
- Start plans for future selection and plantings.
- Take soil test for new planting areas.
- Fertilize established strawberry plantings.

Shrubs

- Study landscape to determine plant needs.
- Check early camellia varieties for damage caused by insects and disease.
- Replace landscape plants as needed that have severe damage caused by insects, disease, or freezes.
- After fall growth is completed, spray all shrubs with a fungicide.

Lawns

- Mow often (5 to 10 days) to remove just 1/3 the grass height at each mowing.
- If daytime temperatures are consistently cooler than 80 degrees F, apply fire ant bait. Read the label carefully for best control.
- If winter or spring weeds were a concern this year, apply pre-emergent herbicides.
- Reseed tall fescue lawns and fertilize at 1 pound slow-release nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.

Roses

- Protect fall crops of blossoms from aphids and thrips.
- Keep plants healthy.

Annuals and Perennials

- Plant perennials and biennials. This is the last planting time for these.
- Divide old clumps of perennials.
- Plant peonies.

Bulbs

- Plant spring-flowering bulbs late this month in north Alabama.

- Delay planting in south Alabama.

Miscellaneous

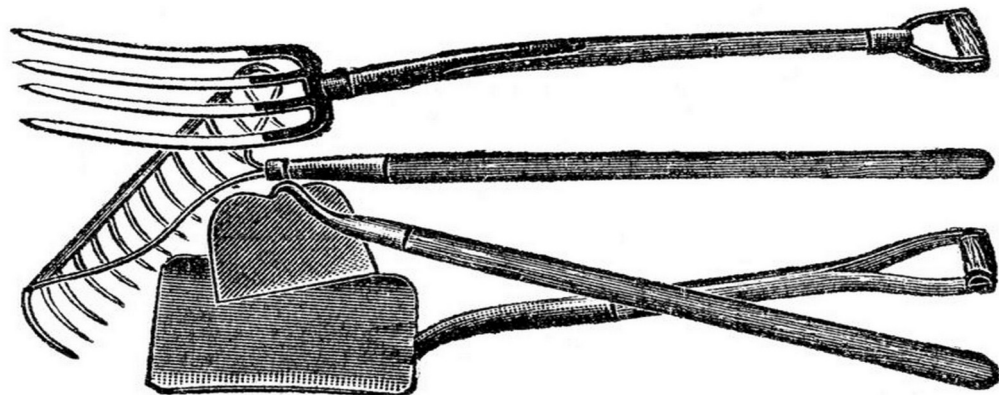
- Clean up infestations of insects on azaleas, camellias, boxwoods, gardenias, hollies, etc.
- If oil spray is needed, don't use in freezing weather.
- Build a compost bin or box; leaves will be falling soon.
- Monitor house plants for insects and diseases before moving them indoors. Treat as needed to prevent carrying unwanted insect pests indoors. Also check for lizards, toads and snakes whom may have decided to overwinter in the pot.

Vegetable Seeds

- **South:** Plant beets, carrots, Brussels sprouts, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, onion seeds, radishes, spinach, Swiss chard, parsley, and turnips.
- **Central and North:** Continue planting carrots, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, onion seeds, parsley, radishes, spinach, Swiss chard, and turnips.

Vegetable Transplants

- **Whole state:** Continue planting cole crops, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, and spinach transplants, and onion sets.
- **South:** Plant celery transplants.



What's Bugging You Answer:

Pearly wood-nymph moth.
Eats leaves of several shrubs and trees.

Photo submitted by Bionca Lindsey that she took on a store front window.

- Anthony

"Bugs are not going to inherit the earth. They own it now. So we might as well make peace with the landlord."

Thomas Eisner
German-American entomologist and ecologist

Editors Corner

Welcome to our new interns, we are very happy that you have chosen to become master gardeners. Please let us know if there is anything you need or any way we can help you as you start your master gardener journey.

Starting with the next newsletter, we will ask our new interns to share some information about themselves. This should make it easier for us to get to know our interns better and help make them feel welcome.

As a recent intern myself, I just want to thank each of the master gardeners for making me and the other interns feel so welcome. I also cannot thank you enough for all of your hard work during the past year, providing great food, opening your gardens, and helping us in so many ways. We are blessed to be part of such a wonderful group.

During the July AMGA meeting we were extremely fortunate to have Mr. David Doggett give us a presentation on Japanese Maples.



NOTE: Maple Image courtesy of David Doggett

If you missed the July meeting, David will be giving a Japanese Maple presentation, September 7, 12-1pm at the Armory Learning Arts Center in Montgomery. Highly recommended!

Please send me any pictures, articles, birthdays etc., to be included in the next newsletter. My email is:

johnny@happy2bee.com

May God continue to Bless each and every one of you.

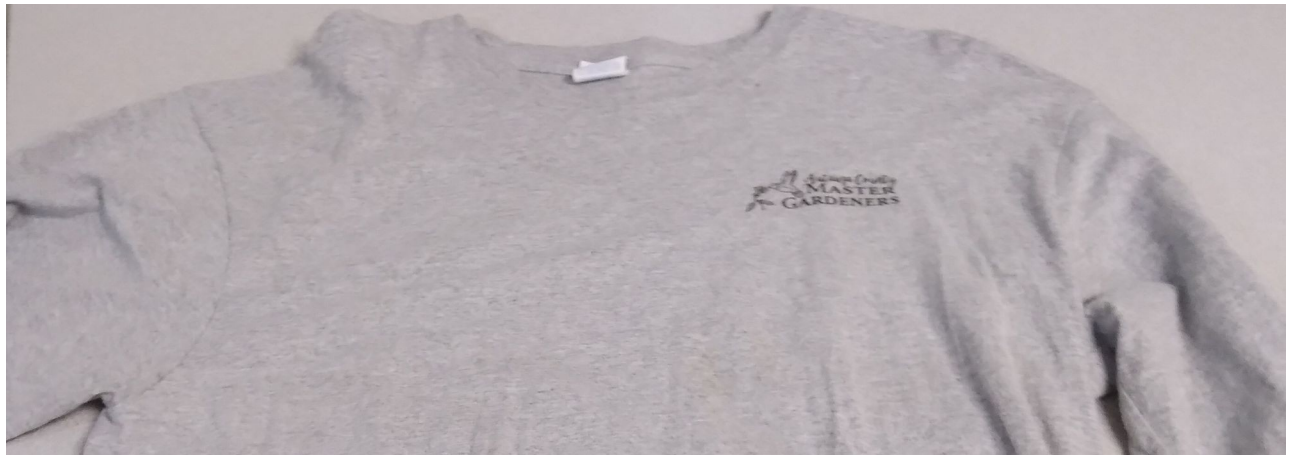
John Carrick



Autauga County Master Gardner t-shirts (short and long sleeve) are available.

These are very nice shirts with the AMGA Hummingbird logo.

Please contact Dian Owens, if interested.



Honor Bricks



If you are interested in purchasing a brick, get your order to Bionca Lindsey by the 15th of each month.

The application form can be found at:

<https://donationbricks.com/acmga>

Complete and print form; submit to Bionca with a \$50.00 check.

Bionca will also have some blank forms.

This is a great way to honor someone.



<https://donationbricks.com/acmga>

Order Now