



DIRTY DIGS



Entertain, Educate, Elevate

June, 2022



President's Message

Wow! It has been a whirlwind of a spring. Our association has been extremely productive with many activities, educational offerings to the public, continuing education for Master Gardeners, field trips, and fundraising events. None of this could have been accomplished without your dedication and hard work. For that, I thank you.

We are now entering the hot and very humid days of summer. But that doesn't stop the work from being accomplished. Both of our public gardens, Prattvillage Garden and the Demonstration Garden, are in full swing. Over 500 pounds of produce grown in the Demonstration Garden has already been donated to Autauga Interfaith Care Center blessing many families in our community. Prattvillage Garden has been enjoyed by many visitors and a good number of those have stopped to tell us that the garden has never looked better. Both garden crews work very hard to make the gardens productive and beautiful. If you have considered helping, we are at the gardens on Tuesday mornings and we would love to have the help, but more importantly the fellowship with our fellow gardeners.

I want to thank Anthony Yarbrough for his untiring and dedicated work on the Dirty Digs for the last two years. It has been a pleasure to work with Anthony to bring our association a quality newsletter. Anthony is stepping down and John Carrick is stepping in as our new editor. This is his first issue and he brings much technical experience and know-how to the job. Please send information for the newsletter to John. His contact information is at the end of this issue.

Mark your calendars now for the August Membership meeting. We will be moving outdoors to enjoy our Prattvillage Garden for an evening meeting on Wednesday, August 10th at 6:00pm. We will be recognizing our graduating interns and enjoying an old fashioned ice cream social.



Always remember, time began in a garden.

Debbie

Calendar of Events

Dates and times are subject to change



July

- 4** Independence Day
- 5** Demo Garden 7am, Prattville 9am (see 'Weekly Happenings' for updates)
- 6** Growing Turmeric & Drying Garden Herbs¹ – Mary McCroan
Alabama Garden Chat. Online – Register:
<http://www.aces.edu/go/asywebinars>
See: <https://www.aces.edu/event/alabama-garden-chat-14/>
- 11** Governor's Mansion 8am – Call Jane McCarthy
- 12** Demo Garden 7am, Prattville 9am (see 'Weekly Happenings' for updates)
Making Kombucha From Your Garden For Your Gut³ – Debbie Kelso
Tomato Salsa/Waterbath Canning Workshop⁴ – ACES Autaugaville
- 14** "More" About Tomatoes – Advanced Tomato Workshop (see flyer below)
Misunderstood Species of Alabama: Insects & Arachnids. Online - see:
<https://www.aces.edu/event/misunderstood-species-of-alabama-insects-arachnids-2/>

- 18 Governor's Mansion 8am – Call Jane McCarthy
- 19 Demo Garden 7am, Prattville 9am (see 'Weekly Happenings' for updates)
- 20 Garden Tools and Maintenance² – Mike Forster
- 25 Governor's Mansion 8am – Call Jane McCarthy
- 26 Demo Garden 7am, Prattville 9am (see 'Weekly Happenings' for updates)

August

- 1 Governor's Mansion 8am – Call Jane McCarthy
AMGA Fall Seminar – registration opens
- 2 Demo Garden 7am, Prattville 9am (see 'Weekly Happenings' for updates)
- 3 Ferns for all Seasons and Environments¹ – Maria Pacheco
- 8 Governor's Mansion 8am – Call Jane McCarthy
- 9 Demo Garden 7am, Prattville 9am (see 'Weekly Happenings' for updates)
Crape Myrtle Bark Scale in Alabama³ – Mallory Kelley
- 15 Governor's Mansion 8am – Call Jane McCarthy
- 16 Demo Garden 7am, Prattville 9am (see 'Weekly Happenings' for updates)
- 17 Native and Non-Native Bees² – Dani Carroll
- 22 Governor's Mansion 8am – Call Jane McCarthy
- 29 Demo Garden 7am, Prattville 9am (see 'Weekly Happenings' for updates)

NOTES

- Demo Garden currently meets at 7am due to the heat
- For the Tomato Salsa/Waterbath Canning Workshop, there is a \$10 fee.
 - Please contact: Angela Treadaway, treadas@aces.edu, (205) 410-3696

Lunch and Learn locations:

1. Capital City MGA, 12-1pm, Armory Learning Arts Center, 1018 Madison Avenue, Montgomery AL 36104
2. Autauga County MGA, 12-1pm, Trinity United Methodist Church, 610 Fairview Avenue, Prattville AL 36066
3. Central Alabama MGA, 12-1pm, First Presbyterian Church, 100 West Bridge Street, Wetumpka 36092



“More” about Tomatoes

Advanced Tomato Workshop



Hosted by the
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Thursday, July 14th 2022

Jemison Municipal Complex
14 Padgett Lane, Jemison, AL

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Topics to be discussed:

- What is a Hybrid? • Grating Tomato Demonstration • Hands on Identifying Tomato Diseases & Disorders with Control Recommendation • Tomato Taste Testing and “More”

*BLT's along with other creative tomato dishes provided for lunch by Alabama Master Gardeners!

*Bring a Fresh Sample of any Insect, Disease or Problem & (3-4) Tomato Fruits from a Known Name Variety for the Taste Testing.



To sign-up or for more information, contact the Chilton County Extension office at (205) 280-6268. Cost is \$15 per person. Pre-Registration and Payment is required by July 12th.

To Register please visit the link below:

<https://www.aces.edu/go/AdvTomatoWorkshop>

If you have a smartphone, go to the camera app and open as if to take a picture. Hover over the QR Code below and the link will appear to direct you to registration/payment link:



To Register please visit this link:

<https://www.aces.edu/go/AdvTomatoWorkshop>

Cut Flower Arrangements Lunch and Learn
by Anne Carr and Linda Cater
Autauga
Wednesday, June 15

Pictures courtesy of Anthony Yarbrough







July Alabama Gardener's Calendar



Fruits and Nuts

- Protect figs and other ripening fruit from birds.

Shrubs

- Continue to root shrub cuttings until late in the month and mulch to keep soil moist.
- Remove faded blooms promptly from crape myrtle and other summer-blooming plants.

Lawns

- Apply 1 pound nitrogen per 1,000 square feet to all warm-season lawn types: bermudagrass, centipedegrass, St. Augustinegrass, and zoysiagrass.
- Mow often (5 to 10 days) to remove just 1/3 the grass height at each mowing.
- Water lawns as needed (grayish color or curling leaf blades are indicators that water is needed).

Roses

- Keep roses healthy and actively growing.
- Apply fertilizer.
- Wash off foliage to prevent burning if any fertilizer falls on plants.

Annuals and Perennials

- Water as needed to keep plants active.
- Dead head or cut back for later summer blooms.

Bulbs

- Plant iris and spider lilies late this month.

Miscellaneous

- Keeping flowers, shrubs, trees, and lawns healthy is the major task this month.
- Observe closely for insects and diseases.
- Water as plants indicate need.

Watermelons Vegetable Seeds

- **Whole state:** Plant pumpkins for fall harvest. Continue plantings of beans, southern peas, squash, and cucumber.
- **North:** Plant cabbage, carrots, and cauliflower. Wait until late July to plant beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, collards, and kohlrabi, or start them in flats for transplant later.
- **South and Central:** Start seeds in flats for August and September transplants, including beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, radishes, and spinach.

Vegetable Transplants

- **Whole state:** Plant a second season of tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant for fall harvest..



Alabama Diseases Update: What to Watch for

Clint Thompson in his specialty crop article, shares with us some observations of Professor Ed Sikora during these current hot and dry conditions:

“One is powdery mildew. I’m seeing that on yellow squash and a few other cucurbits. It prefers hot and dry (conditions) typically. I saw quite a bit of it on yellow squash in the Mobile (Alabama) area...”

“I think the second one is southern blight. It is a fungal disease that we’re seeing quite a bit of on tomatoes and peppers now. But it has a wide host range so you can see it on watermelons and other crops,” Sikora said. “I think the hot temperatures also get that pathogen going as well.”

The third disease is tomato spotted wilt virus. Its presence is also due mainly to the heat and increased thrip populations, says Sikora.

Thrips vector the tomato spotted wilt virus.

Ed Sikora is a professor and Extension plant pathologist in the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology at Auburn University.



The original article from Clint Thompson can be found here:

<https://specialtycropindustry.com/alabama-diseases-update-what-to-watch-for/>

Editors Corner



A great big thank you and shout out to Mr. Anthony Yarbrough for all his hard work and stewardship of the ACMGA 'Dirty Digs' newsletter. Anthony has faithfully provided us with an extremely informative newsletter these past number of years. I have asked Anthony to periodically share a "What's Bugging You?" column. As always, your hard work is much appreciated Anthony!

As the new editor, I will try to live up to the high standards set by Anthony. I am always open to feedback and suggestions. Would love to hear from each of you.

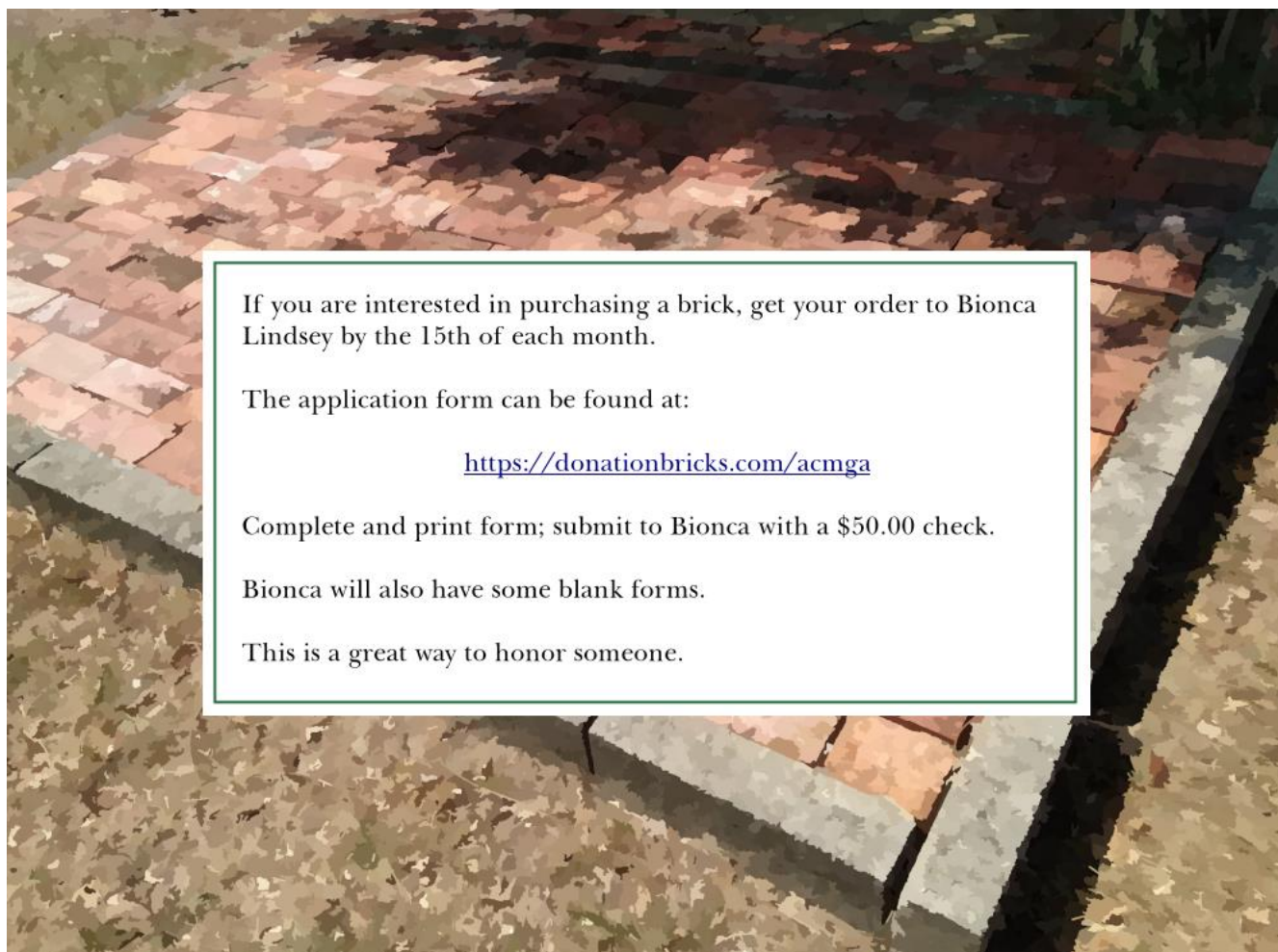
Please send me any pictures, articles, birthdays etc., to be included in the next newsletter. My email is:

johnny@happy2bee.com

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

John Carrick

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