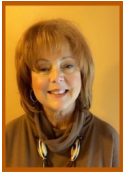


Spring 2023



Dirty Digs

March



ACMGA President Sondra Henley

I cannot thank you enough for the encouragement and graciousness I have been given from ACMGA. You are a great bunch of Master Gardeners!

I hope you will enjoy reading the new quarterly published Dirty Digs. We have loaded this with lots of information for you about you and your membership in the Autauga County Association. Autauga's Mission Statement reads: Volunteering to beautify our communities, to share our knowledge of gardening and to promote environment awareness. Volunteering, sharing and promoting....that's what we are about.

It is with great enthusiasm that I once again announce our membership's vote to host the April 3-5, 2025 Alabama Gardeners Association Annual Conference and Business Meeting. First Baptist Church has agreed to house the conference for us. I will report on the tour of the facilities in the next quarterly edition of Dirty Digs as well as announce the Conference Committee Teams and Theme. Since we are going to host a con-

ference, please consider attending the April 3-5, 2023 Conference in Tuscaloosa. You won't regret it.

ACMGA will begin an inventory log. If you have items that belong to ACMGA but are not using them for a committee or project, please bring to the MG room at the Extension Office and put on the black shelving. If you are using items, please email Dian Owens the item name and serial number.

Everyone is important to the association and its success. Whether you set up a room, bring a refreshment dish or present a topic in an educational setting, We are a team and we depend on each other.

Thank you for your teamwork!

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Special points of interest:

- *Prattville Report*
- *Garden Tips*
- *Governor's Mansion*



AMGA Website
Alabamamg.org



Autauga MG Website
www.aces.edu/autauga



Extension Website
mg.aces.edu



AMGA Programs Nancy Waggoner



The responsibilities of the ACMGA Vice President include scheduling membership meeting program speakers and arranging field trips for the association.

In January 2023, our Regional Extension Agent Mallory Kelley talked to us about state and regional Master Gardener projects and activities for 2023.

At the February meeting, Cathy Maddox, member of Capital City Master Gardener Association, Past-President of AMGA, and President of the board of the Montgomery Botanical Gardens at Oak Park spoke about the garden's history, status, and plans for its future development.

In March, Denise Brown, Executive Director of Autauga Interfaith Care Center, talked to us about the focus and administration of the wonderful ministry that cares for needy citizens in our county.

Upcoming programs:

- May: ACMGA member Albert Striplin: Camelias
June: Massage Therapist Sandy Cauthen: Ergonomics for Safe Gardening
- July: ACES Regional Agent Lynn Dickenson: Phenology (Timing of Seasonal Events in Nature)
- September: Lyn Webb: Calhoun/Chilton County MGA: Master Gardener Service Report Review and Update
- October: Advanced ACMGA member Debbie Boutelier: Gardens of the South
- November (tentative) Prattville Parks and Recreation
Betty Hall: Autauga County Bluebird Trail.

Field trips being planned: Lee County Garden Tour in May and Hills and Dales in LaGrange Georgia in May.

Advisory Council Representative Ange Trimble



AMGA has obtained the naming rights for the pedestrian pathway in the Transformation Garden at Auburn University.

The cost to AMGA for these rights is \$200,000.00. Pledge cards will be available for this soon.

Donation checks should be made out to AMGA.

*Fall MG Intern Classes will be open for registration on June 1, 2023 and end on June 30, 2023. Registration is online.

*The Master Gardener program started 50 years ago in Tacoma, Washington. There will be a celebration sometime in September 2023, details to come.

*Discussed State Speakers Bureau. It will be one stop place to look for certified Master Gardener speakers. If you sign up to be on this list you are not obligated to speak even



ry time you are contacted and ZOOM meetings are acceptable.

April 3-5, 2023 Conference - Tuscaloosa County at Bryant Conference Center
Currently 241 have registered. If you attend any tour, you must provide your own transportation to and from the tours. RV parking will be available.

April 22-24, 2024 Conference - Baldwin County at Daphne Civic Center The theme will be "Paradise Found".

April 3-5, 2025 Conference – Autauga County at First Baptist Church, Prattville.

Awards and Honors Adrienne Yarbrough



Y

Hummingbird Award: January: Lisa Carrick for her organizational and cake decorating skills used to develop and produce the Cake Auction at our December 2022 meeting which earned \$550.

March: Dian Owens (**3rd award**) for her work on designing the beautiful mugs, going the extra mile to set up and sell, her willingness to produce requested documents for the President in a timely manner and always for her work at Prattvillage Garden.

AMGA Reach for the Stars (RFTS) Recipients Awarded in First Quarter of 2023
Bronze star, 100+ cumulative hours:

Linda Barry – 295 lifetime hours
Glenda Harris – 211 lifetime hours
Jane Boysen – 275 lifetime hours
Cathy Hartman – 181 lifetime hours

Catherine Brooks – 246 lifetime hours
Shannon Mayes – 211 lifetime hours
Valera Brown – 182 lifetime hours
Diane Wonderly – 187 lifetime hours

Silver star, 300+:

Katherine Chapman – 428 lifetime hours
Lori Terrell – 402 lifetime hours
Elijah Pugh – 306 lifetime hours
Vicki Williamson – 402 lifetime hours

AMGA Reach for the Stars (RFTS) Advanced Awards Recipients will be presented at the AMGA Annual Meeting on April 5, 2023, in Tuscaloosa.

Demonstration Garden Glenn Huovenin

Y



First quarter of 2023 started with cleaning up the garden after the artic freezes in December. We lost all of our fall plants except Garlic, Brussels Sprouts, Onions and some Lettuces.

First of January we seed started many of these items at our homes, in hopes of some good harvests in late winter.

As of February 28, we replanted a lot of veggies.

Cleaned out the Herb bed to replant Herbs in a more organized design.

We spread compost over most all the beds.

We now have planted 3 kinds of Potatoes, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Texas Sweet Onions, Green Onions, Lettuces, Radishes, Carrots, Rutabagas and Sugar Snap Peas.

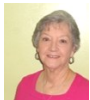
We have a great crew and on February 28 we had 14 workers and a potential new intern.

We garden on all Tuesdays starting at 8:00 and all are welcome. Come work, learn, share and have a great time!



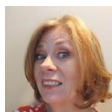
Photo JC Scofield, Jane Boyston, Soyna Moore, Shannon Mayes, Rose McCauly, Bionca Lindsey, Cindy Sawyer, Lew Lewis, Glenn Nichols, George M., Eliza

Database and Dues Tracker Rose McCauley



Currently ACMGA has 88 members, 22 of them are AMGA Lifetime Members.
There is one Provisional Member and 9 Autauga County Interns.

Directory Val Brown



Work is being done on a new directory concept and will be presented soon.

Logo Items Dian Owens



See page 16 for the Logo Items Order Form .

Friends of Autauga County Master Gardeners Debbie Boutelier



Our Friends group is off to a great start. In the first two months of existence, we have recruited 12 members.

The Charter Member target is 50 members and this represents 24% of that target.

When that initial goal is met, plans are in the works for a celebration. But shhh!! It's a surprise!

Who can become a Friend of Autauga County Master Gardeners?

Anyone who wishes to financially help support the organization and our mission. This means you, as a member, can become a Friend. Your neighbors, your spouse, friends, business acquaintances, etc. are all welcome.

There is an individual level and a business level with intangible benefits at each level.

See the registration form in this newsletter on page n for

more information and to join.

Print the form and share it with potential members.



Autauga County Master Gardeners Association is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and the donation to join is fully tax deductible as allowed by law.



Education Charlie French



Doster Community Center had Bionca Lindsey talking about Hostas, Sonya Moore on Butterflies and Debbie Boutelier on Herbs, coming up will be Compost It, Growing Orchids and Chickens, Natures Garden Art.

The Prattville Library will host Jane McCarthy with Adopt a House Plant and Plant Cutting Swap and Bionca Lindsey

presenting Master Gardeners and how they impact the community with a hands on project.

Farmer's Market Vicki Williamson



Prattville Farmer's Market- **"the Grove" 7am-noon**

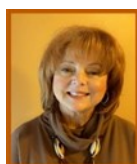
Located on Doster Road across from the Gillespie Senior Center.

Autauga County Master Gardener information booth will be available the first Saturday of June, July and August. Ex-

ample of information provided: Soil Testing Kits, Helpline information, gardening ideas and tips, Schedule of topics for the free Lunch and Learn lectures, our annual plant sale and our two public gardens.



Fundraising Sondra Henley, Chair



ACMGA had a great cake auction at our annual December meeting. Lisa Carrick, Dale Huff and Anthony Yarbrough did an outstanding job setting up the 13 cake donations and announcing the winners. Special thanks to John and Lisa for their generosity in providing the beautiful cake boxes.

At ACMGA January meeting, Debbie Boutelier launched the Friends of ACMGA fund raiser. This idea approaches those individuals that cannot join our membership but want to participate with ACMGA and businesses that will give their support to our community efforts. Your spouse that doesn't want to go through the course, but is a "MG spouse", can certainly be a Friend of ACMGA. Get your application from Debbie or from the registration table at our next meeting.

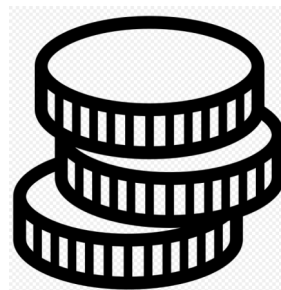
Your Fundraising Committee has been working on a booklet about living and gardening in Autauga County. The booklet

will sell for **\$5 each** and will be a great new neighbor gift or a handy reference for yourself. We hope to have a draft of the booklet to show for membership pre-orders soon.

Booklets will be published and ready for sale by **April 29**.

Coming up:

Annual Spring Plant sale, April 29. Start potting your plant donations soon. Garden items can be donated to the Plant Sale Shop.



Helpline Bionca Lindsey

2



Hello from the Helpline

What a wonderful time we had so far training our interns on the new and improved Helpline Framework. We listened to voicemails, made calls, read emails and even returned a few.

Overall, the feedback received from the interns I worked with was it was very informative, interesting to see what people call the Helpline to ask about and my favorite, non-threatening.

Remember, you don't have to be an expert, just a friendly ear. I hope you will consider taking a shift soon, we have a

few Wednesdays open and if you need help signing up, just send me an email.

I would like to note a change to the Wednesday shifts held on our Membership meeting Wednesdays, the time for the shift will change from 9am-1pm to **12-3pm** in order for you to attend the membership meeting.

You will not get 5 hours for the Helpline, but you will receive 4 hours and you can add the CEU from the membership meeting if applicable and the 1 hour for the meeting.



Honor Bricks Bionca Lindsey

2



Spaces are still available for your Honor Brick.

Consider telling someone "I love you" by etching your words in a brick that can be seen by many.

You are talking about a real public display of affection, and that can take the cake. Honor Bricks don't have to be only used to show respect for those we have lost, they can also be used as a way to say thanks for great service, announce a new grandchild, pay tribute to someone you admire, or just to capture a memory.

For only \$50 you can have an item guaranteed to last a life-

time and you will be helping our Master Gardener Association raise money.

So while you are thinking about what creative words you want to say remember the parameters, for ACMGA members you have 3 lines, 20 characters per line.

All the letters will be capitalized and centered on the brick by the company.

Let your imagination fly and the words commence! I hope you will consider ordering a brick soon.



Hospitality Cheri Cook



We kicked off 2023 with a Grits Bar during our January monthly meeting. It was a great success! Sign up lists will continue to circulate each meeting for next month's refreshments. Water is also provided at the monthly Lunch

and Learns every third Wednesday. If you want anything special at our breaks, please let me know!

MG Intern Program Cheri Cook



The 2022-2023 Interns have completed their classroom work in November. They are now working on their 50 hours to certify by volunteering for the Helpline, maintaining the Extension Office front beds, working at the Demo Garden and Prattville, along with other approved projects.

Many helped at the Arbor Day events.

The 2023-24 Class will begin in August and be held in Elmore County, with Autauga MGA assisting. If you know of anyone interested in becoming a Master Gardener, please send their information to Jane Boysen.

Registration will start June 1-30.

Stewardship Council Don Armstrong



The Autauga Forestry and Wildlife Stewardship Council (AFWSC) is made up of representatives from affiliated organizations and groups, at-large members, and honorary members.

The Council's mission is the promoting stewardship of Alabama's forest resources. This is accomplished by motivating Alabama landowners, leaders, and citizens to be wise stewards of forests and related sustainable natural resources.

AFWSC has three major events each year wherein the Autauga Master Gardeners play a big part: Arbor Day Tree Give Away, Friends of the Forest, and Fall Landowner Tour.

We also host one or two seminars each year. This year, we are working on a Native Plant Seminar. We have invited Kyle Lybarger to speak, no commitment from him yet.

The Autauga Master Gardeners have a long history of supporting the AFWSC. The Master Gardener President is au-

tomatically a member of the Council.

Thirty plus Master Gardeners work Arbor Day in Prattville and fifteen plus work Autaugaville. We provide fifteen plus workers each of the three days for Friends of the Forest.

We also have a team that decorates the tables for the Fall Landowner Tour.

Master Gardeners are an integral part of the great work done by AFWSC.

Intern Representative Samantha Bowen



2

Intern Class of 2022-2023. This class of Interns is a very active group. We have interns that are at the Demo Garden every Tuesday. We have those that go to Larnark and the Prattville Garden as well. We have recently accepted the opportunity to get the Extension Office flowerbeds in shape. With the help of our Master Gardeners, a group of the interns was able to get started on getting those beds freshened up. Lots (and lots) of pruning back made those rose bushes look beautiful. We will be treating the area with a rose fertilizer and then adding some fresh pine straw. I am excited to be working with such a wonderfully talented group of gardeners. Lives are always so busy these days, but these interns never stop giving. You can meet many of them at the monthly meeting registration table.

Lunch and Learn Vicki Williamson



2

Autauga County Master Gardeners Association hosts Lunch & Learn the 3rd Wednesday of every month. January's speaker was Tyson Farmer from Wild Birds Unlimited. His topic was Backyard Birding. He provided information on bird feeders, type of seeds for our local birds and when and what type of birds to be watching for in our backyards! We had 44 attending on a very stormy day! February's speaker was our very own Master Gardener-

Glenn Huovinen. He shared his knowledge on Grow Bags, the many useful and fun ways to utilize this gardening product. Again a large attendance of 40 people. We heard from Dani Carroll, ACES Horticulturist, in March presenting Zinnias for your Garden.

Coming up will be an Update on Dogwoods, New Bugs Buzzing and Solving Your Tomato Problems.

Governor's Mansion Jane McCarthy



2

In 2013, Alabama Master Gardeners started working in the gardens of the Alabama Governor's Mansion on S. Perry St. in Montgomery. We are known as the MMMGG or Monday Morning Mansion Garden Group. We have accrued over 8,000 hours of volunteer time.

Volunteer Master Gardeners come from the 3 local groups... Autauga County Master Gardener Association, Central Alabama Master Gardener Association, and Capital City Master Gardener Association.

We meet at the Mansion one morning a week, and help maintain the landscape by weeding, trimming, planting,

mulching, etc..

For the holidays, we help decorate the Mansion and Hill House for Christmas by using fresh greenery, and creating handmade natural ornaments.

See page 27 for MMMGG pictures.

If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Jane McCarthy (334-221-9936).

Membership Jane Boysen



Membership sent many get well and thinking of you cards this quarter to our members who have been sick, hospitalized or at home. Some of these people are Al Booth, Anne Carr, Vicki Williams, Patti Teel Washer, Don Armstrong to name a few.

We have contacted 6 of potential recruits. Keep turning in those names!

Prattvillage Garden Jane McCarthy/Dian Owens/Debbie Boutelier



We have mulched the whole garden, planted annual color (twice due to the extreme cold), mowed, pruned, and weeded with gusto, cleaned and organized the interior of the chapel, established a composting project with 3 portable bins, put up a bird feeder, installed three new honor bricks, continue to pot plants and prep for the plant sale. We have plans in place for updating the garden's signage, replacing plants that did not overwinter, adding Martin

gourd houses, adding native azaleas, and propagating the robust oak leaf hydrangea. (see pictures and other article submitted)

Pollinator Gardens Cathy Quinn



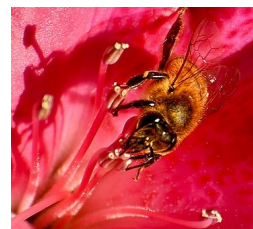
Phase I of the Pollinator project was to include starting pollinator plants in our own gardens, public presentations of the importance of Pollinator Gardens, improved the number of pollinator plants at the ACMGA Demonstration Garden and Prattvillage Garden, we sold native plants at the Spring Plant Sale and we put signage at both locations from Monarch Watch and Green Bridges.

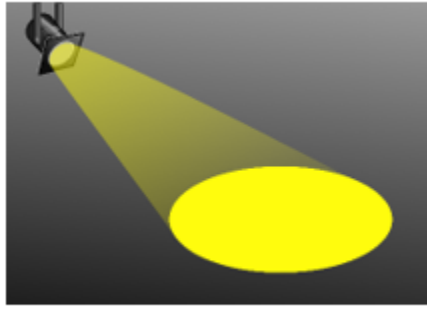
Currently, we are researching wildflowers and perennials for another pollinator bed.

We are considering giving away wildflower packets at the Spring Plant Sale in April and will continue selling native plants.

The Native Plant Conference at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens will be held March 10-11, 2023.

This conference is only held every two years and we are encouraging ACMGA members to attend.





SPOTLIGHT

Samantha Bowen

And

Susan Clapp

Name: Samantha Bowen, ACMGA Intern Representative

Status in life: Married for 14 years with one son (11)

Education: BS in Marine Biology

Career: Retired from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management after 10 years.

What led you to your career? My Marine Biology plans had to change to Environmental Science when I decided to move from Mobile to the middle of Alabama to marry my college sweetheart.

What brought you to Autauga MGA or the MG Program? I decided to start beekeeping and thought that the MG would give me some good insights on what and how to plant things. I love being outside and this gives me a venue to learn new things and to be active.

What are your hobbies? I love to read, fish, and put together puzzles. I am now really into planting and figuring out what will work in my shaded yard.

Favorite food: Hmmm...This is hard. I LOVE food. I love to cook. Food is my love language. You can never go wrong with a good Mexican restaurant, though.

Favorite plant/flower: Hydrangeas

I have always wanted to visit: Europe

Favorite book or author: Tolkien

How long have you been a resident of Autauga County? 15 years

Favorite thing you like about Autauga County? All the natural beauty.



Name: Susan Clapp

Status in life: Single, two adult children, Ed, who is an MG Intern, Jennifer, Nashville, TN
AND I have 2 grands!

Education: B.S. in English Literature, Western KY U, Bowling Green, KY

Career/Retired from: Northrop Grumman, Federal Defense Systems

What led you to your career? I have had many jobs during my 50+ years of employment. Financial manager of Alumni Contributions at Belmont, State Disbursement Unit Director, Congressman, Bill Nichols, Case Worker and a teacher.

What brought you to Autauga MGA or the MG Program? Love of gardening and friendships with those of same interests

What are your hobbies? Reading and planting

Favorite food: Spaghetti

Favorite plant/flower: Hybrid Tea Roses

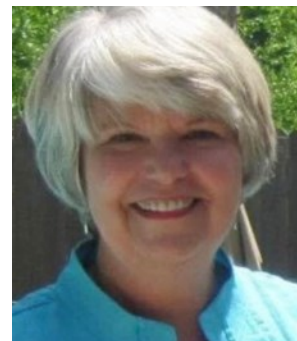
I have always wanted to visit: Austria and Ireland

Favorite book or author: Kristin Hannah, Fredrick Bachman

How long have you been a resident of Autauga County? 28 years

Favorite thing you like about Autauga County? People and sense of community

Other comments: It has been a joy and a privilege to be an Intern with such a welcoming and energizing group. I look forward to participating for years to come.



Everything that slows us down and forces patience, everything that sets us back into the slow circles of nature, is a help. Gardening is an instrument of grace.

May Sarton

Prattvillage Garden Progress Report for 2022 submitted by Dian Owens

The Prattvillage Garden (PVG) volunteers diligently and lovingly care for our beautiful garden. PVG hosts numerous ACMGA & ACES events every year. I've listed a few. The PVG volunteers made the garden ready for the 2022 April Plant Sale. PVG was the starting point for the Garden Glimpses tour in May. A 4-H group of young artists spent a hot Tuesday morning in August painting their interpretation of the c.1840s chapel.



Garden Glimpses Tour flower arrangement



4H artists in the garden (both photos by Dian Owens)



Ready for an afternoon wedding (photo by Dian Owens)

Twenty twenty-two has been a good year with site reservations in the garden with weddings and professional photo sessions that earn proceeds that go into the ACMGA general operating revenue. We have a tentative reservation for a secret marriage proposal in the garden before the end of the year.

We are looking forward to the 2023 events' season!

We sometimes receive live gifts from our visitors. We received a bare root peony in August from an out-of-town artist who e sometimes receive live

gifts from our visitors. We received a bare root peony in August from an out-of-town artist who spent several watercolor painting sessions while we worked in the garden. She obtained her root stock from a farm near Cumberland, MD and planted it in her garden in Cleveland, TN. From her description we think the white peony with splashes of red may be a 'Couronne d'Or' peony c.1873. We planted it near a companion peony variety 'Monsieur Jules Elie' c.1888 found at Old House Gardens. (Check out their beautiful website! [Old House Gardens](#)) Both of these peonies are recommended for our zone 8a. I purchased 'Sword Dance' c.1933 for my garden from them, too. All three peonies are sprouting. One of the AMGA Conference speakers recommended we plant peonies shallow with only very light mulch to provide the needed winter chill hours. We also planted a few grape hyacinths and tiny 'Lady Jane' tulip bulbs in the garden in November.



Couronne d'Or' peony c.1873 (left) & 'Monsieur Jules Elie' c.1888 (right) (Photos from [Old House Gardens](#))

The main garden, herb garden and pollinator garden remained beautiful despite the late summer irrigation issues. While many of the PVG plants were entering their dormancy in late October, other plants were showing off their autumn beauty (e.g., Ryan's Pink chrysanthemum, the sasanqua camellias, the perennial hibiscus, the herb garden, and the shade-loving plants).



PVG in late October (photo by Dian Owens)



A little holiday greenery (photo by Dian Owens)

As seen in the previous issue of *Dirty Digs*, PVG provided a large collection of our propagated plants for the October 22 Spinners Park plant sale. Those event proceeds also went into the ACMGA general operating revenue. We continued to propagate from the garden into the middle of November (photo below). Our hanging of the green was done 11-29-22 and was refreshed on 12-18-2022 after a week of high temperatures (photo above).

While on vacation in the summer Jane McCarthy found inspiration for a Christmas tree in the garden that honors our 2021-2022 ACMGA members. The tree is fashioned from PVG pruned crepe myrtle limbs. The 90+ wooden disks were cut by Jane's hubby George. The member names were burned into the wooden disks by Jane with a little help from yours truly. The disks were then varnished twice and attached to the tree. Of course, the tree was topped with one of Jane's handcrafted stars! Ask Jane how many hours she spent on this project!

2022 PVG volunteers: Adrienne Yarbrough, Ange Trimble, Bettye Hyde, Charlie French, Cheryl Winter, Cindy Deane, Debbie Boutelier, Dian Owens, Jane McCarthy, Linda Blackwell, Lori Terrell, Marina Vorontsova, Sheila Pearson, Sondra Henley, and Vicki Williamson.

Interns Samantha Brown & Kathy Williams also helped us with making and hanging of the green!



Potting up irises assembly line 11-15-22
(photo by Jane McCarthy)



Janes' ACMGA members tree (photo by Lori Terrell)



A weed is but an unloved flower.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Fundraising – Current Items for Sale

Dian Owens

Ceramic coffee mugs, a drinking glass, and magnets are available for sale. The ceramic mugs are available in black or white with butterfly photos or with photos from Prattvillage Garden. The glass photos are all from Prattvillage Garden. The two magnets are each available with butterfly photos or Prattvillage Garden. These items may be reviewed at most meetings. (Stay tuned: We plan to have items representing the Demonstration Garden later in the season.)



ACMGA Order Form (Please PRINT)

Name: _____

Contact #: _____

Email address: _____

Items	Price	Quantity ordering	Check # or Cash	Total
Black Mug – Butterflies (15 oz)	\$20			
Black Mug – Prattvillage (15 oz)	\$20			
White Mug – Butterflies (15 oz)	\$20			
White Mug – Prattvillage (15 oz)	\$20			
Magnet – Prattvillage	\$9			
Magnet – Butterflies	\$9			
Glass – Prattvillage (16 oz)	\$25			
Mugs (dishwasher & microwave safe)			GRAND TOTAL	
Glass (handwash only)				

Fundraising – Upcoming ACMGA Logo Short Sleeve Tee for Sale

Dian Owens

Due to popular demand, we will be taking orders soon for a brightly colored tee shirt (other than the current athletic gray tee.) Email me with your ideas for a new ACMGA tee before March 31.



Garden Tips
written by
Katherine J. Chapman

The gardening season in Alabama lasts all year long, but each month requires us to focus on different tasks in the garden. Our seasons have a rhythmic ebb and flow. The first three months of the year focus on preparing our gardens for the major growing season ahead. By April, the major work begins to unfold like a butterfly's wings. We emerge from the planning and prepping and find our way flittering from one area of the garden to the next, completing each of the necessary tasks for the month. Sometimes we look a bit erratic, but it all has a beautiful purpose.

A few of these tasks for April include:

- Fertilize the azaleas and camellias.
- If you have Bermuda grass or zoysia grass lawns. Now is the time to take a closer look at the lawn. If you see a layer of dead and living grass that seems to be woven together, that is thatch. If the thatch layer is 1/2 an inch thick, it's time to remove it from the lawn. Wait until the lawn is actively growing though. It may be at the end of this month or starting next month. After dethatching the lawn. Fertilize and water it well.
- Over in the flower beds, it's a great time to divide the mums and start planting some of the early annuals.
- The potager garden allows us to spend more time outside as we begin our major plantings of nutritious vegetables. We can start seeds of bean, corn, southern peas, squash, melons, and cucumbers. Growing these vegetables from seeds is an economical way to stretch that food budget.
- It's time to transplant those tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants from pots into the garden now. Sweet potato slips can be started in late April.

In May, we continue to flutter from one part of the garden to the next. Some of the tasks at hand include:

- Those climbing roses have produced the first flush of fragrant gorgeous flowers. When this first flush of flowers has completed its show, it's time to prune them.
- Back over in the flower beds, we can continue to plant bedding plants. Now, it's time to take a closer look at least twice a week to look for insect problems.
- of the great produce that our garden will produce just as soon as we finish planting

- The potager is starting to take shape. We can dream up what we can cook with all of the great produce that our garden will produce just as soon as we finish planting okra seeds, sweet potato slips and any of the other vegetables we planted in April.

As we waltz into June, some of the garden tasks remain the same while there is a slight, but perceptual change beginning for our garden tasks as we start to do more maintenance of our plants.

June tasks include:

- Continuing to plant beans, corn, southern peas, melons, and okra.
- In the flower bed, dead heading spent blooms will encourage more flowers to grow.
- Throughout our landscape we need to monitor for pests and diseases on the plants.
- The plants have been actively growing all of this time, so give them a mid-season boost with a water soluble fertilizer.
- Houseplants can be moved outside in a shaded area now. You will need to monitor them closely to provide them with the water they need.

April, May, and June are wonderfully active months in the garden. These months provide us with the weather to be active and get outside to grow nutritious food to cook and share. They also provide a time to use our imagination and create a beautiful space that can provide for all of our senses. Flight and flutter throughout your gardens and land softly in joy and peace.

A final tip from me: Use your sunscreen everyday 30 minutes before gardening.

For these tips and more, go to <https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/lawn-garden/alabama-gardeners-calendar/>

AMGA Awards

John Carrick

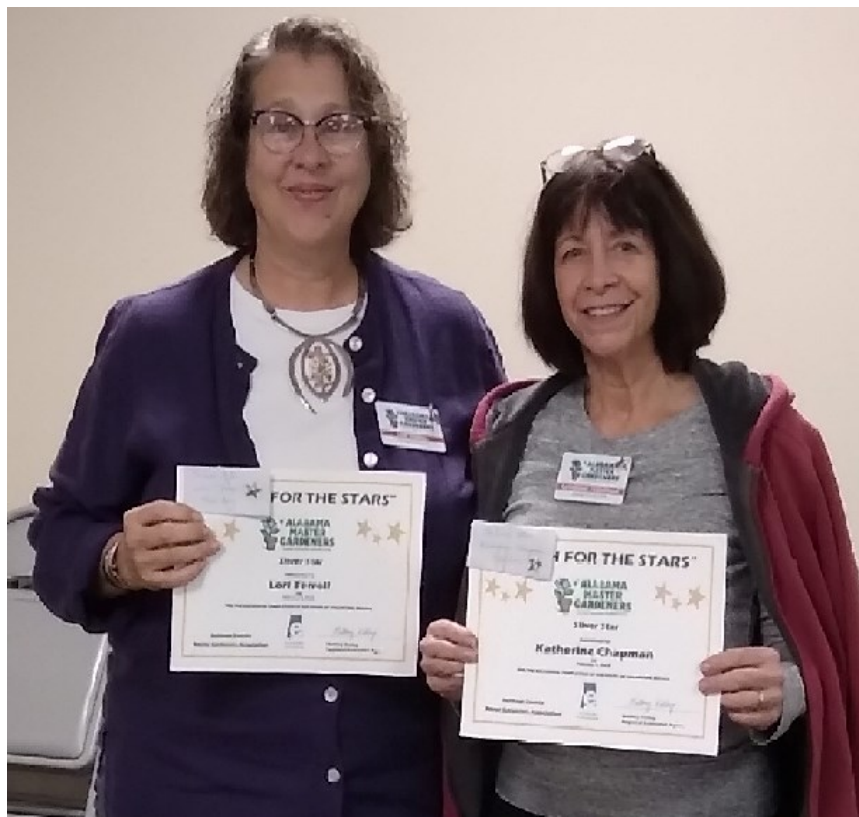


At the February meeting, Adrienne Yarbrough presented Lisa Carrick with a Hummingbird award for her leadership and cake decorating skills during the Cake Sale.



February Reach for the Stars, Bronze Star, awards.

Pictured left to right, Catherine Brooks, Jane Boysen, Valera Brown, and Glenda Harris.



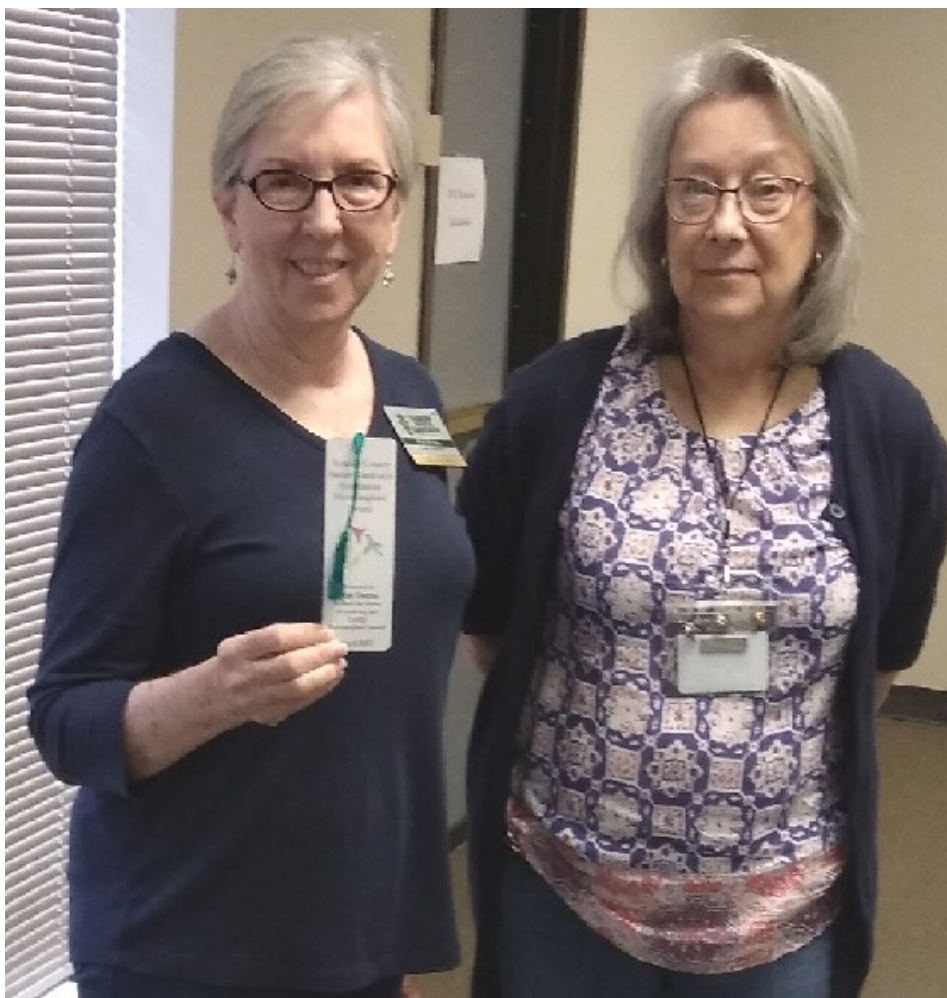
February Reach for the Stars, Silver Star, awards.

Pictured left to right, Lori Terrell and Katherine Chapman

At the March meeting, Adrienne Yarbrough presented Dian Owens her third Humming Bird award,

Dian created and sold beautiful mugs for AMGA fundraising.

Dian is noted for her tireless support of the AMGA.





March Reach for the Stars, Bronze Star, awards.

Pictured left to right, Shannon Mayes, Lina Barry, and Diane Wonderly.

Reach for the Stars, Silver Star—far right Elijah Pugh

Needs

Sondra Henley

5- Old large Plastic tubs with or without lids
(Sondra Henley needs)



Compost items: anything but meat, grease, bone and dairy. You can put your bag in the freezer until you are coming to the Demonstration Garden. Just sit your bag in the one of the outer bins.



Coffee grounds

Old flours or grains

Potato peels

Salad but wash dressing off

Vegetables cooked or raw

Hard candy

Floral, cut into small pieces

Fruit and vegetable peels

Paper towel and toilet paper tubes

Questions: Call Rose McCauley, Paula Seamon or Sondra Henley



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author

Vacation articles and pictures wanted!

Not everyone in ACMGA is on Facebook. So why not share your favorite vacation trip this next quarter with your fellow Master Gardeners? All articles should be no longer than 200 words. Please send a picture of vacation scenes. If people are in the picture, the only catch is a photo release if they are not Master Gardeners.

Pruning

Marty French

Pruning at the Autaugaville Extension Office, March 8 2023



Sondra Henley and Jane McCarthy

Rose McCauley and Jackie Raines





Left to right, Rose McCauley, Jackie Raines, Catherine Brooks, Sondra Henley, and Vicki Williamson



Left to right, Vicki Williamson, Jackie Raines, and Rose McCauley



Left to right, Samantha Bowen, Sondra Henley, Catherine Brooks, Shannon Mayes, Charlie French, Jackie Raines, Sheila Pearson, Rose McCauley, Susan Clapp, and Jane McCarthy

Hills and Dales Tour

Nancy Waggoner, Cheri Cook, and Susan Clapp

To all ACMGA members:

March 16, 2023

A reservation has been made for our membership to visit Hills and Dales Estate in La Grange, Georgia on Thursday, May 18th. Hills and Dales is the historic estate of the Callaway family. We will have the opportunity to tour the home, botanical gardens, and have a catered box lunch at that location. Please read the following *carefully* and respond as soon as possible if you wish to make a reservation to be included in this activity:

References to time are Alabama time (CST) although Georgia is on (EST)-an hour later.

Distance from Prattville to Hills and Dales one-way is 111 miles; a one hour and 47-minute drive.

Tours of the home and gardens are *guided* and very *limited* to number of guests per tour on any given day; therefore, we will not be able to fill a bus for this trip but will have a carpool system set up. If there are more interested people than can be accommodated on this trip, a second trip soon after will be considered for those who may have missed out.

Following the tours, we will have a catered box lunch provided by Hills and Dales.

Naturally, in case of the threat of inclement weather, decisions will be made accordingly.

Times:

No later than 8:00 a.m., depart Prattville and arrive at Hills and Dales by 10:00 CST. Leave Hills and Dales by 2:00 p.m. and arrive in Prattville by 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$45.00: Includes box lunches, guided home and guided garden tours. You may want to chip in money for gas to the driver of the carpool group you are in.

Reservation:

Contact me as soon as possible to secure your place in this trip. The deadline for signup is May 1st. I prefer e-mail or text message contact. Once we have your name, go ahead make out a check to ACMGA, write "field trip" on the memo line, and give it to Dian Owens. She will then prepare one check from the association to present to Hills & Dales when we arrive the day of the tour.

gnwaggoner@gmail.com

[\(334\) 300-5869](tel:(334)300-5869)

Information about the Lee County Master Gardeners Association Garden Tour May 13th will be coming soon.

Your Trip Team:

Nancy Waggoner

Cheri Cook

Susan Clapp

MMMGG at the Governor's Mansion pictures

Jane McCarthy



Mansion Spring Cleanup, March 2022

Top row: Ann Hamill, Debbie O'Brien, Lisa Carrick, Lacy Gibson, Linda Cater, Darwin Prewitt, Anne Carr, and Shap Ashley. Bottom row: Robin Snyder, Jane McCarthy, Betty Plaster, and Vivian O'Neal.



Mansion Spring Cleanup, March 2022

Robyn Snyder, John Carrick, Anne Carr, Jane McCarthy, Linda Cater, Debbie O'Brien, Jaeri Ellis, Ann Hamill, and Kathy Quinn

Photos—Matthew Morgan



Hill House back yard clean up, November 2022

Kathy Quinn, Robin Snyder, Linda Cater, Jaeri Ellis, Jane McCarthy, Ann Hamill, and Amanda Borden kneeling

Photo—Mathew Morgan

Governor's Mansion renewal pruning, February 2023

Darwin Prewitt

Photo—Jane McCarthy





Governor's Mansion Herb Garden cleanup, February 2023

Top Row: Robin Snyder, Charlene Thomas, Ann Hamill, and Kathy Quinn

Bottom Row: Lina Cater, Anne Carr, and Jaeri Ellis

Photo—Darwin Prewitt

Governor's Mansion at Christmas
Christmas decorations by MMMGG



Arbor Day Shovel Winners

Sondra Henley



Amanda Jones is the winner of one of the shovels drawn for from attendees at the Arbor Day in Prattville. She was delighted to receive it as she is putting in new gardens at their new cabin in Autauga County,

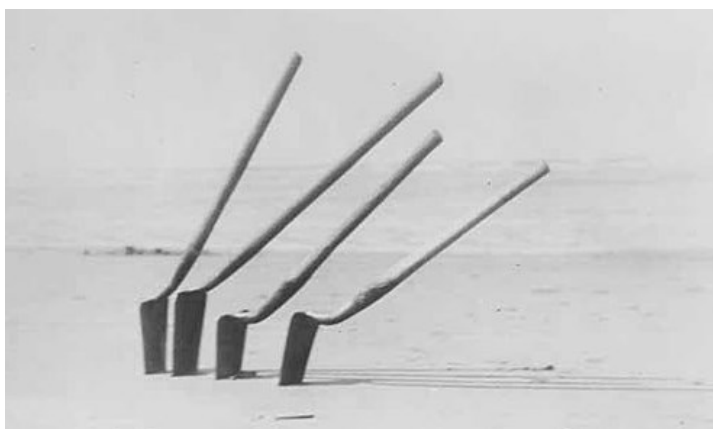
Picture taken by Sondra Henley

Owen Nichols is the winner of the shovel drawn from attendees at Arbor Day in Autaugaville drawing.

Certainly a family worth digging for!

(Pictured with Owen is left to right, Mac, Cally, Ellie, Owen and Clint. And two family dogs.

Picture taken by Katie Nichols



Autauga County Master Gardeners Association

Autauga County Extension Office

2226 AL-14 W, Suite E
Autaugaville, AL 36003

Phone: 334-361-7273



Autauga County Master Gardener Volunteers are...

Motivated – to share their knowledge and expertise.

Accessible – to other Master Gardeners, horticulture and Extension professionals, and the public.

Service-oriented – to enhance their communities and the environment.

Trained – by Cooperative Extension in current horticultural practices.

Excited – about meeting other people who enjoy gardening.

Research ambassadors – who provide cutting-edge horticultural information to consumers.

Next Issue June 2023

Prattville Garden
139 1st Street, Prattville, AL 36067

You can reserve the garden for an event—contact Sondra

Contact Bionca to purchase an Honor Bricks

AMGA Event Page:
<https://mg.aces.edu/autauga/events-calendar>

Images courtesy of Wikimedia Commons
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/>

