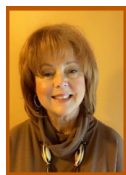




## Dirty Digs

June



**ACMGA President  
Sondra Henley**

I am so excited about the upcoming 2025 Conference meeting on May 25, at 10:00 at First Baptist Church. By the time you read this, we will have met and decided on the theme name for the conference. I love the sharpening of iron on iron as we toss out ideas and suggestions and as we discuss the pros and cons of each.

Henry Ford wrote: "Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success"!!! That describes

any team. It is important for each of us to remember that there is no "I" in team. It is not Sondra's conference, nor Debbie's, nor Nancy's, nor.... It will be the Autauga County Master Gardener's Association Conference.

We are the host, offering a well-planned hospitable experience. There will be hiccups along the way but with everyone working their part, watching their ACMGA's back and

### Inside this issue:

<i>Presidents Message</i>	1
<i>Chairmen Reports</i>	2
<i>Intern Spotlight</i>	12
<i>Garden Worms</i>	14
<i>Governor's Mansion</i>	16
<i>Autauga City Buzz</i>	20
<i>Fundraiser Items</i>	23
<i>Garden Tips</i>	25
<i>Compost Experiment</i>	31
<i>Grass Damage</i>	32
<i>Soil Temperature</i>	35
<i>Prattville Report</i>	45

### Special points of interest:

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



AMGA Website  
[Alabamamg.org](http://Alabamamg.org)



Autauga MG Website  
[www.aces.edu/autauga](http://www.aces.edu/autauga)



Extension Website  
[mg.aces.edu](http://mg.aces.edu)



## ACMGA Programs /Tours

### Nancy Waggoner



April: No program was scheduled: members prepared Prattvillage for the annual plant sale.

May: Our own Albert Striplin, accompanied by his daughter-in-law Ashley Striplin, gave an excellent program about Camellias: their classification, bloom times, growing requirements, propagation options, and pruning tips.

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 and Chilton County MGA: Master Gardener Service Report Review and Update

September: Lyn Webb: Calhoun and Chilton County MGA: Master Gardener Service Report Review and Update

## Advisory Council Representative

### Ange Trimble

#### 5/2/2023 At Petals from the Past

Edwin Sims was introduced as new Advisory Council Chairman.

The Fall 2023 MG Intern Classes will be open for registration on June 1, 2023 and end on June 30, 2023. Must fill out application online. The cost is \$150.00. First day of class will be August 10, 2023 & end on November 9, 2023.

The 2023 Conference held in Tuscaloosa was discussed. Approximately 282 people attended. The profit made was approximately \$28,000.00 less than what is still owed to Bryant Conference Center.

Discussed AMGA upcoming conference dates:

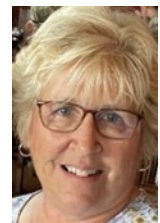
**2024** Conference - will be held in Baldwin County April 22-24, 2024. The theme will be "Paradise Found". Will be held at Daphne Civic Center. Will have a coastal menu. Busy working on hotel accommodations.

October: Advanced ACMGA member Debbie Boutelier: Gardens of the South

November: (tentative) Prattville Parks and Recreation Betty Hall: Autauga County Bluebird Trail.

Field Trips: Although the Lee County Tour was not an ACMGA group tour, several members attended; It was a full day of eight luscious gardens in Lee County. What a bonus to pick up so many new landscaping ideas! Lee County Members were happy that ACMGA was there to support their tour.

On Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, nine ACMGA members will carpool to La Grange Georgia to enjoy guided tours of the home and gardens of Hills and Dales, the 1916 home of the Calloway Family in La-Grange, Georgia.



If possible, fees for the conference should be mailed to avoid paying Pay Pal & Planet Ridge fees

**2025** Conference - will be held in Autauga County April 3-5, 2025.

**2026** Conference - no commitment at this time. There will be a Master Gardener College Leadership Training Webinar series if you are interested in developing your leadership skills. Can apply June 15th-July 15th, 2023. The Webinar Fee will be \$25.00. The Webinar Dates are Monday, August 7th 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and Tuesday August 8th 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Each session is approximately one hour and there will be breaks and snacks. Further information will be announced prior to the beginning of registration.

## Awards & Honors

### Adrienne Yarbrough



Which Categories Do I Select For My Service Report Hours?

As Volunteer Hours and Awards Chair, I get questions on which categories should be selected for your Service Report Hours. Here are a few common volunteer activities and their categories for reference.

If you handed out trees at the Fire Station in Autauga ville or at Pratt Park in Prattville for Arbor Day, you would select 'Support other ACES prog's' under Public Outreach as the category. If you worked in Prattville Garden or Lanark, you would select 'Education/ demonstration' under Helping & Teaching Gardens.

If you worked in the Demonstration Garden by the Autauga Prattville Library, you would select 'Grow More Give More (comm. food)' under Helping & Teaching Gardens. If you answered gardening questions in the workplace or by personal phone, email or in person with a non-Master Gardener or Intern, you would select 'Home garden consult' under Public Outreach. If you volunteered with Friends of the Forest, Farm-City Day, Water Festival, and similar youth programs, you would select 'Youth program' under Public Outreach.

## Demonstration Garden

### Glenn Huovinen



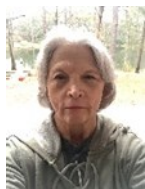
We began the year replanting the Fall and Winter veggies that were killed during the December deep freezes. Mid-April, we started planting our Spring and Summer veggies. We had an issue with Cut Worms cutting down most of our Tomatoes. We replanted the new squash plants adding a foil collar. Bush beans were planted next to the tomatoes to fix nitrogen.

Basil was planted next to the tomatoes to add flavor and to repel bugs. We also put in Sweet Potatoes, Peppers, Okra, Cucumbers, Zucchini, and a new variety of Summer Squash from Burpee Seed called Rise and Shine.

It grows vertically up to 4 feet tall with the fruits hanging from the stem. A Pheromone trap was added to attract male Squash Vine Borer Moths.

Two varieties of Potatoes will be harvested as soon as the flowers and leaves start to die. We continue to plant summer veggies for succession plantings. We have a great crew that works very hard to increase our yearly total. We invite everyone to come be part of our team, learn and enjoy the fellowship!

## Farmer's Market Vicki Williamson



Farmer's Market:  
"The Grove" -7am-noon

Time is drawing near! Our first appearance will be June 3, at the GROVE located on Doster Road across from the Gillespie Center. We will provide an information booth:

Soil Testing kits, gardening, Lunch and Learn, Friends of the Master Gardeners and our two public gardens.

This will be a great time to meet and greet our community and spread the word about Master Gardeners!

## Friends of Autauga County Master Gardeners Debbie Boutelier

After the great response at the Plant Sale, our Friends of Master Gardeners membership is now at 25 members – 24 individual memberships and 1 business membership.

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

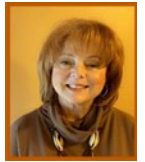
Who can become a Friend of Autauga County Master Gardeners? Anyone who wishes to financially help support the organization and our mission. This means you, as a member, can become a Friend. Your neighbors, your spouse, friends, business acquaintances, etc. are all welcome.



There is an individual level and a business level with intangible benefits at each level. See the registration form in this newsletter 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.

## Fund Raising Sondra Henley



Fund Raising is exciting! Pooling our efforts brings comradery, fellowship, education, and operating funds!

Hats off to Linda Barry and Jane McCarthy for their Co-Chairmanship of the 2023 Annual Plant sale! And a big thank you to the Prattvillage team for preparing the garden for the event. Even with all that work and effort, the membership joined forces to submit annual and perennial plants, shrubs, trees, vegetables, bulbs, house plants, vines, herbs, and many more plant categories, along with garden items for the gardening shop.

Friends of ACMGA supported the plant sale and were given the benefit of entering the plant sale early. This created interest from the people in line and many forms were handed out for future Friends.

The Gardening Buzz of Autauga County booklets have been a hit! Purchases were made to give to neighbors, newcomers and general PR and just to have on hand.

The Fund-Raising Committee will meet on June 12 at 9:00 at the Extension Office before the 10:00 ACMGA Board Meeting to plan the next six months.

## Database/Dues Tracker Rose McCauley



No Changes

## Tracker Directory Val Brown



A new directory format was approved at the May ACMGA Board Meeting. The new format will have individual half pages per member.

Plans are being made for photo sessions at each monthly meeting. Details to be announced.

## Helpline Bionca Lindsey



Our Helpline is up and answering questions. Anyone in the entire state of Alabama can call the helpline and have their gardening questions answered. I mentioned the entire state because this is a way for us as Master Gardeners to gain more knowledge about the various growing zones in Alabama.

Did you know that Alabama has 5 growing zones and its very important for us to ask the location of the person calling for recommendations or solutions to their problems because what works in our zone might not be the same for theirs.

The time for our shifts has changed to 9am to 12 noon, which means you only get 4 hours for volunteering instead of 5.

Also, on our membership meeting days, you can work after the meeting from 1-3pm or not at all. Remember, there are still slots available for you and your friend or mentee to work side by side, so please consider working a shift in the near future. Sign up by logging into your service hours area, click Helpline Calendar and find the date you would like to volunteer.

Training Video: [https://auburn.zoom.us/rec/share/qLPvRV0MkhImKsXPPu21-YqD8m5qhDj1kttlo9U\\_zX3rRN7m7HZQ5MJlHQtptj4i.dNMZpzXeHj8-JBGc](https://auburn.zoom.us/rec/share/qLPvRV0MkhImKsXPPu21-YqD8m5qhDj1kttlo9U_zX3rRN7m7HZQ5MJlHQtptj4i.dNMZpzXeHj8-JBGc)



## Honor Bricks Bionca Lindsey



Honor Brick Link:

<https://donationbricks.com/acmga>



Thank you for those who how have captured their loved ones or individuals who meant a lot to them in history by purchasing a brick. You can submit an order for a brick at your leisure online or I can assist you.

If you haven't visited Prattvillage Garden to see our exquisite pavilion with our bricks as the footprint, you are missing a work of art with flair. Jane McCarthy and Dian Owens really has done a great job laying it out for everyone to enjoy. \$50 is all it takes for you to write someone's name and memory etched in history.



## Membership Jane Boysen



The membership committee has been busy following up on referrals from active members that are helping us recruit new members. We are also sending cards to members that are under the weather and need a bit of encouragement.

We manned a table at the April plant sale, where we discussed with many people the steps required to becoming a Master Gardener. For those that expressed interest in our Fall 2023 Master Gardener class, a follow up with an email has already been sent. If the person responded negatively, the option of becoming a Friends of Autauga County Master Gardeners was explained and there were several people who signed up that day.

## Intern Representative Samantha Bowen



The Autauga County Master Gardener Interns have been active. We have just completed our first Annual Plant Sale. We were active not only in preparing for the sale at the plant intake, but we also had a few interns that donated their time by caring for and propagating plants to sell. This was an awesome experience to be a part of and I look forward to the sale next year. Not only have we interns been busy with fundraising, but we have also been active in our community.

Someone will plan to work the Master Gardener booth at Prattville City Fest in May where flyers will be available on how to become a Master Gardener and also on how to register for the Fall 2023 class. A flyer will also be available for the Friend of Master Gardeners program.

As always, the membership committee appreciates your help in gathering leads of anyone who might be interested in our organization. All we need is a name, e-mail address or phone number given to someone on the membership committee.

Editors note: Online signup can be done at:

<https://happy2bee.com/mg>



I was able to volunteer at the Friends of the Forest field trip for 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Autauga County. We had a fantastic time learning all about forestry, how trees impact our infrastructure, and how we can be good stewards of the forest. We are now looking forward to City Fest and all the opportunities we can get to recruit new interns in the Master Gardener Program for the Fall 2023 class.

## Pollinator Gardens

### Kathy Quinn

**The Prattville Pollinator Project** - A group of Master gardeners has been meeting for several years to promote gardens that create habitat for Pollinators- especially bees and butterflies, although birds- especially hummingbirds, like flowers too.

We started by researching education and working on our 2 established gardens at Prattvillage and the Demo garden. These efforts created habitat for our pollinator friends. We also worked on our home gardens. Soyna Moore educated the group on how to raise caterpillars inside to help avoid predators. We took a field trip to a local farm to collect Milkweed.

This year, we have added two additional projects; We bought and packaged Eastern Xeroscape Wildflower Mix from American Meadows. These packages were handed out to Plant Sale attendees, hoping to encourage people to plant pollinator flower seeds.



Our other big project is to design and build a new garden behind the Library only a short distance from the Demo Garden. It is currently a bare space waiting for someone to plant it. The design is nearly finished, we hope to have it completed soon to present to the City.



## Education

### Charlie French



“How Master Gardeners work and how it impacts the community with a hands-on activity”  
Bionca Lindsey-Adv MG

Location: Demo Garden beside Library

Doster Community Center

June 10, 2023 Growing and Repotting Orchids – Judy May-Adv MG

July 29, 2023 Chickens - Nature’s Garden Art – Janelle Diggs-MG

August 12, 2023 Annual Flower Beds for Every Season - Karen Weber Horticulturist and MG



## Stewardship Council Don Armstrong, President



### FRIENDS OF THE FOREST – FUN IN THE WOODS

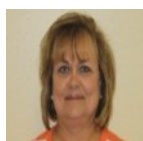
A highlight of the year is getting to interact with up to 700 fifth-grade students as the Master Gardeners guide them through a forest. This is a three-day long event every May called Friends of the Forest. The Autauga Forestry and Wildlife Stewardship Council sets up six education stations in the woods.

The first goal of this program is to educate the students and their teachers about multiple use management of our forest resources, and how important private landowners are in the management of these valuable resources.

Someone will plan to work the Master Gardener booth at Prattville City Fest in May where flyers will be available on how to become a Master Gardener and also on how to register for the Fall 2023 class. A flyer will also be available for the Friend of Master Gardeners program.

As always, the membership committee appreciates your help in gathering leads of anyone who might be interested in our organization. All we need is a name, e-mail address or phone number given to someone on the membership committee.

## MG Intern Program Cheri Cook



June 1-30 is registration for the August class.

Tell all your friends!

Applications:

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



## Governor's Mansion Jane McCarthy



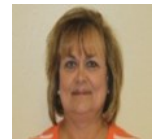
Please see expanded article with photos  
on page 16

## PrattVillage Garden Jane McCarthy/Dian Owens/Debbie Boutelier



Please see expanded article with  
photos on page 16

## Hospitality Cheri Cook



The membership continues to volunteer to bring food and drinks to the monthly meetings, sometimes surprising us with new recipes.

In April our membership meeting was held on a beautiful day in Prattvillage.

We set up tables and placed a variety of food and drink for everyone to enjoy.

I want to encourage everyone to continue to participate in providing goodies to the meetings.

Look for the monthly signup sheet as it circulates around the room.

## Plant Sale Report 2023

### Linda Barry/Jane McCarthy



We had a great time at our annual plant sale, and we had great results. The weather was perfect, and our volunteers kept busy throughout the sale interacting with the gardening customers, answering questions, and assisting with purchases. Our profit was an all-time record of \$6,139.84.

Many thanks to the Master Gardeners who propagated, divided, dug and potted the great variety of plants that we had to sell. The committee members were on hand on the Thursday and Friday before the Saturday sale to label, price, and place the donations in their appropriate categories. Saturday's customers lined up early to enter the garden and select their plant treasures.

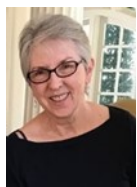
We had a garden shop outside of the plant area which offered garden art, birdhouses, and tools at great prices.

Prattvillage Garden had never been more beautiful. It presented the perfect background for the sale. The Prattvillage Garden Committee is to be congratulated on their hard work and dedication to the garden. The Prattville Pollinator Program Committee purchased seeds for pollinator-friendly plants and divided them into individual packets which they distributed to the customers. Soyna Moore presented pollinator information to interested gardeners.

The committee appreciates the helpful comments from members who attended the sale. We held a wrap-up meeting and made plans to make a few changes and improvements for next year's event.

## Logo Items

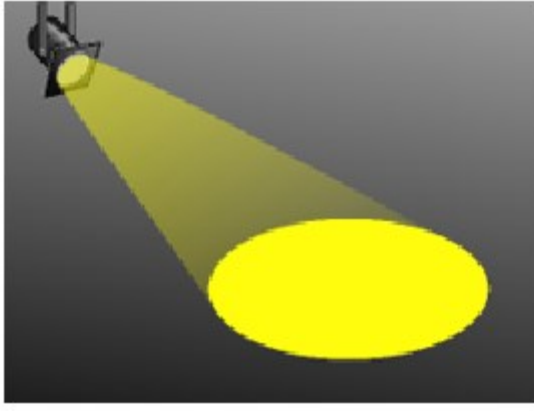
### Dian Owens



We have added a brightly colored ladies tee shirt along with the current athletic gray tee.

**Email, text, or call me with your order before June 30.** (You will be notified if quantities decrease or prices increase.)

See the logo items order forms on page 23



# SPOTLIGHT

Sheila Pearson and Ed Clapp IV

Name: Sheila Pearson

Status: Married 33yrs. to James Pearson. We have 2 living children, 5 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.

Education: BS in Nursing from University of Alabama

Career: 36yrs. in field of nursing (Dialysis, Case Mgmt. ER, and teaching Assistant to professors at Texas Community College Nursing Program)

What lead to career: Wished to be a flight nurse with Air Force

What brought you to Autauga MGA or the MG Program? Enjoyed gardening and desired more knowledge.

Hobbies: Gardening( of course), reading, Alabama Football and Softball, grandkids!

Favorite Foods: Tex-Mex/Mexican, Chocolate

Favorite plant/flower: Moonflower, Herbs

Always wanted to visit: Spain

Favorite book/author: Linda Howard or David Baldacci

Resident: Moved to Prattville from Texas in 2014, originally an Alabama girl before move to Texas.

Favorite about Autauga Co.: Artesian wells, old city, proximity to family, beach, and arts programs here and in nearby cities and, of course, Maxwell Base.

Comments: Love the city and all those whom I've met.



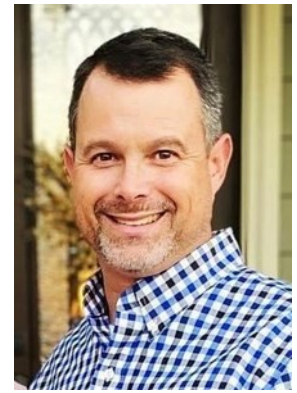
Name: Ed Clapp IV

Status in life: Married, 26years; Wife: Candi; Daughter: Sarah, 21; Son: Wynn (Ed V), 19

Education: BS Business Management, Troy State University  
Certification, Safety & Health Management, Georgia Tech

Career: EHS&S Manager – North America

What led you to your career?



After serving 4yrs. in the U.S. Coast Guard, I went to work for Jenkins Brick Company and after a period of years and several positions within the company later, eventually began working in safety. I found this rewarding, with no 2 days being the same. I eventually devoted more time to this field and have been in EHS&S (Environmental Health Safety & Security) for 15 years.

What brought you to Autauga MGA or the MG Program?

I found working in my yard to be a source of relaxation and I wanted to learn more about how to not only improve my own landscaping, but also common areas in my neighborhood. As an added bonus, my neighbor (Angie) and mother (Susan) convinced me to go through the program with them.

What are your hobbies? Primarily working in the yard and flowerbeds, mountain biking occasionally, water / snow skiing when I can, and hopefully developing new hobbies now that our last child recently graduated high school

Favorite food: Pizza

Favorite plant/flower: Flower: Dipladenia Tree: River Birch

I have always wanted to visit: Scotland

Favorite book or author: James Patterson and Stephen King

How long have you been a resident of Autauga County? 24 yrs.

Favorite thing you like about Autauga County? Location to EVERYTHING!

Other comments:

Although it hasn't been easy due to my work schedule, I have THOROUGHLY enjoyed being a part of the MG Program. I have met some of THE MOST genuine people through the Program and have enjoyed talking with and learning from them. Being in the Program has definitely changed the way I see and experience the environment / nature around me.



# Weary from Garden Worms?

By

Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent

Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests

Of Course, I'm not talking about the earthworms, they are the beneficial crawlers down below the surface of the soil that create garden gold helping the plants grow and produce. No, I'm talking about those worms that you don't know are there until half of your plant disappears overnight and looks like it has been through an overnight war.

Yes those worms, and boy are there a lot of them to battle this time of year. From the cabbage looper, tomato hornworms, armyworms and fruitworms there are lots of different larvae out there attacking the plants in the garden and for most of them we have to be ready early to wage a war we can win!

Let's start with those in the lawn, most commonly the armyworm. These will be coming soon and this is the one we are least concerned about as they really will not kill the turf. These worms are just eating the foliage of the leaf blades and cause the turf to look dead and brown, but no need to fear, just keep the ground moist and with time the grass will grow back. Most people don't know they have armyworms in their turf until they pull the lawn mower onto the driveway in park and later in the afternoon see the worms trying to find their way back to the protection of the lawn grass.

Next, let's talk about those worms you may find munching on the leaves on your oak, hickory or maple tree in the landscape. Again, for these no major reason for concern and I don't recommend control. This early in the summer the branch will leaf out again and if it's late in the summer to early fall you can thank the worms as they are taking care of the leaves so you won't have to rake them and the poop they leave under the tree is the added bonus!

Now, let's talk vegetable garden! These definitely need the battle plan to be in play early on to win the war against the worms in your vegetable garden. From the cabbage loopers, tomato hornworm, and different fruitworms in plants like your corn and tomatoes you need to be scouting for these daily. It is best to keep the plants sprayed or dusted regularly so that the product will kill the larvae when they are very small and it only takes a small ingested amount for control. Once the larvae are large, easy to find, and they have taken down most of the plant before you notice, then hand picking is going to be your best option. Remember, the larger the insect the more product must be ingested to kill it and most of their feeding has already



has already been done and they are ready to pupate.

All worms in the vegetable garden come in as moths, (cabbage loopers, tomato fruitworms, armyworms and hornworms). There are many different chemicals that will control these, but your go to should be sprays or dusts with the active ingredient *Bacillus thuringiensis*. This is a bacteria that is a gut poison to worms and worms alone. It has a zero post-harvest interval, which means you can apply the product and eat the fruit the very same day. The key to success against worms is to keep this product present on the plant. The most effective control is just after eggs hatch when caterpillars are still small.

Now, what about those worm larvae that are inside the stem like the squash vine borer in our cucurbits or the plum curculio in our plum or peach tree fruit? Those are actually the larvae or wasps and beetles and those are very difficult to control as they are boring into the stems. Scouting again is going to be key to success and control products like malathion on your peach and plum trees starting early in the season to pyrethroid on the squash will help with control, but early application and scouting is very important.

If you have other garden related questions please call the Master Gardener Helpline at:  
**1877-ALA-GROW (252-4769).**



Are you interested in learning more about seasonal gardening topics? Please join us for the FREE Master Gardener Lunch and Learn Program in your area every month. Call your county extension office for topic and location- Montgomery (1st Wednesday), Elmore (2nd Tuesday) and Autauga (3rd Wednesday) from 12:00-1:00, Bring a Sack Lunch, Waters provided and anyone is welcome!

# Governor's Mansion Report

Jane McCarthy

We have had a very busy spring at the Governor's Mansion.

The cold weather wreaked havoc on quite a few of the established plants, but that allowed us to do some much needed major pruning and thinning.

We hosted the 2023 Montgomery Master Gardener (CCMGA) Intern Class on Thursday, 6 April. There were 18 interns and 6 regular Monday volunteers. We split into 2 groups, gave brief instructions on how to prune azaleas and thin out salvia, and then let the interns do a little cutting and digging with guidance. The interns could take home a self dug and potted *Salvia Guaranitica* 'Black and Blue' if they wanted to.



Back row left to right: Cathy Musicant, Roxanne Braswell, Wilbert Chambliss, Lisa Terry, Ben Coker, Lea Ingram, Jim Wirshing, Shelia Munday

Seated in front: Beth Chancey, Melanie Newman, Ann Coker

Picture taken by Amanda Borden



We had a rose pruning workshop on 13 March. There were 9 volunteers, and many toters of rose debris taken to the street. Thankfully, all the roses were trimmed.



CCMGA interns Sue Berry and Alicia Robertson

Picture taken by Amanda Borden

On our other workdays, we pruned azaleas, cast iron plants, sago palms, camellias, abelias, hydrangeas, more roses, jasmines, pindo palms, and wisteria.

We planted comfrey, marjoram, 2 Virginia sweetspires, 12 silky dogwoods, oak-leaf hydrangas, and several flats of spring annuals.

We weeded and applied pine straw in our special beds to keep the weeds and weed-eaters away.





Robin Snyder and Ann Hamill

Picture taken by Peggy Funk

We thinned Black and Blue salvia in the Herb Garden, as well as leucojum and narcissus. The plants were potted up by our volunteers, and then brought to the Master Gardener plant sales.

We worked in the Secret Garden and along with the Mansion staff, we tamed the jungle...for the time being.







Back  
row:

Amanda Borden, Alicia Robertson, Robin Snyder  
Front row: Darwin Prewitt, Matthew Morgan, Kathy Quinn  
Picture taken by Jane McCarthy



Matthew Morgan, Robin Snyder, Kathy Quinn, Ann Colvin, Amanda Borden, Alicia Robertson, Jane McCarthy  
Picture taken by Staff

# ***“The Gardening Buzz for Autauga County” Booklet***

By Sondra Henley

We waited in anticipation for the idea that came from the Fundraising Committee to come to fruition. Debbie Boutelier and Nancy Waggoner took the ideas and ran with it. What we ended up with was a booklet about Autauga County Master Gardeners involvement in Autauga County beautifying, educating, and bringing community to our activities.

Other Autauga places and activities were mentioned to inform the newcomer to Autauga County of places they might be interested in visiting.

The front cover paper was donated. The inside of the booklet was published in-house at the Extension Office and edited and put together by ACMGA members.

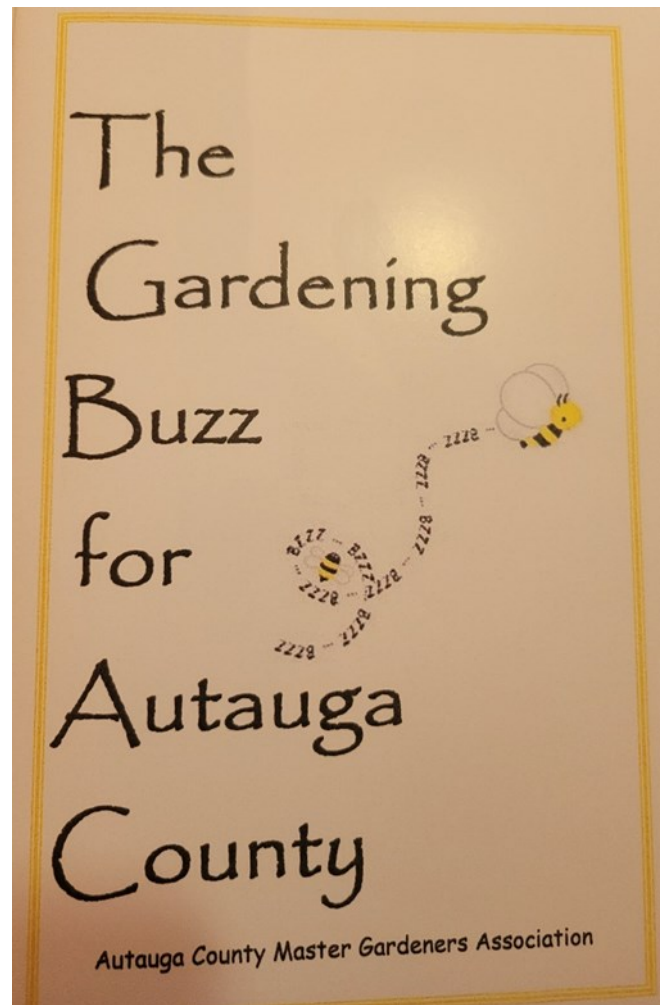
This is a great PR tool and will be sold, given away and used to support ACMGA activities and get the word out about us!

You can purchase one from Nancy Waggoner for \$5.00.

Just give her a call: 334.300.5869

I showed it to the Advisory Council and sold many booklets there. Other counties wanted to take it back to their county and copy the format!

Thank you to all who made this such a success!





## 2023 AMGA Conference Attendees

By Sondra Henley



2023 AMGA Conference Attendees , left to right:

Front Row: Linda Barry, Cheri Cook, Lanell Tatum, Rose McCauley

Second Row: Nancy Waggoner, Debbie Boutelier, Soyna Moore, Amy Richardson, Bionca Lindsey, Jane Boysen

Third Row: Sondra Henley, Cheryl Winter, Susan Clapp, Adrienne Yarbrough, Ange Trimble, Glenda Harris, Shannon Mayes

Fourth Row: Elijah Pugh, Anthony Yarbrough, Charlie French.

Not pictured: George Walthall, Vicki Williamson, Lori Terrell, and Catherine Brooks

Picture taken by Lyn Webb.

# Door Prize Drawing Winners from our Annual Plant Sale

By  
Sondra Henley

We gave away 4 shovels and the winners are:

Billy Hare



Erika McKay



Linda Dennis



Rod Byrne



# Fundraising – Drinkwear & Magnets for Sale

Dian Owens  
 205.572.8445  
[dian.owens.al@gmail.com](mailto:dian.owens.al@gmail.com)

Ceramic coffee mugs, a drinking glass, and magnets are available for sale. The ceramic mugs are available in black or white with butterfly photo or with photos from Prattville Garden. The glass photos are all from Prattville Garden. The two magnets are each available with butterfly photos or Prattville Garden. The glass photos are all from Prattville Garden. The two magnets are each available with butterfly photos or Prattville Garden. These item may be reviewed at most meetings.



## ACMGA Order Form (Please PRINT)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Items	Price	Quantity	Total	Check # or cash
Black Mug – Butterflies (15 oz)	\$20		\$	
Black Mug – Prattville (15 oz)	\$20		\$	
White Mug – Butterflies (15 oz)	\$20		\$	
White Mug – Prattville (15 oz)	\$20		\$	
Magnet – Prattville	\$9		\$	
Magnet – Butterflies	\$9		\$	
Glass – Prattville (16 oz)	\$25		\$	
	Total			

NOTE: Mugs are dishwasher & microwave safe. Glass is handwash only.



# Fundraising – ACMGA Logo Apparel for Sale

Dian Owens

205.572.8445

[dian.owens.al@gmail.com](mailto:dian.owens.al@gmail.com)

We have added a brightly colored ladies tee shirt along with the current athletic gray tee. Email, text, or call me with your order before June 30. (You will be notified if quantities decrease or prices increase.)

## ACMGA Order Form (Please PRINT)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Items	Price	Quantity	Total	Check # or Cash
Heather Gray short-sleeve tee Unisex S-XL	\$21		\$	
Heather Gray short-sleeve tee Unisex 2XL	\$23		\$	
Heather Gray short-sleeve ladies relaxed tee S-XL	\$21		\$	
Heather Gray short-sleeve ladies relaxed tee 2XL	\$23		\$	
<b>New</b> - Fuchsia Frost short-sleeve ladies relaxed tee S-XL	\$21		\$	
<b>New</b> - Fuchsia Frost short-sleeve ladies relaxed tee 2XL	\$23		\$	
Heather Gray long-sleeve tee Unisex S-XL	\$25		\$	
Heather Gray long-sleeve tee Unisex 2XL	\$25		\$	
Heather Gray sweatshirt Unisex S-XL	\$25		\$	
Heather Gray sweatshirt Unisex 2XL	\$25		\$	
Heather Gray Full-zip Hooded Sweatshirt S-XL	\$30		\$	
Heather Gray Full-zip Hooded Sweatshirt 2XL	\$30		\$	
Polo (collar) short-sleeve men's shirt S-XL	\$24		\$	
Polo (collar) short-sleeve men's shirt 2XL	\$24		\$	
	Total			

# Monthly Garden Tips

By

Katherine Chapman



Gardening is a methodical practice that flows with the seasons. Each and every month allows us to go outside and enjoy working with nature in our gardens. Over the next three months, we will focus on different sets of gardening activities to keep our gardens and lawns humming along. All of this activity can help keep us healthy too. A little outside sun helps with vitamin D production and gives us a wonderful way to stretch and move our muscles and joints. So, here are some of the activities to focus on in the coming months.

## *July*

July is an exciting month because the focus is on setting up a beautiful garden with all of the wondrous colors of Fall. Plant the following seeds directly in the ground:

- Pumpkins
- Beans
- Southern peas
- Squash
- Cucumbers

It's also time to start seeds for transplanting later on in the season.

Start trays of:

1. Beets
2. Broccoli
3. Brussels sprouts
4. Cabbage
5. Cauliflower
6. Collards
7. Kale
8. Lettuce
9. Spinach
10. Parsley

These will be planted outside in August and September.

The warm weather crops are not done yet. Transplant tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants for a late season harvest.

The focus for the rest of the landscape is keeping the plants healthy. Fertilize the roses. Walk through the garden and examine the flowers, shrubs, trees, and lawns. Notice the beauty. Examine them closely to spot insect and disease issues. Take care of these early to protect the health of the plants.

Keep up with the maintenance of the lawn by making frequent cuttings . It's suggested that the lawn should be cut every five to ten days. Only cut off 1/3 of the height of the grass to keep it looking good and growing well.

## ***August***

Continue enjoying the beauty of the garden in August and focusing on keeping each of the plants healthy. An early evening stroll through the garden allows you to spot any issues that may be developing. There are some chores that need to be done this month, enjoying the garden should be one of the focuses in the garden.

If you have a Bermuda or St. Augustine lawn, apply fertilizer at a rate of 1 lb. per 1000 square feet. If you have Centipede grass or Zoysia grass, this month you can rest. It doesn't need to be fertilized. At the end of the month, stop fertilizing any of the warm season grasses.



There are so many beautiful roses. Know the types of roses that you are growing. If they are hybrid tea roses or floribunda roses, give them just enough of a pruning to keep them from looking straggly. However, if the roses are old fashioned roses, hold off from pruning because they will have another flush of blooming roses.

Keep an eye out for any pest or disease issues.

## *September*

September is a busy month for many gardeners with harvesting, planting, and maintaining healthy plants. If you are looking for what to do with the abundance of harvested fruits and vegetables, freeze, dry, and jar some for later use. AICC would welcome any excess. To donate the vegetables you can bring them to the Demo garden by the library on Tuesday mornings. You will see some of the master gardeners working in the garden. Just let them know you have a donation, and they will happily bring it to AICC with the abundance of produce from the Demo garden.

Now is the time to plant out any of the herb and vegetable plants that you started from seed and haven't transplanted yet. Plant seeds of carrots, beets, Swiss chard, turnips, and parsley, cilantro. Add some violas for color.

Maintenance is also high on the list of things to do in September. Watch camellias for insect and disease damage. Clean up any infestations on other plants too. If oil sprays are being used to care for your plants, finish all spraying before the freezing weather arrives.

## *Enjoy*

For these and other garden tips, visit

<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/lawn-garden/alabama-gardeners-calendar/>

Happy gardening!





# Ambrosia Beetles Attacking Small Trees

By Mallory Kelley  
Regional Extension Agent  
Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests

The Granulate Ambrosia beetles have been causing quite a stir in home landscapes over the past few weeks. The influx this year I believe is due to the winter cold damage and hard late spring frost we had this year to so many of our landscape trees. This beetle was introduced into the United States in the early 1970's in South Carolina and has since spread throughout the southeast and as far north as Maryland. This tiny beetle is a pest of woody ornamentals, fruit, and nut trees and can cause significant damage in nursery, landscape, and orchard settings.



Granulate ambrosia beetles emerge in early spring and attack thin barked, deciduous trees. Tree species most commonly reported with damage are dogwood, redbud, maple, ornamental cherry, Japanese maple, and crape myrtle. Other reported hosts include pecan, peach, plum, persimmon, golden rain tree, sweet gum, Shumard oak, Chinese elm, magnolia, fig, hydrangea and azalea.

Young trees and small branches of mature trees are where these beetles attack. Female beetles bore into the trunks and branches (1-4 inches in diameter) and excavate galleries in the wood. In addition to boring damage, female beetles inoculate trees with ambrosia fungus, which can block xylem vessels and interfere with vascular transport. Infested plants often die from boring damage, ambrosia fungus, or infection by a secondary pathogen.



These beetles attack seemingly healthy trees as well as stressed or unhealthy trees. I believe the influx this year is due to trees under more stress than usual from damage due to the cold. Visible symptoms include wilted foliage and strands of boring

dust protruding from small holes. Serious attacks that result in tree death usually occur during leafing-out stage.

Infestations can be easily be identified by toothpick-like strands protruding up to 1.5 inches from the bark of the host plant. The strands of boring dust are produced by the female beetle as she excavates her gallery. The strands are fragile and are easily broken off by wind or rain leaving only pencil-lead sized holes. This being the case, your tree may be infected and you would not even know it until you start seeing the dieback of the foliage.

Preventative applications of pyrethroid insecticides can protect trees by preventing Granulate Ambrosia Beetles from excavating galleries. However, once beetles are inside trees they cannot be killed with insecticides and fungicides are ineffective against the ambrosia fungus. Thus, the timing of preventative insecticide applications is crucial to protect trees from damage by this pest. Dr. Charles Ray, Auburn University Extension Entomologist says “recent research of the first flight of granulate ambrosia beetle in spring has found it occurs at almost exactly the same time as Bradford pears beginning to bloom. This gives a clear sign to a homeowner of when they should apply the preventative sprays.”

If you notice the white strands protruding from the branches or main trunk of your trees or shrubs the plant parts should be removed and destroyed.

Sources: Dr. Charles Ray, Auburn University, Extension Entomologist.

North Carolina State University <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/O&T/trees/note111/note111.html>





# Photos from the Demo Garden

Sondra Henley

Even when it's wet, this committed crew throws on their rain gear and heads to the garden!

Pictured are Rose McCauley, JC Scoffield, Elijah Pugh.

Not pictured Glenn Nichols, Glenn Huovinen and Anthony Yarbrough. .



Purple top turnips



Carrots and onions



Red and white potatoes

Pictures by Glenn Huovinen



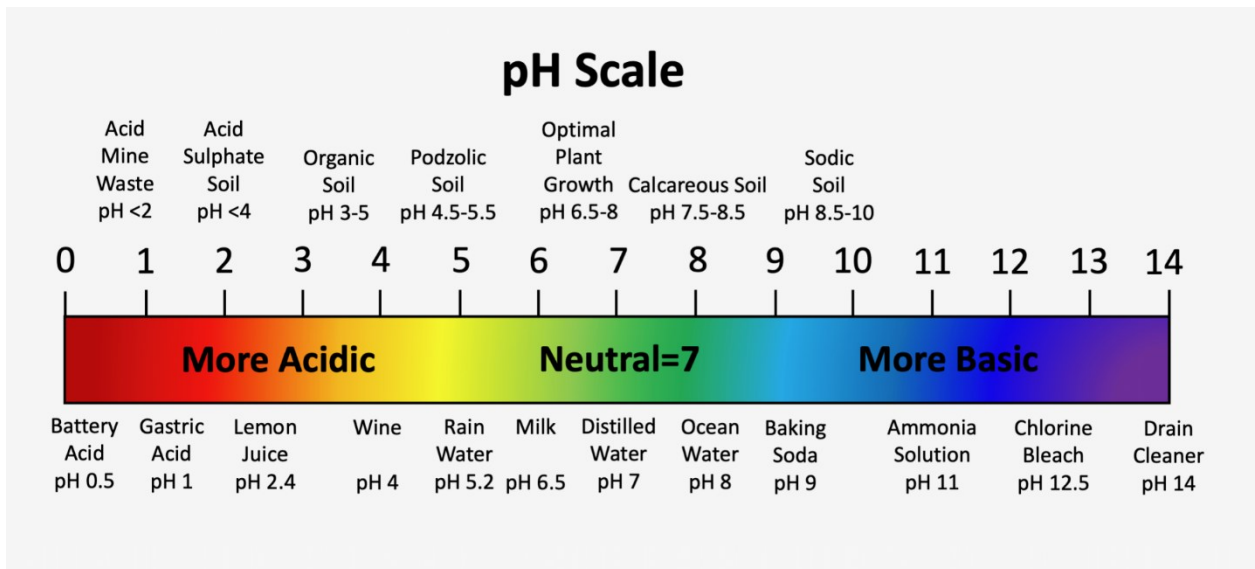
# Compost Experiment

by Samantha Bowen

Prattvillage Garden is currently serving as a working lab for a composting experiment. The experiment area is behind the chapel in the shade. Sondra Henley, my son Logan, and I have embarked on a 6-month long journey of composting. We are using 7 large container tubs loaded with grass clippings and leaves. To certain tubs we have added Black Kow soil, fertilizer, or worms (each of the tubs are labeled). Each week we record data of environmental conditions, observing the changes in the compost, and measuring the amount of fertilizer tea we are collecting from each bin after adding 1 gallon of water. This is with the hopes of finding out which combination of materials will produce the most fertilizer tea and which combination will degrade the fastest. The fertilizer tea is being used in the Prattvillage Garden. The compost will also be used in our community gardens. This is a great opportunity to reuse the waste we collect from our gardens.

## Soil PH Training coming soon!

Anthony Yarbrough is willing to teach others how to use the ph machine to do so. The training time will be announced soon. Be watching for the schedule in the weekly news. And yes, you can have your soil tested!



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)



## Long Lasting Effects of Winter on Grass in Alabama

The freeze we had this December and then the cold snap in March is still showing its effects on our turfgrass across Alabama. I have received numerous calls from homeowners for complaints, especially on Centipede and St. Augustine lawns having large “dead” areas of turf or patchy spots of dead growth all throughout the lawn.

Centipede grass and St. Augustine grass both have poor cold tolerance, more so than Zoysia and Bermuda and do not do well in extremely low temperatures. The very cold weather we experienced over Christmas weekend 2022 was enough to cause some winter kill in both of these grasses all by itself, but the late March frost, after the turfgrass had begun greening up also added to the problem.

This spring’s long spell of cool weather extended the amount of time grasses spent in “limbo” between spring green up and rapid growth. Although grass begins to green up when the soil temperature reaches 60 degrees F, it does not begin vigorous root and runner growth until after soil temperatures are above 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

Since the soil temperatures stayed below 70 for quite a while, centipede and St. Augustine roots did not start growing and spreading, and this means that fertilizer applications during March and April did not have a meaningful impact causing a delay in regrowth to fill in areas where the grass was killed.

The good news is that the warmer temperature and the continued rain we have received provide a good environment for continued growth for the grass to fill back in on its own or for you to replant, but make sure you are taking good care of the grass you still have to optimize growth before weeds take over.

Centipede grass lawns don’t like a lot of fertilizer so lightly fertilize (no more than 1 lb of nitrogen per 1000 square feet). Mow at a height of 1 -1 ½ inches and never take more than a third of the blade of grass off during a mowing. Use sharp blades and be sure to inspect and change blades as needed. Centipede grass can be more drought tolerant than St. Augustine, but



most all our grasses prefer about 1” of water per week.

Herbicides should be applied in a timely manner and according to label rates on the product being used. Homeowners should make sure the product purchased is labeled for use on the type of turfgrass they have and the type of weed they wish to eliminate, broadleaf or grassy weed? Remember, pre-emergents go out before you see weeds and keep weed seeds from germinating while post-emergents are for weeds you actively see growing.

“Weed and Feed” products should be used with extreme care, or not at all. Weed and Feed products usually contain a high percentage of nitrogen fertilizer along with a post emergent herbicide and in Alabama should only be applied late spring through summer when the grass is actively growing and could use a fertilizer boost. Misapplication of a “Weed and Feed” product on centipede grass lawns can result in centipede discoloration and decline.

For more questions and help with your lawn care needs, please contact the Alabama Master Gardener Helpline at: 1-877-ALA(252)- GROW(4769).

By: Dr. David Han, Extension Specialist Associate Professor Crop, Mallory Kelley and Megan Jones, Home Horticulture Regional Extension Agents

---

“There is no gardening without humility. Nature is constantly sending even its oldest scholars to the bottom of the class for some egregious blunder.”

Alfred Austin

Alfred Austin was a British poet (Born May 30, 1835—Died June 2, 1913)

# Prattville City Fest

Cheri Cook

It was a beautiful day but a HOT day at Prattville City Fest on Saturday, May 13, 2023.

The membership volunteers did a wonderful job greeting visitors to the ACMGA tent, answering their questions and accepting donations for the plants that were left over from the plant sale.

We received donations for 7 booklets *"The Gardening Buzz for Autauga County"*. And at the end of the day, we had a total of \$138.00 for plant donations.

All in all, it was a good day with many contacts, a lot of gardening information given out and a few potential Intern class participants.

Thank you for your participation: Left to right: Glenn Huovenin, Marjorie Hannah, Lanel Tatum, Rose McCauley, back row: Sheila Pearson, Cheri Cook, Ange Trimble, Patrick Cook.

Other workers:

Amy Richardson, Shannon Mayes, Jane Boysen, Samantha Bowen, Cindy Deane and Bionca Lindsey.



The ACMGA Demonstration Garden's YTD Total as of June is 303 pounds for AICC.

Glenn Huovenin

# SEED GERMINATION IN THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

Glenn Huovinen

In the Demonstration Garden we use a number of factors to determine the best time to plant our transplants and seeds to get the best harvests. Here is a list of factors:

## Results and After Implementation of Soil Test Recommendations.

**Time of Year:** After the last frost of the season. The number of days before the first frost of the Fall depending on the vegetable, to be determined based upon the vegetable variety.

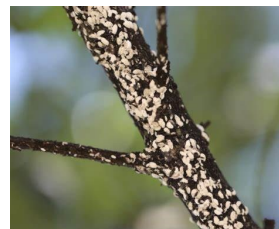
**Soil Temperature:** We discovered in April that some of the seeds that we had planted were not germinating and determined that even though our frost danger was past there was no germination. We purchased a soil thermometer and added another valuable tool to the garden.

The chart below indicates the temperatures for optimum germination. The information in the chart was taken from ACES.EDU.

<b>SOIL TEMPERATURE FOR SEED GERMINATION</b>	
<b>VEGETABLE</b>	<b>OPTIMUM TEMPERATURE RANGE</b>
Beans, Lima	60-85
Beans, Snap	65-85
Beets	50-85
Cabbage	45-95
Carrots	45-85
Cauliflower	45-85
Celery	60-70
Chard, Swiss	50-85
Corn	60-95
Cucumbers	60-95
Eggplant	75-90
Lettuce	40-80
Okra	70-95
Onion	50-95
Peas, English	40-75
Peppers	65-95
Radish	45-90
Spinach	45-75
Squash	70-95
Tomatoes	70-95
Turnips	60-105

# Crape Myrtle Bark Scale

Shared by Anthony Yarbrough



Crape Myrtle Bark Scale

*Acanthococcus lagerstroemiae*

Order: Hemiptera

Family: Eriococcidae

Do the trunks of your crape myrtles and the ground or mulch underneath look like they have been powdered with chimney soot? They are probably infested with crape myrtle bark scale (CMBS). This is a serious new pest of crape myrtle that has been in the state about eight years now and has spread through much of the state. CMBS is easily spread when infested plants are brought into a new area, and once it is established in an area the flightless crawlers can quickly spread to nearby trees by hitching rides on birds, large insects like cicadas, lawn equipment and wind. Fortunately, CMBS only attacks crape myrtles and a very few other plants, like American beautyberry.



Crape myrtles are one of the most popular landscape plants in the South, fitting a landscaping niche that can be filled by relatively few other species. Traditionally, crape myrtles have been free of serious disease and insect pests, but that situation changed with the arrival of CMBS. Because this scale has few natural enemies here, they quickly develop huge populations, producing large amounts of honeydew and sooty mold and causing infested trees to be unsightly and to grow and bloom poorly. These insects don't just make crape myrtles look bad; they also affect shrubs and other plants growing nearby, resulting in heavy accumulations of black sooty mold on these plants as well. Check out the pictures and information in the publication referenced below so you will be able to recognize CMBS if it shows up in your landscape. This

is an easy pest to recognize. Fortunately, it is also an easy pest to control, at least for now.

**Control:** The best way to control CMBS is to avoid bringing infested plants into an area or landscape in the first place. Work closely with your nursery or landscape contractor to be sure any crape myrtles you purchase are CMBS free.

For trees that are already infested, systemic insecticides such as imidacloprid, dinotefuran, or thiamethoxam applied as soil drenches or soil injections are the best treatments available. Late March through May is the best time to treat, but treatments can be applied anytime an infestation is detected and trees are actively growing.

These treatments are easy to apply. Just measure the tree, as described on the product label and in the publication listed below, add the required amount of insecticide to a bucket or watering can, stir in a couple gallons of water and pour this mixture around the base of the tree. Rake mulch away from the tree before treating if necessary to reach the soil and put it back when finished. When applied correctly, a single treatment should give effective, season-long control. The insects will be controlled within a few weeks but expect it to take a few months for accumulations of black, sooty mold and dead scale covers to weather away. Plan on treating again the following year.

See extension publication 2938, Crape Myrtle Bark Scale, Identification and Control , for more information. This publication contains tables with recommended insecticides for both home and commercial application, including brand names, treatment rates and instructions on how to use these soil-applied products.

Blake Layton, Extension Entomology Specialist, Mississippi State University Extension Service.

The information given here is for educational purposes only. Always read and follow current label directions. Specific commercial products are mentioned as examples only and reference to specific products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended to other products that may also be suitable and appropriately labeled.

Mississippi State University is an equal opportunity institution.

Original article from Mississippi State University,

Bug's Eye View Newsletter, No 5 April 18, 2023

Link to original article:



<https://extension.msstate.edu/newsletters/bug%E2%80%99s-eye-view/2023/crape-myrtle-bark-scale-vol-9-no-05>

Link to extension publication 2938

[https://extension.msstate.edu/sites/default/files/publications/publications/P2938\\_web.pdf](https://extension.msstate.edu/sites/default/files/publications/publications/P2938_web.pdf)

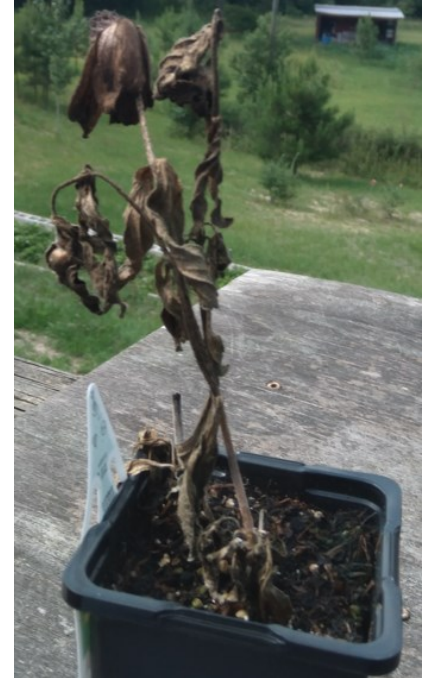


# DYI Irrigation System

John Carrick



I usually start out each Spring keeping all the plants well watered. But typically, as Spring turns into Summer, things come up and I get busy. Before I know it, the poor plants begin to look like the wilted specimen on the right:



This year, I decided to put together an irrigation system.

It was actually a fun activity.

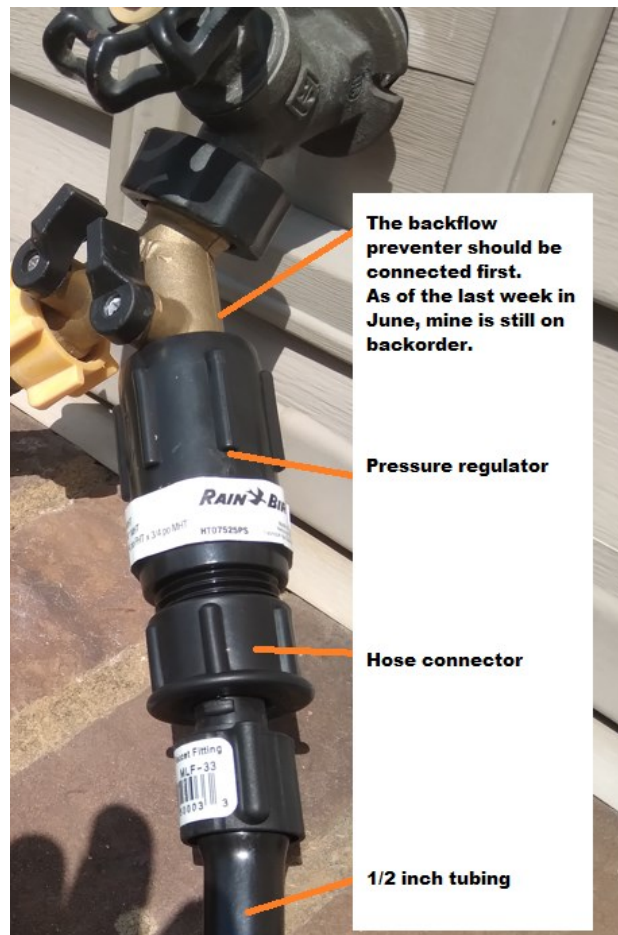
I did not buy an irrigation kit. From past experience, using a kit, I would run out of the parts I needed, while having bags full of parts I never use. You can also make better choices on parts and try different things.

Here is a list of the parts for my DYI irrigation kit:

- Backflow preventer
- Pressure regulator
- Faucet/Hose connector (1/2 inch fitting)
- Drip irrigation hose (1/2 inch tubing)
- 1/2 inch Tubing end caps
- Irrigation micro tubing (1/4 inch)
- Drip irrigation barbed hose connectors
- Drip Irrigation stakes
- Drip irrigation hole punch

Optional

- Drip hose 'goof plugs'
- 1/2 inch irrigation hose connectors
- Watering timer
- Tape measure



**The backflow preventer should be connected first. As of the last week in June, mine is still on backorder.**

**Pressure regulator**

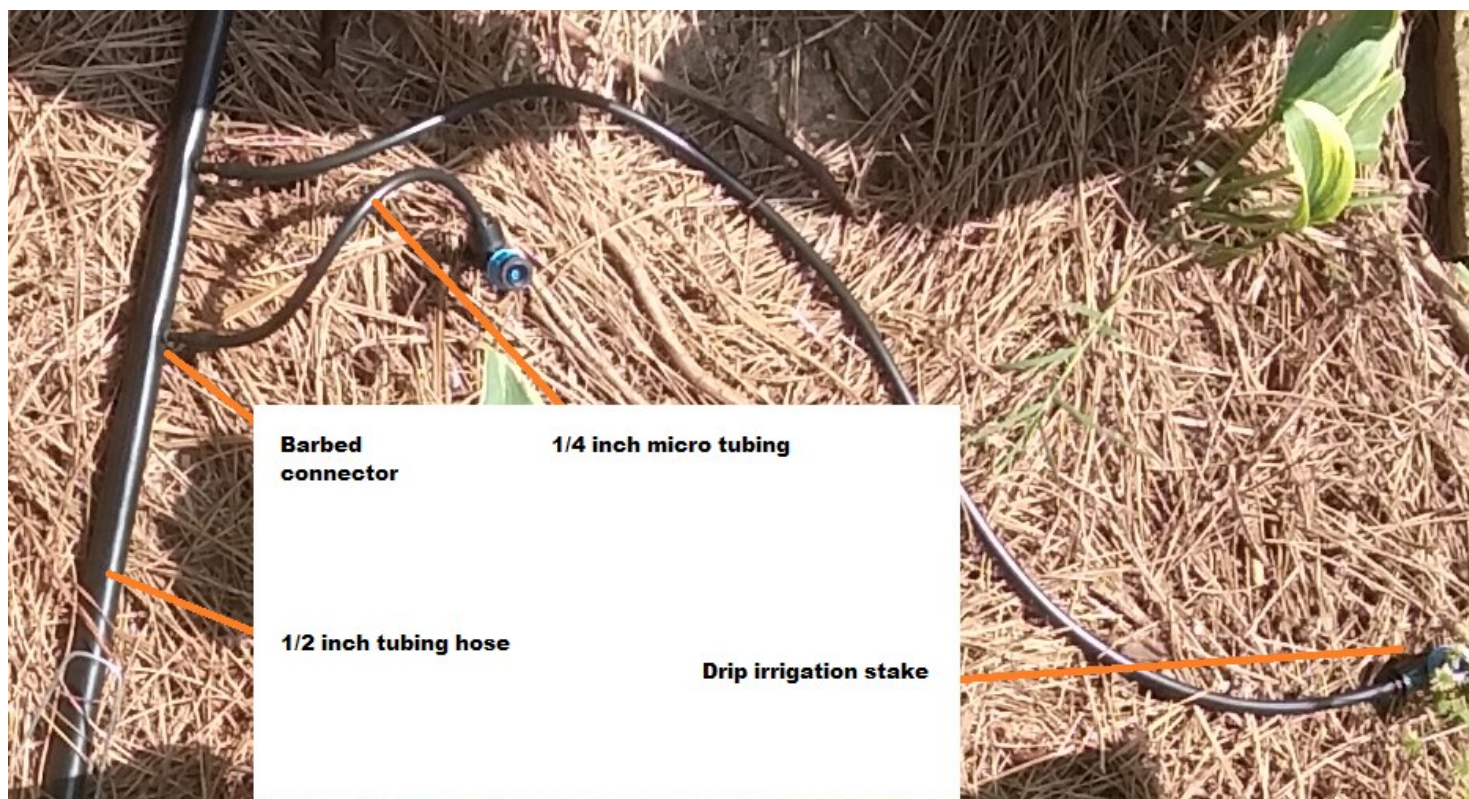
**Hose connector**

**1/2 inch tubing**



I found it easiest to run the 1/2 inch hose tubing first—before connecting to the faucet.

I also found that trying to deal with 200 feet of hose tubing was a challenge, so I cut the tubing into manageable sizes and use tubing connectors as needed.



1/2 inch Tubing connector



## 1/2 inch tubing hose end cap



Once you have the 1/2 inch tubing hose laid out where you need it, you can start looking at where to attach the 1/4 inch micro tubing to get water to your plant.

Once you have decided where to run the 1/4 inch micro tubing , you will need to poke a hole in the 1/2 inch tubing hose. This is where you use the tubing hole punch.



You need to be careful that you do not poke a hole all the way through the hose. I found it best to hold the 1/2 inch tubing in one hand while poking the hole. I could easily tell if the hole punch tube was going too far.

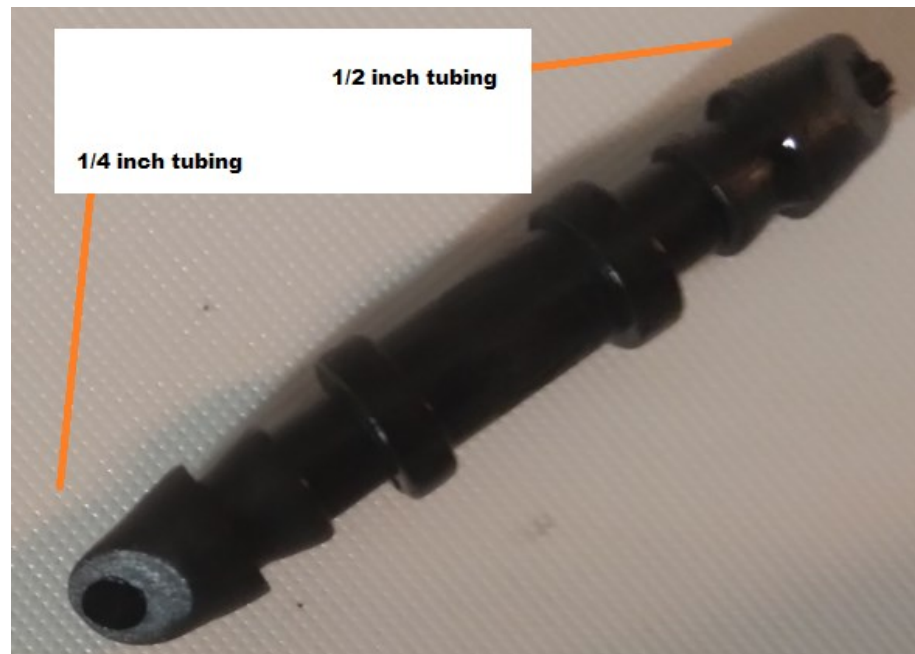
If you poke a hole in the wrong place, or poke all the way through the tube, you can close the hole with a 'goof plug'.

Once the hole has been made in the 1/2 inch tubing, I push the barbed connector into the 1/4 inch micro tubing. I found it easier to put the connector into the micro tubing first—before putting into the hole in the 1/2 inch tubing.

I also found this tough on my fingers, so I wore gloves.



## Barbed connector



Now you need to run the 1/4 micro tubing to the plant.

NOTE: I allow for some extra length with the 1/4 inch micro tubing for potted plants, in case I might want to move the pot.

Once you have decided on the length of your micro tubing, cut the micro tubing and insert the micro tubing into the stake.

Place the stake in the dirt.



Turn on the water to test the system.

Here are the descriptions for the actual parts I purchased:

- Rain Bird HT075BFFSX Rain Bird HT075BFFS Drip Irrigation Backflow Preventer and 150 Mesh Filter, Female, 3/4" Hose Thread, Black
- Raindrip S5900UB Smart Loc Universal, Blue-Black
- Rain Bird HT07525PSI Drip Irrigation 25 PSI Pressure Regulator, 3/4" Female Hose Thread x 3/4" Male Hose Thread
- Raindrip 052020P 1/2-Inch Drip Irrigation Supply Tubing, 200-Foot, for Irrigation Drippers, Drip Emitters, and Drip Systems, Green Polyethylene
- Raindrip Hose End Plug With Cap Plastic 1/2 " Tubing 1/2 " Bulk
- (100 PACK) - Barbed 1/4"-Inch Drip Coupling Fitting (fits 0.140/0.170 ID) 2-Way Connector, Premium Quality Drip Irrigation Tubing Connector Fitting (Coupling)
- MIXC 60PCS Quick-Connect Drip Irrigation Emitters Fan Shape for 1/4 inch Irrigation Tubing, Adjustable Water Flow Drip Emitters with Stake, 360 Degree Sprayer Perfect for Irrigation System Watering Kit
- La Farah 50pcs Drip Emitters for 1/4" Drip Irrigation Tubing, Adjustable 360 Degree Water Flow Drippers on 5" Arrow Stake, Garden Irrigation Drippers for (4-7mm) Watering System

NOTE: I found that I could turn off water to a specific plant with the La Farah stakes. The head on both stakes can be adjusted to control the amount of water going to the plant.

Optional

- 300 Pieces Drip Irrigation Plugs Drip Irrigation 1/4 Inch Tube Closure Goof Hole Plugs Irrigation Stopper for Home Garden Lawn Supplies, Black
- 1/2 inch Irrigation Fittings Coupling Connectors For Rain Bird HT07525PSI Drip Irrigation 25 PSI Pressure Regulator, 3/4" Female Hose Thread x 3/4" Male Hose Thread (1/2" ID x0.6-0.63" OD) 16mm Drip Tubing Barbed Connectors-10 Pcs/pack





# Montgomery Cancer Clinic/Prattville Garden

Jane McCarthy

On Saturday, 11 March 2023, Dian Owens, Cindy Slayer, and Jane McCarthy spent a few hours in the Montgomery Cancer Clinic/Prattville Garden tiding up, weeding and trimming abelias, Japanese maples, jasmine, and Limelight hydrangeas.

The garden was originally designed and installed by the Autauga County Master Gardeners, and is appreciated by many MCC patients and staff.





It has been maintained by men with weed-eaters, so it was in great need of a little TLC and proper pruning techniques.







## Prattvillage Garden Report

by Jane McCarthy

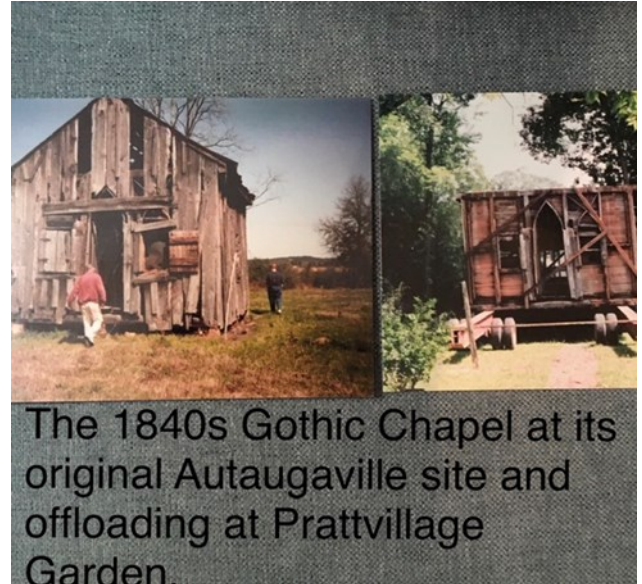
March was still cold, but we layered our clothing and worked every week. Our jobs included renewal pruning, regular trimming, planting, thinning, weeding, labeling, fertilizing, and more weeding.



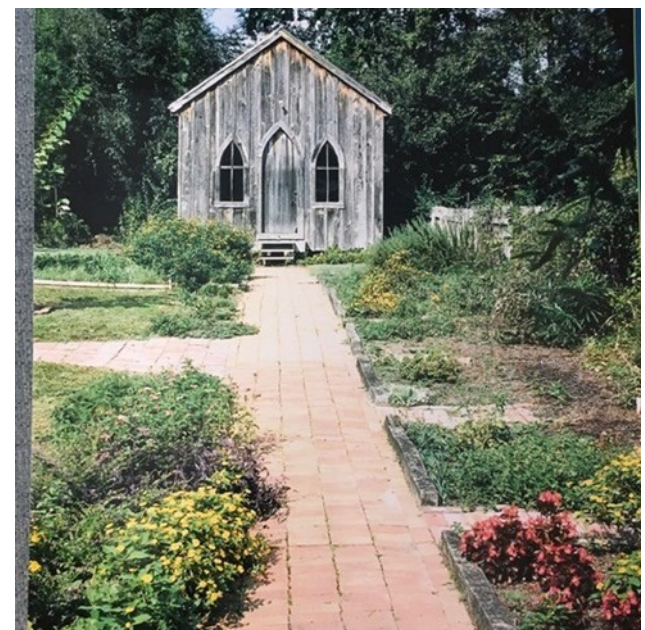
Jane McCarthy pruning climbing rose in early March. (Photo by Mystery Volunteer)

Prattvillage Garden (PVG) has been very popular this Spring. In April, the Autauga-Prattville Public Library reserved PVG for their Spring photo event with a professional photographer.

Also in April, the Autauga County Heritage Association hosted the 75th Annual Meeting of the Alabama Historical Association. Old Prattville and PVG were honored to be on their Historic Prattville walking tour. We shared old photos of the chapel and garden. There were over 40 visitors.



The 1840s Gothic Chapel at its original Autaugaville site and offloading at Prattvillage Garden.



Prattvillage Garden around 1995. (Photographer unknown)





Alabama Historical Association walking tour guides Jane McCarthy, Lori Terrell, and Dian Owens. (Photo by AHA guest Kay Rummel)

There have been many other celebrations in the garden ranging from prom, Easter, Mother's Day, graduation, birthdays, pregnancy, and those are just the ones we knew about. Our calls for reservation information have increased as a result of the new sign at the main gate.

Please share the reservation contact phone is (334) 365-7806.

The Autauga County Master Gardener's main events were the April general membership meeting and our Annual Plant Sale. Both were held in PVG, and they were a blooming success!



New information sign at Prattville Garden main gate. (Photo by Dian Owens)



ACMGA Members attending the April 12, 2023 Business Meeting in the garden. (Photo by Mallory Kelly, Regional Extension Agent)

# Editors Corner

John Carrick



I hope everyone has had a enjoyable and productive growing season so far.

It is hard to believe that we are half way through 2023 and the time has arrived to start planning for the fall growing season.

In an attempt to get better organized, I have set up a couple of new email accounts.

If you have any articles, pictures, etc., to be included in the Dirty Digs newsletter, please send them to the email account:

[dd@happy2bee.com](mailto:dd@happy2bee.com)

Any materials that you want posted to the Autauga Master Gardener web page, please send to the email account:

[web@happy2bee.com](mailto:web@happy2bee.com)

Don't forget to visit the Autauga Master Gardener web page:

<https://mg.aces.edu/autauga/>



Meeting minutes and other information can be found at:

<https://mg.aces.edu/autauga/mg/>



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

Johnny

## 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 September 30**  
Please submit articles, no later than September 15

Prattville Garden  
139 1st Street, Prattville, AL 36067

You can reserve the garden for an event—contact Dian Owens

Honor Bricks:  
<https://donationbricks.com/acmga>

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

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

