GARDEN THYMES

Click <u>here</u> to check out the great Zoom workshop coming up on April 20.

Click <u>here</u> to check out the flyer about our upcoming plant sale on April 24.

Click <u>here</u>to see the Volunteer Hour Categories Guide.

Click <u>here</u> to see notes from the last Advisory Council Meeting.

Master Gardeners of North Alabama, Inc.



Spring, when a gardener's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of when should I plant my seeds and is it too early to plant something, anything, in the garden? It's also the time to think of ways to start accumulating volunteer hours. We have several activities coming up that can help you:

Adopt-a-Spot, *see below*, Zoom Education Workshop on April 20, "*Gardening Basics for Planting Success*", contact Brenda Tapp at <u>tapp0729@gmail.com</u>; MGNA Plant Sale on April 24, contact Sue Khoury at <u>sue.khoury@mginfo.org</u>. You can even earn hours at our picnic on May 15 (more details to follow).

Yes, you can even pick up volunteer hours while having fun at Owen and Allyson Hofer's farm, just across the state line in Tennessee.

If you are an Intern, below are the areas to choose your 50 hours from:

Extension – 25 hours: 4-H, Phones, Ask a MG, Extension work; Greenhouse/Raised Beds – 10 hours; MGNA Projects – 15 hours (Minimum of 2 different projects); Plant Sale, DVG, Adopt-a-Spot, pH Testing, Compost Demonstration, Horticultural Therapy, Habitat for Humanity, Morris P-8 Greenhouse

There are two chair positions that need to be filled: Parliamentarian and Publicity. If either of these positions sounds interesting to you, contact me at <u>j.boothe@bellsouth.net</u>.

Enjoy this time of year, get outside and above all be safe. Janet

Spring is nature's way of saying, Let's party!" ~ Robin Williams

NEW ADOPT A SPOT

MGNA has a new "Adopt A Spot", centrally located in downtown Huntsville at the intersection of Monroe and Washington Streets. It is in the corner of the Lewter's Hardware parking lot. We met on March 25 to prepare the flower bed.

We will meet again on Tuesday, April 13, at 9:00 a.m. to plant the bed with flowers. If a freeze or rain is in the forecast, you will be notified of the date change. There will be a sign-up sheet available to schedule watering, weeding and checking on the bed every two weeks, until fall. Contact Helen Carr at <u>helenlcarr@aol.com</u> to volunteer.

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MGNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

January 2021—December 2021

President: Janet Boothe (W06)

president @mginfo.org

Vice President: Soozi Pline (F19)

vicepresident@mginfo.org

Treasurer: Candy Trowbridge (F05) treasurer@mginfo.org

Secretary: Carol Weand (F18)

secretary@mginfo.org

Directors:

Susan Beam (F17)

January 2021-December 2023

Connie Carr (F16) January 2019—December 2021

Liz Gould (F18) January 2020—December 2022

Walt Lindblom (F13) January 2021-December 2023

Barbara Stansky (W17) January 2020-December 2022

Carolyn Wade (W12) January 2019 -December 2021

All directors can be reached at: director@mginfo.org



MASTER GARDENER PROFILE

Stephanie Boyd



Ann Tippie (W12)

Stephanie refers to herself as an Army brat. She was born in Dover, NJ when her parents were stationed at Picatinny Arsenal. She was raised all over the world, and attended 8 different schools in 12 years. The family moved to Huntsville when Stephanie was in high school and she graduated from Grissom. She lived in Huntsville for 15 years before marrying her South Alabama native husband. They lived in Troy for 3 years and then Andalusia for over 20 years. They returned to Huntsville 3 years ago. Since her parents retired in Huntsville, and her brother and his family live here, she considers Huntsville home.

Stephanie is married to Sandy Boyd who works for Alabama Public Television. They have one son, Jeremy, who is a recent graduate of UAH and works for the Missile Defense Agency.

Stephanie obtained a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from UAH in Marketing with two minors: Communications and Computer Science. She has a Master of Education from Troy University in Instructional Technology.

Stephanie worked, for over 10 years, as a computer programmer for a couple of different companies doing government contract work here in Huntsville. She worked for a couple of years at Lurleen B. Wallace Community College in Andalusia in their Institutional Effectiveness area (marketing, fund raising, publications, etc.) After she decided to spend more time at home raising Jeremy, she helped create two different non-profit organizations. One organization collected and gave out used children's books to every child in the local Elementary school once a year for 10 years. The other non-profit ran a children's clothing consignment sale twice a year for over 15 years. She also managed over 100 children, in character costumes, once a year for over 7 years for an organization that raises money for families of kids with cancer. (The 3 non-profits were during the same time frame while Jeremy was growing up.) The family moved back to Huntsville in 2018 and she currently works in Guest Services at the Huntsville Botanical Garden.

Stephanie became a certified master gardener in winter 2019. She volunteers in several areas including the Morris School Project. She currently holds the position of Chair of the MGNA Awards Committee.

Stephanie and Sandy have an 11 year old dog named Bandit (half black lab and half Brittany) who loves to hunt squirrels.

Creating jewelry and accessories, with a historic method of braiding, using various fibers with or without beads, called Kumihimo, is one of Stephanie's favorite hobbies. She is also teaching herself to loom knit. She loves to read mysteries, anything about gardening, and other miscellaneous things that catch her interest.

She loves succulents and interesting houseplants and grows more of them than vegetables, although she plans to work on that. At the moment, amaryllis is her favorite flower. She is really interested in learning about native plants and hopes to add some to her yard.

Stephanie says she prefers mountains and lakes to the beach. Wherever they are going next is her favorite destination.

She loves to meet new people. If you see her at the Garden, at MGNA events, or anywhere, talk to her, She would be thrilled to get to know YOU!

You can find Stephanie "grubbing" on the nature trail at the Huntsville Botanical Garden every Tuesday.

Zoom Workshop

Earn educational hours by "attending" workshops!

The Master Gardeners of North Alabama present

GARDENING BASICS FOR PLANTING SUCCESS

TUESDAY, APRIL 20th, 2021 12:00-1:00 PM FREE VIRTUAL WORKSHOP VIA ZOOM Register online at: <u>http://www.mginfo.org/workshops</u>



MGNA WORKSHOP LED BY: Lucy Edwards

Lucy is an ACES Home Grounds Regional Agent who will give a dynamic presentation full of her youthful energy and gardening experience!

Using the Right Plant-Right Place concept she will walk us through gardening basics for planting success and answer questions using her wealth of knowledge.

extension

Space is limited and registration is required.



Space is limited — register soon!

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Master Gardeners of North Alabama (MGNA) Annual Spring beners of

Sew eur Join us for the biggest and best Plant Sale yet!

Saturday, April 24 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Madison County Farmers Market 1022 Cook Ave. • Huntsville





Plants for Sale - Below Market Pricing!

- Vegetables Heirlooms & Hybrids • Native Plants shared by Members & Interns
- Flowering Greenhouse Plants from Seed
- Plants for Pollinators & Wildlife "Pass-alongs"
- Garden & Nature-Themed Yard Sale Items
 - Opportunity to Win & Giveaways
 - Seed Exchange (bring viable seeds to exchange with others)
 - Ask a Master Gardener Volunteers
 - Soil PH Testing And Much, Much More!

www.facebook.com/MGofNA/



Presented by the Master Gardeners of North Alabama, Inc., a 501 c (3) Nonprofit Corporation supporting the Alabama Cooperative Extension System since 1988.

MGNA, Inc, | www.mginfo.org | Garden Thymes | 2021 Q2



DEMONSTRATION VEGETABLE GARDEN



Susan Parker (F17)

The winter weather limited our trips, but the garden is in good shape. Our first harvest was February 8 with 18 pounds and second on February 24 with 13 pounds. Produce included kale, cabbage, collards, mustard, and brussels sprout leaves. Despite the severe low temperatures, the vegetables fared quite well. The poor performer was the red cabbage. The Daikon's foliage was burned back but the root continues to enlarge, and the mustard will recover. The cabbages have developed nice heads. The Brussel sprouts have started to develop heads but seem stunted, so that led to another demonstration. Remove the Brussels sprout lower leaves of half the stalks to see if less foliage will lead to increasing plant height.

Occasionally, members of the crew may present a short program or demonstration related to the project on hand. David Grey demonstrated pruning blueberries to the DVG crew.

Construction continues on the wheelchair accessible raised bed. Stepping stones have been provided by HBG to create an even ground underneath the raised bed. Lisa Crump, Jim Mullen and David Grey are the designers and construction crew.

February is potato planting time. Limestone Farmer's Cooperative, in Athens, donated two pounds each of Red Pontiac, Kennebec and Yukon Gold. To prepare the potatoes, Diane Rodgers and Tina Cechovic "chitted" the potatoes to encourage sprouting by storing at 65°F then cutting the potato to contain eyes or buds. The potatoes cured (or healed) for a few days prior to planting.

Planning continues for the crop planting. A naming /numbering system will be added to ensure the DVG crew is on the same page, as to the task to be performed for the day. Crops are to be planned through the fall. A crop chart has been developed to record site, crop, cultivar, date seed to be transplanted, date seeded or transplanted in the garden, soil temperature, first flower, first harvest, insect issues, disease issues, and last harvest. Additional crop demonstrations include planting pollinators, companion plants, trap crops, cover crops, and noting plant phenology (nature indicators). Additional demonstrations will be added, as suggested by the DVG team.

A crop rotation for each bed of the DVG is planned based on the criteria of crop uses or benefits to the soil, i.e.: legume, leafy, vegetable, fruit, and root. Then we will consider the family of past plantings and future family crops such as nitrogen fixing legumes (beans, peas and clover), nitrogen using Brassicas (cabbage family), potassium using Solanaceae (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant), Cucurbits (cucumbers, squash, pump-kin, watermelon), phosphorus using Alliums (onion, garlic), Apiaceae (carrots, parsley, dill), Convolvulaceae (sweet potato), Chenopodiaceae (beetroot) and a miscellaneous category of assorted crops such as sweet corn (high nitrogen and fruit bearing), okra, and assorted herbs. Other factors to consider is the maturity and season of crop (cool vs warm), and commonality of pest (corn root worm in corn and cucumber beetle in squash).

As gardeners, we know that planning guidelines and learning experiences contribute to our demonstration vegetable garden's success.

Continued on next page.

DVG Continued

We welcome interns, new and old members to consider the Demonstration Vegetable Garden (DVG) for your volunteer hours. We have a super crew and lots of laughs. The DVG crew enjoys gardening, learning, sharing ideas and information.

We would love for you to join us. Here are some prerequisites that will take a couple of hours. The Huntsville Botanical Garden requires a volunteer form on file and you have to attend COVID-19 information class (one hour) prior to volunteering. Please contact Debbie Davis ddavis@hsvbg.org. Once you have attended, Debbie informs me that you have taken the orientation class. I will then include you on the weekly email list for work-days.

This past year workdays were on Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the summer depending on the weather. Check the weather on Sunday evening and your email, if inclement weather is expected. Lisa Crump is our co-chair so sometimes the emails will come from her.

If you are interested in volunteering with the DVG, please contact me Susan Parker by email <u>susanp.grdn19@gmail.com</u>. *Looking forward to seeing you!.*



Diane Rogers harvesting mustard greens with the harvest of the day.



David Grey demonstrating pruning, of older canes, with Susan Beam, Tina Cechovic, Lisa Crump and Diane Rogers.



Left:

Harvested two kinds of kale, cabbage and mustard greens donated to the Rose of Sharon Soup Kitchen February 8, 2021.

All photos by Susan Parker

New MGNA Greenhouse

Barbara Stansky (W17) and Carolyn Wade (W12)

As members of Master Gardeners of North Alabama, we were excited to see a dream become a reality, as the hoops of a 60' x 24' greenhouse were erected in January. The greenhouse, located behind the Extension Office in Huntsville, will provide an area for educational workshops for both MGNA interns and the Madison County community. MGNA members will have the space to propagate plants, nurture plant donations and catalog the inventory in preparation for the annual MGNA plant sale.



Photo by: Dan Pline



LtoR: Susan Beam, Walt Lindblom, Joe Hazeltine, Jim Mullen, Paul Wieland, Carlita Edwards, Cyndi Lindblom, Ken Johnson, Kimberly Warner, Brian Knight, Jackie Johnson, Anna Bright and Wayne Bright Photo by: Sinead Lounmala

Thanks to a grant from AMGA, donations from the Hampton Cove Lowe's and a little elbow grease, three demonstration beds have been installed in front of the Extension Office on Cook Ave. The three beds, each approximately 3' x 6', are made up of different materials that a homeowner might want to use. The Pollinator, Herb and Perennial beds will be planted and maintained by MGNA members and interns. Signage will hopefully be added in the next few days and there is room for a rain barrel demonstration area as well. Not to be left out, the compost area behind the new greenhouse has also been upgraded thanks to Jim and Marge Mullen. If you haven't been by the Extension Office lately, stop by and check out the demonstration area and the greenhouse. Hopefully, it will make a positive impression and even teach the public a little about home gardens.



Left: Hampton Cove Lowes donated some of the supplies for MGNA's new demonstration beds at the Extension Office on Cook Avenue, and helped build them! Pictured are Alex Mullins, Manager, Cyndi Lindblom, Janet Boothe, and Lowes employees Amber W, Beth H and Milina S.



New Interns Kimberly Warner, Jacqueline & Ken Johnson and Paul Wieland helped finish up the beds in front of the Extension office.

Below are some examples of	activities that would fall under each category. T ivity should be recorded, please check with you	his list is not all-inclusive. If you have questions
Category	Description	Examples
Catogory	Public Outreach	
	Public Outreach	
Advanced MG Outreach	All hours for the Advanced Certificate are specific to the certificate's topic. The requirements are: At least one community/civic education project related to the study outline; At least one project directly linked to the MG Program and ACES.	 Teach an MG class Give a presentation/workshop at the state conference of to a local MGA Give or support a community education workshop Develop written materials and PowerPoint presentation Conduct other public programs, assist and ACES agen in program delivery
Community Landscape Project	Long-term project at a park, school or streetscape; are primarily beautification and not educational, but has local MGA support	 Maintaining planted beds such as roses, herbs, etc. at botanical garden Maintaining gardens at a public park Landscaping around public buildings/areas (Botanical gardens), courthouses, city halls, historical sites, churcles, cemeteries, etc. Maintaining municipal flower beds for city beautification Installing landscapes at charitable organization building (such as Habitat for Humanity) And other beautification projects
Community Special Projects	NON-landscape activities. Special projects are often designated by each local MGA.	 Assisting fund raiser such as plant sale for botanical garden, special group, plant society, etc. (NOT for MGA or ACES fundraisers) Volunteer work with charities and non-profits (i.e., work ing at a food bank, misc. at botanic gardens) Serving on Arbor Day committee Decorating for open house at a public, historic etc. buildings And other NON-landscape related projects
Home Garden Consult	Home visits in which you assist a homeowner in de- termining and resolving a problem in the home land- scape	 It might also include visiting someone to suggest land- scaping options and designs Remember, ALL chemical recommendations must com from accepted Extension recommendations
MG Helpline	This is related to any Helpline activity. Most Helplines are associated with the toll-free line 877-252-4769	May also include answering hort. questions in the Extension office
Municipal event/county fair	Any event in which you help pass out or display edu- cational (MG or Extension related) information	 Passing out soil sample kits Hosting a garden information booth at a retail garden center or county fair, market or festival Preparations and take down of the display Other activities at a market, fair or festival, such as: judging an event, serving on the planning committee fo a fair, festival, etc.
Public education program	Education programs might be long or short, a single event or on-going workshops. There are always prep and behind the scenes activities for these events. Count your volunteer time here both when you are presenting/teaching at the event and any activities necessary for hosting the event.	 Assist or present at an ACES sponsored workshop/ event A short program at Rotary, Lion's, Garden Club, or othe civic group A speaker's bureau A series of workshops at the local Community College An education woodland walk at a city park or botanic garden Or other events where you assist or teach the public about home gardens or nature's gardens
Support Other ACES programs	This category includes volunteer activities associated with any other ACES program that is not specific to gardening	 Assist 4-H program OTHER than JMG or another such youth garden program Assist the Food & Nutrition agent prepare for a program Answer phone calls for the County office

Youth program	Youth programs are any programs where you work with children or youth	 An outdoor classroom (time with students; see 'Gardens' for planting/maintenance in the garden) Preparing a program to teach children or youth in an outdoor or garden setting (Botanic Gardens, School or other) Teach or assist with JMG
	Education Materials	
Multimedia	Non-print educational materials	 Developing a PowerPoint presentation on a topic of interest Recording/editing/uploading an educational video clip for the internet or a class presentation Developing/maintaining/designing an educational website
Print	Always remember to cite/reference Extension pub's and research based information if stating something as a recommendation. If you mention other information such as folk remedies, be certain to clearly define this information as such	 Extension publications, fact sheets, pest alerts, etc. Specific MGA newsletter article This category is only used for written, educational materials that you volunteer to create – not those for payment. While it is acceptable for members to receive payment for garden articles, the time given under these circumstances does NOT count as volunteer time
	Gardens	
Community food	Gardens for which the produce is donated to a food bank or other non-profit organization	 Maintaining, harvesting or designing a garden that supports
Education/demonstration	Gardens in public locations that are only for edu- cation purposes or to demonstrate a gardening technique	 Designing, preparing or maintaining the garden Hosting or guiding tours through the garden
Horticulture Therapy	Info at www.ahta.org	
School/youth	These are the activities you do to prepare/create the outdoor space where children will learn	 Designing, preparing or maintain the garden PR activities that help to start or sustain the outdoor classroom or similar learning space
	MG Program Support	
Fund raiser	Hours spent on fundraisers for local MGA	Plant sale or cookbook sale
Manage/Teach/Assist Intern Class	Hours spent assisting, teaching or coordinating a MG intern class	 Volunteering as Class Coordinator Preparing handouts for class Coordinating snacks, lunch, etc. Grading exams or teaching a class
MGA/AMGA Administration	Hours spent on association, both local and state, business	 Serving as an officer for either your LMGA or the state AMGA Editing/printing/writing etc. a newsletter Serving on any MGA committee such as the scholarship. Projects, state steering committee etc.
MGA/AMGA Meeting	The business portion of local MGA meetings count toward volunteer hours	 Travel time to/from meetings is only recorded for officers and those with specific meeting responsibilities (committee chairs, bring snacks, presenters, etc.). The educational program portion of the meeting = CEUs. 'MGA Meetings' includes time given to both local and state MGA meetings.



MORRIS SCHOOL PROJECT



Carolyn Wade (W12)

Despite COVID restrictions, and not being allowed in the school, members are volunteering weekly with 5th grade students, at Morris P8. Potatoes have been planted, in buckets, for the students to take home and care for. They report back weekly about the noted growth. Spring vegetables (onions, peas, radishes, spinach and chard) have been planted in their garden. Peanuts are being germinated in water, in the classroom, as an experiment. Will they sprout? Pollinator seeds will be planted, this week, in conjunction with an Outreach Program from UAH, in hopes to establish a Legacy Pollinator Garden at the Morris Greenhouse. We've spruced up the flagpole garden and court-yard. Spring bulbs are blooming. Interested in volunteering with us? We meet on either Tuesday or Wednesday (depending on the weather) at 12:15.



Allyson Hofer, Candy Trowbridge and Helen Carr helping 5th graders plant potatoes.

MGNA CALENDAR

Carolyn Wade (W12)

The MGNA calendar for **member** events is maintained on the ACES website where you log in your hours <u>-Home</u> <u>Page (auburn.edu)</u>. Once you access the Auburn website, you will see several headings across the top -**Directory**, **Calendar**, **Volunteer**, **Hours**, **and etc**.

Click on the **Calendar** tab to see details and sign in information for **events FOR MGNA members** - BOD meetings, General Meetings, picnic, member only workshops, and etc.

Click on the **Volunteer** tab to see volunteer opportunities within our organization. The information provided also contains contact information for the project chair.

MGNA wants to encourage the public to attend our **public** and ACES events. To this end, we will continue to public cize public events on the public website and Facebook pages along with workshops, plant sales, etc. However, MGNA member events – such as our member meetings, picnics, etc., will only be posted on the Hours Home Page. While guests are welcome at these events, we want them to be invited by a member, not just come because the invitation was on our public website.

AMGA ADVISORY COUNCIL

Sandra Pape (F06)

The following notes are taken from the minutes of the last Advisory Council meeting held via Zoom, in December of last year. Note: the November meeting was postponed until December. Sondra Henley, AC Chair, wanted this information shared with all associations. Tim Crow hosted the meeting for Kerry Smith. Tim said Kerry did not have an ACES Report that month.

AMGA Board Report: Michael Thomason, president of Alabama Master Gardener Association (AMGA), gave a report from the Board of Directors. The following persons have been nominated by the Nominating Committee for the 2021 year: Myra Lassere as President, Devonne Ellis as Vice President, Sunita Graves as Treasurer, and Ann Sharko as Secretary. Nominated for the Board of Directors at Large are: Phyllis Clay, Jim Harris, and Sherilyn Osborne. Nominated for the Nominating Committee is Rodney Penuel. Michael thanked the AMGA Nominating Committee, Kate Musso, Chair, Susan Hagen, and Linda Wakefield for their hard work.

The AMGA board meeting, which met the week before this meeting, passed the 2021 budget of \$20,000.00.

Announcements:

Please return your AMGA survey to Elouisa as soon as possible. Her email address is <u>elouisastokes@att.net.</u> If you need to mail it, her address is 2415 Glenn Street, Huntsville, AL 35801. Ginny Holland, AC Nominating Committee, announced the nominations for our officers for 2021. They are: Sondra Henley, from Chilton County, Chair; Debbie Boutilier, from Autauga County, Vice Chair; and Elouisa Stokes, from Master Gardeners of North Alabama (Madison County), Secretary. The representatives voted their approval unanimously by roll call. After the vote, Sondra thanked Ginny for her work with the Nominating Committee and designated Fletcher Harvey as Parliamentarian. Sondra explained that some of the work being done by the officers was not in the Advisory Council Standard Operating Procedures so she asked several folks to look them over and suggest updating them especially in light of doing more things on line. Those who were part of this committee were Fletcher Harvey, Elouisa Stokes, Debbie Boutilier, Ginny Holland, Devonne Ellis, Lyn Webb and Harriet Jackson. The amended SOP was sent with the October minutes.

After much discussion about moving the November meeting, especially the year there is a Presidential election, Ken Cooper, representative from Baldwin County, moved that the updated SOP be accepted as presented. Ginny Holland seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all yeses. Sondra had explained the problems with finding a time which wouldn't conflict with association meetings and finding a place that could accommodate all of us, if we have to move the date.

Note from the Editor:

I am sad to say this will be my last issue of the Garden Thymes. Although I am still a member of MGNA, my granddaughter, Jillian, and I have moved to Greenville, South Carolina. Editing the newsletter has been a learning experience for me ever since I took over from Ken. Your new editor will be Suzanne Kirkhuff, starting with the third quarter issue on July 1. I will miss everyone in MGNA., but hope to see some of you now and then when I am in Huntsville. Think about stopping in, if you are ever out this way. Ann

23 Havercroft Lane, Greenville, SC 29615, 256-679-1097





Master Gardeners of North Alabama Alabama Cooperative Extension System 819 Cook Avenue Huntsville, AL 35801

