



# GARDEN THYMES

Master Gardeners of North Alabama, Inc.

Third Quarter 2021

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Our Spring Plant Sale
- Don't miss Josie Asquith's new column

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MGNA Plant Sale	1,3, 4,14
A Word from Our Prez . .	2
MG Picnic	5
Garden Tour	5
Tales from the Greenhouse	6-7
Adopt-A-Spot	8
MG Profile	9-10
DVG	11
Morris Project	12

## 2021 MGNA Spring Plant Sale

By Co-Chairs Sue Khoury (W13) and Amber Braman (W16)

Hello, I'm Sue and I've been the Plant Sale Chair for several years. I was also Publicity Chair for two of those years as well as Social Media Chair. I'd like to thank all those who were an integral part in making 2021 Plant Sale a success.



To really understand how far we have come, I'd like to share some history:

From MGNA's inception, there was an unwritten agreement to not compete with the Guild managed Huntsville Botanical Gardens (HBG) Plant Sale. However, MGNA desperately needed to expand our fundraising efforts and in early 2014, President Diane Campen was able to work out a deal with HBG to agree to al-

low us to host our own plant sale. Our first year garnered us over \$1K. That was HUGE to us! But a lot was learned from that initial year's sale, so we knew we had potential to increase our profits and to make our sale bigger every year.

Our Plant Sale venue - the Extension office's atrium and classroom - was small and largely unknown by the public. Plus, it soon became unavailable due to the ACES requirements of having agents present

during our fundraising activities. Saturdays were a conflict in scheduling with agents and a new venue was sought.

In 2016, MGNA member Ann Tippie contacted someone who had some authority over the Madison County Farmers Market (FM.) The FM at the time wasn't open in May; our sales were always to be held on the weekend of Mother's Day. (An earlier sale date would test several theories.) We were granted use of the space, and from then until 2020 we pulled in ~200 customers per year, and averaged sales between \$3K-\$5K.

(continued on page 3)



## A Word from the Prez . . . .

### MGNA PRESIDENT Janet Boothe (W06)

Thank You to the many volunteers who made the MGNA Spring Plant Sale a tremendous hit! We had volunteers who helped set-up and tear down, those that helped transport plants to the sale, cashiers, and those who made themselves available to answer questions shoppers had about the plants. We had folks who ran park-a-plant and those who collected items to be sold as Garden Companions (otherwise known as a Rummage Sale). Thanks to all of you who donated from your gardens. Special thanks to Sue Khoury, Amber Braman, Eileen Tully, Josie Asquith, and all who volunteer at Morris Greenhouse. This really was an amazing event! I would like to encourage everyone to play a part in the Fall Plant Sale in September, if you can.

There are many talented Master Gardeners with a wide variety of skills in our association, and we have so much we can learn from each other. Take time to get to know other MGNA members as we work and volunteer together.

I have become very proficient buying online or so my husband keeps telling me! Only recently did I discover not only can I buy online but I can also contribute to my favorite organization at the same time <double fist pump>! If you purchase through that small company called Amazon, using Amazon Smiles, they will donate to MGNA. It does not cost extra and it will help our organization. **Do not** go to amazon.com, instead go to **smile.amazon.com**, the charity is Master Gardeners of North Alabama and just follow the easy directions.

“Gardening is about enjoying the smell of things growing in the soil, getting dirty without feeling guilty, and generally taking the time to soak up a little peace and serenity.” -

**Lindley Karstens**

## 2021 MGNA Spring Plant Sale, continued



In Spring 2020, COVID-19 made our Spring Plant Sale an impossibility due to the associated restrictions of in-person functions. However, Ann Tippie (W12, MGNA former president) who had chaired at least one of our prior plant sales, agreed to chair a postponed sale in the Fall. Despite the virus' continued presence, mask mandates, and other challenges, Ann and her team did a fantastic job, bringing in nearly \$5k for MGNA!

With the 2020 Plant Sale under our belts, I met with the incoming President, Janet Boothe, who approached me to chair the 2021 Spring Plant Sale. Despite my previous protestations, I agreed to Chair in December. I then reached out to Amber in the new year to be co-chair as she had not yet got her feet wet with MGNA. I needed her energy, fresh perspectives, and seed starting expertise. We knew that MGNA was able to host a successful Fall Plant Sale. With the Covid Vaccine roll out in late winter, we were hopeful the 2021 Spring Plant Sale would bring us a good return.

I really wanted to set the bar a little higher than previous years' sales to further improve our fundraising in the coming year. So here is what we did differently:

- Sale date was earlier – April 24 – the same weekend as Panoply and a number of other events, but before there were too many Saturday vendors at the Farmers Market
- Some of our plants were supplemented and grown at Morris P-8 Greenhouse, an effort led by Josie Asquith
- Learn how to manage our own new greenhouse
- Be a “storage” greenhouse for left-over plants to manage for future plant sales
- We added Plant Parking and an associated documented process
- We offered “receipts “on the back of our business cards so exiting customers could contact us later with questions
- We took the initiative to keep an accurate inventory (headed up by Amber) to know what plants to advertise, to know which plants sold and were left over, and what to recommend to grow for the next sale
- We learned that we need all our donors to get us their itemized list of plants well in advance to better advertise the sale



- We placed “Ask a Master Gardener” next to the cashiers and Plant Parking stations so anyone waiting in line could talk to our AAMG experts
- The “rummage sale” room – which I had to work closely with District 4 Commissioner Phil Vandiver to ensure could even happen – would be planned and managed by a Rummage Lead, Eileen Tully
- We boosted online presence with advertisements on Facebook and Nextdoor (the MGNA public Facebook page had grown to >2,500 followers by the time of the sale, making it and Nextdoor our biggest Publicity outlets)
- The “Home and Garden” radio show on WTKI closed up shop last year, so there was no live broadcast. However, WAFF was onsite during our preliminary set-up on Thursday, at FM Manager Michelle Quarles' request, and both Amber and I were interviewed.

(continued on page 4)



## 2021 MGNA Spring Plant Sale, continued from page 3

After lots of hours put in by our interns, master gardeners working from home, and the greenhouse team, we successfully sold 3309 plants, exceeded all expectations and we brought in \$10,080!!! We were beyond excited and proud of our MGNA members' hard work that really paid off this year. We should be able to fund almost all of our 2022 projects!

**.. We  
brought  
in  
\$10,080 ..**

The FM was thrilled to host us this Spring and was supportive of MGNA holding a Fall Plant Sale as we projected that about 400-500 people, as counted by a clicker, attended this last sale, which is roughly twice as many in previous years. Moving forward with support from the Board, MGNA will host a 2021 Fall Plant Sale scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup>.

We will need the support of every member and intern who is able to plan and execute this next fundraiser. As of right now, many of you know that the new MGNA Greenhouse will have to be removed, as we are unable to use the property on which it was erected. Thankfully, Morris P8 will allow us a few more months of use of their greenhouse for this next sale to help us make up for loss of our former greenhouse. With a successful Fall Sale, we will be able to help fund a "new" new greenhouse once a suitable location is secured.

I did an online survey from our Facebook page. The most favorable plants requested to plant this Fall for a fall sale include:

- Trees
- Shrubs
- Spring-Flowering Bulbs
- Perennials
- Heavy emphasis on Natives!
- Annuals (Pansies, Panolas, etc.) and perennials still flowering (Asters, Cone-flowers, etc.)



Please start thinking about the bulbs that have finished flowering that you can divide and bag now. Do look at potting stuff early and not the two weeks before. They will have less transplant shock and will look better at the sale. And, finally, be on the look-out for a worksheet that will help us do a better inventory of our plants for sale. We really want to advertise online and by word of mouth. We want you all to know what we will have at the sale so that you can tell your friends and family what will be available.

We look forward to seeing what you're growing and sharing for this Fall Plant Sale!



(More pictures on page 14)



## 2021 Master Gardener Spring Picnic



Allyson and Owen Hofer

### Photos and Article by Ameree Young (F13)

The weather was perfect for a late spring picnic at the Tennessee farm of Allyson and Owen Hofer on May 15. We were able to enjoy being together outside for the first time in many months. After eating delicious potluck food, we toured the one hundred year old barn, which now has new siding and a new roof.

Then we went for a short hike up a steep hill through the trees and a pasture. Owen also drove his ATV for those who wanted rides through the property.

It proved to be a great outdoor getaway to soak in the sights and smells



This photo by Bob Goodwin

## May Master Gardener Garden Tour

### Photos and Article by Ameree Young (F13)

Master gardeners were able to visit the magnificent garden at the home of Veronica and Charles Durrin in Madison on Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>.

This is primarily a shade garden with mulched pathways leading to different areas with a wide variety of plants. The many mature trees provide a shade canopy for beautiful azaleas, camellias, hydrangeas, ground covers and perennials including hostas, lamium, false indigo, native dwarf iris, cle-

me and penstemon. The water features, which include three bubbling rocks and a stream that flows into a small pond, were designed to attract birds.

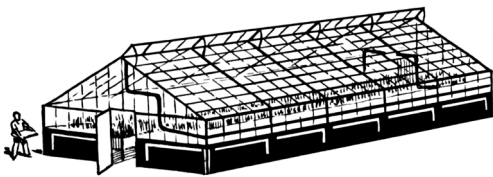
Next year we hope to return in April to see the azaleas in bloom.





# Tales from the Greenhouse

Josie Asquith (1984), Master Gardener Greenhouse Manager,  
in Corroboration with Carol Umstaedter (W 05)



**A new  
quarterly  
column . .**

Welcome to a new column that aims to assist you in achieving a successful undertaking of the technique of plant propagation.

As true with all garden ventures we have successes and failures, but we may improve our chances of success when we strive to learn from one another.

When the Master Gardeners prepare for the spring and autumn plant sales to have sufficient inventory, they must use many propagation techniques to maximize plant production.

One technique used to achieve this is plant propagation by stem cuttings. In the spring, a cutting is taken from the fresh terminal end\* of a plant and the excess leaves are clipped off. Reducing the amount of leaves the stem must maintain allows more energy to be directed to the development of a root system.



Since plants usually need assistance to encourage root growth during propagation, a 45 degree cut was made just below a leaf node of the Autumn Joy Sedum (pictured below left) and a small amount of the outer layer of the stem was scraped off. This cut end (distal) and the scraped stem were dipped into a 1% IBA (hormone) rooting powder like Rootone or Take Root available at your local garden center. The cutting is placed in a small rooting tray or pot and the leaves are continually misted so the leaves will not wilt. Viable leaves, even though cut from their roots, are still capable of conducting photosynthesis and, thus, producing food for the roots to grow.



Although these cuttings of rosemary (above) are from a different plant classification than the sedum, the propagation technique is the same. Cut very small fresh ends, dip in rooting powder, and plant in seedling trays. Both of these plants have been in the trays for about three weeks under a misting system and look as fresh as the day they were cut.

(continued on next page)

## Tales from the Greenhouse, continued

Since purchasing equipment or having space for plant propagation may be a hindrance to some, there are alternative methods for plant propagation when there is a hesitancy to try propagation because of these restrictions.

During a MGNA propagation class this month, Marcus Garner, a Home Grounds and Urban Regional Extension agent in Madison County, discussed propagating with a stick of a plant stripped of all leaves.

Instead of misting the plant either by hand or utilizing a misting system he suggested creating a mini greenhouse effect by placing a plastic bag over the cutting and sealing the bag using a rubber band at the bottom of the plant.

Master Gardener, Carol Umstaedter, decided to conduct an experiment applying both techniques.

Utilizing cuttings from a Miss Molly buddleia, Carol propagated one cutting while leaving the leaves on as for spring cuttings and then propagated a second cutting of the same plant with all other leaves removed as in a winter cutting.

The photo below shows how the plants fared after two weeks.



Carol discovered in this experiment that she left too many leaves on in the spring cutting experiment, but it is still viable. Leaving this many leaves on a cutting may delay the growth of roots since the plant is attempting to maintain the life of all the leaves.

Also noteworthy is that the cuttings in the right pot (the stick or winter cutting experiment) developed small leaves. This may be due to the stimulation of latent buds that emerged while the cutting is still receiving water.



A perfect example of this phenomena would be when cutting early blooming forsythia branches for an indoor arrangement and observing that they will bloom and even develop leaves but will die without any root growth.

The most important aspects of plant propagation which is true with all gardening activities is knowledge, using the right techniques and the hardest aspect to most gardeners, PATIENCE.

\*The Terminal end of a plant is the primary growing point located at the apex (tip) of the stem.



# The New Adopt-A-Spot

By Helen Carr (W98)

What is different about this spot near Lewter's Hardware and earlier Master Gardener Adopt-a-Spot locations? Where do I begin?

I could not have imagined what we were asked to take on with this new bed. No preparation had been done by the city. There wasn't even enough soil, and it hadn't been fortified with mulch or peat. In addition, it was full of trees, large shrubs, perennials, vines, weeds and grass. Did I mention the wild Trumpet Vine growing up into the 15 foot White Birch Tree and curling around and into the conifers and Red Japanese Maple and sprouting all over the bed!!!!

Our first few days were spent pulling this monster off the trees and shrubs and cutting it off everywhere it had sprouted. Of course, you know what "pruning" does. It just "stimulates" a plant to put on more growth!! But we had to start somewhere.

The first weeks were spent battling the weeds and grasses that came up between the flowers we planted. The last frost followed by hot Alabama sun did not help the new plants either. Watering twice a week in the next drought was not enough. The trees and shrubs were drinking in the water as fast as we could apply it.

Lewter's brothers gave us a tree and stump killer to paint on the vine sprouts immediately after they are cut, but now it is raining daily so that has to be put off, as does the Sevin spray and Round Up.

I was so embarrassed by the condition of the bed that I even took down the MG sign. The Master Gardener volunteers who come regularly to tackle these weed issues are the best thing about this bed. In fact, thanks to them, the bed has improved to the point that I have once again put up the sign! The bed still needs soil. So I have asked all the AAS volunteers and now am asking all you who read this, if you have even a bucket of extra garden soil bring it down and dump it between the flowers. Everyone can contribute something!



Connie Carr, Carol Milton

**"I could not have imagined what we were asked to take on with this new bed."**



Jackie Craft Johnson, Tom Simpson and Helen Carr



## Master Gardener Profile

S  
P  
O  
T  
L  
I  
G  
H  
T



**SOOZI PLINE**

Soozi Conner Pline spent her childhood on the sunny Atlantic coast of central Florida swimming, bike riding and “free ranging” in the dense palmetto thickets observing the natural world, destined to become a naturalist one day. Big families were the norm so coming from a family of seven was pretty average, as was being allowed to freely explore outside, for hours, just as long as chores and homework were finished. It was here that Soozie developed her love of nature and gardening! Summers were spent at YMCA camp, with grandparents in Fernandina Beach, FL and Demopolis, AL, and in the backyard pool. The tropical climate allowed for swimming and gardening year round with her family. She has fond memories of her dad’s gorgeous hibiscus and oleander hedges, zinnias, lantana, tomatoes and citrus fruit trees dotting the backyard. Focused on conservation from an early age she opted to dress as “Soozi Spotless” for a Halloween contest in the mid-60’s, which she won, dressed in a white shirt covered in wadded up paper stapled to the shirt with a metal trashcan hanging over her shoulders with rope. Walking to school gave her a view of roadside debris that bothered her because it detracted from the natural beauty found along the route; the costume idea grew from there, and with help from a couple of her brothers she managed to pull it off. One of many Conner Kid wacky ideas!

Soozi’s dad was a Georgia Tech graduate in electrical engineering who moved his way up in the Pershing Missile project where he retired at the age of 52 as the Director. In 1968 the family moved to Huntsville when the Pershing project was relocated to Redstone Arsenal. Jim Conner, an avid gardener by hobby, and his second wife shared their love of gardening by becoming original members of the Huntsville Botanical Garden. Volunteering and giving back to your community were values instilled in the Conner family and Margie and Jim led by example.

Soozi was a member of the graduating class from Grissom High School that attended the first full four years. Oh the fond memories of no cafeteria the first year and McDonald’s lunch delivered the entire school year!!! A teenager’s dream! She was an active member of the student council and other organizations, including the Ecology Club that put on a school wide event for the first Earth Day, ever, in 1972!

(continued on next page)

## SOOZI PLINE (F19)

(continued)

With a Science degree in Agriculture and an emphasis on Horticulture from Auburn University, Soozie secured an Internship at Carriage Hill Farm in Dayton, Ohio; a Living History Farm built in the 1860's complete with farm animals and crops to tend. Following that she received an eight month Internship at the Homesteading School in Bangor, Michigan. The Homesteading School was the first completely organic land trust farm in the United States. The eight students along with the college professor, his wife and family managed 100 acres, ten of which were designated for the vegetable and fruit gardens. If it wasn't grown on the farm, you didn't eat it, well, with the exception of coffee for the farmer's wife and rice for Soozie, the southern girl! Soozie secured a job as the head grower for a 27,000 sq ft greenhouse range near Auburn, AL, selling hanging baskets to K-Marts and Bruno family stores. She was employed by Auburn as the Supervisor of the diagnostics lab for Auburn University's Horticulture Department with emphasis on peach and pecan studies, and was one of three students selected annually to work in the greenhouse range at Auburn.

In the early 80's Soozie married, moved to a 40 acre tree farm in Autaugaville, AL where she had a large garden to tend and two little boys to raise. In the late 80's she went back to school to earn Montessori teaching credentials; she's certified to teach 2 ½ to 12 year olds. She began her Montessori career at the Bruno Academy in Indian Springs, AL outside of Birmingham where her children were enrolled. After a quick year in Mobile as the Head of School for Weinacker's, she headed to Atlanta, Georgia for the next 16 years. She worked her way up from classroom teacher to Curriculum Coordinator to Education Director to Post Secondary Montessori instructor for public Montessori elementary teachers in Atlanta, GA and throughout the SE. After an adventurous teaching experience in the bright and colorful capital city of Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, MX in 2007, Soozie moved back to Huntsville to be close to her aging parents. First working at Huntsville Botanical Garden in the horticulture department and Director of Education and then as the Head of School for the Montessori School of Huntsville, Soozie retired in 2018. After a rewarding career she decided to join the ranks of many fine folks and train to be a Master Gardener.

It was shortly after she moved back to Huntsville that she was reintroduced to a high school friend, Dan Pline, on Facebook no less, and they have been married now for eleven years. They share six children, five grandchildren and an incredible life! Soozie is currently working towards her Advanced Master Gardener certification using her four acre hobby farm as her model at the same time she and Dan develop a sustainable permaculture farm while conserving the native plants and wetlands on their land.

- Vice President of MGNA 2020-2021
- Co-founded the Tennessee Valley Environmental Educators
- Member of the Azalea Society of America and the Alabamense AL Chapter
- Co-founded HBG's Conservation Committee
- Member of the Alabama Plant Conservation Alliance
- Member of the American Horticulture Society
- Member of the International Crane Foundation as a state ambassador for the Whooping Crane, 2017-present
- Served as a board member on HBG's Garden Guild
- Chaired the HBG Native Plants Symposium 2019
- Chaired the HBG Spring Plant Sale 2020
- Serves on the Land Trust of North Alabama's Education Committee
- Former President of the AL Montessori Teachers Association

**“Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value.”**

**Albert Einstein**

# DEMONSTRATION VEGETABLE GARDEN

## Photos and Article by Susan Parker (F17)

March demonstrations continued utilizing the clover and the daikon radish tops as a cover crop. The daikon deep roots bring up nutrients into the topsoil. The hole from the daikon's roots provides aeration, water, and nutrients down into the soil. Another gardening technique utilized bolted mustard that was cut and left in the bed. Mustard's have bio fumigation properties of weed suppressant and manage soil-borne disease.

April weather brought two cold spells that damaged the potato tops, but the plants quickly recovered. Garden peas were planted and have been harvested. The broccoli matured and some harvested. Then the cross striped cabbage worm damaged two pounds of crowns. Asparagus has been harvested. Kale, daikon radish and regular radish crops are complete. Continuing to harvest lettuce and waiting on onions and carrots to mature. Planted in May, pole beans, bush green beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, squash, corn(twice), peppers, basil, sweet potatoes, and eggplant. Planted zinnias and sunflowers at the back of garden as pollinators. Also, will be participating in the "Zooming for Zinnias" promotion sponsored by



Just a sample of harvest mid-May- Broccoli, leeks, radish, daikon radish.

Demonstrations in place with current crops include determinate versus indeterminate tomatoes; protecting corn from crows with wire hoops, netting and forks: tee pee pole beans; trellising cucumbers; growing four cultivars of garden peas with differing characteristics - snow pea pod, sugar snap edible pod, shelling pea, vining and semi vining, early maturing and heat tolerant. Potatoes were planted in four types of raised beds- a wood raised bed, concrete raised bed, adding wood frame as plants grow and a wire bin with leaves continuing to be added as the plants grow. Monitoring soil temperature and practicing crop rotation continue. More demos will be added in June.



Carouby de maussane -snow pea, Sugar Ann Sugar Snap - snap pea with edible pod, Wando -shelling pea.

On Friday March 26 Rhonda Britton ACES Home Grounds, Garden & Home Pest and Taylor Reeder of Williamson County TN Residential/Consumer Horticulture Extension met at the DVG presenting a live video for the master gardeners in Tennessee. The focus was the Grow More, Give More ACES program and the Demonstration Vegetable Garden. A tour of the garden lasted about 20 minutes focusing on the crops and demonstrations. The video is now available on YouTube. <https://youtu.be/7WhbcRgyEec> This was a great honor to have the opportunity to share gardening information with another state's master gardeners, highlight the Demonstration Vegetable Garden, promote the Grow More, Give More program, and represent MGNA.

The garden has yielded 200 pounds of produce year to date. We continue to share our knowledge and love of gardening with each other and garden visitors. A visit to the DVG always has laughs involved. If you are interested in volunteering with the DVG, please contact Susan Parker by email [susanp.grdn19@gmail.com](mailto:susanp.grdn19@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you!



Eileen Tully preparing a pollinator bed for zinnias.



# Morris School Project

Carolyn Wade (W12)

The Morris Elementary School project, a teaching greenhouse on the Morris Elementary school campus, teaches elementary school children effective plant growing practices using outdoor classrooms. The children are also taught hands-on teaching inside the greenhouse.

The Morris Elementary School project finished their lessons for the school year in mid-May. Despite the uncertain school year and schedule due to COVID the children were still able to attend and enjoy the garden classes.

The students cultivated a vegetable garden and were able to reap the benefits of their garden by enjoying salad and coleslaw from their harvested vegetables. The students learned to start vegetables by planting potatoes in pots to take home and nurture on their own. Right before summer break the vegetable beds were planted with peanuts, okra, gourds, garlic, and sweet potatoes that will be tended over the summer and will be harvested by a new group of 5<sup>th</sup> grade gardeners to enjoy in the fall. Pollinator beds to attract bees, butterflies and hummingbirds were erected and planted near the greenhouse.

In early May the students prepared for their annual plant sale which raised almost \$300. One of the secondary objectives of the school project is to teach children to share their resources by giving to others. As a group, they elected to donate \$100 to the new Outdoor Classroom at Morris Middle School.

The program will start back in September with new students and are looking forward to a more normal year than last. If you are interested in volunteering on this project, we meet on Wednesdays from 12pm-1pm. Please contact Carolyn Wade at [cbwade9@gmail.com](mailto:cbwade9@gmail.com) for more information.



Candy Trowbridge helping make coleslaw



Students watering a garden



Middle School Principal William King with donation

## ADVISORY COUNCIL

The AMGA Advisory Council met 4 May in the Lanark Park Pavilion in Millbrook, Alabama. There were 38 representatives from across the state and the new AMGA officers present were introduced.

The 2022 conference will be held on May 2-4, 2022 in Montgomery at the Embassy Suites. The theme is "Behind the Garden Gate." The 2023 conference will be held in Tuscaloosa. Autauga County is planning a fall mini-conference in Prattville in September.

Sherilyn Osborne, Sondra Henley, and Debbie Boutelier presented a short program on their counties' experiences holding fall conferences and a AMGA conference.

Associations took advantage of the Auburn virtual education opportunities via Zoom during this past year. Virtual intern classes were the norm and Associations continued to do Speakers Bureaus outdoors. Some started new programs on pollinators, designed programs with lists of native plants and pollinators or held garden plant sales.

Kerry Smith, ACES coordinator, sent a new table cloth and signage to MGNA for use with Speakers Bureaus or vendor programs. She reminded folks about Zooming Zinnias (donating zinnia seeds to new gardeners and children) and reported that the new Extension Master Gardener Steering Committee is making changes on line. AMGA donated 36,700 pounds of produce to 6,000 families, had 7,000 webinar participants and logged 127,500 volunteer hours. Pat yourselves on the back.

Limestone County is selling homemade note cards with pictures of flowers and have Ask a Master Gardener every week at the Athens City Public Library as a podcast called "Talking Dirty at the Library."

Elouisa Stokes (1981)  
Advisory Council Associate Representative  
and AC Secretary

## Workshop Committee

By Brenda Tapp (W98)

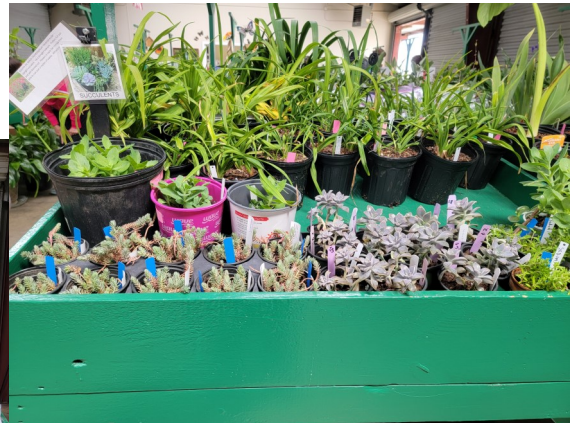
After almost a year off, the workshop committee had a busy and challenging start to 2021. Since meeting restrictions were still in place, one of our first decisions was to plan workshops that could be conducted via Zoom.

We started the season with *Constructing Raised Beds* conducted by MG Soozie Pline. This was followed by *Gardening Basics* by Regional Extension Agent Lucy Edwards in April and *Propagation* by Regional Extension Agent Marcus Garner in May. In June, MG Anna Bright presented *Pollinator Gardens* in honor of **Alabama Beautiful Pollinator Week**. Next in June came a virtual tour of Anniston's Longleaf Botanical Garden presented by Regional Extension Agent Hayes Jackson. Workshop participation has averaged around 40 for each of these, and we have had participants from as far away as Virginia and even Oregon. Word gets around when you are offering accessible and interesting workshops.

Plans are being developed for workshops for the next five months. We know that The Bitter Socialite, Trace Barnett, will conduct a workshop on *How to Plant a Pollinator Garden* in August, and we also have Turf and Gardening for Seniors on the schedule. We have not yet confirmed July's topic. Stay tuned for a delightful surprise.



## More Plant Sale Pictures . . .



## MGNA CALENDAR

**Board Meetings:**  
(10:00 am at Extension Office)

July 6  
August 9  
September 7  
October 11  
November 8  
December 6

**General Meetings:**  
(6:00 pm at Community Fellowship Baptist Church,  
7905 Logan Drive)

July 8  
August 12  
September 9  
October 14  
November 11 (noon meeting)  
December 9 (Christmas Social)

**Check out [www.mginfo.org](http://www.mginfo.org) for upcoming events.**





# GARDEN THYMES

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



Editor: Suzanne Kirkhuff (W07)  
suzanne6816@att.net

Proofreaders: Brenda Tapp (W98)  
Maria Cayse Carolyn Wade (W12)

## 2021 MGNA BOARD

### OFFICERS

President:	Janet Boothe (W06)	president@mginfo.org
Vice President:	Soozi Pine (F19)	vicepresident@mginfo.org
Treasurer:	Candy Trowbridge (F05)	treasurer@mginfo.org
Secretary:	Carol Weand (F18)	secretary@mginfo.org

### DIRECTORS

Susan Beam (F17)	Walt Lindblom (F13)
Connie Carr (F16)	Barbara Stansky (W17)
Liz Gould (F18)	Carolyn Wade (W12)

All directors can be reached at [director@mginfo.org](mailto:director@mginfo.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MGofNA](https://www.facebook.com/MGofNA)  
[www.facebook.com/MGNA-Happenings](https://www.facebook.com/MGNA-Happenings)

Website: [mginfo.org](http://mginfo.org)