



GARDEN THYMES

Master Gardeners of North Alabama, Inc.

Fourth Quarter 2022

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

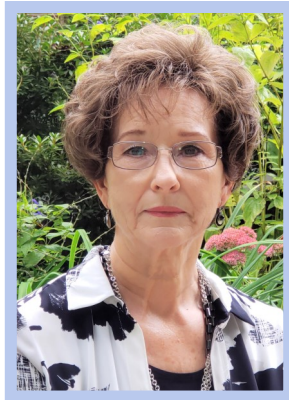
- 2024 Landscape Design Workshop
- Christmas Social

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

By MGNA President, Janet Boothe (W06)



Hello, October—the most glorious month of the year! Cooler weather, leaves beginning to fall from the trees, and never forget Pumpkin Spice Lattes.

The Nominating Committee has the task of identifying candidates for the 2022 Board of Directors. Of the ten elected members on the Board, only three positions will need to be filled for next year, Vice President and two Directors. You can make the committee’s job easier by offering your time and talents to serve in a Board position, or you can suggest other active

Certified MG’s.

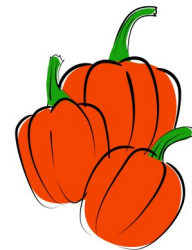
There are two workshops remaining in 2021:

October 18th from 11 AM - Noon, Soozie Pline will be presenting ‘Native Plants’. This will be both in person at the Extension office and via Zoom.

November 17th from 10 AM – Noon, ‘Make Your Own Pumpulent’. This is limited to the first 20 people and the cost will be \$25.

Please remember to log your volunteer hours before December 31st. To remain an active Certified Master Gardener you must have 25 volunteer hours and 10 CEU’s per year. For this year the guidelines for CEU’s will be relaxed and do the best you can but, 25 volunteer hours are still needed. If you came to all of our General meetings,

by year’s end you would have 10 or more volunteer hours and 6 or more CEU’s. Any garden related show you watch counts toward CEU’s. Also, reading gardening magazines or, doing research on a plant for the plant sale. Any time you learn something pertaining to horticulture/gardening that’s CEU’s. Meetings left for this year are the October General meeting, the November Corporate meeting (daytime) and of course, our Christmas Social. All are on the Second Thursday of the month.



“October is crisp days and cool nights, a time to curl up around the dancing flames and sink into a good book.” — John Sinor



YOUR MGNA MEMBERSHIP

By Elouisa Stokes (1981)



It is that time of year again. We have had a good year for membership and as we look forward to 2023, let's encourage everyone to renew their membership to continue all the good works we do. I will begin taking 2023 membership dues at the October meeting. You will need to renew by December 31 to remain an active member. The Membership Form is on-line at mginfo.org. Scroll to the bottom of the main MGNA page and click on Forms and Registrations. Choose on-line forms or mail in forms. Fill out the form. You can mail the form to me at 2415 Glenn Street, Huntsville, AL 35801. If you want your membership cards, enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope and I will send them to you. You can also pick your cards up at any meeting. The cost of Active Membership this year is \$30. If you wish to be an Associate Member, the dues are \$40. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you again soon. For more information, call me at 256-539-2058 or 256-604-8669.

SHIITAKE MUSHROOM WORKSHOP

Pictures and article by Suzanne Kirkhuff (W07)



Rhonda giving her presentation

On September 13 at the Extension Office Rhonda Britton, our extension agent, gave a presentation on shiitake mushrooms and how to start them. After the presentation everyone went outside to the rear of the office.

Rhonda had already cut hardwood logs and presoaked them in water. The class members drilled holes in the logs and inoculated them with shiitake spores. Rhonda dipped each end of the log in melted beeswax and also used a turkey baster to put beeswax on each inoculation. Rhonda had done research on thousands of these in the past.



Helen Carr and Maria Cayse drilling holes



Ann Marshall inoculating the logs



Rhonda squirting bees wax on the inoculated holes



This is the outcome everyone wants



Karen Kirk-Williams

LANDSCAPE DESIGN WORKSHOP PLANNED FOR 2024

By Karen Kirk-Williams (F21)

Committee members are meeting monthly to study and develop plant lists for various growing conditions and landscape styles, as well as learning more about the principles of landscape design and any additional information that will be helpful to workshop participants who will likely range from experienced gardeners to garden novices and Madison County newcomers.

The committee members meet at the Extension office at 10:00 the 3rd Monday of each month (except holidays) to study plants, landscape design, and other helpful info for workshop students, and to develop plant lists for specific needs.

In July, a committee was formed to create a six-week Landscape Design Workshop (LDW) to be offered in spring 2024. The program, led by Karen Kirk-Williams, will be based on one developed by Karen as a Master Gardener in northwest Florida. The goal of the workshop is to extend research-based horticultural information to homeowners and to teach them how to design their own landscape using plant recommendations and horticultural advice from ACES.

During the six-week program, participants will learn design shortcuts to help them with their landscape plans. Instruction will be provided on the best plants using the Right Plant, Right Place concept and on proper planting and maintenance. Each class will consist of a one-hour lecture followed by Master Gardeners working individually with participants to assist in plant selection, etc.

If this is something you might be interested in or would like to join the monthly study group/LDW committee meetings, please contact Karen at karenkirkwilliams@gmail.com.





Walt Lindblom (F13) MGNA Director

Walt Lindblom, an Alabama native, grew up in Jacksonville, AL, the youngest of five children which included three boys. He and his brothers were exposed to cattle farming at an early age since they had an aunt and uncle who raised cattle but had no sons of their own. They cut and bailed hay in the summer, fed cattle in the winter and helped with the rest of the tasks associated with cattle farming. Home was in the country with miles of forest in one direction and the family farm in the other. He says it made for a pretty ideal place to grow up!

Walt was first exposed to making television programs at Jacksonville High School in the late 1960s. That led to a career in television. He worked for Alabama Public Television, the University of Alabama Birmingham Medical Center Television, managed a video production truck for a commercial production company, was the video engineer and helped produce programs for Southern Natural Gas Company, and finally in 1985 landed in Huntsville as a contractor designing and building video systems for NASA. He designed and oversaw implementation of video conference rooms at every NASA center and managed the television production operation at Marshall Space Flight Center. Since 1997, he has been part of a group that oversaw NASA Television's transition from analog to digital television and operates a digital imaging test lab for NASA. He was heavily involved in updating engineering video systems at Cape Canaveral after the Space Shuttle Columbia accident. Currently, he provides video engineering support for all NASA centers and is working in the Artemis program, developing cameras for crew members to use during lunar missions.

It was while working in Birmingham that Walt met Cyndi, and they were married in 1976. In the fall 2013, he and Cyndi took the Master Gardener class, an activity they could do together. As Cyndi has taken on fundraising, the presidency of MGNA and managing the plant sale, Walt has been an active supporter of her activities. In addition, he has become the IT person for MGNA and sets up the sound and projection for our meetings. In addition, he has been a member of the MGNA board for more than a year, completing the unexpired term of a director who had to resign.

Walt is an active member of Community Fellowship Baptist Church, where he serves as a deacon, coteaches an adult Bible study, and provides technical support for worship services. In addition, he is a skilled woodworker and an avid photographer.

While he answers to many titles, he says his favorite is "Granddaddy" with seven grandkids ranging from 9 to 2 in age.

NEWS FROM THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

By Cyndi Lindblom (F13)

The quarterly Advisory Council (AC) was held August 2, 2022 at Petals From The Past. There was an installation of two new board members, Sondra Henley (nominating committee) and Susan Hagen (member at large).

We had a report about our upcoming State Conferences.

- ◆ The 2023 Conference will be in Tuscaloosa, April 3 – 5 at the Bryant Conference Center. More information will be coming out soon regarding speakers and hotels.
- ◆ The 2024 conference will be in Baldwin County at the Daphne Civic Center, April 22 – 24 and the title of the conference is “Paradise Found”
- ◆ The Fall Conference will be held in Auburn on October 6th from 8:30 AM– 4:00 PM, and registration is online (no hard copies will be mailed), deadline is September 19th.

Kerry Smith or a designated person will be visiting each association this fall through spring just to say “Hi” and see how we all are doing. Lynn Webb will be visiting us in October.

CHRISTMAS PARTY AND SILENT AUCTION

By Barbara Stansky (W17)



Our annual MGNA Holiday Social is scheduled for Thursday, December 08! Community Fellowship Baptist Church, located at 7905 Logan Drive in Huntsville, has graciously welcomed MGNA for our monthly meetings all year and will be the location of our annual Holiday Social. The event will begin at 6PM and is a potluck with plenty of time to socialize! A Sign-Up Genius will be forthcoming so watch your emails! There is a **firm limit of 80 attendees** to this event, so register as early as possible!

The evening represents our time of recognizing MGNA members who have been voted to receive various awards. The Jane R. Parks Grant recipients will also be recognized during the evening. The officers for the 2023 calendar year will be installed. It's a busy night that you don't want to miss!

The silent auction will be back again this year! Donations are welcome and much appreciated! (Gift cards from your favorite gardening centers makes a great contribution...) Please contact Cyndi Lindblom if you have an item to donate to this worthy cause!

It's going to be a Holly Jolly Evening in a Burl Ives' sort of way that you don't want to miss! Remember the capacity is for 80 attendees so watch out for that Sign Up Genius email!



December 8

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GARDEN TOUR OF BROSEMER FARM

Pictures and article by Ameree Young (F13)

A small group of Master Gardeners and friends enjoyed the flower gardens at Brosemer Farm on Winchester Road in Huntsville September 14. They saw fields of multicolor dahlias and zinnias and picked a gorgeous bouquet of fresh flowers to take home.

The 100-year-old farm is still owned by the same family. The original antebellum home burned down 50 years ago, but another home was built on the property.

Mary Frances Brosemer sells her flowers at Greene Street Market (on Thursday afternoons) and Bailey Cove Market (at St. Stephens Episcopal Church on Saturday mornings). She also grows flowers for florists, weddings, and events. Every year after the first frost, the dahlia bulbs are dug up by hand, stored in a root cellar during the winter and replanted in the spring.



Here are a few of the floral choices



This was one of the floral arrangements made and taken home



Those who took the tour. (L-R) Alice Brigman, Rhonda Zookeeper, Diane Rogers, Susan Beam, Ameree Young, Alan Markell, Carolyn Peters, Mary Frances Brosemer



THE DEMONSTRATION VEGETABLE GARDEN (DVG)

Pictures and article by Susan Parker (F17)

The DVG crew continued to inform, demonstrate, and educate the public while gardening and sharing ideas throughout the summer. We were always busy, always teaching and always learning.

We were joined this summer by Maddie Shrode, an extension intern from Auburn, who worked with us in all areas of the garden. Since encouraging youth to garden is one focus of the DVG, in July, Connie Carr taught youth volunteers how to harvest Irish potatoes which were then dried and donated. Marge Mullen had planted the Kennebec potatoes in pine straw in March.

The DVG crew is now busy wrapping up another successful summer season and making plans for the fall and next year.



Maddie Shrode, extension summer intern, working in the DVG.



Summer youth volunteers were taught how to harvest potatoes by Connie Carr.



Marge Mullen was busy in March planting potatoes for the summer harvest.



During the growing season, the DVG demonstrated many techniques including the use of pollinator plants, small space gardening, vertical supports, raised beds and wire panels for critter protection.

MORRIS ELEMENTARY HAPPENINGS

Photo and article by Carolyn Wade (W12)

What a great group of volunteers and fifth graders we have at Morris Elementary School this year. In the spring, the students planted peanuts and sweet potatoes for harvest this fall. They dug up almost 40 pounds of sweet potatoes, including one so large it took both hands to hold it up. A North Alabama Food Bank representative told the children how donations help and how much food is donated and given away each year. The children have also learned about cotton, tasted prickly pears, and learned the difference between Florida and Mexican avocados before tasting them. There are lots of plans in the works for refreshing the beds by the greenhouse and installing pollinator beds.

A workday has been planned for Saturday, Oct. 1, to accomplish some of this prior to the children planting the beds. We hope you can help us on the 1st. If you would like to join us this year on Tuesdays or present to the kids on a topic dear to you, please let me know.



Morris kids harvesting sweet potatoes

Carolyn's contact information: cbwade9@gmail.com



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: Carolyn Wade (W12)
Cathy Hales (W05)
Brenda Tapp (W98)

Thank you to our members who submitted articles and pictures and special thanks to our proofreaders. We would have no newsletter without you. . . .
Editor

The Alabama Master Gardener Program is conducted at the county level by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

