

February 2016 CCMGA Newsletter

THE • P r a i r i e M u d •

Mark Your Calendars!

February 23rd, CCMGA Meeting,

Frazer UMC, 9:30 Social

10:00 Program - Trees for Montgomery, Russell Stringer

February 23rd Helpline Training After Meeting

March 2nd, Backyard Veggies, Mike Forster

March 22nd, Urban Forestry and Horticulture Conference, Florence

April 23rd CCMGA Plant Sale, 7 - Noon

May 12-14th AMGA Conference Dothan



President's Message

Greetings,

Hope everyone had the opportunity to enjoy the glorious weather last week! Today, on the other hand, it is bitterly cold...that said, I did have the opportunity to prune by Knockout Roses (thanks Barbara for the reminder). I struggled somewhat because I did not do my late summer pruning. I am hoping for the best.

I heard from several members that they used the warm days to spend time preparing for Spring. As I sit watching the sun set it is clear that we are reaching the equinox (I can track the sun's movement from my kitchen windows, kind of fun to watch it move from the North to the South (West) and then back again). I am trying to plan my winter vegetable garden; Mallory says Valentine's day is potato planting day! Mike Forster will be talking about Spring Vegetable gardening at the March Lunch and Learn...always an informative session. Please take the time at the next meeting to sign up for one of our projects or committees! The Chairs need your support and that is what we are about. Also, think about attending the AMGA Spring Conference in Dothan. It looks like they have a diverse set of speakers and topics.

Stay warm and please stay safe.
With warm regards,
Margaret

Lilly's Garden Composting Class - January 19th



Does Working in Someone Else's Garden Count as Volunteer Time?

Well, it depends. I came across the following ACES guideline while I was looking for guidelines. "Labor in your garden or someone else's in preparation for a program is this volunteer time?" So, as I'm winding down this year's reporting hours, I thought I'd try to anticipate questions this statement may generate and include information that hopefully answers them as it stands today.

Regarding work done in preparation for a program - All work (within reason) in preparation for a program qualifies as volunteer time, whether it's researching the topic, putting together a PowerPoint presentation, printing handouts, assembling a display, performing gardening activities of any kind in anybody's garden, or anything else directly involved in presenting a program. The volunteer category depends usually on the audience but sometimes on the subject covered, so refer to the online service report explanations of Public education program, support other ACES prog's, Youth program, and Manage/Teach/Assist Intern class. This one's a "yes".

Regarding laboring in someone else's garden when it's not in preparation for a program - If we do someone else's gardening chores, it doesn't qualify as a volunteer activity. For example, tilling garden plots for all the neighbors or weeding a flower bed for a friend after surgery. This is usually when we find ourselves working in someone else's garden. It's praiseworthy, to be sure, but the time should not be recorded on our service reports. This one's a "no".

Regarding teaching a gardening skill to someone other than a Master Gardener by demonstrating it in our garden or hers - This one's a "yes" IF we're passing along something that's research-based. Then the time may be reported under Home garden consult. It could be anything from pruning techniques to how to "double dig" a garden plot. In this scenario, we aren't simply doing someone else's routine labor. The key word here is "teaching".

I hope this helps. As always, if you have questions or comments on anything related to reporting hours, please email or call me: marie.tomlin9@gmail.com, 334-271-2710.

-Marie Tomlin

**February Lunch & Learn - Home Landscape Design
Dr. Carolyn Robinson, Over 80 Attendees!**



Urban Forestry and Horticulture Conference March 22nd, Florence, \$45.00

Use the links below for more information and the registration form.

[Registration Form](#)

URBAN FORESTRY & HORTICULTURE CONFERENCE
CROSS POINT CHURCH OF CHRIST
FLORENCE, AL
MARCH 22, 2016
8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

REGISTRATION FORM

Mail completed form and fee by March 15 to:

Mayor's Office, P.O. Box 98, Florence, AL 35631
Registration Limited to 200 persons

Check: Primary Session of Interest:

Urban Forestry/Pesticides Horticulture

Please Print:

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Registration Fee (Includes materials, breaks and lunch) - \$45.00

On Site Registration - \$50

Please make check payable to: City of Florence – 2016 Conference

Questions: (256) 760-6400 **No Registration by telephone**

2016 Water Festival Volunteer Registration Deadline March 15th, 16th, AUM

This is a rewarding and fun event with 4th graders from the Montgomery area schools.
You may use this link to view the website for detailed information:
<https://www.mwssb.com/en/Community/Water%20Festival>

Below is the 2016 Montgomery Water Festival Volunteer Form and T-Shirt order. It **must** be turned in by Friday February 12th in order to get your correct size T-shirt! You will have a ball helping children learn about water and how it impacts their lives in a fun and entertaining environment.

[Open the Registration Form](#)

MONTGOMERY COUNTY WATER FESTIVAL 2016 VOLUNTEER FORM

Yes, I would like to take part in the annual Montgomery County Water Festival.
The Festival will be held on March 15th & 16th, 2016 at Auburn University Montgomery.

_____ Tuesday, March 15th

_____ Wednesday, March 16th

_____ Both Days

No, I will be unable to participate in this year's event.

Preferred Area of Participation (please check all that apply)

Classroom Presenter

Will teach activities to the students and work in the classroom

Presenter Aide

Assists classroom presenter with student activities

Tour Guide

Responsible for a 4th grade class and will lead students from activity to activity

Transportation Guide

Help coordinate transportation and buses
Responsible for getting children to and from buses

Entertainment Guide

Responsible for helping seat children during magic show

Runner

Check with classroom presenters to see what materials may need to be replaced
Serve as a floater to help where needed

Volunteers Name (Contact)

Name of Organization

Address

City, State & Zip

Phone: ()

Fax No.: ()

Email:

T-shirt size: _____ Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ X-Large _____ XX-Large _____ XXX-Large
(Adult sizes only)

Mail or Email Volunteer Form to:

Christy Bise
Alabama Department of Environmental Management – Nonpoint Source Unit
PO Box 301463 Montgomery, AL 36130-1463
Phone: 334-271-7757 Email: cbise@adem.state.al.us

Vegetable Gardening Starts Now!

I know it's cold and damp outside and finishing your IRS 1040 is higher on your "To Do" list than vegetable gardening. But now is the time to get your garden ready for your cool season crops. Whether your vegetable garden is in ground or in a raised bed, it's time to dig up the weeds and grass, and pull up all the dead vegetable plants from last year. Turn the soil over mixing in good organic materials, compost, top soil and a little balanced fertilizer 8-8-8, 10-10-10, or 13-13-13. I also mix in a bag or two of composted manure, which can be purchased at most of the nurseries, Lowes, Home Depot, Wal-Mart, Farmer's Feed & Seed etc. Cool season vegetable plants and seeds can also be purchased in most of these same stores. My cool season favorites include: onions, radishes, cabbage, broccoli, arugula, leaf lettuce and potatoes. ACES publications ANR-0063, ANR-0479 and ANR-47 all have very nice charts for when and what to plant whether it be cool season or summer vegetable gardening. A little work now will pay off all season long.



Helpline Training February 23rd

Carolyn Love- Dorsey and Mallory Kelley will be providing a hands-on refresher course on the Helpline Feb. 23rd starting at 1:00 following the CCMGA monthly meeting.

Please go grab lunch and meet at the Montgomery County Extension Office and bring your laptop or iPad if possible. We are going to need all Master Gardeners to be well equipped in working the helpline so YOU can help Carolyn and me as we train the incoming interns!

Thanks,
Mallory Kelley

Prime Magazine Gardening Articles

Thank you to Cathy Robbins for her article "A Living Memory" for the February edition of Prime Magazine. A direct link to the article is below:
<http://primemontgomery.com/?p=13973>

AMGA Garden Pathways Newsletter & Conference Spring Conference - Dothan, May 12-14

It's really easy to register for the conference with the on-line version. Save a stamp!! Garden Pathways and Happenings and online registration for the conference is available using the links below:

Conference registration:

<http://alabamamg.org/amga-conference/2016-alabama-master-gardeners-conference-dothan-alabama/>

Garden Pathways Newsletter:

<http://alabamamg.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Happenings-Winter-2015-2016.pdf>

January 26th CCMGA Meeting



Bronze Star Awards: Ann Oldham, Mirenda Tatum, Sadler McLemore, Shou-Lih Chang. Not pictured: Daphne Nation, Amanda Griffin, Kathleen McLean.



Silver Star Awards: Dave Toellner, Emily Smith, Cindy Smith, Margaret Cully. Not pictured: Rebecca Byard, Ginger Gammon, Corrine Lauridson, Katherine Pool, Kitty Simpson, Anna Williams.



Gold Star Awards: Barbara Witt and Janice Jackson. Not pictured: Melinda Merijanlian, Randy Merijanlian.



Gold Badge Awards: Carolyn Love-Dorsey, Terese Goodson and Gail Cotney. Not pictured: Eileen Webb

Platinum Badge: Tom McLemore (Not Pictured)

A big thank you to Marie Tomlin for her record keeping on these award hours.

Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs 2016 Scholarship Application

The Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. is once again offering scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Please include the attached notification letter in the next Master Gardener newsletter, and with your co-workers, friends and neighbors. The deadline for applications is April 15th, 2016. Anyone wishing to receive the 2016 application and guidelines should make a request to

Mrs. Jan Heath:
Scholarship Committee
Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Email: jan1396@att.net
Phone: 334-288-0662

February Volunteer Opportunities

Use the link below to view the ACES Volunteer Bulletin
https://gallery.mailchimp.com/5234c2958a6c41950d64692e8/files/Volunteer_Opps_Bulletin_February_2016.pdf

Accidentally Unsubscribe from Our Emails?

Use the following link to get back on.
<http://eepurl.com/uXfnL>



Capital City
Master
Gardener
Association
Montgomery, Alabama

The Prairie Mud will be published monthly on the 15th. Please send photos and announcements to Eileen Webb at capcitymga@gmail.com. If you have a flyer to submit, please make sure it is in a PDF format.

This publication would not be possible without the help from our photographers Janice Jackson and Carolyn Dorsey. Thank you to Sara Brown for seeing that printed copies are mailed each month to those requesting them.

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