

GARDENERS' GAB



Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association

Meetings: Monthly, 2nd Friday at 10 a.m.
Shelby County Extension Office
Columbiana, Alabama

www.shelbycountymastergardenersassoc.com

Alabama MGA: www.alabamamg.org

Alabama MG Program www.aces.edu/mg

Vol. 7, Issue 4

April 2014

Pointers from the President...

I guess our April Fool's Day prank is that we still seem to have some cold days that prohibit our planting! Go away cold! You probably have some pretty spring blooms going on in your yard though. I so love to see those beautiful blooms in my yard!

Oh, yes, I did have a new grandbaby born in March! Her name is Julia Sue and you can ask Trisha Williams or me all about her and we will gladly tell you! We are proud and she is beautiful!

Our Awards Ceremony was outstanding last month! Congratulations to all the recipients. I hope you didn't miss this great meeting to honor these folks.

Please get ready for our May program (the great yard tour of Brandon's yard and our annual plant swap). Directions to Brandon's home will be sent out later. Do get together plants you want to swap or seeds (labeled) you want to share. This is always a great event! Don't forget to bring a chair and sack lunch. Note that we will not be meeting in Columbiana in May. More information to come later. The meeting date is May 9th.

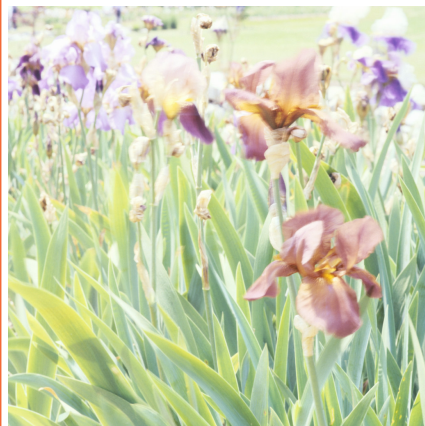
Don't forget the BBG spring plant sale (April 10-13) at the J.C. Penny building at Century Plaza. Just don't go during our meeting time! Also, remember Aldridge Gardens' Spring Plant sale will be May 1-3. Aren't you glad we have these great places to buy our plants?

Thank you, Karen Jensen, for planning our fabulous programs. This month's program with Teresa Blanton on Iris Insights should be very good. Please come to our meetings. We have been averaging over 40 in attendance each month. That is outstanding and we have so much fun meeting with our friends.

Watch for e-mails about excellent programs Nelson provides for us. Last month's program on Pollinators was excellent, but only 5 people attended. The next one is April 10 and it is on Landscape Plants Diseases and Good and Bad Bugs! It begins at 10:00 and is free.

I am hoping to see some of you at the Jubilee Conference at the end of this month.

Your President,
Susan Seng



THIS MONTH'S MEETING
Friday, April 11th

Tentative Program: All You Need to Know
about Idyllic Iris

Don Nelson, Master Iris Grower/Breeder
or Teresa Blanton, Iris Society President

Please bring a covered dish to share!



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4—Cathy Canant
5—Ginny Whitaker
8—Aprille Hayes
12—Edith Johnston

16—Jo Lowden
19—Diane McKinnon
28—Jane Harris & Sybil O'Brien
30—Phillip Inman

ALABAMA GARDENER'S CALENDAR FOR APRIL

FRUITS & NUTS - Season for strawberry planting continues. Start spray program for all fruits. Plant raspberries and blackberries and continue budding apples and peaches.

SHRUBS - Prune spring flowering shrubs after flowering. Fertilize azaleas and camellias. When new growth is half completed, spray all shrubs with a fungicide.

LAWNS - Planting continues. New lawns may need supplementary watering. Also, fertilize at 3- to 6-week intervals. Keep ryegrass cut low, particularly if over planted on Bermuda lawns.

ROSES - Watch for insects and diseases. Keep old flower heads removed. Plant container-grown plants from nurseries or garden centers.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS - Plant early started annuals or bedding plants from nurseries or garden centers. Divide mums or root cuttings. Dig and divide dahlias.

BULBS - Plant gladiolus, fancy-leaved caladiums, milk and wine lilies, and ginger and gloriosa lilies. Feed bearded iris with super-phosphate and spray for borers. Avoid cutting foliage of narcissus or other bulbs until it has turned brown naturally.

MISCELLANEOUS - Spray camellias, hollies, etc., for scale insects. Carefully water newly planted shrubs and trees. Pinch out tips of new shoots to promote more compact shrubs.

VEGETABLE SEEDS - Plant tender vegetables such as beans, corn, squash, melons, and cucumbers. Plant heat-loving vegetables in lower South Alabama.

VEGETABLE PLANTS - Plant tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, sweet potatoes, and parsley.

We want to thank our "Seed Make & Take" presenters Rita Forrest and Edith Johnston for showing us an innovative & inexpensive way to germinate seeds! I NEVER succeed at propagating but, sure enough, I have tiny green tomato leaves in my mini-greenhouse/milk jug. Do you? Can't wait to TASTE them!

And the picture bi-line of our Valentine Bee presenter Loyd Mehaffey in the Shelby County Reporter actually spurred a lady to phone me with inquiries on 'how to' become a beekeeper so I proudly referred her to Loyd. We have SO MUCH TALENT in this organization. I hope you all have some bees in your gardens.

I am so proud too of new intern Paul Saeger, our ROSE MAN. He did an outstanding job instructing us on the names and history of romantic/fragrant tea roses. We are so-o-o knowledgeable now. Makes me want to stroll through the BBG Rose Garden with my camera, when they come in bloom!

April 11th, we are hoping to host an out-of-towner: Bob Nelson, of Cullman AL, who is a Master Iris Grower. Bob is an avid grower and travels around the country attending iris symposiums. We hear he'll be flying home from the Dallas Iris Symposium the night before he address us...yet, he's determined to come! Should he be snow-bound (I hear that happens in Dallas??), Teresa Blanton, a BUSY flower shop owner, and president of the BBG Iris Society will address us. I think we are in for a TREAT: think Spring, think Irises! Come and enjoy!

~Karen Jensen



I have Master Gardener front tag plates available. Cost is \$20. \$10 goes to Extension for agents' use and \$10 goes to the AMGA Endowment. Contact me if interesting in purchasing.

Jeanon Massien ~ Nauzer1@att.net

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

**Shelby County Master Gardeners Association
Minutes – March 14, 2014**

Call to Order: Susan Seng called the meeting to order, lead the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed everyone to our meeting.

Special Thoughts: Susan has newly hatched baby ducks. The Harris' have bluebirds nesting in a birdhouse on their windowsill. Edith is doing well following some health issues. Rhonda was thanked for setting up today. Several mentioned receiving cards from the Sunshine committee (a.k.a. Mary K. Tomas). Jerry Raley brought plant food/seeds to share with everyone.

Minutes were passed out and approved.

Committee Reports:

Projects: Rita told us about a "Concept Garden/Store" at Wal-Mart on 280 to be held March 29 from 10:00 until 2:00. They want people there to tell folks how to plant for spring.

Sunshine: No report.

Website: Nothing new. It is assumed there are no problems as none have been reported.

Communication:

- In Jan's absence, Mary K. announced that Alicia Hall, who is in charge of Trees and Shrubs for the Birmingham Botanical Garden Spring Sale, needs help April 11—13. You can contact her at AliciaKen@att.net. Carol Beard also needs help. Volunteers get to shop early.
- Dianne McKinnon needs help with the Fishing Tournament at Oak Mountain May 14—16, from 8:30 a.m. until noon. They need guides, tackle & worm wranglers, photographers, and arts & crafts help.
- The road trip to Rainbow Omega will be April 25. Lunch will be \$2 paid in advance (give to Jan at the April meeting.)

Awards Ceremony: Trisha Williams (assisted by Deb Kattus and Rita Forrest) presented our first ever Awards Ceremony. Trisha stressed the importance of reporting volunteer/education hours and travel time as Auburn uses these numbers. Cathy Canant presented badges to new interns who had completed all requirements.

- Gold stars were awarded to Karen Kendall and Dianne McKinnon.
- Silver stars went to Judy Bynum, Judy Helm, Deb Kattus, and Jean Whitaker.
- Bronze stars were given to Betty Daigle, Rita Forrest, Beth Glasgow, and Aprille Hayes.
- Top Volunteer Hours were earned by Betty Daigle (intern), Cathy Canant (3rd Place), Mary K. Tomas (2nd Place), and Jeanon Massien (1st Place).
- Top CEU's award went to Mary K. Tomas.
- Special Recognition went to Heidee Vansant for the outstanding newsletter she produces each month. Heidee was also recognized as longest active member (joined 1997).
- Rita Forrest and Jan Rodgers were recognized for their work in Website Development.
- The Shelby County Master Gardener of the Year Award was given to Mary K. Tomas.

The 2014 State Conference will be held April 28—30 in Daphne, Alabama. It was mentioned that several of our members would receive special awards then, including Jan Rodgers, Mary K. Tomas, Cathy Canant, Jeanon Massien, and Trisha Williams.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as printed in *The Gab*.

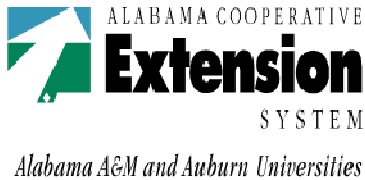
Budget: Deb Kattus reported that the board worked on the budget at our last Board Meeting trying to iron out a multitude of details. With our only income coming from membership dues, the budget was based on 93 paying members. There was discussion about whether we should have a Fund Raiser. There was much discussion about line items in the budget, as well as what should/should not be a line item, how contributions should be handled and projects funded. There was also discussion about the difference between a Budget Plan and an Income Statement. It was decided that further work needed to be done on the budget and that after changes were made, a new budget would be presented in April.

Today's Program: Rita Forrest and Edith Johnston gave a hands-on demonstration of how to make Milk Jug Mini-Greenhouses for Seed Germination. Everyone went home with at least one completed and plans (I am sure) for many more. We had a special treat with The Blessing being sung for us by Mattie Sherman. We then shared a delicious Pot-Luck lunch. There were 40 in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Heerten, Secretary

Treasurer's Report as of 3/14/2014
Submitted by Deb Kattus, Treasurer

Date	Amount	Check #	For	Deposit	For	Balance
2/14/14	\$24.95	1126	State by State Gardening			\$2,947.15
2/27/14				\$22.00	dues	\$2,969.15
2/27/14	\$10.00	1128	AMGA for dues			\$2,959.15
3/14/14	\$59.57	1129	Susan Seng for silent auction			\$2,899.58
3/14/14	\$24.00	1130	Rita Forrest for website			\$2,875.58
3/14/14	\$20.00	1131	AMGA for dues			\$2,855.58
3/14/14				\$44.00	dues	\$2,899.58



'Smart Yard'

Landscape Plants Diseases, Good & Bad Bugs Program Hosted by the Shelby County Extension System

Date: Thursday, April 10, 2014
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Location: Shelby County Extension Office
54 Kelley Lane
Columbiana, AL 35051
Cost: **Free**

For more information and to pre-register contact the Shelby County Extension Office at:
205-669-6763

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System offers educational programs, materials, and equal opportunity employment to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability.

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

Volunteer Opportunities for Spring 2014

Whispers from the Past: A Native American Experience

Aldridge Gardens, **April 6**, 11:30 – 7:30

http://aldridgegardens.com/education/events2013/spring_event_calendar.html/event/2014/04/06/whispers-from-the-past

This event was postponed from the fall. Volunteer for these fun activities: Native American temporary tattoos, puppet show of Native American story, Atlatl – game, loom beading, grinding corn, beading, clay pots, leaf pounding, making coil pots, and gourd art. There will be great food and entertainment as well.

If you are interested in volunteering and would like more information, contact Peggy McVay at 205.682.8019 ext. 2, or pmcvay@aldridgegardens.com.

BBG Spring Plant Sale 2014

Birmingham Botanical Gardens, **April 10 - 13**

<http://www.bbgardens.org/spring-plant-sale.php>

Volunteers are needed to help in the ABC (Annuals, Biennials, and Climbers) booth with Carol Beard. Help is needed on Wednesday for receiving plants and set up, then again on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Don't forget that if you are a volunteer, you may shop at the Volunteer Sale on Thursday prior to opening to the public. Location is the same as last year...J.C. Penny building at Century Plaza.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Carol Beard at 981-2314 or Cabbeard@bellsouth.net.

SCMGA Field Trip to Rainbow Omega

Rainbow Omega, **April 25**, 10:00 – 2:30

<http://www.rainbowomega.org/greenhouses/>

All SCMGA members are invited to meet at Rainbow Omega on April 25th for a tour, lunch (cost is \$2.00 – if reservation is made) and an afternoon of **volunteering** in the greenhouses.

Rainbow Omega is a faith-based, non-profit organization located in Eastaboga, Alabama that provides residential and vocational programs for adults with developmental disabilities. We will enjoy touring the facility and helping in the greenhouse after lunch. You don't want to miss this happy place!

If you are interested in going on this field trip contact Jan Rogers at janrogers@charter.net or call 205.307.9733. We currently have 20 people on the list!

Aldridge Gardens Spring Plant Sale

Aldridge Gardens, **May 1** (4 - 6), **May 2** (9 – 5), **May 3** (8 – 12)

http://aldridgegardens.com/education/events2013/spring_event_calendar.html/event/2014/05/02/12th-annual-spring-plant-sale

All SCMGA members are invited to help at the AG spring sale in one of these areas: Native Plants, Bulbs and other perennials, Containers and Companions, Hydrangeas, Master Gardener information booth. Volunteers get a discount and get to shop on Thursday evening at the Pre-Sale for AG members and AG volunteers only.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Jan Rogers at janrogers@charter.net or 205.307.9733. You may also contact Peggy McVay at 205.682.8019 ext. 2, or pmcvay@aldridgegardens.com to volunteer.

20th Annual Special Needs Fishing Event at Oak Mountain State Park

Oak Mountain State Park, **May 14 – 16**, 8:30 - Noon

All SCMG members are invited to volunteer at the 20th Annual Special Needs Fishing Event at Oak Mountain State Park on May 14-16, 2014. This event is for all special needs students in Shelby and Jefferson Counties and runs from 8:30 to noon each day with lunch being provided for all volunteers. Volunteers are needed to work one on one with the children who are fishing, assist with taking pictures of the students when they catch a fish, assist with arts and crafts, help with repairing tackle, assist with life jackets, serve as guides from one activity to another as well as many other things. Please consider volunteering for this very special event.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Diane McKinnon at fishlady3@gmail.com to sign up.

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

SCMG PROGRAMS 2014

- Apr 11—Teresa Blanton, BBG Pres of Iris Society, or Iris Master Breeder Bob Nelson, Cullman AL
- May 9—Yard Tour & plant swap at Brandon Rasnick's, 316 Oakwell Circle, Calera, 586-7741 Bring bag lunch to eat in garden
- Jun 13—"Southern Wonder Biodiversity" - R. Scot Duncan, BSC Assoc. Professor of Biology
- Jul 11—Flower Arranging workshop—Mary Carr
- Aug 8—"Lovin' the Lake"—Frank Chitwood, Coosa Riverkeeper
- Sept 12—Edible Flower and Ornamentals—Angela Treadaway
- Oct 10—"Snakes & Spiders, Oh My!" - Jay Eubands, Oak Mountain State Park
- Nov 14—"Butterflies of Alabama" - Sara Bright & Paulette Ogard
- Dec 12—Dirty Santa gift exchange and Christmas party



Susan Seng's ducklings



Debbie Dahlin and Barbara Clotfelter helped to repot hundreds of hydrangeas at Aldridge Gardens! The spring plant sale is May 1 - 3



This picture of Mary K Tomas says it all! She received Top Honors for Most CEU Points!



from Susan Seng



Heidee Vansant is honored for her dedication & excellent efforts in producing our monthly newsletter; she's pictured with Susan Seng and Trisha Williams.



Karen Kendall, Diane McKinnon & Loyd Mehaffey (not pictured) earn their Gold Star (500-900 volunteer hours); pictured with Cathy Canant.



Deb Kattus, Judy Bynum, Ginny Whitiker earn their Silver Star (300-499 volunteer hours); pictured with Cathy Canant.



New interns earned their MG badges after achieving 50 volunteer hours - Philip Inman, Teresa Boody, Betty Daigle, Jennifer Gregory and Paul Saeger with presenter Cathy Canant, who earned Most Volunteer Hours.



Center - Teresa Boody and her granddaughter Mattie who sang grace for us before lunch! Adorable!



Photo of Deb Kattus & sister Marlene Nurse (Tupelo MS Spanish teacher); Deb presented us with FIRST proposed budget; it'll be presented for vote in April.

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

Rita Forrest and Edith Johnston demonstrated how to make **mini greenhouses** with recycled milk jugs, potting soil, and seeds. It was fun to watch so many (41+) sharing scissors, seeds and sharpie markers!



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.



Southern Region Master Gardener Conference 2014

The [East Baton Rouge Master Gardener Association](#) is proud to host the 2014 Southern Region Master Gardener Conference. When gardening enthusiasts from Texas to North Carolina converge on Louisiana's capital city, they will be greeted with riveting speakers, entertaining tours and a trade show that promises to offer those 'one-of-a-kind' items.

This event will bring together master gardeners, vendors, horticulture professionals and others with a common interest in all aspects of gardening, the environment and plant sciences. The 2014 Conference Committee is grateful to all who have made this conference possible through [sponsorships](#), in-kind gifts and hundreds of volunteer hours from our members.

Please join us in beautiful [Baton Rouge](#) from October 21st through October 24th at the [Crowne Plaza Hotel](#). Check back often for updates! Hope to see you there!



Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2014–2015



President	Susan Seng	991-7867	gaggy10@gmail.com
Vice-President	Karen Jensen	670-0701	karenkjensen3@icloud.com
Secretary	Beth Heerten	991-5154	beth.heerten@charter.net
Treasurer	Deb Kattus	913-2703	dkattus@charter.net
Communications/Webmaster	Jan Rogers	307-9733	janrogers@charter.net
Historian	Diane McKinnon	620-3282	bamabeach@bellsouth.net
Hospitality	Michele Hill	665-1206	michelerhill@gmail.com
Membership/Advisory Council Rep	Cathy Canant	260-7748	ccanant@bellsouth.net
MG Class Coordinator/AMGA VP	Jeanon Massien	991-3125	nauzer1@att.net
Newsletter Editor	Heidee Vansant	669-3284	heidee.vansant@gmail.com
Projects/Webmaster	Rita Forrest	620-1167	ritabe@bellsouth.net
Sunshine Committee	Mary K. Tomas	781-883-1523	maryktomas@yahoo.com

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.