

# GARDENERS' GAB



## Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association

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

[www.shelbycountymastergardenersassoc.com](http://www.shelbycountymastergardenersassoc.com)

**Alabama MGA:** [www.alabamamg.org](http://www.alabamamg.org)

**Alabama MG Program** [www.aces.edu/mg](http://www.aces.edu/mg)

**Vol. 6, Issue 12**

**December 2013**

## Pointers from the President...

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving! Now for a great Christmas season. It is one of my favorite times.

Please get ready for a fun master gardener meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup> in Columbiana. It is time for our "Dirty Santa" game. Bring a wrapped gift under \$20 to play. We always have so much fun at this party! Don't forget your potluck dish!

We will have our election of officers at this meeting which should be our only business. That should get everyone there.

I guess everyone has taken care of their plants for the winter. It seems the cold air is here for sure and it may be a cold winter. We will stay warm at our winter meetings.

See you all very soon and call folks you haven't seen in a while to encourage them to come on December 13<sup>th</sup>!

Your President,  
*Susan Seng*

### THIS MONTH'S MEETING—Friday, December 13

I am thankful for so many things this year, and near the top of the list is all of you great SCMGA friends. You all were very patient with my inexperience as Vice President and offered me plenty of kind words and encouragement whenever I felt my performance was not up to par. Thank you for allowing me to plan the programs for the year. I hope each of you learned at least one new thing or learned to look at something familiar in a new way.



On a much nastier note, it's time once again for our annual Dirty Santa party. If you've never participated in this before, you've been missing out. You will get to know your fellow members as never before, as even the most demure among us will sprint across the room to snatch that coveted birdhouse from the hands of one of our more outspoken members! Please bring a wrapped gift (\$20 or less) and a dish for our potluck luncheon. We'll meet at our usual place and time (Dec. 13 at 10:00am). See you there!

~Mary K Tomas, VP

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## ALABAMA GARDENER'S CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

**FRUITS AND NUTS** – Plant young pecan and other deciduous fruit trees and grapes. Select bud wood. Start dormant pruning of established fruits. Protect all young trees from rabbit damage by placing wire around the base of the tree. Apply dormant oil sprays for scale.

**LAWNS** – control wild garlic, chickweed, Poa annua, dandelion, and other weeds. Read label on each package of weed killer used.

**ROSES** – Add plants to rose garden. Mulch all plantings.

**ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS** – Plant hardy annual seed without delay. Have you tried violas?

**BULBS** – Continue spring bulb planting.

**SHRUBS** – Planting is still the main activity but delay in case of freezing weather.

**MISCELLANEOUS** – Shrubs, trees, and indoor plants make excellent gifts.



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

10—Susan Seng

16—Betty Harris

20—Sunny Gilliam

25—Helen Titus

## \$\$\$\$\$\$ Treasurer's Report as of 11-20-2013 ~ by Angie Ballew \$\$\$\$\$\$

### BALANCE SHEET

#### Assets

Checking Account	2,731.36
MG Clothing	<u>447.00 ***</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>3,178.36</b>

#### Liabilities

Clothing Deposits	0.00
State Dues Payable	<u>????</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>????</b>

#### Capital

Beginning of Year	3,658.47
<b>Net receipts YTD</b>	<u>-480.11</u>
<b>Total Capital</b>	<b>3,178.36</b>

**Total Liabilities & Capital      \$2,383.76**

\*\*\* MG apparel on hand had not been accounted for and should be shown as an asset. Therefore, a one-time adjustment to capital was made, since it was purchased in previous years.

### INCOME STATEMENT

#### Receipts

	Nov	Year to Date
Memberships ???	960.00	1,542.00
SCMG Clothing	0.00	408.00
Food for Intern Graduation	83.00	83.00
Shelby Co. Fair	150.00	150.00
Voided Ck (No. Shelby Library)	0.00	25.00
JCMGA (excess revenue state convention)	37.56	37.56
Donations	<u>0.00</u>	<u>19.00</u>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>1,230.56</b>	<b>2,264.56</b>

#### Expenses

Food for Intern Graduation	380.96	380.96
State dues	0.00	240.00
SCMGA Website Setup	0.00	24.00
Admin/Office Supplies	0.00	246.19
Embroidery (MG clothing)	0.00	359.64
Bank Fee	-15.00	0.00
J. Massien (paper goods)	0.00	78.88
AMGA Scholarship	0.00	1,000.00
Donation—Native Plant Conf	0.00	250.00
Donation—State Website	100.00	135.00
Badges & Stars	<u>0.00</u>	<u>30.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>465.96</b>	<b>2,744.67</b>

**NET RECEIPTS      764.60      -480.11**

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**Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association  
Minutes – November 08, 2013**

**Call to Order**– Susan Seng called the meeting to order. Rita Forrest lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Susan welcomed visitors and thanked all who set up today in Rhonda's absence. She mentioned Sara Johnson and Debbie Dahlin had both lost their husbands recently.

**Susan recognized five newly graduated** Master Gardeners and asked Brandon Rasnick for a Graduation Report.

**Brandon said the Graduation** at Aldridge was enjoyed by all. He announced Betty Daigle Intern of the Year with over 100 hours and said another half dozen interns already had their required hours.

**Susan announced all submitted who their 2014 dues** before December 13 would be entered into a drawing to be held at our December meeting. Everyone must fill out a new membership form.

**Minutes** were read by Beth Heerten and approved.

**Treasurer's Report** was approved as distributed in the *Gardeners' Gab*. It was reported the \$15 monthly bank fee was removed from our account as it had been changed from business to non-profit.

**Committee Reports:** Rita announced she and Michelle were working with Columbiana United Methodist church on their prayer garden. She also listed several other places that needed volunteer help, including: November 13 at the Montevallo Library to help with the gardens. Contact her or Bill Legg. The United Cerebral Palsy office needs help coordinating garden plans. Katie Vogel always needs help with the University Baptist Church community garden in Montevallo.

**The Intern Class** did a clean-up and planting at the outdoor garden behind the Extension Office. Please visit.

**Native Plant Conference:** Karen Kendall attended Thursday and reported the presenter to be very knowledgeable and stressed the need to consider what you want to attract to your wildlife garden.

**Webpage:** The website is doing well and continues to be tweaked.

**Sunshine:** Karen Kendall is stepping down and transferring her information to Mary K. Tomas, who is taking over for 2014

**Announcements:** Jerry Raley has azaleas, bamboo and hardy oranges to give away – along with several other things. Call him at 249-6940. He lives in Vincent.

**Murray made an announcement** about Armistice Day/Veteran's Day and the importance of remembering those who served. He also told us about the Veteran's Memorial Registry.

**Several blogs** were mentioned as good ones to read, including Brenda Fitzgerald's and "A Way to Garden".

**Tommie Harrison is trying to winterize** her greenhouse and is looking for practical, economical materials for the roof.

**Edith Johnston has ladies "M" Black T-shirt** she isn't using.

**Regina presented the Slate of Officers for 2014** from the Nominations Committee. These are:

President – Susan Seng  
Vice President – Karen Jensen  
Secretary – Beth Heerten  
Treasurer – Debbie Kattus.

Nominations from the floor will be taken before voting takes place at our December meeting.

**Sundra Smith thanked all who served as Mentors.** In turn, Sundra was thanked for all her work with the class.

**The Christmas Party** will be held next month. We will have a Dirty Santa gift exchange, so bring something wrapped to participate.

**Program:** Following a stern warning from Susan to be sure to clean up the mess we were about to make putting our baskets together...

Chaos reigned supreme as we fought over goodies to put into our baskets. After serious work, negotiations with other teams for things we did not have, and – dare I say – some filching from other tables... the judges announced the winners. Brandon and his team won first place with Paul and his team coming in second. All the baskets were beautiful and creative. They were given as door prizes.

**Many brought plants and seeds** to share and no one left empty handed.

**Following adjournment** Tom Harris asked the Blessing and we enjoyed a delicious pot luck lunch.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Heerten, Secretary



## 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 21<sup>st</sup> through October 24<sup>th</sup> at the [Crowne Plaza Hotel](#). Check back often for updates! Hope to see you there!



Photos from the November meeting submitted by Rita Forrest



**EXTRA! EXTRA!**

**PAY YOUR 2014 DUES & SUBMIT YOUR MEMBERSHIP FORM (SEE LAST PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER) BY DECEMBER 13, 2013 AND YOUR NAME WILL GO IN A DRAWING FOR WONDERFUL PRIZES!!!**



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](mailto:Nauzer1@att.net)

I found an idea on Pinterest and decided to do it with my Granddaughter's 1st grade class at Montevallo Elementary since I have been helping them with their seed unit. I bought a pumpkin and took it to the class. I explained that when a scientist wants to know what will happen they plan an experiment and then test it. I told them I did not know if this would work or not but we would become "scientists" and test our idea. Ms. Tonya Littlejohn, their teacher, cut the top off the pumpkin and left everything inside. The kids then filled it with potting soil and kept it moist. We waited about 4-5 days and then we noticed the first sprout starting to appear. After about 10 days we had all of the sprouts that are shown in the picture. During Christmas I am going to plant the whole pumpkin in a pot so we can try to keep the vines alive all winter for planting in the ground next spring. Hopefully as the pumpkin decomposes it will become nice compost for our vines. ~Diane McKinnon



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## The Great Gulf Fritillary

Mary K. Tomas

I hated to miss our November meeting, but I think I had a solid and worthy excuse. You see, on October 12th I received a phone call informing me that my friend and fellow Birmingham Fern Society member Ralph Johnston had died unexpectedly. I hung up the phone and walked outside to have a moment to reflect on this sad news. After a few minutes I glanced up at a tomatillo plant that I hadn't gotten around to pulling out. I was surprised to see that a beautiful Gulf Fritillary caterpillar had only moments before hung itself from one of the branches, its silk fresh and moist. I read all sorts of significance into this unexpected finding, and immediately thought of my friend and named the caterpillar Ralph. I received a good measure of comfort from this event, and later in the afternoon I took a photograph of Ralph.

As soon as I got out of bed the next morning, I rushed out to see Ralph and was amazed by his transformation. The soft and colorful caterpillar I saw the day before had morphed into a crispy and seemingly lifeless curled-up leaf. Of course, I knew this was a chrysalis, but I hadn't expected it to look dead. I snapped a photo, then went inside to consult "Butterflies of Alabama." The Gulf Fritillary remains in its chrysalis for 11-21 days, so I looked at my schedule, relieved that I didn't have too many things planned for that time frame. I continued to check on Ralph daily for 11 days, and then began looking at him several times a day. At 21 days, I was fully obsessed—neglecting responsibilities around the house, canceling engagements—and was checking on Ralph at 20 minute intervals. If I had to leave the house I would make arrangements for one of the kids to babysit, with instructions to call me if they saw any changes.

The November SCMGA meeting fell on the 29th day of Ralph's metamorphosis. During the previous two days he had shown dramatic changes: he became much darker and a bit smaller, and I could begin to see his eyes and wing patterns. I was fully convinced that he would emerge while I was happily arranging a basket of yard clippings with my team, so I decided to call Susan Seng. At first I thought I would use diarrhea or vomiting as an excuse, but when she cheerfully answered the phone I was reminded that it's best to tell the truth, even if I look like a fool. And what a fool I was! I checked on Ralph every 10 minutes until dark (they don't come out at night), positively certain that he would come out at any minute. It wasn't until Sunday that Ralph finally emerged—while I was planting a maple leaf viburnum. He was a glorious miracle. He pumped his veins full of red liquid and remained attached to his empty chrysalis until his wings were dry and stiff. My husband and I watched as he flew away.

I saw Ralph Johnston's wife Sarah this week. You might remember her fern program from earlier this year. I shared this story and the photos with her. It gave me great joy, and I believe Sarah was touched by it. I will always think of Ralph whenever I see a Gulf Fritillary.

I now use this story to convince people to grow native plants in their gardens, because it contains two miracles. Earlier this spring I planted the seeds of the passion vine (*Passiflora incarnata*), specifically to attract the Gulf fritillary. I figured it would take a year or two before I would start seeing them, but that plant was barely 5 months old before those butterflies showed up to lay their eggs. Even more amazing was the fact that the vines had not even flowered, and they were mixed up with more vigorous hyacinth bean and gourd vines. I had to look hard to see the passion vine in that mix. My friend Michelle Reynolds says, "Plant them and they will come!"



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### Membership Dues

It is time once again for paying your Membership Dues. Shelby County local dues are still \$12 & AMGA (State) dues are \$10. If you wish to pay both Local & State Dues, please make one check payable to "Shelby County Master Gardeners Association" in the amount of \$22. It is very important that we have your current address, phone numbers & e-mail address for communication purposes. A membership form is on the last page of this newsletter. We ask that you remit your payment along with your completed membership form to:

**Shelby County Master Gardeners Association**  
**C/O Angie Ballew**  
**5020 Stone Bridge Ln**  
**Birmingham, Al. 35242**

In lieu of mailing, you may hand deliver your payment & membership form at one of the local monthly meetings between now & December. We must remit state dues to the State Treasurer no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>. With this in mind, we ask that you pay your dues no later than **December 13th, 2013** (December monthly meeting).

### Reporting Volunteer Hours

A critical element in the Master Gardener Program is the recording and reporting of volunteer hours. To provide credit for volunteer service and to measure the effectiveness of the Program, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System needs to know what we have done as Master Gardener Volunteers. Online reporting is the method of choice for most. You can find online reporting at: <https://apps.acesag.auburn.edu/mgmanager/login/>. If you do not have internet access or prefer to report hours in the written form, you may use the Alabama Master Gardener Volunteer Service Report Book (ANR-985). You can get one from Nelson Wynn, Shelby Extension Agent or online at [www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0985/ANR-0985.pdf](http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0985/ANR-0985.pdf). If you choose the written method, please have your completed form to Cathy Canant by **December 6th, 2013**. The method you use is up to you, but hours must be on the service reporting system by the 31<sup>st</sup> of December to be counted towards the "Reach for the Stars" program.

If you need assistance, please contact Cathy Canant @ 205-260-7748, [ccanant@bellsouth.net](mailto:ccanant@bellsouth.net) or Cathy Canant, 101 County Road 104, Montevallo, AL 35115.



### Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2013–2014



President	Susan Seng	991-7867	<a href="mailto:gaggy10@gmail.com">gaggy10@gmail.com</a>
Vice-President	Mary K. Tomas	781-883-1523	<a href="mailto:maryktomas@yahoo.com">maryktomas@yahoo.com</a>
Secretary	Beth Heerten	991-5154	<a href="mailto:beth.heerten@charter.net">beth.heerten@charter.net</a>
Treasurer	Angie Ballew	980-7694	<a href="mailto:aklballew@bellsouth.net">aklballew@bellsouth.net</a>
Communications/Webmaster	Jan Rogers	307-9733	<a href="mailto:janrogers@charter.net">janrogers@charter.net</a>
Historian	Karen Jensen	670-0701	<a href="mailto:kkerr50@hotmail.com">kkerr50@hotmail.com</a>
Hospitality	Michele Hill	665-1206	<a href="mailto:michelerhill@gmail.com">michelerhill@gmail.com</a>
Membership/Advisory Council Rep	Cathy Canant	260-7748	<a href="mailto:ccanant@bellsouth.net">ccanant@bellsouth.net</a>
MG Class Coordinator/AMGA VP	Jeanon Massien	991-3125	<a href="mailto:nauzer1@att.net">nauzer1@att.net</a>
Newsletter Editor	Heidee Vansant	669-3284	<a href="mailto:heidee.vansant@gmail.com">heidee.vansant@gmail.com</a>
Projects/Webmaster	Rita Forrest	620-1167	<a href="mailto:ritabe@bellsouth.net">ritabe@bellsouth.net</a>
Sunshine Committee	Karen Kendall	982-0614	<a href="mailto:kkendall247@bellsouth.net">kkendall247@bellsouth.net</a>

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**ALABAMA MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION, INC.  
MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Dear Master Gardener:

The Alabama master Gardener Association (AMGA) Board of Directors has set \$10.00 as the annual membership dues for January 1—December 31, 2014. Members are very important to this Association, and we hope that you will join or renew your membership. To remain on the state membership list and to continue receiving the Garden Pathways newsletter, please complete this application and give it, along with your dues, to your local association Treasurer by December 13, 2013.

Association Name: **Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #'s: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

State and Local Newsletters will be delivered online. County of Residence \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_

Class Information: County of Training: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

In case of Emergency Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (Check one)

	<b>Local Dues</b>	<b>State Dues</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Active Member</b>	\$ 12.00	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Provisional Member (Interns)</b>	No fee	No fee
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Lifetime Member</b>	\$240.00	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Associate Member (Extension Employee)</b>	No fee	No fee
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Honorary Member</b>	No fee	No fee

**Amount Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAKE ONE CHECK PAYABLE TO SCMGA AND MAIL TO:**

Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association  
% Angie Ballew  
5020 Stone Bridge Ln  
Birmingham, Al. 35242