

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 2

February 2014

Pointers from the President...

I guess everyone has a few stories to tell about January 28th! One never knows about the weather in Alabama. Three of my family members were stranded at work and I actually had to walk two miles to get home! Now I would love to hear about your adventures!

Guess what? I didn't freeze my worms! They are thriving in their worm container and making lots of castings for my garden. I hope that some of you learned a lot from Jan about growing your own worms. Please consider working on your own worm container and sharing this knowledge with other folks. We learn so much at our master gardener meetings, don't we?

Our March meeting will be a time to celebrate accomplishments and a time to reveal the number of volunteer hours our members have completed. Please plan on coming to that meeting for sure! I also hope to see you on Valentine's Day for our February meeting when we will be learning about bee keeping.

Once again thank you all for sharing your master gardener knowledge with others. Keep thinking of ways to volunteer and keep enjoying this! I hope to see all of you on February 14 in Columbiana.

Your President,
Susan Seng



THIS MONTH'S MEETING—Friday, February 14

Our February meeting will feature the program "Honey Hunters, the Bees of Shelby County"



We are so-o-o proud of Loyd Mehaffey and George Baldwin who were named MASTER BEEKEEPERS after a four-year-long certification program (they are 2 of 7 in Alabama)! Both are officers in the Shelby County Alabama Beekeepers Association (SCBA), formed in March 2011, with over 50 members who attend monthly meetings on the first Thursday of the month at Chelsea Senior Center. For more info, go to Shelbybees.org. Loyd will present our Valentine's Day program AND he should have honey with him! Be sure to come to this meeting for a SWEET DEAL!

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ALABAMA GARDENER'S CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

FRUITS AND NUTS - Planting season continues for dormant trees. Fertilize fruit trees. Apply half of the fertilizer recommended for grapes now; apply the other half soon after fruit sets. Continue dormant pruning and grafting. Start strawberry plantings.

SHRUBS - Planting season continues. Visit camellia shows to learn of hardy varieties in your area. Graft camellias in Central and South Alabama. Spray all shrubs with a fungicide before new growth starts. Good time to prune all shrubs before new growth starts. Don't prune early-blooming species because flower buds will be removed.

ROSES - Prune hybrid tea roses in South Alabama; delay pruning for a few weeks in North Alabama. Continue planting.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS - Replant early plantings of hardy annuals. Prepare beds for summer annuals.

BULBS - Plant cannas, amaryllis, gladiolus, and zephyranthes in South Alabama; delay planting for a few weeks in North Alabama.

MISCELLANEOUS - Houseplants are beginning to show signs of activity. Fertilize with liquid or soluble fertilizer according to manufacturer's directions. Remember Valentine's Day - why not send roses or a potted plant?

VEGETABLE SEED - Plant some vegetables listed for January in Central Alabama plus collards, salsify, and Swiss chard. Add tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, cauliflower, and Brussels sprouts to cold frames.

VEGETABLE PLANTS - Plant cabbage, onions, lettuce, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1—Joyce Bulford
5—Sherry Hornbuckle
6—Sydney Ellis
& Dot Kachelhofer

9—Sundra Smith
21—Myra Healy
23—Pat Hare
26—Merle Schukoske

A note from Jeanon Massien:

During a recent meeting, I was asked "what are the benefits of AMGA Membership?" I would like to take the opportunity to address this question. I'm sure many of our new members might wonder the same.

AMGA is YOUR organization. Your Board of Directors work tirelessly to give you as much bang for your buck as possible! First and foremost, your quarterly newsletter, *Garden Pathways*, provides you with information on what's happening around the state, upcoming events, and information pertinent to the operation of AMGA. Our annual Conference, though organized and hosted by a local organization, could not be possible without support and funding by AMGA. For those who've never attended Conference I encourage you to do so. Numerous awards, both to individuals and organizations, are presented at Conference. The AMGA Awards Committee puts in numerous hours judging all the submissions submitted yearly by local organizations. For a list of awards go to... <http://alabamamg.org/AMGAwardsMain.html> . AMGA is proud to sponsor these awards to honor outstanding Master Gardeners across the state. Everyone is invited to submit nominations. A list of qualifications can be found on the awards page. The STARS Program, Gold and Platinum Badges and Gem Stone Stars awards are administered by AMGA. In addition to awards, AMGA provides funding for worthy projects. Instructions and the application for funding may be found here... <http://alabamamg.org/Documents/Forms/Project%20Funding%20Program%208%203%2012%20aes.pdf> .

CEU Training is recommended by the MG program and is made available to all members by AMGA. Additionally, Website Administration, Fund Raising, Advisory Council and the Fall Seminar are all programs funded by AMGA.

How do we fund these programs...your AMGA Dues. \$10.00 yearly seems to me a great bargain to have available the great opportunities made available by AMGA. Last but not least, AMGA works in cooperation with ACES to provide support for our Extension Agents and represent your organization around the state. It has been my privilege to work with a great Board of Directors who always strive to provide the most for the membership. Explore the AMGA website if you've not done so. Visit it often for updates. It's your website. Comments and suggestions may be sent to any of the Directors or Officers listed on the website.

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Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association

Minutes – January 10, 2014

Call to Order– Susan Seng called the meeting to order. After Rita Forrest lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, Susan welcomed all, recognizing Paul Saeger's wife, Lanelle, as a visitor, and all the new members from the last class. In Mary K. Tomas's absence, Susan gave the Sunshine report. Rhonda Cohen had back surgery in December and is doing well. Carol Beard is unable to make meetings as she is caring for aging parents. Susan also recognized birthdays for January. Dianne McKinnon is taking over as Historian. She is going to digitize all the scrapbooks.

Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented in The Gab. A team audited the books and all looked good. Deb Kattus is our Treasurer for 2014. She reminded us that it is important to fill out and send in an application form with your check every year so information will get to the correct person.

Minutes were passed out at before the meeting. They were accepted.

Committee Reports:

Communication: Jan Rogers explained that with a new treasurer there will be a slightly different system of reports sent to The Gab. It may look different, but the needed information will all be there in a more simplified way. Jan also asked if there were any bounce backs and explained that only members who had paid their dues would receive The Gab. Additionally, it will be posted on the website. She also reminded us that the "official" date for getting things into The Gab is the 20th of each month.

Today she would be posting information about June Mays' talks at the Emmett O'Neal Library in Crestline this Saturday and next.

Jan told us about Rainbow Omega in Eastaboga. This is a community of mentally handicapped persons who run a greenhouse operation, among other things, and could use additional help twice a year. She suggested we visit for lunch and a tour, and then stay to help with a work session in mid-April and mid-December. This December they set out 7,200 poinsettias.

Membership: Cathy Canant reported that SCMG was 13th of the 38 state organizations with 6,768.25 volunteer hours and 594.5 education hours reported, as well as 34,136 contacts made. She said that new levels will be reached when stars are handed out this year. She also explained that 30 minutes should be reported as .50 and not .30. She fixed this in several people's reports.

Projects: Rita had no report on new projects.

Bylaws: Jeanon Massien told us that the last revision of the bylaws was in 2012. She proposed a change that would add a new elected position of Parliamentarian. This would give the voting board an odd number of members so there would not be the possibility of a tie in any vote taken. We were reminded that only elected officers may vote. Appointed committee heads are non-voting positions. Additionally there were a couple more items that will be sent to us via email. Jeanon's announcement serves as the required thirty day notice before the matter will come to a vote at our next meeting, February 14. This went immediately to the Nominations Committee who recommended Sundra Smith to fill the position. This position will commence February 14, 2014 and will be up for regular nomination/election at the end of 2014 with all other elected positions.

Old Business: The move to make a \$1,000 donation to the Scholarship Fund was tabled until the budget is completed and presented to the membership.

It was announced that the Board met for three hours and tried to iron out a lot of details so these would not take up as much general meeting time. Everyone on the board values input from all our members.

New Business: The 2014 State Conference will be held April 28 – 30 in Daphne, Alabama. There will be no "host hotel" as the meeting will be held at the Civic Center. Information is ready for the website (AMGAConference.org) and mailing should go out within two weeks.

Announcements: There will be a program on "Hydrangeas" held at Aldridge Gardens January 22nd at 1:00. Master Gardeners are invited.

Susan's poor worms froze in the garage over the cold spell.

Jennifer Gregory will produce a directory for us with Bylaws and contact information.

Programs: Karen Jensen announced that next month's program will be on Honeybees and will be presented by Lloyd Mehaffey. She then introduced our speaker for today's program, Paul Saeger, who gave a wonderful and informative program on "Roses". Following the program Susan thanked several people including our speaker. Tom Harris gave the blessing and a delicious Pot-Luck lunch was enjoyed.

There were 42 in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Heerten, Secretary

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Treasurer's Report as of 1/20/14

Beginning Balance \$3,704.10

Deposits \$188.00

Expenditures

- \$890.00 to AMGA for dues
- \$30.00 Petals from the Past for raffle prize

Ending Balance \$2,972.10

We have 92 paid members for 2014

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

SCMG PROGRAMS 2014

- Jan 10—Hybrid Roses with Paul Saeger (42 attended)
- Feb 14—Honey Bees with Loyd Mehaffey
- Mar 14—Seed Make & Take: Rita Forrest & Edith Johnston
- Apr 11—Iris Insights: Teresa Blanton, BBG, Iris Society President
- May 9—Yard Tour at Brandon R's & plant exchange
- Jun 13—Southern Wonder Biodiversity with R. Scot Duncan, Birmingham Southern College Assoc. Professor of Biology
- Jul 11—Flower Arranging with Laura Carr
- Aug 8—Repurposed Yard Art with Brandon R. and 2013 Interns
- Sept 12—Edible Ornamentals with 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



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.

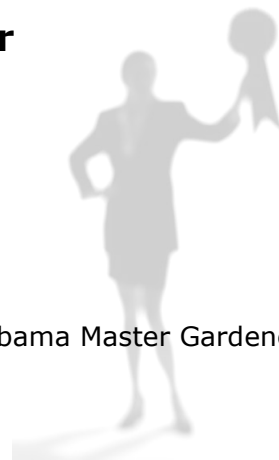
Jeanon Massien ~ Nauzer1@att.net

Shelby County Master Gardener of Year

Award Nomination

Criteria for nominating:

- Nominees for this award must be active members of SCMG
- Minimum of 100 hours of volunteer service in the past year
- Leadership in a service project(s) and/or programs
- Regular attendance at local meetings
- Furthers the image of the Master Gardener Program
- Involved in volunteer activities which supports the mission and purpose of the Alabama Master Gardener Program
- Note: Past award winners and Interns are ineligible



Submission Deadline February 14, 2014 General Meeting.

Please print!

Your Name: _____ Contact #: _____

Nominee: _____

Justification for nomination:

In a typed document state your reasons for nominating your candidate for this worthy recognition. The candidate must meet the criteria mentioned above with your explanation of how they have met these standards.

To submit your nomination:

Fill out this form and attach to your nomination document in an envelop labeled "SCMG of the Year", turn in to Trisha Williams at the February meeting *or* mail to Trisha Williams, 7179 Hwy 51, Sterrett, AL 35147. Nominations must be received by Feb 14, 2014.

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~Photos submitted by Karen Jensen



Karen, in her new gnomes garden vest, introduces speaker Paul Saeger, hybrid rose grower.



Jeanon wins the door prize—artificial red roses!!



SCMG's Corley & Julie Ellis' home and yard as seen during Columbiana's annual Christmas Home Tour.



Front porch view of SCMG's Corley & Julie Ellis' home during Columbiana's annual Christmas Home Tour.

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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
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