

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 3

March 2014

Pointers from the President...

You won't want to miss our March meeting!! Not only will we have a fabulous program (presented by Rita Forrest and Edith Johnston) we will also hold our very first awards program (directed by Trisha Williams). Please come and cheer on the award recipients and enjoy our program. We are so lucky to have such awesome members!

Montevallo's Arbor Day event was great (as always). Some of our members volunteered to work along with Bill Legg. Next year make sure you come because it is almost certain you will learn something as well as win a door prize!

Don't forget to get in on the early rate for the state conference (A Gardener's Jubilee) before April 1. Remember this year the conference will be held in Daphne and is supposed to be better than ever. I'll be mailing my registration in this week.

Remember spring brings many opportunities to volunteer. Aldridge and Birmingham Botanical Gardens will be holding spring plant sales. There's the fishing tournament for special needs students in Shelby County, the Rainbow Omega project and many other opportunities. I am hearing great things about master gardeners working with recovering cancer patients. Thanks go out to all those volunteering in any area!

Congratulations to our new Parliamentarian, Sundra Smith! Thank you, Sundra. We will be happy to have you keeping our meetings orderly!

I hope to see all of you present at our March meeting in Columbiana. Don't forget to bring milk jugs, soil and seeds for our program!

Your President,
Susan Seng



THIS MONTH'S MEETING
Friday, March 14

Program: Seed Make & Take

Our own Rita Forrest and Edith Johnston will teach us how to construct mini-greenhouses for seed propagation. If you want to participate, please bring an empty plastic milk jug (any size), seeds and scissors. Rita will provide soil and markers to label your mini-greenhouse.



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MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1—David Thomas
5—Mary Jo Kynerd
9—Murry Williamson
12—John Driver

14—Phyllis Love
17—Cindy Ferlittl
25—Trisha Williams
28—Jerry Raley

ALABAMA GARDENER'S CALENDAR FOR MARCH

FRUITS & NUTS - Continue strawberry and grape plantings. Bud apples and peaches. Start planting blackberries. Remember, if weather conditions prevent prompt planting, heel the plants in by placing the root system in a trench and covering the soil.

SHRUBS - Fertilize shrubs (except azaleas and camellias) according to a soil test. Late plantings may be made, particularly if they are container-grown. Watch shrubs for harmful insects.

LAWNS - Plant Bermuda, Zoysia, and Centipede in South Alabama. Seed bluegrass and grass mixtures in North Alabama. Fertilize established lawns.

ROSES - Watch new growth for aphids. Begin a spray or dust program. Begin fertilizing.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS - Tender annuals may be planted in South Alabama. Check garden centers for bedding plants.

BULBS - Plant gladiolus every two or three weeks if a long Blooming season is desired. Plant tuberous begonias in pots. Plant dahlias.

MISCELLANEOUS - Check and repair sprayers, dusters, and lawn mowers. Control lawn weeds with chemicals. Delay pruning of fruiting shrubs such as cotoneasters, pyracanthas, and hollies until after flowering.

VEGETABLE SEEDS - Plant hardy crops recommended for January and February. After danger of frost is past, plant tender vegetables.

VEGETABLE PLANTS - Plant cabbage, onions, lettuce, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts in North Alabama; plant tomatoes and peppers in lower South Alabama.

MEMBERS REACH NEW HEIGHTS IN 2013!

By: Cathy Canant

Quite a few of our Shelby County Master Gardeners will be moving up to a new level of volunteer achievement. Most of you, I am sure are aware of our "Reach for the Stars" Program. For those members who are not familiar with the Program or may just need a little reminder... You may have noticed some members have different colored stars or no star attached to their badge, or may even have a different colored badge? The "Reach for Stars" Program was approved and implemented by the State Master Gardener Board of Directors in February 1999. We now have 9 recognition categories. Categories are determined based on the total number of volunteer & CEU hours you have reported since becoming a Master Gardener. The category & requirements for each level are:

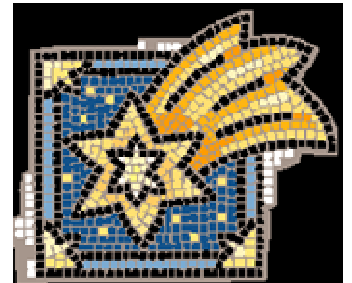
- Bronze Star 100 to 299 hours
- Silver Star 300 to 499 hours
- Gold Star 500 to 999 hours
- Gold Name Badge 1,000 to 1,999 hours
- Platinum Name Badge 2,000 to 3,999 hours
- Ruby Colored Gemstone 4,000 to 5,999 hours
- Emerald Colored Gemstone 6,000 to 7,999 hours
- Diamond Colored Gemstone 8,000 to 9,999 hours
- Lifetime Membership & Name Badge 10,000 plus hours

Please join me in congratulating the Shelby County members who will be recognized for their achievements at our March meeting:

- Bronze Star: Betty Daigle, Rita Forrest, Beth Glasgow, Aprille Hayes
- Silver Star: Judy Bynum, Judy Helms, Deborah Kattus, Ginny Whittaker
- Gold Star: Karen Kendall! Diane McKinnon, Loyd Mehaffey

Awards to be presented at the 2014 conference in Daphne:

- Gold Name Badge: Jan Rogers, Mary Tomas
- Platinum Name Badge: Cathy Canant
- Ruby Colored Gemstone: Jeanon Massien



Congratulations to all & thank you for everything you have done & will continue to do to support Shelby County and the Master Gardeners.

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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.

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Treasurer's Report as of 2/20/14

Beginning Balance \$2,972.10

Deposits \$0.00

Expenditures \$24.95
(State-by-State for raffle prize)

Ending Balance \$2,947.15

We have 92 paid members for
2014

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

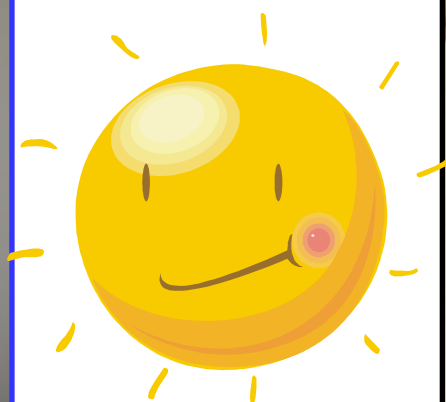
SCMG PROGRAMS 2014

- 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



Lloyd Mehaffey, an Alabama Master Beekeeper and Master Gardener shared bee keeping tips with Shelby County Master Gardeners on Valentine's Day. Shelby County Beekeepers hold monthly meetings & classes at the Chelsea Senior Center. They welcome visitors.

Photo: by Diane McKinnon; byline
by Karen Jensen



This is a 2,000-3,000 year old bee symbol from Manoan Civilization, Crete, Greece. They knew how important bees were way back then apparently!

Photo & byline by 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

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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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