

GARDENERS' GAB



Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association

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

Alabama MGA: www.alabamamg.org
Alabama MG Program www.aces.edu/mg

Vol. 6, Issue 5

May 2013

Pointers from the President...

I hope everyone is ready for our garden visit on Friday, May 10th. This is our regular meeting date but we will be meeting at Edith Johnston's lovely home. Directions are included in this newsletter. Spring has been so pretty and things are blooming everywhere! I hope you have had chances to see pretty gardens (including your own), work in gardens, visit garden shops, volunteer wherever you delight, and just "stop and smell the roses".

The state Master Gardener meeting in Florence was very good. We had several members of our group attend so ask them what they learned. Mary K. Tomas and I attended as your officers and enjoyed learning new things. I remember an interesting comment made by one speaker... "Every time a plant dies will give you another gardening opportunity". I believe that gives me several opportunities! How about you??

Aldridge Gardens Spring plant sale is coming up. It will be held Friday, May 10, from 9-4 (that is our meeting day) and Saturday, May 11, from 9-12. There will be lots of beautiful plants for sale as well as opportunities to work if you choose. Call LeAnne Porter at 682-8019 if you want to work. You can come to our meeting on Friday morning and shop at Aldridge Gardens in the afternoon or on Saturday!

During our last meeting several folks received stars for volunteer hours. Please keep up with your hours and record them. Jan Rogers is always happy to walk you through the process of recording hours if you need help. Let me know what volunteer projects you are working on (also talk with Rita Forrest) so we can let all the members hear about them.

Please consider becoming a mentor for the 2013 Master Gardener class beginning in August. Sundra Smith will be in charge of mentors and she is very interested in knowing which of you will volunteer. We need lots of volunteers. You get hours for this too!

We have had a large number of members attend our meetings lately. YEA!!! If you know folks that you haven't seen in a while, please call and encourage them to come back! I love seeing your smiling faces and hearing about your beautiful gardens!

Remember to bring a sack lunch to our meeting on Friday at Edith's home. Folks volunteered to bring cookies and Edith is providing drinks. The meeting starts at 10 am and it is always nice to bring a folding chair. Bring your camera also because I know you will want some pictures! Everyone can bring plants to share and a big plant for the special drawings. It is always fun to leave with new plants!

Your President,

Susan

Please consider the environment before printing this document.

Directions to Edith Johnston's home:**2643 Chandalar Circle, Pelham, AL 35124. Phone number 620-2922**

From I-65 South: Take Exit 242 (tank farm). Turn right onto CR-52 (towards Hwy 31). At light turn right onto Hwy 31. Travel 2.3 miles on Hwy 31 (past Myers Pottery) until you see Nino's Restaurant. Turn left onto Chandalar Drive. Take first right onto Chandalar Circle. Parking all along the circle and in Edith's driveway.

From I-65 North: Take Exit 242 (tank farm). Turn left onto CR-52 (towards Hwy 31). At light turn right onto Hwy 31. Travel 2.3 miles on Hwy 31 (past Myers Pottery) until you see Nino's Restaurant. Turn left onto Chandalar Drive. Take first right onto Chandalar Circle. Parking all along the circle and in Edith's driveway.

**Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association
Minutes – April 12, 2013**

Call to Order– Susan Seng called the meeting to order and made a few announcements. BBG Sale was big success. Thanks to all who helped. Several volunteer opportunities: Dianne McKinnon needs help with the Oak Mountain Fishing May 8 – 10. Aldridge Gardens Sale May 10 – 11. Ruffner Mountain Plant Sale coming up soon.

Minutes of last meeting accepted as published in *Gardeners' Gab*

Treasurer's Report accepted as published in *Gardeners' Gab*

Committee Reports:

1. Please let the Sunshine Coordinator, Karen Kendall, know if you hear of anyone who could use a card.
2. Rita Forrest, Projects Coordinator, wants to create a website and needs some input. Barbara Williams and Edith Johnson volunteered. Several suggestions were made as to where to look for ideas.
3. It was noted that our newest members, George and Pat Hare, are not receiving the newsletter.

Recommendation to the board from Murray Williamson that a Memorial Gift be made to Aldridge Gardens, BBG, or the Scholarship fund for any member or former member who dies. An amount of \$50 - \$100 was recommended. This will go before the board. He also mentioned that their garden would be "open" sometime in late May or early June and he has plants to share as well as concrete wire for tomato cages.

Announcements: There will be a two-hour Gardening Class on Veggies May 23 10:00 a.m. until noon.

New Business: "Members Reach New Heights". Stars were given out by Cathy Canant to Brenda Fitzgerald, Jan Rogers, Susan Seng, Mary K. Tomas, Jane Harris, Phyllis Love, Diane McKinnon, Lloyd Mehaffy, Ruby Duncan, Michelle Hill, Edith Johnson, Sandra Jones, Linda Powers, and Sundra Smith.

Next Month we will have a tour of some of our members' gardens on May 10. We will begin with Edith Johnston's garden. Bring a special plant for the "Clean Santa" swap as well as any extra plants for the Plant Swap. Bring a sack lunch. Desserts will be provided by Linda Powers and Beth Heerten.

Today's speaker, Arnold Rutkis, of Stoneshovel, was introduced by Mary K Tomas. He gave a wonderful talk on native plants and brought some to sell.

Following our program Tom Harris gave the blessing before our pot-luck lunch. There were forty-one in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Heerten, Secretary



Shelby County Master Gardener volunteers at Birmingham Botanical Garden Plant Sale

Front row (L-R): Katherine Walsh, Carol Beard, Dakota Pace, Susan Seng, Terri DiMuro, Jeanon Massien, Linda Powers? **Back row (L-R):** Judy Bynum, Tom Harris, Rita Forrest, Phyllis Love, Joy Dearing, Jane Harris

ALABAMA GARDENER'S CALENDAR FOR MAY

FRUITS AND NUTS –Continue spray program. Keep grass from around trees and strawberries. Peaches and apples can still be budded.

SHRUBS – Newly planted shrubs need extra care now and in coming weeks. Don't spray with oil emulsions when temperature is above 85 °F.

LAWNS – Now is the best time to start lawns from seed. Water new lawns as needed to prevent drying. Keep established lawns actively growing by watering, fertilizing, and mowing. Spray weeds in lawns with proper herbicide.

ROSES – Spray or dust for insects and diseases. Fertilize monthly with complete fertilizer or rose special. Container-grown plants in flower may be planted. Prune climbing roses after the first big flush of flowering.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS - Late plantings of bedding plants still have time to produce. Watch for insects on day lilies.

BULBS - Summer bulbs started in containers may still be planted. Do not remove foliage from spring flowering bulbs. Do not let seed heads form on tulips and other spring flowering bulbs.

MISCELLANEOUS – Mulch new shrub plantings if not already done. Avoid drying out new shrub, tree, and lawn plantings.

VEGETABLE SEED – Plant heat-loving and tender vegetables. Start cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, and celery in cold-frame for fall garden.

VEGETABLES – Plant tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and sweet potatoes.

Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association
Board Meeting—March 04, 2013

(Attending: Mary K Tomas, Susan Seng, Jeanon Massien, Cathy Canant, Beth Heerten, Angie Ballew, Regena Varvoutis, Jan Rogers, Rita Forrest, and Karen Jenson.)

Call to Order: Susan called the meeting to order following a delicious lunch.

Binder/Booklet: There was a lengthy discussion about creating a binder similar to one that The Shoals MG have. Type of binder, size, and color were discussed along with numerous ideas about content and just how complicated we wanted to get with it. There was also discussion about how many to get, how to distribute them and to whom. It was decided that several board members would buy what they could find of \$2 white binders and report back, keeping their receipts. We plan to hand them out at a "Christmas in July" meeting with an appropriate program. Cathy and Jeanon will coordinate the project.

Stars: normally given in March, Stars will be held until April as we have an away meeting in March.

Counting Hours: There was discussion about counting hours. We were reminded to count our prep time, travel time, and emails.

Upcoming: The Alabama Master Gardeners State Convention will be held in Florence beginning April 14. Rooms are \$129/night. We will have our regular meeting in April. May brings our Members' Garden Tour.

The Gab: There was discussion about what we could put in The Gab involving state happenings so our meetings would not be too long without just reprinting what was in the state newsletter. No conclusion was reached. Also discussed was reactivating the "Spotlight on Members". This would be a good way to get to know our members as well as be a good opportunity for volunteer hours. It was mentioned that The Gab is only sent to paid and provisional members.

New Master Gardener Classes: Classes will begin August 7. Nelson is working out schedule changes. It was explained that we teach by Auburn's book. Therefore all speakers would need to present information that agrees with Auburn's research. Nelson has five signed up for the class already and has started advertising it. Jeanon has contacts from the Fair and will send emails to those people. The price has not yet been determined, but will be in the range of \$100 - \$150. Nelson has requested that we have a Graduation separate from the BBG class. There was discussion about how to achieve that without having two graduations – one at the end of class and the other when the volunteer hours are completed which could be some time after class completion. All officers are asked to be at the first meeting for the whole morning and not just at lunch. It was felt that everyone needed involved to feel ownership of the group. It was suggested that everyone needed to be a part of some committee. It was also suggested that at meetings anyone who wanted to address the group should stand and give their name before speaking.

Class Concerns: A number of concerns were voiced by members of past classes. These include Interns' fears that they cannot commit to ten consecutive weeks, less than helpful Mentors, and lack of continuity with Hosts. In response to that there are some changes to the Intern Program. Brenda will be doing the testing, but Sundra Smith will handle the Mentoring along with a committee of Debra Katis, Beth Glasgow, and Jan Rodgers. Sundra has asked for a meeting with prospective Mentors so they can be given some instruction. It was noted that some take the class just for the certification make no effort to be a part of the group. There will be roll call for both the morning and afternoon sessions.

Agenda Items: Susan explained that to be on the agenda, one needed to call or email a request to her. She further explained that all announcements needed to go through the appropriate committee ahead of time so that time was not wasted at our meetings.

Projects: Rita suggested that now was a good time to focus on Shelby County including sprucing up the grounds surrounding the Extension Center. Ricky is making some improvements to the building and would then be open to fixing up the surrounding grounds. Everything has to be in writing and go to the county for approval. Sprucing up the outdoor classroom was mentioned as a priority with perhaps a Fern Glade. The county would do the cleaning, spraying with Round-up, and supply compost. Interior plants were listed as something that needed attention as well. Rita is also checking out the community gardens coming to Saginaw.

Night Meetings: We have been having two annual night meetings – The Groundhog Day Dinner, and Round-up. It was suggested that these events have outlived their usefulness and should be eliminated. We could, instead, have something special like a Saturday afternoon picnic. While committed to the night Roundup this fall, next year we will move events to the daytime. Several suggestions were made about what/when/where.

Field Trips and Garden Tours:

No Field trips are yet scheduled and it was decided that none would take the place of our regular meetings. There were numerous recommendations about Garden Tours, including Orr Park in Montevallo, Joan Pickett's Bee Farm, the McEwen Farm in Wilsonville, Jan Midgely's place, and Jones Valley Urban Garden. Susan is still trying to get a Field Trip Coordinator.

Website: Aside from a mention this discussion was tabled until next time. Rita has someone who would do one for us and link it to the state site.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be Monday, May 6, at the home of Susan Seng. Bring a salad for our potluck lunch.

Respectfully Submitted by Beth Heerten

SC Master Gardeners!

I hope that you are having a great spring so far and I hope I get to see you soon. The following presentation is at my church in Hoover and we would LOVE to have you join us. Dinner is at 5 PM and only costs \$6.00 if you come early.

We need help with the plant sale at Aldridge Gardens so I'm including that info too in addition to an invitation to become a GARDEN CHICK (guys can join too).

Jan

- **Join George Baldwin and Learn about God's Creature the Honey Bee!** Bluff Park United Methodist Church - Hoover 6PM, May 8th. DID YOU KNOW A HONEY BEE PRODUCES 1/12 OF A TEASPOON OF HONEY ITS ENTIRE LIFE. HONEY BEES ARE OUR LARGEST NUMBER OF POLLINATORS AND PRODUCE 1/3 OF OUR FOOD SUPPLY. George will have his very own **Gee's Bees honey** for sale!
- **Do you have what it takes to become an AG GARDEN CHICK?** - Join Jan Rogers and the GARDEN CHICKS on Tuesdays at Aldridge Gardens for some fun and volunteer hours. We recently designed and installed a new daylily bed below the Pass Along garden, we help label and maintain identification for pathway plants in the garden, we help prep for the plant sale, and work to help maintain the landscape. We meet on Tuesdays and have fun and work hard! Send me (janrogers@charter.net) an email if you are interested in joining the GARDEN CHICKS! I'll add you to the mailing list for weekly
- **Aldridge Gardens Spring Plant Sale** - the place to be for the best selection of hydrangeas in the area. May 10th 9—4 and May 11th 9—12. There will be a hydrangea "expert" on hand at all of the sales sessions to help newbies and experienced growers. Contact LeAnne Porter if you can work a shift during the week or at the sale. She can be reached at lporter@aldrigegardens.com or by phone at 682-8019, Ext 2. The Garden Chicks will be helping on the next two Tuesdays if you want to join us!

Calera Farmers' Market - www.calerafarmersmarket.com

- Location: Oliver Park (9758 Hwy. 25, Calera)
- Date: June 7 - August 30
- Hours: Tuesdays 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Columbiana Farmers' Market—Contact: Randy Glenn (205)305-8632

- Location: West College & Mill Street
- Date: May 1 - October 31
- Hours: Saturdays 7:00 am - 12:00 noon

Helena Farmers' Market - www.helenamarketdays.com

- Location: 4151 Helena Road
- Date: June 4 - September 24
- Hours: Saturdays 8:00 am - 12:00 noon

Montevallo Farmers' Market - Contact: Leeann Reed (205) 665-1519

- Location: Corner of Main & Middle Street (Behind First Baptist)
- Date: June 6 - August 8
- Hours: Mondays 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Mount Laurel Farmers' Market & Crafts Fair - Contact: Kelly Burley (205) 408-2717

- Location: 38 Manning Place
- Date: June 4 - October 29
- Hours: Saturdays 8:00 am - 12:00 noon

Valleydale Farmers' Market - Contact: Jed Park (205) 868-4575

- Location: 4601 Valleydale Road
- Date: May 14 - September 3
- Hours: Saturdays 8:00 am - 12:00 noon



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Alabama A&M and Auburn Universities

*Shelby County Extension
P. O. Box 1606
Shelby, AL 35051
Phone: 205-669-6763
Fax: 205-669-1309*

News Release

Issued April 5, 2013

The Shelby County Extension Office will host a **Regional Vegetable Gardening Production Workshop at their office on Thursday, May 23, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** The Office is located in the John Jones Agricultural Building on 54 Kelley Lane in Columbiana off of highway 70 next to the School of Technology. The workshop is for Backyard and Commercial Vegetable Growers, both will benefit from this informative workshop.

Nelson D. Wynn the Home Grounds Regional Extension Agent will cover Composting and Soil Testing, Dr. Jim Jacobi Extension's State Pathologist Specialist will cover Disease and Insect Identification and Management, and Gary Gray the Commercial Home Grounds Regional Extension Agent will cover Vegetable Gardening Production.

There is **no charge** to attend the workshop, but please call the Shelby County Extension Office to pre-register **205-669-6763** by Wednesday, May 22, 2013.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call the Shelby County Extension Office (205-669-6763).

News Release

Issued May 2013

The Shelby County Extension Office will host a **Regional Rain Barrel Workshop at their office on Thursday, July 11, 2013 from 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

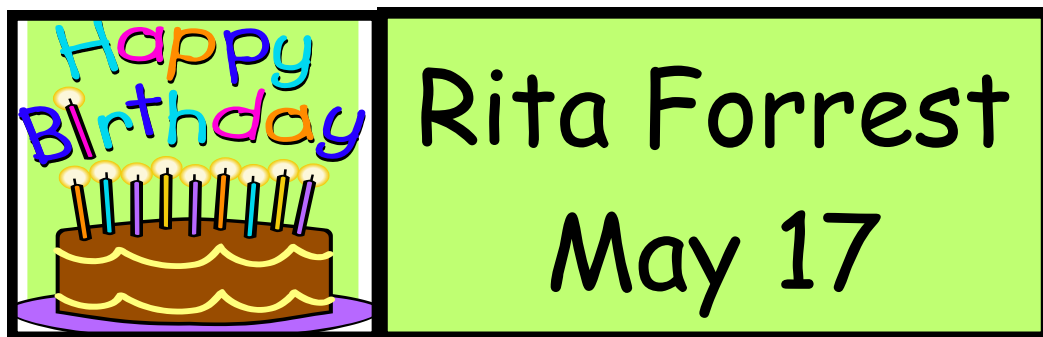
The office is located at 54 Kelley Lane in Columbiana next door to the Shelby County School of Technology off of highway 70. The workshop is for individuals that are interested in collecting rain water for their gardens and landscape plants. This workshop will give you tips on rain water conservation, collecting rainwater from your roof, and a hands-on demonstration on constructing a rain barrel.

Topics that will be covered are: Defining Rain Water, The Reasons for Collecting Rain Water, Rain Barrel Tools and Construction, Calculating Storm Water Run-off, Rain Water Uses, and Collecting Rainwater without Gutters.

There is a **\$50.00** registration fee to attend the workshop, call the Shelby County Extension Office to pre-register at **205-669-6763**, so we can have enough refreshments, and Rain Barrels.

If you want more than one barrel please let us know when you pre-register.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Shelby County Extension Office at 205-669-6763, or Nelson D. Wynn at wynnnel@aces.edu, or Sallie Lee at leesall@aces.edu.



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\$\$\$\$\$ Treasurer's Report as of 4-28-2013 ~ by Angie Ballew \$\$\$\$\$

BALANCE SHEET

Assets

Checking Account	2,360.45
MG Clothing	<u>447.00 ***</u>
Total Assets	2,807.45

Liabilities

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

Capital

Begin of Year	3,658.47
Net receipts YTD	<u>-851.02</u>
Total Capital	2,807.45

Total Liabilities & Capital **2,807.45**

*** 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

	Apr	Year to Date
Memberships	0.00	440.00
Ground Hog Day Dinner	0.00	0.00
Round-Up Dinner	0.00	0.00
Field Trip	0.00	0.00
Shelby Co. Fair	0.00	0.00
Donations	<u>0.00</u>	<u>19.00</u>
Total receipts	0.00	459.00

Expenses

State dues	0.00	200.00
Ground Hog Dinner	0.00	0.00
Round-Up Dinner	0.00	0.00
Stamps, Cards		
& Admin Supplies	0.00	80.02
Honorarium & Gifts	0.00	0.00
Decorations	0.00	0.00
Field Trip	0.00	0.00
AMGA Scholarship	0.00	1,000.00
Badges & Stars	<u>0.00</u>	<u>30.00</u>
Total Expenses	0.00	1,310.02

Net Receipts 0.00 -851.02



**Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association
Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2012–2013**



President	Susan Seng	991-7867	gaggy10@gmail.com
Vice-President	Mary K. Tomas	781-883-1523	maryktomas@yahoo.com
Secretary	Beth Heerten	991-5154	beth.heerten@charter.net
Treasurer	Angie Ballew	980-7695	aklballew@bellsouth.net
Advisory Council Rep	Cathy Canant	260-7748	ccanant@bellsouth.net
Communications	Jan Rogers	307-9733	janrogers@charter.net
Historian	Karen Jensen	670-0701	kkerr50@hotmail.com
Hospitality	Michele Hill	665-1206	michelerhill@gmail.com
Membership	Cathy Canant	260-7748	ccanant@bellsouth.net
Mentorship	Brenda Fitzgerald	620-0931	brendafitz@bellsouth.net
Newsletter Editor	Heidee Vansant	669-3284	heidee.vansant@gmail.com
Projects	Rita Forrest	620-1167	ritabe@bellsouth.net
Sunshine Committee	Karen Kendall	982-0614	kkendall247@bellsouth.net