

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

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May 2014

Pointers from the President...

I know for sure that you will not want to miss our garden tour at Brandon's home. May is our garden tour month. Address and more info are included in this GAB. Don't forget to bring plants to share too! It is always so nice when our members are willing to open up their yards for us to tour. Thank you, Brandon, and all those folks that have shared in the past.

I know that the Botanical Gardens had a fantastic plant sale. Thank you volunteers! We always have a great turnout. Remember Aldridge garden's sale will be coming up soon too. It will be the first weekend in May. They need volunteers for his one too.

Thank you, Karen, for running the meeting last month. I understand you also did the program and got our budget passed! Great job!! We have so many folks always willing to step up to the plate.

I believe the cold temps are finally over! Your gardens are all beautiful, I am sure. Remember to keep up with your volunteer hours and record them at least monthly. Include the mileage also for the state's records.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you soon! Call other members to remind them to come!

Your President,
Susan Seng

THIS MONTH'S MEETING—Friday, May 9th **Yard Tour & Plant Swap at Brandon Rasnick's** **316 Oakwell Circle - Calera, AL - 586-7741**

Please bring a bag lunch to eat in the garden and a NICE plant to exchange (in a random drawing). Pass-Along plants are also welcome! If it should RAIN/STORM, we are invited back with our sack lunches on Wednesday morning, May 14th.

I'm very excited about the yard tour! I will be working in my garden everyday till then. I am planning on providing drinks and desserts for everyone at the meeting. I will have several options so no need to worry about that. I also have tables planned for the plant giveaway. Directions are: From north of Calera—I-65 south to exit 231. Right off the exit. 1.4 miles past Marvin's take a Right into Camden Cove subdivision. At the third stop take a right onto Renwick. Take next right on Oakwell. Take next right on to Oakwell Circle. ~ Brandon



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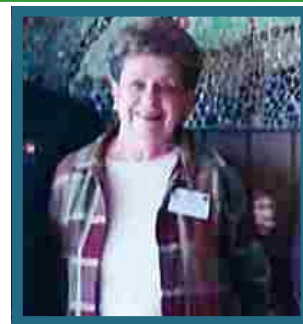
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Rita Forrester—May 17

Patty Johnson

February 2, 1939 - March 29, 2014

We have lost a dear friend and SCMGA member. Patty completed her Master Gardener program in 2003. Some of her volunteer activities included the Library Christmas Tree Project, making Birdseed Snowmen, and helping with floral decorations for the Fall Round-Up and Ground Hog Day events. Patty participated in the fall and spring Birmingham Botanical Garden plant sales, working with the ABC booth and serving as a treasurer for the sale. In 2010 she received the Unsung Hero's Award from the BBG for her long term dedication as a Treasurer. She faithfully attended Master Gardener meetings until her health prevented her from being there. Patty could be found in the Chelsea library volunteering to assist others with their needs. Additionally, she served as Recording Secretary for SCMGA in 2007, and assisted with intern classes. She was always there to help clean up after SCMGA's pot luck lunches. Patty was an avid gardener, always sharing plants from her garden. She will be missed. Rest in Peace, Patty. ~Jeanon Massien



We have such a visual treat in store May 9th with our Yard Tour and Plant Exchange at Brandon Rasnick's garden in Calera. Watch for tall "foxy" foxglove! Bring your sack lunch, a "nice" plant for exchange (drawing: kind of like Dirty Santa only no one can steal from you after you make your choice), and your camera/camera phone. Give away plants are welcome. If it should RAIN, watch for a morning email with instructions/rescheduling.

To the 36 March attendees, I thank you for your kindness & laughter. Sorry our EXPERT Iris speakers couldn't attend. Grandson Max, 11, & I enjoyed constructing the Iris Pizza Garden & Hawaiian Pizza - he claims he & g'pa ate HALF the finished product! Happily, we gained a BUDGET (via Deb Kattus) & a PARLIMENTARIAN, Sundra Smith!

Kudos to new MG Aprille Hays who completed water monitor training and will be testing Lay Lake monthly, submitting her data to Lay Lake HOBO & Auburn Univeristy at www.alabamawaterwatch.org. If interested in training, email Judy Jones, jonesfl@bellsouth.net.

Paulette Ogard, our November speaker with Sara Bright, urges us to plant native MILKWEED to help the Monarch butterflies. In this month's Audubon Newsletter, she notes a decreasing number of Monarchs migrating from Mexico. They need sustenance. Let's help! ~Karen Jensen



Hi Karen--

Thanks so much for reading the article about Monarchs in Flicker Flashes and then including information in your newsletter. This is how we can all work together to get the word out! In the article, we recommended planting native milkweeds that include Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) and Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*). But any native-to-Alabama milkweed is good. These plants are great nectar sources for many pollinators as well as being caterpillar hosts for Monarchs. The Birmingham Botanical Gardens plant sale that was mentioned as a source was last weekend, but Petals from the Past (Jemison, AL) typically carries these plants, and they are sometimes available at other nurseries. Jan Midgely's wildflower nursery in Wilsonville is often a good source for native milkweeds. It is open by appointment; contact info jwildflwr@aol.com.

Adding butterfly host plants to our landscapes is such a simple and rewarding thing to do! Thank you again for encouraging your membership to help in this important conservation matter. Please feel free to contact us if you need additional info. We look forward to your meeting in November!

--Paulette Haywood Ogard/co-author, *Butterflies of Alabama: Glimpses into Their Lives*/ Birmingham, Alabama

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Treasurer's Report as of 4/23/2014

Submitted by Deb Kattus, Treasurer

Date	Amount	Check #	For	Deposit	For	Balance
3/31/2014	30.27	1132	Jan Rogers (for Gab)			\$2,869.31

Aldridge Gardens SCMGA Volunteers

Deb Kattus and Jan Rogers made a run to Jan Midgeley's for native plants and then went to Don and Ruth Driggers Vincent Garden Shop for native azaleas and David Austin roses on April 21st. This was in preparation for the Aldridge Gardens Spring plant sale May 2 - 3. Betty Daigle ordered and prepped for the bulb, daylily and iris sale while Teresa Boody chaired the hydrangea group. Paul Saeger will present mini lessons on the care of roses while Jennifer Gregory will present sessions on the care and maintenance on hostas at the sale. Shelby County Master Gardeners make the sales work at AG and BBG and are a vital part of both gardens!



Shelby County Master Gardeners celebrate Sybil O'Brien's birthday Monday night at State Convention in Daphne, AL



We gather for State Convention—Lots of RAIN and FUN today!



Keynote speaker Greg Grant, Texas horticulturist & author, chats with Shelby Co. Master Gardeners in Daphne, AL at State Conference.



Mary K Tomas received her gold badge for 1,000+ volunteer hours in Daphne, AL. Jan Rogers will receive hers also.

Volunteer Opportunities for Spring 2014

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 SCMG 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.

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.



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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