

GARDENERS' GAB



Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association

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

www.scmastergardeners.com

Alabama MGA: www.alabamamg.org

Alabama MG Program www.aces.edu/mg

Vol. 8, Issue 2

February 2015

Pointers from the President...

"BEE" sure to join us Feb 13 so we all learn how to make our yards attractive & SAFE for the plucky pollinators! Master beekeepers/teachers **George Baldwin** and **Loyd Mehaffey** will share info with us. If you know someone interested in beekeeping, like our **Heidee Vansant** who is currently taking classes, invite them! Our meetings are open to the public.

Sweet **Susan Seng** did a great job installing officers. She also HOSTED our first quarterly board meeting in front of a roaring fire, and introduced us to her blind County Fair duck & guide!

At our January meeting, did you not LOVE Urban Forestry Coordinator **Dale Dickens** describing himself, of "pyramid" form, as the perfect tree shape to resist storm damage? A full root system must be important! Let's encourage more cities to reach for Tree City status - it would please Bill Legg! Sadly, I forgot to introduce **Gary Rhodes**, Shelby County Forester!

Angie Ballew AWED us with her wonderful tablescape honoring **Bill Legg** and his memorial committee. Maybe **Angie** will re-create it as our contribution to the AMGA Cullman Conference silent auction. **Angie Ballew** and **Rhonda Cowen** kept our site and meeting humming - thanks ladies! Speaking of OUTSTANDING, we also featured **Diane McKinnon's** 2014 Scrapbook!

Do visit **Byron Ford's** website, scmastergardeners.com, where there is an EASY link to enter your volunteer hours. We thank **Byron** too for filling our calendar with great speakers. We also APPRECIATE Events Coordinator **Jennifer Gregory** who is planning an April 14 field trip to Bonnie Plants, a huge supporter/benefactor of our MG Conference. She is also the chairperson of City of Hoover Arbor Day Celebration March 7 at Aldridge Gardens - go girl! Jennifer announced **Paul Saeger** was certified as a Consulting Rosarian! Go Paul!

Your President,
Karen Jensen



Friday, February 13

Our own George Baldwin and Loyd Mehaffey (Alabama Master Beekeepers) will present the program. Loyd's topic is "To Weed or Not to Weed." George's topic is flowering shrubs and trees.



Bring a covered dish to share!

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

SHELBY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes – 9 January 2015

Susan Seng opened the meeting. After re-electing Sundra Smith Parliamentarian, 2015 officers were installed. Karen Jensen, President; Byron Ford, VP; Deb Kattus, Treasurer; Sundra Smith, Parliamentarian; Randall Robertson, Secretary. New president Jensen presented outgoing President Seng with a lovely rosemary plant and thanked retirees: Rita Forrest, Beth Heerten and Mary K Tomas (not present).

The membership approved the minutes & treasurers report as presented in the GAB.

Announcements: thoughts of sympathy to George Baldwin, whose mother passed away recently, "Get Well Soon" wishes for Heidee Vansant and Michelle Hill, NEW web site for SCMGA (Thanks, VP Byron Ford!) at "scmastergardeners.com". Volunteer hours logging link included, go there to record your hours. Teresa Boody, President of AL Hydrangea Society, alerted members to special Jan workshops. Jennifer Gregory, Events Coordinator, announced an April 14 road trip to Bonnie Plants' farm in Union Springs, AL. Byron Ford noted our February presentation would examine the GMO issue.

Karen Jensen lauded the efforts of the Bill Legg Memorial Committee: Kate Vogel, Myra Healy, Merle Schukoske, and Dot Kachelhofer (photo taken: missing Tommie Harrison, Michelle Hill). Thanks go to Historian Diane McKinnon for the 2014 scrapbook, and certainly to our hospitality helpers, Rhonda Cowen and Angie Ballew.

VP Ford introduced Dale Dickens, our presenter, who has served with the Alabama Forestry Commission since January 24, 2014 as Alabama's Urban Forestry Coordinator. Mr. Dickens is a registered forester in Alabama, and holds both a B.S. in forest management and a M.S. in forest biometrics from Auburn University. He promotes the planning, planting and protection of the valuable trees within our cities and communities, and discussed "Wind Resistant Trees".

Summarizing: No "magic bullet" species, though some better than others. Much of the health and durability of trees echoes the "right plant in right place" mantra familiar to Master Gardeners from their training. Cultural practice has a similar large effect, with design errors to be avoided such as: large maturing trees within 10' of paved areas, single specimen planting vs. grouping, decreased open soil space for roots, roots being cut during construction, and roots being covered with soil to the point no "flare" is visible where main trunk transitions to roots.

Good specimens/varieties characterized by: short/stocky trunks with sparse crowns; extensive, wide root systems; single trunk and shorter side branches with solid branch unions. Examples given: American Holly, Crepe Myrtle, Zelkova Serrata, ginkgo biloba (male), Bald cypress, Southern magnolia, Live Oak (quercus Virginia), and runners up: Long leaf pine and Sweetgum.

Good cultural practice regardless of species: thin crown allowing air to 'spill' among branches, prune dead limbs, group trees together for mutual support/wind breaking, protect root zone.

If ever trunk damage is noted, have tree inspected by certified arborist.

Blessing by Brenda Fitzgerald, meeting adjourned to Potluck Lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Randall Robertson, Secretary

Treasurer's Report as of 1/19/2015

Submitted by Deb Kattus, Treasurer

Date	Check/Deposit	For	Balance
		Beginning Balance	\$4,160.18
	235.00	2015 Dues Received	
	(690.00)	AMGA Dues Paid	
	(49.95)	Membership Drive Prizes	
	(28.00)	Supplies for Meetings	
	(12.96)	Officer Installation	
		Ending Balance	\$3,613.77



Alabama 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



SAVE THE DATE!! Upcoming SCMGA Meetings:

Friday, March 13, 2015—All about GMO's

Friday, April 10, 2015—Organic Gardening



SHELBY COUNTY GARDEN CLUB meeting February 19, 2015 from 10:00am - 11:30am
Speaker: Fred Kapp—Alabama Urban Forestry Association

- FREE workshop open to the public and will continue to be held at Victory AutoCare & Tire Center—Victory Commercial Sales & Service—1150 George Roy Pkwy—Calera, AL 35040
- RSVP by emailing Savannah Langley at savannah@victorynapa.com or by calling 205.249.0993
- This will continue to be an ongoing event (the third Thursday of each month 10:00—11:30am). Additional seminars/workshops may be offered from time to time as opportunities occur.
- Please note all Shelby County Garden Club Attendees are eligible to receive VIP pricing on any automotive service at Victory AutoCare for simply being a Garden Club member.

Contact: Savannah Langley, Business Development Manager—Victory AutoCare & Tire Center
W: 205.664.0046 C: 205.249.0993 www.victorynapa.com

THERE ARE NUMEROUS GARDEN-RELATED CLASSES & EVENTS IN OUR AREA! Please visit these websites to check out classes and events you may be interested in attending:



ALDRIDGE GARDENS
BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS
PETALS FROM THE PAST
SHELBY CO. MASTER GARDENERS

www.aldridgegardens.com/education/events/
www.bbgardens.org/all-events.php
www.petalsfromthepast.com/events.html
www.scmastergardeners.com/events/



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1—Joyce Bulford | 19—Teresa Boody |
| 5—Judy Helms | 21—Myra Healy |
| 5—Sherry Hornbuckle | 23—Pat Hare |
| 6—Sydney Ellis | 26—Merle Schukoske |
| 6—Dot Kachelhofer | 26—Sheila Sztanyo |
| 9—Sundra Smith | |

Hoover Public Library

**Your Multipurpose Landscape:
Grow It and Eat It, Too**

Presented by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. Call 444-7840 for more information.

**Thursday, February 5 at
6:30 pm--Theatre Level
Meeting Rooms**



KUDOS to Shelby County Master Gardener PAUL SAEGER (Class of 2013)
on earning the title "Consulting Rosarian!"

Paul recently attended Consulting Rosarian School in Savannah, GA and met the criteria required for certification.

From The Deep South District of the American Rose Society: *Consulting Rosarians are American Rose Society members who give freely of their time and expertise to help new and novice rose growers in their area get off to a good start in our fascinating hobby. To become a Consulting Rosarian (CR) a person must satisfy certain eligibility criteria, attend a CR school, and pass an open book examination. CR's are required to submit an annual report, participate in the ARS' Roses in Review Program, and attend a CR seminar or school every three years. The Deep South District encourages you to contact a local rose society in your area and they can put you in touch with a nearby Consulting Rosarian. (www.deepsouthdistrict.org)*

From the Birmingham Rose Society's webpage: *American Rose Society Consulting Rosarians are eager to advise and inspire others in their appreciation, growing and exhibition of roses. Consulting Rosarians can advise on the best variety of roses for this area, site selection and other aspects of growing roses. Contact them if you have questions. Many are available to speak at Garden Clubs and other events. (www.birminghamrose.org)*

Paul may be reached at: saeger.paul@yahoo.com or 733-9066

"You can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses." ~ Abraham Lincoln

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

Cathy Canant is your AWARDS committee chairperson and she has two requests for you. Please consider nominating a SCMG for MG of the year and also nominate a SC project for the year. Both forms are attached and submission instructions appear below.

SCMGA Project of the Year Nomination Form

Criteria for nominating:

The project should be an SCMGA approved project and working or completed and not in planning. It should be a group project. The project should be simple and practical to replicate by other Master Gardeners. It should be original and creative.

Does the project fit into one or more of the following categories?

- Youth Programs
- Demonstration Garden
- Workshop / Presentation /Hands-On Programs
- Community service
- Innovative Projects
- Special Audiences, Senior/Disabled or Horticultural Therapy
- Other or General MG accomplishments

Does the project meet and answer Extension and Master Gardener missions:

Does it have an educational component? Does it extend the resources of Extension to the community?

Was the information provided research based? Was it available to all races/peoples?

Submission Deadline February 13 General Meeting of this year.

Please print!

Your Name: _____ Contact #: _____

Service Project Name : _____

- In a typed document, describe the project, its objectives and how it meets the criteria. Include the name of the Project and the names of the Master Gardeners who participated. Pictures of the group and the project in different stages are also requested, if available.
- To submit your nomination: Fill out this form and attach your nomination document. Put into an envelope labeled Project Recognition, turn in to Cathy Canant at the February meeting or mail to: Cathy Canant 101 County Road 104, Montevallo, Al. 35115.

Shelby County Master Gardener of Year Award Nomination

Criteria for nominating:

- Nominees must be active members of SCMGA
- 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
- Past award winners and Interns are ineligible.

Submission Deadline February 13 General Meeting of this year.

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 envelope labeled SCMG of the Year, turn in to Cathy Canant at the February meeting or mail to Cathy Canant 101 County Road 104, Montevallo, Al. 35115.

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.



Installation of SCMGGA 2015 Officers. L-R: Pres. Karen Jensen, VP Byron Ford, Secretary Randall Robertson, Treasurer Deb Kattus, Parliamentarian Sundra Smith



Karen Jensen thanks Diane McKinnon for "a job well done" on 2014 SCMGGA Scrapbook



Angie Ballew's tablescape for Bill Legg memorial table



Bill Legg Memorial Committee L-R: Kate Vogel, Myra Healy, Merle Schukoske and Dot Kachelhofer. Not Pictured: Tommie Harrison & Michelle Hill

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Aldridge Gardens Educational Coordinator, Audrey Ann, is collecting the following items for summer camp. If you have any of these items to donate I will be happy to give them to her. Yarn, fabric scraps, elastic pieces, thread, sequins, stuffing for little pillows, fleece scraps, Velcro, paper towel cardboard tubes, clean (washed) all sizes tin cans, Lego bricks children or grandchildren no longer need, all sizes **clay** pots and saucers, oatmeal containers.



Thank you! Jennifer Gregory: jggdrg@aol.com or 205.532.0675



Incoming President Karen Jensen presents a gift of rosemary to outgoing President Susan Seng



Dale Dickens, Alabama's Urban Forestry Director (January)



Joy Dearing and Dale Dickens



Outgoing President Susan Seng installs new officers



Incoming President Karen Jensen (second from left) congratulating outgoing officers Susan Seng, Rita Forrest and Beth Heerten

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

BONNIE PLANTS TOURS

Tuesday, April 14, 2015



SIGN UP AT FEBRUARY 13 AND MARCH 13 SCMGA MEETINGS

TOUR #1 10:00 AM—Limited to 20 Shelby Co. MG's per tour

Carpool from the following locations: Lowe's (Valleydale Road) parking lot depart at 7:00 AM drive to next location, AFM. Meet at Alabama Furniture Mart (Exit 231) depart at 7:30 AM drive directly to Bonnie Plants. Following tour we'll eat lunch at Sinclair's Restaurant at approx. 12 Noon.

TOUR # 1:30 PM—Limited to 20 Shelby Co. MG's per tour

Carpool from the following locations: Lowe's (Valleydale Road) parking lot depart at 9:30 AM drive to next location AFM. Meet at Alabama Furniture Mart (Exit 231)depart at 10:00 AM drive directly to Sinclair's Restaurant for lunch. Depart restaurant at 12:30 PM drive directly to Bonnie Plants.

ADDRESSES:

- **Bonnie Plants:** 1727 Hwy 223, Union Springs, AL 36089 (www.bonnieplants.com)
- **Sinclair's Restaurant:** 7847 Vaughn Rd, Montgomery, AL 36116 (www.sinclairsrestaurants.com)

TOUR

- Observe the Seeder and Plug operation.
- See how the harvest is cataloged and weighed which helps determine if it's a right fit for their mix.
- Propagation operation - amazing to walk into greenhouses and almost be knocked over by the smell of rosemary, plus seeing green for what seems like forever.
- Watch where the potters step up the plugs into larger pots that get sent the stores.
- Visit the trial garden where they test plant varieties before committing to grow them.

DRIVERS NEEDED—SIGN UP AT THE SCMGA MEETING

- Wear comfortable shoes or possibly boots (could be muddy).
- Bring your own water/drink/camera.
- \$10 will be collected from each passenger for gas on the day of tour.
- Wear your SCMGA shirt/nametag.

Tour Organizer: Jennifer Gregory (jggdrg@aol.com) or (205-532-0675)

BONNIE PLANTS' STORY—A national plant wholesaler based in Alabama, Bonnie Plants supplies retail stores all over the United States. You may recognize us by our *green hat logo and our biodegradable pots*. If you're a Bonnie gardener, you know us for our quality plants—the best vegetable, herb, and flower plants available.

Bonnie Plants began in 1918 in the backyard of Bonnie and Livingston Paulk and has grown to include 70+ greenhouse locations around the country. We currently have nearly 500 sales representatives servicing more than 10,000 accounts throughout the United States with vegetables, herbs, and flowers. Throughout the company's history, Bonnie Plants has brought top-quality plants to gardeners across the country.

Bonnie Plants is a family of gardeners who love to share the joys of vegetable and herb gardening with our millions of customers. Committed to green gardening, we provide products that are safe for the environment and easy to use. Our biodegradable pots have already prevented millions of pounds of plastic from entering landfills. Our commitment starts at our headquarters in Alabama, where we employ green growing practices such as sustainable energy production, reuse, and recycling.



Celebrate 100 Years
of Extending Knowledge
and Changing Lives
visit: www.Extension100Years.net



AMGA 25th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

hosted by Blount and Cullman Counties
March 23-25, 2015

ALABAMA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION



WOW! The Alabama Master Gardeners Conference is early this year! But that gives us plenty of time to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of our organization, not to mention time to implement all that we will learn from the outstanding slate of speakers and workshops we have lined up for this conference. We hope you will join us as we host "Gardening...WOW!" on March 23rd, 24th, and 25th, 2015 at the Cullman Civic Center in Cullman, AL.

The conference will begin with a terrarium workshop on Monday afternoon given by internationally renown Tova Martin, followed by a fish fry Monday night. In addition, Blount and Cullman Counties have some amazing sights to see. Some are well known, like the Ava Maria Grotto in Cullman and the Covered Bridges of Blount County, and some are local treasures just waiting for you to discover, like the Palisades Park in Oneonta and the CCMG Demonstration Garden in downtown Cullman. We have several more features within a two-mile radius of the Civic Center that you can easily explore if you come early or stay later.

Conference registration is open to the public, so invite your gardening buddies and come discover new ways to put the WOW! in gardening. **For more information, go to: www.amgaconference.org**



Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2015—2016



President	Karen Jensen	670-0701	karenkjensen3@icloud.com
Vice-President & Webmaster	Byron Ford	334-473-0707	Byron@byronford.com
Secretary	Randall Robertson	663-0459	msptngc96@charter.net
Treasurer	Deb Kattus	913-2703	dkattus@charter.net
Parliamentarian	Sundra Smith	985-7360	sshealeysmith@aol.com
Advisory Council Rep	Rhonda Cowan	678-4994	cowan_r@bellsouth.net
Awards Committee Chair	Cathy Canant	260-7748	cathy.canant@bellsouth.net
By-Laws Chair/MG Class Coord	Jeanon Massien	991-3125	nauzer1@att.net
Communications	Jan Rogers	307-9733	janrogers@charter.net
Events Coordinator	Jennifer Gregory	444-0742	jggdrg@aol.com
Historian	Diane McKinnon	680-3282	bamabeach@bellsouth.net
Hospitality	Michele Hill	690-7019	michelerhill@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Heidee Vansant	669-3284	heidee.vansant@gmail.com
Nominating Committee Chair	Susan Seng	991-7867	gaggy10@gmail.com
Projects Coordinator	Beth Glasgow	669-7981	bethglasgow@bellsouth.net
Sunshine Committee	Pat Hare	621-3848	pat_hare@outlook.com

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