

GARDENERS' GAB



Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association

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

Like Us on Facebook

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

Vol. 8, Issue 5

May 2015

Pointers from the President...

Just when I think my buttons are done bursting with pride at **Jeanon Massien's** AMGA election, the May issue of *Alabama Gardener* features our **Rhonda Cowan and Mike Raita's** garden in a seven page spread! Mercy! What a compliment! I feel pride too in the efforts SCMGA volunteers make in plant sales, Harvest for Health, special needs fishing tournaments, & library programs. In addition, I am proud of our Alabama-based Bonnie Plants who grow & sell plants across the nation. Thanks to **Jennifer Gregory**, sixteen of us had an informative tour with grower **Freeman Agnew** and Bonnie Plants' Webmaster **Byron Ford**.

I know you all enjoyed learning more about Organics with Zoologist **Joyce Darby**, the 9th Alabama Certified Organic Farmer, who shared information & recipes with candor. We learned U-pick organic berries are available in Columbiana from **Jim Suttle** (mountainmeadowsfarmal.com). Our door prizes were special too: **Angie Ballew's** terrariums and **Kate Vogel's** colorful eggs.

An unprecedented humanitarian saga unfolded among the loyal Intern Class of 2013: **Phillip Inman** offered his kidney to **Marvin Wynn**, brother of our Extension Agent **Nelson Wynn**. Although Phillip was not a match, Marvin did receive a kidney from another donor. The class of 2013 visited and monitored Marvin's progress and found him doing well, although \$500 short on medical expenses. He had already spent a new car's worth of funds on his procedure and medicines. With **Jennifer Gregory's** alert and a donation challenge from **Jeanon Massien**, we achieved and exceeded the financial goal! See photos on page 5.

I hope to see you at my place on Lay Lake for our May 8th Plant Swap. Bring your brown bag lunch (iced tea and water will be provided), a folding chair, sun hat, and a nice plant you have potted if you want to participate in the raffle swap. You may also bring additional "give away" plants - some may be appropriate for the shaded learning center expansion project and **Michelle Hill** would welcome them! Weather permitting, **Chuck Jensen & Judy Jones** will offer pontoon boat rides to Goat Island and the Heron Rockery. For those who want to carpool to the Jensen's, meet **Rita Forest** and **Edith Johnston** at the ACES Office by 9:30 a.m.

Everyone, please advertise our upcoming August 5 - October 28 Master Gardener Intern Classes to your friends & the public at Plant Sales and other locations (see flyer on page 3).

Keep Gardening,

Karen Jensen



This Month's Meeting—Friday, May 8 @ 10am
Plant Swap at Karen Jensen's Home
(Directions on page 4)
Phone: 205-670-0701

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SHELBY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes – 24 April 2015

- Meeting called to order by President Karen Jensen; 31 attended. Thanks given to those who assisted with Birmingham Botanical Garden Plant Sale previous weekend, the cause for our meeting date shift this month. Introduction of guests: Duffy & Ron Morrison, M. Prady and Chuck Jensen
- VP Byron Ford announced May meeting would be at Karen Jensen's residence, 185 Tortuga Trace, Shelby, AL (ph. 205-670-0701). Program: plant exchange among members
- Presentation on Organic Gardening by Joyce Darby, Alabama Certified Organic Gardener. Organic Gardening is as much a "way of life" as a technique of growing, seeking to maintain natural balance for vegetation, beneficial vs. destructive pests, supportive of bees and other pollinators and avoiding increasing concentration of mineral salts from fertilizers concurrent with decrease in soil tillage. Suggested online resource John Cole's blog at GrowingYourGreens.com .
- Door Prize drawing conducted by Michelle Hill.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Motion to accept March 15 minutes as published in *Gardeners' Gab* made by Jeanon Massien, second by Sundra Smith. Motion carried.
2. Motion to accept Treasurer's Report as published in *Gardeners' Gab* made by Paul Saeger, second by Rita Forrest. Motion carried.
3. Recognition of newly-elected AMGA President Jeanon Massien, who was presented a quilted Japanese cape made by Karen Jensen and a purple orchid from SCMGA (selected with the assistance of Carol Beard).
4. Recognition of Jennifer Gregory and VP Ford for facilitating April 14 Bonnie Plant Farm tour taken by 16 members.
5. Thanks to Jennifer Gregory, Tom Harris and initial "seed money" challenge by Jeanon Massien, SCMGA members raised more than \$1,000 (\$1,150 as of April 17) to offset kidney transplant expenses of Extension Agent Nelson Wynn's brother Marvin. Kudos to Shelby County MG Philip Inman, who initially/quietly offered his kidney to Marvin Wynn and kudos to the Intern Class of 2013 who rallied to Marvin's support.
6. Report on Outdoor Learning Center Expansion Project (Chair, Michelle Hill)
 - A. Overall intent is to improve appearance and utility of wooded area between John Jones Ag Bldg and Hwy 70
 - B. Recommended \$500 donation to purchase herbicides
 - C. Recommended training County Grounds personnel using the area as a learning laboratory for Cut Stump Herbicidal Treatment/Invasive Plant Control
 - D. Recommended contacting/requesting volunteer from Alabama Woodworkers' Guild for construction of arbor to mark Nature Walk/Learning Center entrance
 - E. Solicitation of fundraising ideas from membership, not specifically connected to this project
 - F. Solicitation of membership for donation of appropriate plant material for area, perhaps at next month's Plant Exchange
 - G. Motion to donate \$500 per committee recommendation made by Beth Glasgow, seconded by Sundra Smith. Motion carried.
 - H. Sundra Smith offered additional discussion on types of useful plant material. Wooded area has persistent water drainage giving the opportunity to incorporate a bog garden. Donated bog plants for project welcomed.

NEW BUSINESS

President Jensen offered to postpone May meeting by one week, as currently scheduled meeting poses conflict for those who wish to help with the Aldridge Gardens Plant Sale. Jan Rogers suggested keeping usual schedule of monthly meetings rather than destabilizing the routine, emphasizing the autonomy of the Association and our purposes. There being no further discussion, routine schedule will be followed.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned. Secretary Robertson offered prayer for meal. Pot Luck lunch followed.

Respectfully submitted,
Randall Robertson, Secretary

Treasurer's Report as of 4/28/2015
Submitted by Deb Kattus, Treasurer

Check/Deposit	For	Balance
	Beginning Balance	\$3,649.77
44.00	2015 Dues Received	
(20.00)	AMGA 2015 Dues Paid	
(200.00)	Parnell Library Foundation for Bill Legg Memorial	
	Ending Balance	\$3,473.77

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**SAVE THE DATE!! Upcoming SCMGA Meeting:
Friday, June 12, 2015**

Vicki Parker—Keep Oak Mountain Wild



Dear Master Gardeners...I was totally surprised! Thank you to all my wonderful friends in SCMGA. Your congratulatory words, support and encouragement mean the world. I located the beautiful orchid where it can be enjoyed constantly, and I will be the envy of my fellow Japanese Embroiderers with my new shawl. Thanks again. Jeanon

From Pat Hare, Sunshine Committee Chair:

I received an extremely sweet and gracious "Thank You" from Marvin Wynn, to all the Shelby County Master Gardeners for remembering him in our thoughts and prayers during his surgery and recovery.

I know many of our members will also receive a note from Marvin, but I thought this particularly poignant, receiving a note for our "Get Well Soon" wishes!

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFO REGARDING OUR 2015 MG CLASSES...

Are you interested in sharpening your gardening skills? If so, the Shelby County Extension System is hosting a Regional Master Gardener Program beginning August 5, 2015 at the Extension Office in Columbiana.

The purpose of this volunteer program is to train interested gardeners to help others solve their home horticulture problems. The course is designed for non-professionals with an interest in increasing their gardening skills and helping others with the knowledge they gain.



Classes will be held 9am—3pm on Wednesdays starting August 5, 2015 and ending October 28, 2015. Interns are expected to give 50 hours of volunteer service to the Extension Service and their communities after completing the course. Any *approved* garden-related volunteer effort is acceptable. Examples of volunteer efforts include speaking to garden clubs, community garden projects, diagnosing plant problems and/or assisting the local Cooperative Extension Office in some way.

Auburn University Professors, Alabama Cooperative Extension System Specialists, Regional Extension Agents, Master Gardeners, and friends of Extension will be instructors for the course. Topics to be covered include Soils and Plant Nutrition, Plant Physiology, Entomology, Plant Pathology, Care of Landscape Plants, Landscape Design, Plant Selection, Lawn Care, Weed Identification, Houseplants, Vegetable Gardening, Home Orchards and Plant Propagation.

To become a Certified Master Gardener, interns must complete 50 hours of class work, make a 70% average on tests, not miss more than 2 classes, and complete 50 hours of volunteer work after class work is done.

The class is limited to 25 students. For more information on this fun and informative class, or for an application form, contact the Shelby County Extension Office at 205-669-6763 or Nelson D. Wynn at wynnnel@aces.edu or 205-438-3725.

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
B'HAM BOTANICAL GARDENS
HOOVER PUBLIC LIBRARY
PETALS FROM THE PAST
SHELBY CO. MASTER GARDENERS**

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

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DRIVING DIRECTIONS SCMGA Plant Swap: May 8TH, 10 AM

Chuck & Karen Jensen's home
185 Tortuga Trace
Shelby AL, 35143
205.670.0701



DIRECTIONS from Extension Office in Columbiana*

**Option: Meet and follow Rita Forrest from Extension Office to Jensen's at 9:30 AM.*

Trip: 13.98 miles, 25 minutes

Turn RIGHT from Argo Rd onto W. College Street/AL 70 (go 1.6 miles)

Turn RIGHT at light onto Main St/Co Rd 47 South (4.5 miles)

Turn LEFT onto Hwy 42 (5.0 miles) at gas stations.

Turn LEFT onto Hwy 42 (2.2 miles); this is 0.4 mile past S. River Rd.

Turn RIGHT onto Wallace Drive (0.5 miles)

Follow Wallace Drive through gate onto gravel road. Take 2nd RIGHT on gravel road to our boat dock straight ahead. Our house with tin roof is on left.

DIRECTIONS from I-65 South

Take I-65 south towards Montgomery from Birmingham, AL

Take EXIT 228 for Alabama 25 toward University of Montevallo/Calera (0.2 miles)

Turn LEFT onto AL 25N (4.1 miles)

Turn RIGHT onto Hwy 42/Co Rd 42 (12.1 miles)

Continue on Hwy 42 (2.8 miles)

Turn LEFT onto Hwy 42 (2.2 miles)

Turn RIGHT onto Wallace Drive (0.5 miles)

Follow Wallace Drive through gate onto gravel road. Take 2nd RIGHT on gravel road to our boat dock



Newly-elected AMGA President Jeanon Massien, was presented a quilted Japanese cape made by Karen Jensen and a purple orchid from SCMGA.



Susan Seng, SCMGA Past President (R), admires Rhonda Cowan (L) and Mike Raita's Columbiana yard featured in the May issue of *Alabama Gardener*.



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

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SCMG Phillip Inman visits with Marvin Wynn, doing well four weeks after his kidney transplant.

Kidney recipient Marvin Wynn and SCMG Phillip Inman



SCMGA President Karen Jensen presents funds donated for medical expenses to kidney transplant recipient Marvin Wynn.

L-R: Phillip Inman, Marvin Wynn, Karen Jensen, Extension Agent Nelson Wynn.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Members are encouraged to earn 25 volunteer hours & 10 CEU's annually.

SCMGA 2015 Project: Ricky Colquitt presented an idea for improving the outdoor park/classroom behind the exhibition center. Most of the work will be done in the fall. Members may volunteer to serve on the committee to check feasibility and make plans.

Contact Michele Hill (michelerhill@gmail.com)

SPRING PLANT SALES:

- Aldridge Gardens Spring Sale May 7—9.

Contact Phyllis Giles (volunteer@aldridgegardens.com) to sign up.

CAHABA ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER:

The Betty Wilson Garden at Living Waters has asked for volunteers in the following areas:

- Monetary donations
- Donation of any of the following plants: Broom sedge, pink Muhly grass, oak leaf hydrangea, clumping ferns, phlox, columbine, dwarf iris, trillium, Solomon's seal, coreopsis, bee balm, black-eyed Susan, purple coneflower, asters, butterfly weed, milkweed, cardinal flower
- Information on convenient sources for plants
- Hands on help every Saturday in March planting the plants
- Check out their new website! www.cahabaec.org

Contact Leland or Marty Keller (kellers@myexcel.com)

FISHING FUN AT OAK MOUNTAIN STATE PARK:

Don't miss this one! Fish with a kid and have a blast.

Check it out here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBwGR0SmXjY>

- This event is for special needs children from our area. 200 – 300 volunteers are needed since each child is GUARANTEED to catch a fish! If you don't fish that is OK because there are many other jobs available.
- Dates are May 13—15 from 8:30 until noon. At noon you get a **FABULOUS** free lunch.



The Birmingham Fern Society Presents: FERNS FROM THE BEGINNINGS TO THE ENDS

**May 20 - 21, 2015
Birmingham Botanical Gardens**

- **May 20 at 4pm "Propagation of Ferns"**

Naud Burnett is a well-known landscape architect and CEO of Casa Flora, a fern wholesaler in Dallas, Texas. He serves on the Board of the Hardy Fern Foundation.

- **May 20 at 6pm "Searching the World for Ferns"**

Eddie Watkins, PhD, is an associate professor of biology at Colgate University and a native of Alabama. He is President of the American Fern Society. He has a B.S. from Auburn University, Masters' of Science from Iowa State University, PhD from the University of Florida and post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard University.

- **May 21 at 10am Guided walk and picnic lunch**

The Birmingham Fern Society welcomes everyone to tour the Fern Glade at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

ALDRIDGE GARDENS ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE

MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS PREVIEW SALE
THURSDAY, MAY 7 from 4pm - 6pm

EVERYONE WELCOME

FRIDAY, MAY 8 from 9am - 5pm

SATURDAY, MAY 9 from 8am - Noon

Just in time for Mother's Day, our 2015 plant sale is bigger and better than ever! Choose from hydrangeas, perennials, roses, companion plants, native and butterfly plants and so much more. Volunteers and Master Gardeners will be on hand to help with selections and to give advice about placement, care and maintenance. And remember, membership has its privileges - like 10% off purchases!

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Lucky Beth Glasgow wins an April door prize—Kate Vogel's free range chicken eggs!



Myra Healy wins an April door prize—one of Angie Ballew's terrariums. Karen Jensen won one also!



Susan Seng happily volunteers at Birmingham Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale



Karen Jensen, another happy volunteer, at Birmingham Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale



110 cubic inches of soil mix!



These seeds are worth \$10,000!



Freeman Agnew explains Bonnie Plant processes





Lunch at Sinclair's in Montgomery





George Baldwin, Master Gardener, Master Beekeeper, and proud husband of Gwen Baldwin the newly crowned Ms. Senior Heart of Dixie 2015!



SCMGA President Karen Jensen (R) with Ms. Senior Alabama 2009 Sally Beth Vick and Roy Drinkard who served in WWII and is oldest living U.S. Marine.



**INTERNATIONAL
MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE**
SEPTEMBER 22—15, 2015
MID-AMERICA CENTER
ONE ARENA WAY
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA
<http://mastergardener.unl.edu/imgc2015>

2016 ALABAMA MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE

Wiregrass Master Gardeners and the AMGA Board of Directors are working to provide an Educational and entertaining experience for attendees.

Mark May 12—14, 2016 in your calendar, and come back to our website often to check for updates on our speakers and agenda.

If you are interested in becoming a Sponsor, Vendor, Donor, or Advertiser please check our website access our conference package webpage.

<http://alabamamg.org/2016-alabama-master-gardener-conference-sculpting-the-garden/>

AMGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SCULPTING
the GARDEN



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Sending you a little piece of sunshine...

Please send Pat Hare information about members (or relatives) who are sick, facing surgery or the loss of a loved one. We want to make sure all our members know

they are loved and are a vital part of our organization. Pat will send a card to let that member know we are thinking about them. Here are two ways for you to get in touch with Pat, our Sunshine Committee chairperson.

Email: pat.hare@outlook.com
Phone: 205-621-3848



MAY BIRTHDAYS

11—Rebecca Robertson
17—Rita Forrest

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**If you attended these
2015 SCMGA meetings/tours,
DON'T FORGET TO LOG
your CEU Hours:**

January 9 (Dale Dickens) 1.0 CEU
February 13 (Mahaffey/Baldwin) 1.0 CEU
March 13 (GMO's) 1.0 CEU
April 14 (Bonnie Plant Tour) 2.5 CEU's
April 17 (Joyce Darby) 1.0 CEU
May 8 (Plant Swap) (no CEU's)

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.

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Alabaster Farmers Market

Contact: Lynn Coleman
(sowersofseed@hotmail.com)

- 1953 Municipal Way
- June—August
- Saturdays 8am—noon

Calera Farmers Market

www.calerafarmersmarket.com

- Oliver Park (9758 Hwy 25)
- June—August
- Tuesdays 3pm—6pm

Columbiana Farmers Market

Contact: Randy Glenn 305-8632

- West College & Mill Street
- May 1—October 31
- Saturdays 7am—noon

Crosscreek Community Market

- 600 Crosscreek Trail, Pelham
- May 19—August 4
- Tuesdays, 5:30—8:30pm

Helena Market Days

www.helenamarketdays.com

- 4151 Helena Road
- June—Labor Day
- Saturdays, 8am—noon

Montevallo Farmers Market

Montevallofarmersmarket.blogspotl.com

Contact: Leeann Reed 665-1519

- Corner of Main & Middle Street
(Behind First Baptist)
- May—August
- Mondays 3pm—6pm

Mount Laurel Farmers Market

Contact: Kelly Burley 408-2717

www.mtlaurel.com

- 38 Manning Place
- June—August
- Saturdays, 8am—noon

Riverchase UMC Market

www.riverchaseumc.org

Contact: John Ray

(john@riverchaseumc.org)

- 1953 Old Highway 31, Hoover
- May 28—August 6
- Thursdays, 1—5pm

Valleydale Farmers Market

Contact: Felder Davis

(valleydalefarmersmarket@gmail.com)

- 4601 Valleydale Road, Bham
- May—August
- Saturdays, 8am—noon



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



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