

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. 8, Issue 1

January 2015

Pointers from the President...

Happy New Year! I hope you're including Master Gardener Meetings and Road Trips in your New Year's Resolutions! We're a FUN group. We spend time & energy with plants & our environments, and we are always LEARNING!

Webmaster **Byron Ford** is hard at work lining up programs for 2015 and **Jennifer Gregory** is coordinating some fascinating field trips. Sunshine Chair **Pat Hare** will be 'cheering' us beginning in Feb. **Beth Glasgow** will offer up volunteer opportunities. **Rhonda Cowen** will be our AC Rep while **Brenda Fitzgerald** and **Paul Saeger** join **Cathy Canant** & **Jeanon Massien** on the By-laws committee. Historian **Diane McKinnon** promises to display her outstanding 2014 Scrapbook January 9th. **Phillip Inman** will be photographing us for our first ever member directory. **Cathy Canant** & **Trish Williams** will tally awards while secretary **Randall Robertson** records our meetings, Parliamentarian **Sundra Smith** will keep us on track, **Deb Kattus** will keep us solvent, MG Class Coordinator **Jeanon Massien** will plan how we can get an intern class together, **Jan Rogers** will communicate with you all and **Michelle Hill** will set us up to make our meetings possible. Heroic **Heidee Vansant** will keep producing a vibrant newsletter envied by all other organizations!

Thanks go to our hard working retirees: **Susan Seng, Beth Heerton, Rita Forrest,** and **Mary K Tomas** (new President of Fern Society). We also appreciate our Bill Legg Memorial Committee: **Michelle Hill, Kate Vogel, Myra Healy, Merle Schukoske, Tommy Harrison** and **Dot Kachelhofer**, who've been working with the Montevallo Library.

We so, so appreciate you all. In keeping with **Bill Legg's** love of trees, do join us Friday to learn about Storm Resistant Trees. The door prize is a favorite tree book that belonged to Bill!

If you haven't paid your dues, DO SO. We NEED you, WANT you, LOVE you!

Your President,
Karen Jensen



Friday, January 9

Dale Dickens, an Urban Forestry Consultant, will be talking about Storm Resistant Trees. Those storms do occur early in the year and it behooves us to know something about this hot new topic!

Hope to see you then!



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SHELBY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes – 12 December 2014

Call to order @ 10:00 a.m. by President Susan Seng, followed by Pledge of Allegiance

Deb Kattus discussed the ongoing expansion of the Harvest for Health program where Breast Cancer Survivors receive either raised beds or Earth Boxes, plants and mentoring on vegetable gardening in effort to increase vegetable consumption and healthful exercise. Master Gardeners who volunteer would be paired with a participant within convenient driving distance and provide guidance and encouragement in gardening, one visit monthly plus one additional contact either by phone or email. Sign-up sheet forwarded to attendees, or contact Deb for information and contacts @UAB for more details or volunteering.

Susan Seng reported the Board's discussion/inquiry of need for external audit of financial records as annual requirement versus only when change of Treasurer occurs. Brenda Fitzgerald advised consulting by-laws of Association for determination of need per governance document. The case of change of Treasurer does not apply, as current Treasurer continues for 2015 term. Board also discussed motion for Association "In Memoriam" project for Bill Legg with intent to maintain consistency should future memorials be indicated. Motion continued for Board recommendation to be presented in new term.

Dianne McKinnon discussed Shelby Co. Water Festival; a state-wide, school based Water Resources education program scheduled at Montevallo University December 16, 17 and January 9, 2015 as a volunteer opportunity and requesting support. Volunteers would provide scripted education presentations, classroom support and student group escort on campus. Breakfast refreshments and lunch provided for volunteers, 8:00 a.m. start and completion by noon.

Members are reminded to report Volunteer Hours for 2014 no later than December 31st. Instructions for reporting, either paper or electronically, are found at Extension Service website.

Election of Officers for 2015 term held. President-Karen Jensen; Vice-President; nomination committee candidate – Byron Ford; floor nomination- Rhonda Cowan. Byron Ford elected. Treasurer - Deb Kattus (continues from previous term). Secretary - Randall Robertson.

There was no formal program for December, exchange of gifts using "Dirty Santa" game with multiple grabs of gifts occurring. Upon distribution of all gifts and settling of "thievery" issues, door prizes awarded. Following Blessing of the meal, meeting adjourned for lunch, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Added items at request of President:

Members are reminded of the State MGA Conference. The Conference will be March 23–25, 2015. It will be hosted by Cullman & Blount County and will be held at the Civic Center in Cullman. The cost of \$125 will include all meals. There will be an additional charge for T-shirts and extra workshops. This is not a high cost area for lodging, so it's a great chance to get to the State level meeting.

An item overlooked at the December meeting was election of a Parliamentarian for 2015; Sundra Smith's term expired at the end of December 2014. Position and candidate(s) will be presented for member voting at January 2015 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Randall Robertson, Secretary

Treasurer's Report as of 12/18/2014
Submitted by Deb Kattus, Treasurer

Date	Check/Deposit	For	Balance
		Beginning Balance	\$3,342.18
	(10.00)	Donation—Karen Jensen	
	762.00	2015 Dues Received	
		Ending Balance	\$4,104.18

SAVE THE DATE!!

Friday, February 13, 2015

Our own George Baldwin and Loyd Mehaffey (Alabama Master Beekeepers) will present the program. Loyd's presentation will be, "To Weed or Not to Weed." George's topic to be announced.



What our Land Grant College Offers SCMGA

When you become a Master Gardener, you have to put your football preferences aside (until **game time!**) because WE have a SPECIAL connection/loyalty to our Land Grant College "Mother": Auburn. Land Grant Colleges were established during the Civil War to provide practical instruction in agriculture. Our precious Master Gardener program is a bi-product. We're provided with wise instructors, precise and up-to-date instructional information, and county agents!

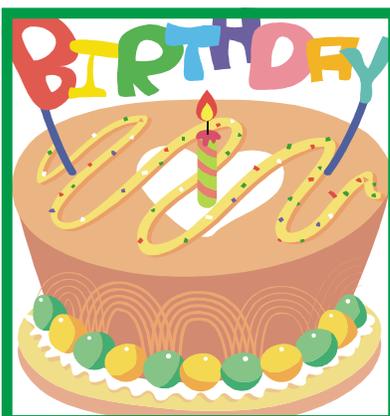
How do we, under the AMGA non-profit umbrella, GIVE BACK? By contributing to the AMGA Undergraduate Endowment Fund. Currently Jennifer Darrow from Eufaula and Jeremy Comer of Huntsville are grateful recipients.

Because our own Jeanon Massien (Class of 2004), is chairperson of this committee, she gets to meet these enthusiastic young people who will become "our future horticulturists, extension agents, professors and researchers".

Jeanon tells this story in the September *Pathways*: "Lucy Edwards joined the Extension Service as a Regional Extension Agent. Lucy's geographical area of responsibility includes Coffee, Covington, Dale, Geneva, Henry and Houston Counties. Why am I telling you this? Lucy was the recipient of the AMGA Scholarship for the academic year 2009—2010. YOUR MONEY AT WORK!! The AMGA Undergraduate Endowment now provides scholarship funding for two worthy individuals each year. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of young adults who share Master Gardeners' passion, and who are the future caretakers and preservationists of our natural resources."

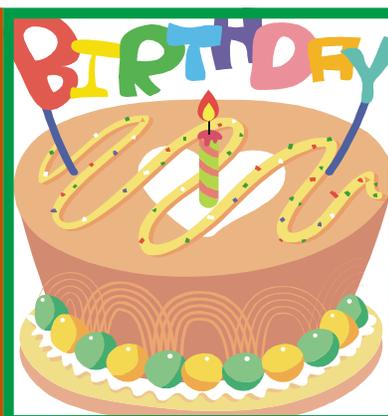


~Karen Jensen



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2—LaVerne Martin	17—Jennifer Gregory
7—Tom Harris	22—Emily Gravitt & Michele Hill
9—Jeanon Massien	24—Heidi Mueninghoff
10—Jan Rogers	26—Judy Bynum
12—Heidee Vansant	27—Janice Falkner
13—Sandra Jones	



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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ALABAMA GARDENER'S CALENDAR FOR JANUARY

FRUITS & NUTS - Set out apples, peaches, pears, and grapes. Start grafting pecans. Prune dormant trees.

SHRUBS - Plant shrubs and trees, including broadleaf, narrow-leaf, and deciduous. Graft camellias in South Alabama. Spray all deciduous shrubbery with a dormant spray to control diseases and insects. Spray when weather is on warming trend.

LAWNS - Soil test before setting up fertility program.

ROSES - Visit nurseries and garden centers to select varieties. Start planting.

ANNUALS & PERENNIALS - Plant hardy annuals.

BULBS - Late plantings of Dutch bulbs will flower if planted now. Lilies of all types, except Madonna, may be planted. Check stored bulbs and discard rotten ones. Make indoor plantings of amaryllis, callas, and gloxinias.

MISCELLANEOUS - Prune winter-damaged limbs. Give houseplants a bath in lukewarm water to remove dust. To keep poinsettias that have finished flowering, turn pots on their sides and let them dry completely, Cut them back lightly and keep in a temperature of 55 to 60 °.

VEGETABLE SEED - Plant hardy vegetables, root crops, roots, and tubers in southern-most areas. Plant lettuce, cabbage, and broccoli in cold-frames.



New Officers L-R: President-Karen Jensen, Secretary-Randall Robertson, VP-Byron Ford, and Treasurer-Deb Kattus



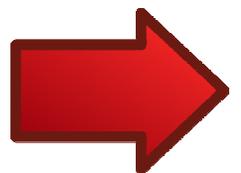
Susan Seng (outgoing president) receives painting from Karen Jensen (incoming president)

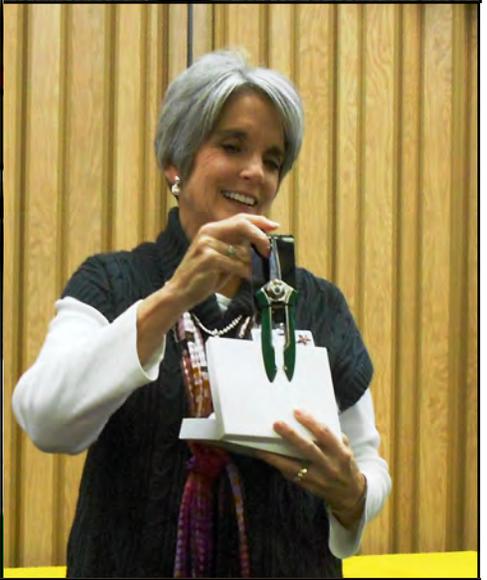


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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR
2015 ALABAMA MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE
MARCH 23-25, 2015**

**HOSTED BY BLOUNT & CULLMAN COUNTY
MASTER GARDENERS**

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 renowned 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.



**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	Trisha Williams	678-7875	trisha325@gmail.com
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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