

# GARDENERS' GAB



## Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association

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

[www.scmastergardeners.com](http://www.scmastergardeners.com)

**Like Us on Facebook**

**Alabama MGA:** [www.alabamamg.org](http://www.alabamamg.org)

**Alabama MG Program** [www.aces.edu/mg](http://www.aces.edu/mg)

**Vol. 8, Issue 6**

**June 2015**

## Pointers from the President...

I enjoyed having members at my home for a Plant Swap in May although it put pressure on me to actually "weed". Other than growing blueberries and attempting to grow kiwi, the more interesting aspects here are technologies. We put in geothermal heating and cooling 17 years ago because the geothermal training center is nearby in Verbena (they have spring & fall classes), and the payback period is 10 years. We have the first residential county "constructed wetland", an inexpensive septic system designed for land that may not "perk." Our wetland consists of cannas, swamp hibiscus, Japanese iris, elephant ears, tree frogs, and a turtle laying eggs. Gray water from our washing machine perks up the plants. Decking is recycled plastic. Four-foot roof overhangs (antebellum savvy) keep the house cooler in summer and handicap toilets are easy on knees!

My thanks to Lay Lake HOBO (Home Owners & Boat Owners) volunteers Chuck Jensen and Judy Jones who took visitors to see goat island, the heron rookery, an osprey nest, and some invasive aquatic species.

While I missed you, I am proud of all who volunteered at Aldridge Gardens' Annual Plant Sale, scheduled ALWAYS on Mother's Day weekend. Next year the Aldridge plant sale will be May 5-7 and our MG Plant Swap will be May 13—happy days, no conflict in 2016!

Everyone, talk up our upcoming Master Gardener Intern Classes, which begin Wednesday, August 5 and end October 28. Additional information on these classes appears on page 3.

Enjoy your time in the garden!

*Karen Jensen*



**This Month's Meeting**  
**Friday, June 12**

**Vicki Parker**

**KeepOakMountainWild.org**

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**SHELBY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Meeting Minutes – 8 May 2015**

Eighteen members, five guests and Extension Agent Nelson Wynn gathered at the Jensen estate by Lay Lake to celebrate the glorious day and swap our abundance of plants. President Jensen guided us around the various regions of the grounds, representing a water garden, a bog garden (clever way to use grey water out in plain sight!) and the remaining Southern vernacular complementing the structure of the home. We thank our hosts.

**Old Business:**

- Motion to accept Minutes of April 24 Meeting as published in *Gardeners' Gab* made by Trisha Williams, seconded by Sundra Smith. Motion carried.
- Motion to accept Treasurer's Report as published in *Gardeners' Gab* made by Sundra Smith, seconded by Brenda Fitzgerald. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

- Nelson Wynn requested continued word of mouth encouragement for upcoming Master Gardener training which begins in August. Sundra Smith passed around a sign-up list for those willing to mentor interns.
- President Jensen reminded attendees of upcoming Special Needs Fishing Event for those who previously signed up to help. Nelson Wynn announced hours for volunteering at this event will not qualify for the service hours needed to maintain Master Gardener active certification.
- Michelle Hill requested sign-up list of volunteers for Outdoor Learning Center Expansion Project. Those responding were requested to include recommended "best times" to begin determining when work days might be scheduled.
- Corley and Julie Ellis presented example of hydrangea leaf with growing problem, requesting group assistance in possible remediation. Other hydrangea of same type planted at same time across the sidewalk from referenced problem plant show no deficits. Recommendation for soil test at problem site versus healthy site made.

Program: Exchange of potted plants among those who brought same conducted by sequential numbered drawing. Also, "give away" plants among members were available, varying from heirloom tomatoes, bulb onions, ferns, citrus seedling, cut-leaf maples, cannas and daylilies. May all the transplants thrive in their new homes.

No further New Business appearing, formal portion of meeting adjourned. Members and guests were afforded the option to enjoy their "brown bag lunches" under the shade or take lunch aboard the pontoon boats piloted by Chuck Jensen and Judy Jones to Goat Island and the Heron Rookery.

Respectfully submitted,

Randall Robertson, Secretary

**Treasurer's Report as of 5/15/2015**  
**Submitted by Deb Kattus, Treasurer**

Check/Deposit	For	Balance
	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	\$3,473.77
22.00	2015 Dues Received	
(10.00)	AMGA 2015 Dues Paid	
(25.00)	Speaker's Fee—Joyce Darby	
	<b>Ending Balance</b>	\$3,460.77

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**SAVE THE DATE!!** Upcoming SCMGA Meeting:  
**Friday, July 10, 2015—Tomato Taste Test—Heirloom vs. Hybrid**  
Bring tomatoes from your garden and you will be rewarded with a rain gauge!  
Byron Ford hopes to bring several varieties from Bonnie Plants' trial garden too.



**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/](http://www.aldridgegardens.com/education/events/)  
[www.bbgardens.org/all-events.php](http://www.bbgardens.org/all-events.php)  
[www.hooverlibrary.org/events/calendar/](http://www.hooverlibrary.org/events/calendar/)  
[www.petalsfromthepast.com/events.html](http://www.petalsfromthepast.com/events.html)  
[www.scmastergardeners.com/events/](http://www.scmastergardeners.com/events/)

### **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](mailto:wynnnel@aces.edu) or 205-438-3725.



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 interested in purchasing. Jeanon Massien ~ [Nauzer1@att.net](mailto:Nauzer1@att.net)

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**From Jennifer Gregory: SHELBY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS,  
We have collected \$1,360 for MARVIN'S MEDICINE!**

Thank you so much to:

- |                      |                     |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Diane McKinnon    | 10. Thomas Harris   | 19. Janice Falkner  |
| 2. Paul Saeger       | 11. Teresa Boody    | 20. Phillip Inman   |
| 3. Karen Jensen      | 12. Jeanon Massien  | 21. Susan Seng      |
| 4. Betty Daigle      | 13. Cathy Canant    | 22. Myra Healy      |
| 5. Cindy Ferlitto    | 14. Emily Gravitt   | 23. Joy Dearing     |
| 6. Jessica Joslin    | 15. Deb Kattus      | 24. Pat/George Hare |
| 7. Merle Schukoske   | 16. Beth Heerten    | 25. Dot Kachelhofer |
| 8. Dean Lovell       | 17. Sundra Smith    | 26. Sydney Ellis    |
| 9. Randall Robertson | 18. Willie Edmiston |                     |



Marvin and brother Nelson Wynn

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

*Members are encouraged to earn 25 volunteer hours and 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](mailto:michelerhill@gmail.com))



### **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
- Check out their new website! [www.cahabaec.org](http://www.cahabaec.org)

**Contact Leland or Marty Keller** ([kellers@myexcel.com](mailto:kellers@myexcel.com))



### **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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I'm a little over four weeks into my beekeeping adventure and loving it! My husband and I took classes through the Shelby County Beekeepers' Association this past February and March. We purchased our nucleus bee colony from fellow Shelby County Master Gardener and our Beekeeping Mentor, George Baldwin on May 4.

Honeybees are so amazing! The more I learn, the more I realize just how much more there is to learn! So far, we have not been stung (knock on wood). Our "girls" are very calm and hardly seem to notice when we're sticking our noses in their business. My only complaint about this "hobby" is how HOT I get when fully dressed out! Someone needs to invent air-conditioned beekeeper's apparel. 😊

Of course, gardening and beekeeping go hand-in-hand. I'm hoping to see increased yields in my vegetable garden and I plan to add more blueberry bushes and other blooming plants to my yard. I have found all kinds of bees LOVE my herbs, especially those with violet-colored blooms. We learned bees prefer blue and yellow blooms, so keep that in mind when planning your bee-friendly garden. Also, remember to include a water source they can sip from without the danger of drowning. ~Heidee Vansant (Class of '97)



Lots of busy bees were working away when I opened the hive May 27. I think their numbers have at least doubled, if not tripled, in the past four weeks.

Just look at all the babies (larvae) being tended to by their older sisters!



Karen Jensen pulls weeds from her septic/wetland garden and discovers a turtle under the Elephant ears.



Karen removes weeds from the wetland garden so the cannas & swamp hibiscus have more space.

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# ANNUAL SCMGA PLANT SWAP AT THE JENSEN ESTATE



Nesting Osprey on Lay Lake channel marker.



Corley Ellis seeks advice on ailing hydrangea.







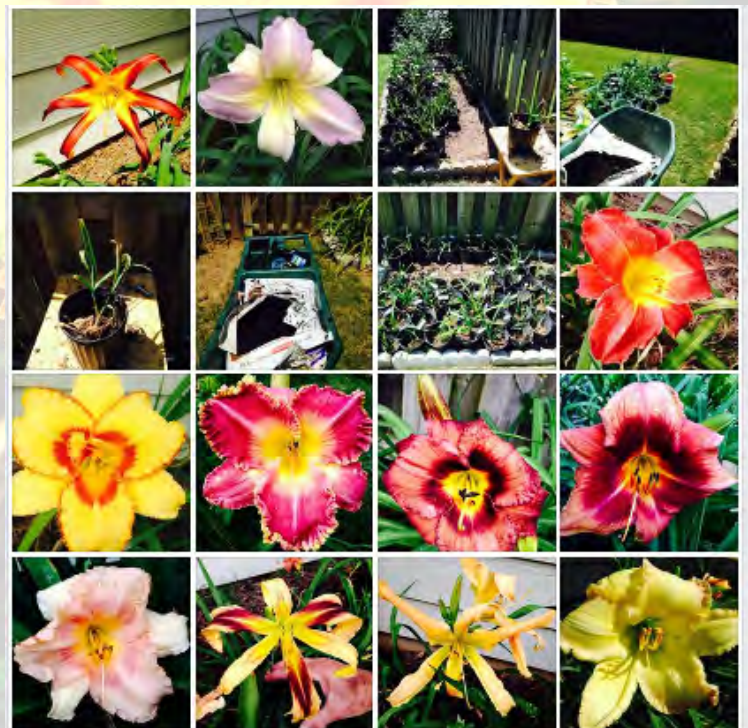
## ALDRIDGE GARDENS PLANT SALE CHAIRWOMEN

L—R:

Teresa Boody (SCMG)  
Robin Mansfield (JCMG)  
Susan Eagon (SCMG)  
Jan Rogers (SCMG)  
Deb Kattus (SCMG)  
Linda System (JCMG)



Wowzer!  
Talk about EYE-CANDY!  
Take a peak at  
what's happening in  
Jan Roger's yard!







Please send Pat Hare, Sunshine Committee Chair, information about members (or their relatives) who are sick, facing surgery or have lost 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 the member know we are thinking about them. Here are two ways for you to get in touch with Pat:

Email: [pat.hare@outlook.com](mailto:pat.hare@outlook.com)

Phone: 205-621-3848



## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

16—Randall Robertson

17—Deb Kattus

26—Julie Ellis

27—Karen Jensen

Have you "LIKED" us on Facebook?



**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 JUNE

**FRUITS AND NUTS**—Layer grapes and continue spray programs. If they are too thick, thin apples and peaches.

**SHRUBS**—Lace bugs may be a problem on azaleas, pyracanthas, dogwoods, cherry laurels, and other shrubs. Water them as needed. Fertilize now. Keep long shoots from developing by pinching out tips. June is a good time to take cuttings from semi-mature wood for rooting.

**LAWNS**—Follow a schedule of fertilization and watering. Lawns should be mowed weekly. Planting may continue if soil is moist. Continue weed spraying if necessary.

**ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS**—Keep old flower heads removed to promote continued flowering. Plant garden mums if they are not already in. For compact mums, keep tips pinched out. Watch for insects and diseases.

**BULBS**—Remove foliage from spring bulbs if it yellow and becoming dry. Watch for aphids and thrips on summer bulbs.

**MISCELLANEOUS**—If scale insects continue on shrubs, use materials other than oils. Set houseplants on porch or outdoors in shade and pay close attention to the need for water. If desired, air layer houseplants.

**VEGETABLE SEED**—Plant beans, field peas, pumpkins, squash, corn, cantaloupes, and watermelons.

**VEGETABLE PLANTS**—Plant tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and sweet potato vine cuttings.

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visit: [www.Extension100Years.net](http://www.Extension100Years.net)



#### **Alabaster Farmers Market**

Contact: Lynn Coleman  
([sowersofseed@hotmail.com](mailto:sowersofseed@hotmail.com))

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

#### **Calera Farmers Market**

[www.calerafarmersmarket.com](http://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
- April—November
- Saturdays 8am—2pm

#### **Crosscreek Community Market**

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

#### **Helena Market Days**

[www.helenamarketdays.com](http://www.helenamarketdays.com)

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

#### **Montevallo Farmers Market**

[Montevallofarmersmarket.blogspot.com](http://Montevallofarmersmarket.blogspot.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](http://www.mtlaurel.com)

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

#### **Riverchase UMC Market**

[www.riverchaseumc.org](http://www.riverchaseumc.org)

Contact: John Ray

([john@riverchaseumc.org](mailto:john@riverchaseumc.org))

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

#### **Valleydale Farmers Market**

Contact: Felder Davis

([valleydalefarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:valleydalefarmersmarket@gmail.com))

- 4601 Valleydale Road, B'ham
- May—August
- Saturdays, 8am—noon



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



President	Karen Jensen	670-0701	<a href="mailto:karenkjensen3@icloud.com">karenkjensen3@icloud.com</a>
Vice-President & Webmaster	Byron Ford	334-473-0707	<a href="mailto:Byron@byronford.com">Byron@byronford.com</a>
Secretary	Randall Robertson	663-0459	<a href="mailto:msptngc96@charter.net">msptngc96@charter.net</a>
Treasurer	Deb Kattus	913-2703	<a href="mailto:dkattus@charter.net">dkattus@charter.net</a>
Parliamentarian	Sundra Smith	985-7360	<a href="mailto:sshealeysmith@aol.com">sshealeysmith@aol.com</a>
Advisory Council Rep	Rhonda Cowan	678-4994	<a href="mailto:cowan_r@bellsouth.net">cowan_r@bellsouth.net</a>
Awards Committee Chair	Cathy Canant	626-8105	<a href="mailto:ccanant@bellsouth.net">ccanant@bellsouth.net</a>
By-Laws Chair/MG Class Coord	Jeanon Massien	991-3125	<a href="mailto:nauzer1@att.net">nauzer1@att.net</a>
Communications	Jan Rogers	307-9733	<a href="mailto:janrogers@charter.net">janrogers@charter.net</a>
Events Coordinator	Jennifer Gregory	444-0742	<a href="mailto:jggdrg@aol.com">jggdrg@aol.com</a>
Historian	Diane McKinnon	680-3282	<a href="mailto:bamabeach@bellsouth.net">bamabeach@bellsouth.net</a>
Hospitality	Michele Hill	690-7019	<a href="mailto:michelerhill@gmail.com">michelerhill@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter Editor	Heidee Vansant	669-3284	<a href="mailto:heidee.vansant@gmail.com">heidee.vansant@gmail.com</a>
Nominating Committee Chair	Susan Seng	991-7867	<a href="mailto:gaggy10@gmail.com">gaggy10@gmail.com</a>
Projects Coordinator	Beth Glasgow	669-7981	<a href="mailto:bethglasgow@bellsouth.net">bethglasgow@bellsouth.net</a>
Sunshine Committee	Pat Hare	621-3848	<a href="mailto:pat.hare@outlook.com">pat.hare@outlook.com</a>

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