

GARDENERS' GAB



Shelby County Master Gardeners' Assoc.

www.scmastergardeners.com

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

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Submit Your Photos to: scmgaphotos@gmail.com

Alabama MGA: www.alabamamg.org

Alabama MG Program: www.aces.edu/mg

AMG Online Store: <http://www.victorydesigns.com/amg/>

Vol. 9, Issue 6

June 2016

Thoughts from the President...

Our May meeting with Glenn Littleton, on rain barrels and water reuse was very informative. Even though the date was moved and bad weather threatened, we did enjoy a day with no rain and got to take home rain barrels. Well, I should say some of us, meaning me....took more than one!

I also wanted to say how much I enjoyed the AMGA Conference. There were lots of vendors and really good speakers! Hey, the silent auction wasn't bad either.

I want to congratulate those that received badges. Jeanon Massien received the Emerald Star badge-6,000+ volunteer hours at the conference.

In the May meeting I presented 3 of our members with Gold Badges - 1,000+ hours. Tommie Harrison and Merle Schukoske were present to receive their badge and Betty Daigle will get hers later. Good job!

Also, thanks to all that have put in hours lately for plant sales and helping with our outdoor park and of course our last minute plea for help with the Rehab Center in Columbiana.

I'm looking forward to next month's meeting and plant swap at Pat and George Hare's house. I promise you will love it!

Your President,

Rita Forrest



This Month's Meeting—Friday, June 10 @ 10 am—Noon

Annual Plant Swap & Garden Tour

Home of George & Pat Hare—701 Wynlake Cove, Alabaster

Directions: Take Hwy 119 toward Montevallo, turn right on Hwy 80, left into Wynlake Subdivision, around lake, turn right on Wynlake Trail, left on Wynlake Cove. Their house will be around the curve on the right.

Please bring a sack lunch and chair, a plant to swap if you want to participate and any pass along plants you would like to share.

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SAVE THE DATE

Next Month's Meeting—Friday, July 8th
Herbs and Medicines by Betty Elder

SCMGA Meeting Minutes – 20 May 2016

- Meeting called to order at 10:03 by President Forrest, 16 members present.
- Minutes of April meeting and Treasurer's Report, as published in GAB, approved on voice votes.
- President Forrest provided informal report of State Conference, evaluating Conference as a positive and entertaining experience. ("It was fun!"). Tommie Harrison and Merle Schukoske were recognized for each having exceeded one thousand hours total service time since becoming Master Gardeners. Award badges provided at State Conference were awarded by President Forrest at the Shelby Association meeting.
- Committee Reports:
 - Project: Michelle Hill reports all plant materials obtained through Plant Sales support and purchases have been installed in the project area adjacent the Extension Service building. Materials for the entry portal have been purchased and awaiting fabrication before transport and installation at site entry.
- Communication/announcements:
 - President Forrest thanked those who assisted, on fairly short notice, with preparing the grounds and plantings at the Columbiana Nursing Home before Mother's Day.
 - Oak Mountain Special Needs Fishing Tournament. Diane McKinnon thanked all who volunteered to support this event, and reminds those to be certain to record their service hours!
 - Kate Vogel noted the Cahaba Lilies are a little behind the usual calendar this year, but are still at the best for viewing between Mother's Day and Father's Day. A location of use for viewing can be located in Centerville, AL, leaving Montevallo on AL Hwy 25 south to AL Hwy 85, turning right and crossing the Cahaba River. Soon after the crossing a pull off is located with river access. Dress to enable wading to view the lilies close up, and certainly, don't harvest any lilies! Leave them for all to view.
- Old business:
- Do you remember the "Hawthorne Effect" from your Psychology 101 class? Reminder; people tend to pay more attention to their usual tasks when they know someone is watching. No doubt we would all do our best when we are representing Master Gardeners at large, and to announce our efforts President Forrest revealed some signs, in bold yellow and black, with the title "MASTER GARDENERS AT WORK" and appropriate images below. Be sure to 'fly that flag' and announce your involvement at the next group effort.
- New business:
 - The June meeting and Plant Swap will be a "road trip", meeting at Pat and George Hare's home and garden. Pat asked President Forrest to ask for "a couple of volunteers" to help prepare for the plant swap at their home. Also, please remember to bring your bag lunch and folding chair to enjoy the outdoors for the meeting.
- PROGRAM:
 - Program was presented by Glen Littleton, representing the Alabama Clean Waters Partnership. A short education lecture introducing the organization and its mission preceded the hands-on demonstration of constructing Rain Barrels for water reuse. Those who had expressed an interest in having one could pick one up after the meeting. In greater detail; these were 60 gallon high density nylon barrels previously containing Coca-Cola syrup, with rain entry holes drilled into the tops, covered with netting to reject trash and insects. Hole for a brass outlet hob (faucet) is made and the hob installed. If you have one, be certain to elevate it enough to allow attaching a hose to direct the flow to your plants. If you didn't get to attend the meeting and would like to know more about the program, the website is <http://www.cleanwaterpartnership.org/>. Mr. Littleton is the Cahaba Basin facilitator and can be reached at cahaCWP@hotmail.com, or (205)217-2592.

We invited Glen to join us for lunch, which we shared after a blessing given by Wayne Gainey and adjournment of the meeting at 11:20.

Respectfully submitted,
Randall C. Robertson, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT as of 05/20/2016 Submitted by Myra Healy, Treasurer

Check/Deposit	For	Balance
	Beginning Balance	\$3,190.73
(464.28)	Disbursement of Grant Funds	
	Ending Balance	\$2,746.45

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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
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/



2017 International Master Gardener Conference "Follow the Oregon Trail to Great Gardening"

In 2017, the Oregon State University Extension Master Gardener Program and the Oregon Master Gardener Association will host the 2017 International Master Gardener Conference at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, OR, July 10-14, 2017, with support from many generous sponsors and friends. Find more info on Facebook or at <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/2017imgc/>



2016 Southern Region
Master Gardener
Conference

Welcome to 2016 Southern Region Master Gardener Conference in Arlington and Fort Worth, November 1-4, 2016!

Texas is delighted to have been chosen to host this conference and we eagerly anticipate your arrival. The conference will take place at the Sheraton Arlington and the Arlington Convention Center, which are practically across the street from Globe Life Park, home of the Texas Rangers, and a few blocks from AT&T Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys. The hotel is a mere 9 miles from Dallas/Fort Worth Airport and the Sheraton provides a complimentary shuttle. Expect for weather to be dry and in the 70's.

The speakers we have planned will engage and educate you. The Master Gardener State Coordinator panel should provide many new ideas and answer your questions. Our Capstone Speaker is actor Barry Corbin who will regale us with stories of growing up in West Texas and talk about drought and water conservation. On the tours you can visit many glorious public, school and residential gardens, as well as the two sports facilities near the hotel. We plan to offer you good old-fashioned Texas hospitality and look forward to having y'all visit our county.

Steve Chaney, Tarrant County Extension Agent, Horticulture, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

For more info, go to <https://2016southernregionmg.com/>



2016 AMGA CONFERENCE

L—R:

Cathy Canant
Susan Seng
Karen Jensen
Edith Johnston
Jeanon Massien
Rita Forrest
Trisha Williams

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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
Phone: 205-621-3848



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

16—Randall Robertson

17—Deborah Kattus

27—Karen Jensen

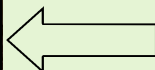
Have you 'LIKED' us on Facebook?



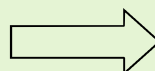
Columbiana Health & Rehab—Spruced Up for Mother's Day



Edith Johnston



Karen Jensen



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Raised garden bed to table at Riverchase Elementary School. The cafeteria ladies love preparing our vegetables. The kids love growing them. I'm so proud of our gardeners. ~Betty Daigle



Volunteers are needed to conduct a program for the August and September meetings. Please contact Edith Johnston at 620-2922 or edithjohnston12@gmail.com



President Rita Forrest presents Tommie Harrison and Merle Schukoske with their gold badges for having accumulated 1,000 + volunteer hours.



Redring Milkweed (*Asclepias variegata* L.)

By David Taylor

This natural beauty was found in our backyard park by Rebecca Robertson! White milkweed (*Asclepias variegata*)



Redring milkweed is in the Asclepiadaceae (milkweed) family. It is one of about 115 species that occur in the Americas. Most species are tropical or arid land species. The genus name, *Asclepias*, commemorates Asklepios, the Greek god of medicine. Some of the milkweed species have a history of medicinal use including common milkweed, *A. syriaca* (wart removal and lung diseases), and butterfly weed, *A. tuberosa* (also known as "pleurisy root", for pleurisy and other lung disease). The specific epithet, *variegata*, means 'variegated' in reference to the two colors on the flowers.

This species like most milkweeds has a deep root stock that helps the plant survive fire and drought. The plant grows to about 3' tall, sometimes taller, with 4-6 pairs of opposite leaves. Leaves are more or less elliptical and 3-5 inches long by 1-3 inches wide. The underside is lighter in color than the upper side and may have hairs on it. Flowers are waxy and white, frequently with reddish, pinkish, to purplish rings around the middle, hence the common name. Flowers are 0.25-0.35 inches long, and are born in loose to dense hemispherical clusters at the top of the plant. Inflated, but narrow, upright seed pods are usually borne in pairs. The fruits of this plant resemble those of purple milkweed (*A. purpurascens*) and poke milkweed (*A. exaltata*). Broken leaves and stems produce milky latex.

This milkweed like most milkweeds produces copious amounts of nectar and is an important pollinator plant.

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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.

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

President	Rita Forrest	620-1167	ritabe@bellsouth.net
Vice-President	Edith Johnston	620-2922	edithjohnston12@gmail.com
Secretary	Randall Robertson	663-0459	msptngc96@charter.net
Treasurer	Myra Healy	665-4554	myhealy@hughes.net
Parliamentarian	Paul Saeger	733-9066	saeger.paul@yahoo.com
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Awards Committee Chair	Deb Kattus	913-2703	dkattus@charter.net
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Projects Coordinator	Beth Glasgow	669-7981	bethglasgow@bellsouth.net
Sunshine Committee	Pat Hare	621-3848	pat.hare@outlook.com
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