

# GARDENERS' GAB



## **Shelby County Master Gardeners' Assoc.**

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

**Meetings: Monthly, 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday at 10 a.m.**  
**Shelby County Extension Office—Columbiana, Alabama**

### **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)

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

Vol. 9, Issue 10

October 2016

## **Thoughts from the President...**

Wow, please tell me the heat is almost over! I am beginning to think fall is never getting here.

Thanks to Rebecca Robertson for all the hard work she did to show us many varieties of wild flowers! It was a really good presentation.

It was so good to see Edith attending this month, prior to her surgery. I can now report that she has completed the surgery and is home and doing well.

Intern classes are going well and I do believe this class will bring a lot to our organization.

Your President,

Rita Forrest

**This Month's Meeting**  
**Friday, October 14 @ 10 am—Noon**

Seed Swap & Gardening Tips  
presented by Renee Thompson, Harvest For Health  
Please bring a potluck dish to share.





## SAVE THE DATE

Next Month's Meeting—Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>  
Scottie Jackson, Director of Education & Outreach

### SCMGA Meeting Minutes—9 September 2016

Meeting called to order 10:00 A.M. by President Forrest, 22 members and guest present

#### Business:

Approval of August minutes as published. Motion to accept by George Hare, seconded. Accepted on voice vote.

Approval of August Treasurer's report—Myra Healy provided updated entry to report as published in Garden GAB. Motion to accept, as amended, by Jeanon Messien, seconded, accepted on voice vote.

#### Committee reports:

##### Projects:

- Outdoor Learning Center - Randall Robertson reported entry portal structure is complete, will await break in ambient temperature to gather crew to install.

Communications/Announcements: None

#### New business:

- President Forrest encouraged all to sign up for Fall Seminar, to be held at Birmingham Botanical Gardens September 29<sup>th</sup>. Late fee has been waived, If charged, it will be refunded. Registration may be accomplished on-line at [Alabamamg.org](http://Alabamamg.org).
- Historian Diane McKinnon thanks those members who have been sending photos of events from their "smart" phones and appreciates the support. Diane suggests users download those photos to memory and send them as attachments versus send in text messages in improve resolution, as those sent as part of text are too low in resolution to print into hard copy for inclusion in history book.
- Kate Vogel reported on a field trip by her church's four year old Pee Wee MG's to the Montevallo Community Garden. Her take-away message is to be certain you have enough adult "eyes" if you plan a similar excursion. That age group can be so excited by identifying young growing plants that they might "un-plant" them to show them to the leader.
- Vice-President Edith Johnston is with us today, though is waiting neurosurgery (hopefully) the week of 12 September. Let's all send positive thoughts and energy for success.

Program: Wild Flowers, by Rebecca Robertson

Rebecca presented native flowers of the area, organized by the typical environment they are found or prefer. She also included tips to help establish natives you may try to bring in. Example, for an item in dry shade, the plant will require daily water for the first week, every other day in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week. Augment water each subsequent week less than 1" of rainfall is received throughout the next year. After that time you may consider the plant as established in that site.

Paul Saeger gave the blessing for the meal. Meeting adjourned 11:45AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Randall C. Robertson, Secretary

### TREASURER'S REPORT as of 09/20/2016 Submitted by Myra Healy, Treasurer

Check/Deposit	For	Balance
	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$2,530.54</b>
	No Disbursements	
	<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$2,530.54</b>

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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/](http://www.aldridgegardens.com/education/events/)  
[www.bbgbgarden.org/all-events.php](http://www.bbgbgarden.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/)



### 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/>



### 67<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SHELBY COUNTY FAIR October 3—8, 2016

**Shelby County Exhibition Center, Columbiana, AL**

**Theme: "Taste of the Past and the Future"**

**Admission: \$12 each at Gate**

[www.alshelbycountyfair.com/tickets](http://www.alshelbycountyfair.com/tickets)

Everyone Over 36" Must Purchase A Ticket  
Gates Open at 5:30pm Nightly—Rides Start At 6pm  
Gates and Rides Open at 3pm on Saturday



**A FAMILY TRADITION!**

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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](mailto:pat.hare@outlook.com)  
Phone: 205-621-3848



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

6—Carl Martin  
17—Dolores Davis and  
Regena Varvoutis  
19—Jim Strickland  
20—Karen Kendall  
22—Beth Heerten

Have you 'LIKED' us on Facebook?



Cards sent by Pat Hare during September:

### **Birthdays:**

- Betty Elder
- Brenda Fitzgerald
- Deborah Dahlin
- Wayne Gainey
- Carolyn Friday
- Sue Brashier
- Kate Vogel

### **Get Well:**

- Edith Johnston

Help Spread  
The Sunshine!



## **Titusville Girl Scout Troop 208 Project Report—Karen Kendall**

Despite the heat and dryness of mid-summer, the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Baptist Church Girl Scout Troop 208 successfully planted their Tranquility Garden on July 14. I know what you're thinking... mid July? After explaining to the troop the best time for planting a new garden is in the fall, they wanted and needed to move forward with their project. In order to be approved for their community efforts through the Girl Scout Council, the scouts needed to have the garden planted by August 30.

The day we gathered soil for the soil test, the ground seemed pretty OK to dig in. Not so two weeks later when we were digging the garden to plant. A rotor tiller was called in to dig three plots along a north facing wall inside a courtyard. Easy enough? No because the tiller quit working on plot two. We proceeded to dig with shovels and got all the donated flowers planted. The Tranquility Garden was presented to the church and the grief ministry September 15.

Thank you to the Homewood Lowe's and Aldridge Gardens for donating a mix of sun lover perennials such as Holly Hocks, verbena, phlox, variegated leaf shrubs, Stella D'Oro daylilies, Black and Blue salvia, crocosmia and David Austin Tranquility roses. The girl scouts were approved by the GS council to earn their community project badges. Congratulations! The scouts will continue to maintain and expand the garden with assistance from future girl scouts in Troop 208.

At June SCMGA meeting I agreed to investigate beginning a **Junior Master Gardener** group including purchase of texts. I have been away most of the summer. I need to see if there is enough interest in the group. We will begin by meeting with Charity Battles at the Extension Office at a time convenient to all.

If anyone is interested in helping with **junior master gardeners** please contact me ASAP.

Thanks,  
Merle Schukoske  
205.876.6981  
[schukos@gmail.com](mailto:schukos@gmail.com)



Rebecca Robertson, spoke on wildflowers at the September meeting.



Shelby County MG's enjoyed attending the AMGA Fall Seminar

### **Birmingham Botanical Gardens shares ways to conserve water while keeping your lawn healthy**

BIRMINGHAM, AL (WBRC) -

With little rain in over a month and not much expected in the weeks to come, the Birmingham Water Works Board is [asking its customers to voluntarily conserve water](#).

But how can you do that and still keep your landscape looking healthy?

James Horton, director of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, gave three main tips to follow.

First, if you must water your lawn, early morning is the best time to do so. Start around 4 a.m. and go no later than 10 a.m.

Another idea, he says, is to make sure your flower and tree beds have mulch, at least two to four inches of something like pine bark or pine straw.

"It keeps the moisture in the soil and it's going to evaporate," Horton explained. "But if you mulch it, so much more is saved for the plant to use."

He also said raising the mowing height of your grass can help, too.

"If you raise your mowing height, you're going to be mowing less. The lawn can still look good. And if your lawn is under drought conditions right now, do not mow at all. That's only going to increase the stress on the grass," he said.

Conserving water doesn't only apply to agriculture.

There are also things you can also do inside of your home to help like taking shorter showers or not running your clothes or dish washer until they are fully loaded.

The Birmingham Water Works Board has a full list of suggestions here: <http://www.wbrc.com/story/33260414/birmingham-water-works-asks-customers-to-voluntarily-reduce-water-in-drought-advisory>

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



## ALABAMA GARDENER'S CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

**Fruits and Nuts**—Planting season for strawberries starts in south Alabama. Clean up orchard area. Remove broken limbs, old fruit, and debris from orchard floor.

**Shrubs**—Shrub plantings can be made. Water when needed. Note varieties of camellias in bloom. Start mulching all shrubs that do not have a mulch.

**Lawns**—Continue to mow lawns until no new growth is noticeable.

**Roses**—Continue insect and disease control practices. New rose catalogs will be coming in. Study closely; add some new varieties to your list.

**Annuals and Perennials**—Visit flower shows and gardens. List desirable varieties of mums. Clean up flower beds immediately after first killing frost.

**Bulbs**—Plant tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, crocuses, Dutch irises, anemones, and ranunculus's. Watch planting depth. Dig caladiums; clean and store in warm place.

**Miscellaneous**—Renew mulch around shrubs and rose beds. Loosen mulches that have packed down. Spray with oils before freezing weather to kill scale, mites, etc. Remove all dead stems and trash from flower beds. Transplant into small pots any cuttings taken earlier.

**Vegetable Seed**—Plant turnips, mustard, kale, rape, spinach, and onion sets.

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

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