

GARDENERS' GAB



Shelby County Master Gardeners' Assoc.

www.scmastergardeners.com

Meetings: Monthly, 2nd Friday at 10:00 a.m.
Shelby County Extension Office—Columbiana, Alabama

Like Us on Facebook

Alabama MGA: www.alabamamg.org

Alabama MG Program: www.aces.edu/mg

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

Vol. 10, Issue 4

April 2017

Thoughts from the President...

Thanks to all who attended the March meeting. I am so proud of everyone "hanging in there" during the delay. We still got a lot accomplished by discussing upcoming events and opportunities

Many thanks go out to Michelle Hill for all her devotion getting the grant for the Outdoor Classroom and for accomplishing so many things.

Deb Kattus presented awards for last year's accomplishments of volunteer hours and CEU's.

We even had a surprise speaker, Ricky Colquitt. During the delay he gave us a preview of something that might be developing at the extension office in the near future. We will have more info on this hopefully real soon.

Last, but certainly not least, our speaker, James Horton, gave us a wonderful presentation about the effects of the 2016 drought on the Birmingham Botanical Gardens and showed us many statistics from years past rain totals. I thoroughly enjoyed the program!

Your President,

Rita Forrest

This Month's Meeting
Friday, April 14 @ 10:00 am

Program: Square Foot Gardening presented by Jan Rogers

Please bring a potluck dish to share.

Carey Baird will be at the Extension Office on **April 14th at 9am** ready to **SHARPEN!** Please remember to bring items you need sharpened. He can take care of most items during the meeting including scissors, pruners and more. Let's support this event so he will be willing to come back and help us again.



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SAVE THE DATE

Next Month's Meeting—Friday, May 12
Captain Compost—William Cureton
<http://www.captaincompostalabama.com/>



TREASURER'S REPORT as of 03/20/2017 Submitted by Myra Healy, Treasurer

Check/Deposit	For	Balance
	Beginning Balance	\$2,990.00
44.00	Deposits	
(385.00)	Disbursements	
	Ending Balance	\$2,649.00

SCMGA MEETING MINUTES - 10 MARCH 2017

- Meeting called to order by President Rita Forrest at 10am
- President Forrest lead the Pledge of Allegiance
- Meeting minutes as printed by Wayne Gainey approved by voice vote
- Financial report as printed by Myra Healy approved by voice vote
- Deb Kattus presented the following badges/stars during our awards ceremony: Wayne Gainey and Jim Strickland received Bronze stars, Teresa Boody received a Silver star, Rita Forrest received a Gold star, Diane McKinnon earned a Gold badge (to be presented at the State Conference), Myra Healy accrued the most CEU's, Jeanon Massien and Betty Daigle had the most hours (neither were present to receive).
- Michelle Hill spoke about her role and the completion of the Outdoor Classroom
- Ricky Colquitt spoke about the possibility of having some raised beds behind the extension office. More info will come later.
- Discussion of all events was sent to Jan Rogers to send out to members
- James Horton from BBG spoke on the effects of 2016 drought
- Blessing & Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
Rita Forrest, President



From David Doggett:

It's Japanese maple time! These trees are known for bringing New England-like fall color to the South, but for my money the vibrant spring colors are the best. If you are in the market for a tree to replace one that didn't survive the drought, consider Japanese maples. I graft and grow these and have nearly 300 in varying sizes, colors, and forms for sale. Contact me (951-3463) and arrange a time to visit my backyard nursery in Irondale.

Contact Carol Beard at cabbeard@bellsouth.net or 205-981-2314 if you want more information or if you can help with the BBG Spring Plant Sale.

It's that time of the year again! The **Birmingham Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale** will be held during the week of **April 5-9**. Once again, the sale will be held in tents at the upper parking lot by Macy's at the Brookwood Village on Lakeshore Drive, just off Hwy 280. We'll be setting up for the sale on Wednesday morning, then the real fun begins. The Unusual Annuals, Biennials, Climbers booth needs your help. Here are the days and suggested shifts to work (many folks come for longer times or fit them into times they are available.)

- Thursday, April 6** - Volunteer Sale 11:30am—2:30pm, Preview Party and Member Sale 4:40pm-8:30/9pm
- Friday, April 7** - Public Sale 8:30am—11:30am, 11:30am—2:30pm, 2:30pm—5:30pm, 5:30pm—7pm (fewer volunteers needed for this slot)
- Saturday, April 8** - Public Sale 8:30am—11:30am, 11:30am—2:30pm, 2:30pm-5:30pm
- Sunday, April 9** - Public Sale 11am—3pm (Bargain Sale)

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Contact **Phyllis Giles**, Aldridge Gardens Volunteer Coordinator, at volunteer@aldridgegardens.com or 205-682-8019 if you can help with the AG Spring Plant Sale.

Aldridge Gardens' Spring Plant Sale will be April 27—29, 3530 Lorna Road, Hoover, AL 35216. We will need volunteers to sell, tally and help with the carts. We will also be having a Used Books sale outside Roots Gift Shop and will need volunteers to help with that. Here is the schedule:

Thursday April 27, 4pm—7pm: Members Only Preview Sale (members get 10% off)
Friday, April 28, 9am—1pm and 1pm—5pm: Public Sale
Saturday, April 29, 9am—Noon: Public Sale

Please let me know as soon as possible when you can work and if you have a preference about what you do. That way I can be sure that we have everything fully staffed. We can't make this a success without everyone's help.

DID YOU KNOW? Anyone can submit articles or pictures to be featured in the monthly *Gardeners' Gab*. The 20th day of the month preceding publication is the deadline. Please email your submissions to Heidee Vansant at heidee.vansant@gmail.com. Please do not submit photos without captions and the names of all people in the photo. Thank you!

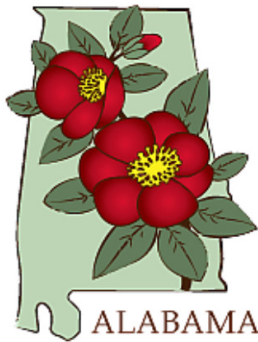
THERE ARE NUMEROUS GARDEN-RELATED CLASSES & EVENTS IN OUR AREA!

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 AMGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Gardening HERITAGE

May 1 - 3 | Huntsville, Alabama

ALABAMA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

Master Gardeners of North Alabama (MGNA), with the Morgan and Limestone County MGs, are pleased to invite you to the 2017 AMGA Conference in Huntsville. This conference will celebrate the heritage of gardening in Alabama and honor the founders of Master Gardening in our biologically diverse state. We will conduct our fantastic program at two amazing venues, the Huntsville Botanical Garden (HBG) and the Jackson Center. You will not want to miss the featured speakers, workshops, Silent Auction, door prizes, vendors, and our unique Seed Savers Exchange!

www.amgaconference.org



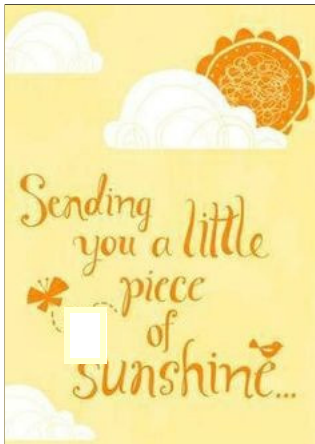
2017 International Master Gardener Conference "Follow the Oregon Trail to Great Gardening"

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/>

Shelby County Master Gardener Volunteers are...

- Motivated**—to share their knowledge and expertise.
- Accessible**—to other Master Gardeners, horticulture and Extension professionals, and the public.
- Service-oriented**—to enhance their communities and the environment.
- Trained**—by Cooperative Extension in current horticultural practices.
- Excited**—about meeting other people who enjoy gardening.
- Research ambassadors**—who provide cutting-edge horticultural information to consumers.

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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



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 4—Cathy Canant
- 5—Ginny Whitaker
- 12—Edith Johnston
- 15—Jane Spivey
- 19—Diane McKinnon
- 29—Jane Harris & Sybil O'Brien

Have you 'LIKED' us on Facebook?



Cards sent by Pat Hare during March:

Birthdays:

David Thomas
John Driver
Phyllis Love
Trisha Williams

Thank You:

James Horton

Sympathy:

Edith Box
Wayne Gainey



THANK YOU FROM THE 123 4-H CLUB

Vicki, Ann, and Beth,

On behalf of our little 4-H Club, I want to say a huge thank you to each of you for spending your Tuesday with us and sharing your expertise with our group. The kids are so excited about their container gardens! They absolutely loved it. It is fair to say that this has been the favorite meeting of the year. Thank you!

I've attached a picture of our group from that day. I have lots and lots of other pictures, but remembered that you may have taken some as well, so I haven't attached those. Karen, thank you so much for recruiting these wonderful volunteers for us and making this meeting a possibility. I hope you have had a wonderful trip.

Andie Bell



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James Horton of Birmingham Botanical Gardens spoke about the effects of the 2016 drought.



Michele Hill spoke about the Outdoor Classroom's completion and her role in obtaining a grant for the project.



Deb Kattus presented President Rita Forrest with the Gold Star she achieved.

Deb Kattus presented a Silver Star to Teresa Body.



Deb Kattus presented a Bronze Star to Jim Strickland.

Deb Kattus presented a certificate to Myra Healy for having achieved the most CEU's.





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ALABAMA GARDENER'S CALENDAR FOR APRIL

FRUITS & NUTS—Season for strawberry planting continues. Start spray program for all fruits. Plant raspberries and blackberries and continue budding apples and peaches.

SHRUBS—Prune spring flowering shrubs after flowering. Fertilize azaleas and camellias. When new growth is half completed, spray all shrubs with a fungicide.

LAWNS—Planting continues. New lawns may need supplementary watering. Also, fertilize at 3- to 6-week intervals. Keep ryegrass cut low, particularly if over planted on Bermuda lawns.

ROSES—Watch for insects and diseases. Keep old flower heads removed. Plant container-grown plants from nurseries or garden centers.

ANNUALS & PERENNIALS—Plant early started annuals or bedding plants from nurseries or garden centers. Divide mums or root cuttings. Dig and divide dahlias.

BULBS—Plant gladiolus, fancy-leaved caladiums, milk and wine lilies, and ginger and gloriosa lilies. Feed bearded iris with super-phosphate and spray for borers. Avoid cutting foliage of narcissus or other bulbs until it has turned brown naturally.

MISCELLANEOUS—Spray camellias, hollies, etc., for scale insects. Carefully water newly planted shrubs and trees. Pinch out tips of new shoots to promote more compact shrubs.

VEGETABLE SEED—Plant tender vegetables such as beans, corn, squash, melons, and cucumbers. Plant heat-loving vegetables in lower South Alabama.

VEGETABLE PLANTS—Plant tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, sweet potatoes, and parsley.

Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2017

President	Rita Forrest	620-1167	ritabe@bellsouth.net
Vice-President	Randall Robertson	663-0459	msptngc96@charter.net
Secretary	Wayne Gainey	670-7101	wlgainey@juno.com
Treasurer	Myra Healy	665-4554	myhealy@hughes.net
Parliamentarian	Jim Strickland	669-6912	JimStricklandinc@yahoo.com
Advisory Council Representative	Susan Seng	991-7867	gaggy10@gmail.com
Awards Committee Chair	Deb Kattus	913-2703	dkattus@charter.net
By-Laws Chair	Jeanon Massien	991-3125	nauzer1@att.net
MG Class Coordinator			
Communications	Jan Rogers	307-9733	janrogers@charter.net
Historian	Diane McKinnon	680-3282	bamabeach@bellsouth.net
Hospitality	Curly Koetter	980-1710	ckoetter@bellsouth.net
Newsletter Editor	Heidee Vansant	669-3284	heidee.vansant@gmail.com
Nominating Committee Chair	Karen Jensen	670-0701	karenkjensen3@icloud.com
Projects Coordinator			
Sunshine Committee	Pat Hare	621-3848	pat.hare@outlook.com
Webmaster	Rita Forrest	620-1167	ritabe@bellsouth.net

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