

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 5

May 2017

Thoughts from the President...

I want everyone to know how appreciative I am of the Master Gardeners that can attend our meetings, and for those that have stepped up to help with our recent changes.

We had a sort of sad start to the meeting with the announcement that Randall Robertson will no longer be our VP due to health issues. Also, Curly Koetter cannot continue as Hospitality chair. It will all work out; Kate Vogel, Elizabeth York and several others will see that it's all taken care of. We just want Curly to get better.

A BIG THANKS goes to Jan Rogers, she will take the VP position for the remainder of this year. She went a step further and gave the program for April, it was on Square Foot Gardening. What a wonderful program! I watched as everyone planned a garden and I was so pleased to see the smiles on everyone's face as they put their gardens together, on paper, of course.

There was a lot going on this past meeting and I am lucky to be President with a good group of people.

Your President,

Rita Forrest

This Month's Meeting — Friday, May 12 @ 10:00 am

Captain Compost (alias William Cureton) is on the Way!

Do not miss this FREE opportunity to hear & interact with Captain Compost himself at this month's meeting! William is a 1985 graduate of Clemson University & has lived in the Birmingham area for the last 30 years. He has a great wife, Peggy (alias Mulch Woman), who works with him with research & in the composting business. In addition, they have four children.

Through much trial & error and lots of research this busy business man, pastor, husband and father has developed his own method of producing compost in a way that allows a quick turn around & a successful product. He & Peggy now live on a 3 acre farm with plenty of room to grow! Together they are a great team in the world of organic & sustainable farming.

Bring a friend; come and enjoy this **DYNAMIC** speaker. **Bring \$15** for your own bag of his original and truly organic compost.

Please bring a potluck dish to share.

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.



SAVE THE DATE

Next Month's Meeting—Friday, June 9th
Plant Swap at Kate Vogel's Home



TREASURER'S REPORT as of 04/20/2017 Submitted by Myra Healy, Treasurer

Check/Deposit	For	Balance
	Beginning Balance	\$2,649.00
144.00	Deposits	
(152.00)	Disbursements	
	Ending Balance	\$2,641.00

SCMGA MEETING MINUTES - 14 April 2017

- Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by President Rita Forrest.
- Minutes from Feb 2017 meeting approved as submitted.
- Financial report from Myra Healy, March 2017, approved as submitted.
- Pledge of allegiance led by Rita.
- Jim Strickland reported Randall Robertson had resigned for health reasons. Board of Directors unanimously recommended Jan Rogers (she volunteered) to serve out Randall's term for calendar year 2017. Floor was open for more volunteers willing to serve. No other nominations were submitted. SCMGA unanimously elected Jan to serve remaining term through end of 2017.
- Chilton County MGA met earlier w/Board requesting SCMGA partner with them to host the AMGA Spring 2019 conference. Board approved and signed agreement with Chilton MGA. President Forrest has copy of signed agreement. SCMGA will be responsible for registration at the conference and will assist with welcome bags, etc. President Forrest will share other details as needed.
- Kim Joiner announced a raised bed demo garden is being planted behind the extension office. Kim explained 3 gardens were the initial construction/start-up. Mid State Farmers Co-Op is donating vegetable plants. Marvin's and Brown Lumber are donating various other materials to be used during construction. Kim requested SCMGA volunteers maintain the beds. Rita requested a committee be appointed to accept responsibility for maintaining the beds and perhaps expand the beds in the future. Randall Robertson donated some compost and a rain barrel for project. Mr. Riggs of the Technology Center will use the demo garden in his landscaping class.
- Request was made for volunteers to trim the Gravitt's crepe myrtles as Emily's husband is hospitalized. Jim Strickland was only volunteer.
- May 2017 meeting program will be Captain Compost.
- Curley Koetter resigned from program set-up due to declining health. Elizabeth York volunteered to replace him.
- Jan Rogers presented an excellent program on square foot/raised bed gardening. She distributed several publications on subject.
- Rita asked folks begin now to consider serving as officers for 2018.
- Door prizes were awarded.
- Meeting adjourned.
- Jim Strickland gave thanks and asked blessings for our meal.

Respectfully submitted,
Wayne Gainey

Addendum: October SCMGA meeting will be held Friday evening, 13 October 2017. Location will be announced at May Meeting.

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!

FYI: Murry & Wayne Williamson will not be holding an open house/garden this year, but do have plants to share. Anyone interested in visiting should contact them and set up a time.

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"

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/>

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

- **Master of Ceremonies—Ciscoe Morris** (Author, Radio Host, Television Host, Gardener)

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

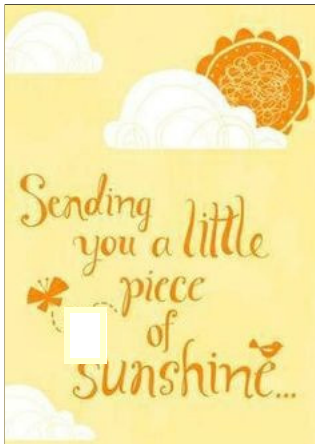
- **Dr. John Marzluff**, Professor of Environmental and Forest Sciences, University of Washington
- **Dan Hinkley**, Plantsman, Author, Plant Collector, Lecturer
- **Renee Shepherd**, Seed Developer, Gardener, Entrepreneur and Author, Founder and Owner of Renee's Garden.

CONCURRENT SESSION SPEAKERS

- **Neil Bell** (Community Horticulturist) Diagnosing Plant Problems: A Systematic Approach
- **Pamela J. Bennett** (State Master Gardener Volunteer Program Director, Ohio State Extension) There's an App for That!
- **Linda Beutler** (Curator, Rogerson Clematis Collection, author) A World of Clematis
- **Marc Boucher-Colbert** (Principle at Urban Agriculture Solutions, LLC) Ten Years of Rooftop Gardening in Portland
- **Dr. Lucy Bradley** (Urban Horticulture Specialist, NC State Department of Horticultural Science) Volunteer Recruitment
- **Hattie Braun** (Assistant in Extension and County Director for the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension) Fifty Shades of Blue
- **Natalie Bumgarner** (Asst. Prof. and Extension Specialist, University of Tennessee Extension) When the great outdoors just won't do: Planning for and using home greenhouses
- **James Cassidy** (Senior Instructor, Oregon State University) Soil: What it is and How it Works.
- **Bob Denman** (Blacksmith and Tool wright) Price is Not the Only Difference. How to Tell Good Garden Tools From Bad.
- **Sheri Dorn** (University of Georgia Statewide Master Gardener Coordinator) Teaching with Demonstration Gardens
- **Sheri Dorn** (University of Georgia Statewide Master Gardener Coordinator) Implications for Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Motivation and Retention
- **Alice Doyle** (Owner of Log House Plants) Gardening with Grafted Vegetables
- **John Fisher** (Director of Programs & Partnerships, Life Lab) Gardening Projects for Kids: 101 Ways to get KIDS outside, DIRTY, and having FUN
- **Brian French** (Principal at Arboriculture International LLC) Urban Trees and Wildlife
- **Amy Garrett** (Assistant Professor of Practice, Oregon State University) Dry Farming in the maritime Pacific Northwest
- **Lucy Hardiman** (Garden designer, Consultant, writer and Speaker at Perennial Partners) Full Frontal Gardens
- **Teresia Hazen** (Coordinator, Therapeutic Garden Program, Legacy Health) Horticulture for Health and Healing
- **Dan Hinkley** (Plantsman, Garden Writer, Horticulturist, Nurseryman) My Life in Gardening
- **Sean Hogan** (Author, Plantsman and Owner of Cistus Nursery) We Thought We Couldn't, But We Can!
- **Maurice Horn** (Author, Plantsman and Owner of Joy Creek Nursery) Great Plant Picks
- **Chuck Ingels** (Farm and Horticulture Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension) IPM for Fruit Trees
- **Patricia Kolling** (Physical Therapist, Retired) Garden Smarts: Beating the Aches and Pains
- **Dr. Alec Kowalewski** (Turfgrass Specialist, Oregon State University). Sustainable Turfgrass Management
- **Tony McCammon** (Extension Horticulturist Idaho State University), Who's Garden is it Anyway?
- **Weston Miller** (Community Horticulturist, Oregon State University Extension) Integrated Pest Management for Vegetable Production
- **Harry Olsen** (Oregon State University Extension Master Gardener) Vertical Vegetable Gardening
- **Christina Pfeiffer** (Author) How to Prune and Renovate the Mature or Overgrown Garden
- **John Porter** (Urban Agriculture Program Coordinator & Extension Assistant Professor, Univ. of Nebraska Extension) Heirlooms, Hybrids, & GMOs - Oh My!
- **Paul Pugliese** (County Extension Coordinator) The Effects of Phenoxly Herbicides on Landscape Trees and Shrubs
- **Thomas Rainer** (Principal, Rhodeside & Harwell; Author) Where Ecology Meets Horticulture: Designing Plant Communities
- **Thomas Rainer** (Principal, Rhodeside & Harwell; Author) Creating & Managing a Plant Community: Creative Approaches to Site Preparation, Installation, and Maintenance
- **Ann Ralph** (Fruit Tree Specialist) Fruit Trees Simplified: Easy Harvest Pruning
- **Neal Ratzlaff** Lewis & Clark: Exploring Nature with the Corps of Discovery (*Replacing Dr. Lynda Paznokas onn Lewis & Clark: Pioneering Naturalists*)
- **Dr. Lee Reich** (Author, Lecturer) Multi-Dimensional Vegetable Gardening
- **Dr. Lee Reich** (Author, Lecturer) Weedless Gardening
- **Dr. Ramesh Sagili** (Assistant Professor, Oregon State University) Honey Bee Health Status: a Decade After CCD Reports
- **Connie Schmotzer** (Consumer Horticulture Educator) Master Gardener Pollinator Outreach
- **Dr. Denny Schrock** (Iowa State MG Coordinator) Eat Your Flowers
- **Meredith Seaver** (Horticulture Assistant, Utah State University/Utah County Cooperative Extension) If Trees Could Talk
- **Dr. Renee Shepherd** (Seed Developer, Author) All About Seeds
- **Heather Stoven** (Extension Horticulturist, Oregon State University) Encouraging Beneficial Insects in the Landscape
- **Dr. Bernadine Strik** (Professor, Oregon State University) Bountiful Berries: How to Grow in Containers and Raised Beds for Limited Spaces or Poor Soils
- **Jim Todd** (Director of Science Education, Oregon Museum of Science & Industry). Want to See the Great American Eclipse in 2017? Here's How
- **Mark Turner** (Owner, Turner Photographics) Photographing Your Garden Through New Eyes
- **Tena VanAndel** (Toronto Master Gardener) Houseplants: Our Constant Companion



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.



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



MAY BIRTHDAYS

17—Rita Forrest

Have you 'LIKED' us on Facebook?



Cards sent by Pat Hare during April:

Birthdays:

Cathy Canant
Ginny Whitaker
Edith Johnston
Jane Spivey

Diane McKinnon
Jane Harris
Sybil O'Brien

Thank You:

Jan Rogers (for her SCMG program)

Get Well:

Randall Robertson
Larry Gravitt
Bill Hill

Help Spread The Sunshine!



Jan Rogers giving presentation on Square Foot Gardening



APRIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Jim, Wayne and Paul working the plan

RENOVATED PARK AND NATURE TRAIL

There is a newly renovated park and nature trail in Shelby County. This secret spot is a private hideaway for walking, picnicking, enjoying nature and outdoor learning. The park includes three acres of woodland featuring paved trails, two footbridges over a wet-weather creek, benches, picnic tables, garbage receptacles, woodland plants and an outdoor amphitheater.

All this beauty is within the city limits of Columbiana. While traveling west on Highway 70 turn left at Kelley Lane just past the Shelby County College and Career Center. Immediately look right. You will observe a brown sign "Outdoor Learning Center," two new flower beds and lined rock pathway leading to a pristine natural forest.

This project brought many state, county, private agencies and individuals together. The list includes: Alabama and Shelby County Master Gardeners, Shelby County Work Release and Community Corrections, Shelby County Facilities and General Services and the College and Career Technology Center.

Labor Day 2015, found Judy and Michael Jones and Michele Hill serving as three-day, project pioneers. As they pressure-washed picnic tables, bridges and amphitheater seating, operated weed-eaters and blew leaves, the threesome began to uncover the usefulness and beauty of the woods once more. The cleaned and cleared natural space inspired others to join in to help.

September 2015, Ricky Colquitt of the Alabama Extension Center conducted a successful invasive species workshop to eradicate the wild privet concealing the attractive green space.

Shelby County Master Gardeners Beth Glasgow, Barbara Williams and Michele Hill submitted a grant proposal to the Alabama Master Gardener Association requesting \$1,000. Approval of funds allowed work to resume in February 2016, improving the neglected and overgrown area. Grant money was used to construct a new sign at the entrance, prepare and plant entry flower beds, purchase shade-loving plants and purchase chemicals and equipment.

Randall Robertson, a Shelby County Master Gardener, constructed the new portal sign and with help from Rita Forrest, SCMGA president, transported the structure to the site. Horticultural students at the College and Career Center under the direction of Phillip Rigsby, laid the rock entry path, cleared debris and watered plants. With support from Alex Dudchock, County Manger; Reed Prince, Johnny Padgett and staff from the Shelby County Facilities and General Services Division provided constant maintenance at the site mowing, removing debris, emptying trash, clearing pathways, erecting the sign and repairing footbridges.

Work Release and Community Corrections, under the leadership of Julius Cook and Jomo Johnson, assisted by Ms. Michelle Larkins and Ms. Michelle White, provided the surge that led to final completion. Corrections crews on several occasions removed fallen trees, large branches, pulled vines, pushed down trees and cleared underbrush.

Many Master Gardeners donated shade-loving plants for the park. Rebecca Roberson, Rhonda Cowan, Angie Ballew, Curly Koetter, Wayne Gainey and others dug beds, planted, mulched and labeled plants. Thanks to Extension Agent, Nelson Wynn, who was a regular source of encouragement to all.

As we enjoy the lovely, cool days of spring come introduce yourself to this hidden paradise. In the summer, this forested area will provide the perfect stroll for you and your pet.

Michele Hill

Project Facilitator

(205) 369-0660



Celebrate 100 Years
of Extending Knowledge
and Changing Lives
visit: www.Extension100Years.net



ALABAMA GARDENER'S CALENDAR FOR MAY

FRUITS AND NUTS—Continue spray program. Keep grass from around trees & strawberries. Peaches & apples can still be budded.

SHRUBS—Newly planted shrubs need extra care now and in coming weeks. Don't spray with oil emulsions when temperature is above 85°F.

LAWNS—Now is the best time to start lawns from seed. Water new lawns as needed to prevent drying. Keep established lawns actively growing by watering, fertilizing, and mowing. Spray weeds in lawns with proper herbicide.

ROSES—Spray or dust for insects and diseases. Fertilize monthly with complete fertilizer or Rose special. Container-grown plants in flower may be planted. Prune climbing roses after the first big flush of flowering.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS—Late plantings of bedding plants still have time to produce. Watch for insects on day lilies.

BULBS—Summer bulbs started in containers may still be planted. Do not remove foliage from spring flowering bulbs. Do not let seed heads form on tulips and other spring flowering bulbs.

MISCELLANEOUS—Mulch new shrub plantings if not already done. Avoid drying out new shrub, tree, and lawn plantings.

VEGETABLE SEED—Plant heat-loving and tender vegetables. Start cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, and celery in cold-frame for fall garden.

VEGETABLES—Plant tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and sweet potatoes.

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

President	Rita Forrest	620-1167	ritabe@bellsouth.net
Vice-President	Jan Rogers	307-9733	janrogers@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			
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

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.