

GARDENERS' GAB



Shelby County Master Gardeners' Assoc.

Website: www.scmastergardeners.com

E-mail: SCMGA.email@gmail.com

Meetings: Monthly, 2nd Friday at 10 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. 11, Issue 4

April 2018

The President Ponders...

Happy Spring Everyone!

Well, spring has sprung and things are turning green and starting to bud and bloom! I love to see the Redbuds bloom every year and then love it when the gorgeous Dogwoods open up. They are so beautiful! Dogwoods are one of my favorite native trees. Plus, every spring it is always exciting to see what has survived the winter in my yard and especially in my garage. I never know!

Hopefully, everyone learned a lot and had a good time on our field trip last month to Southern Aquaponics. I have heard nothing but good things from everyone about it, and have seen some really good pictures. This month we'll be having a speaker from the University of Montevallo and a plant swap, along with our potluck lunch. It should be a fun and informative meeting.

Remember to register for this year's AMGA State Conference being held in Birmingham on May 3-5. Registration is going on now.

Several people contacted me about volunteering to work at the 2019 AMGA State Conference. Thank you very much to those who stepped up and said they would help out. If anyone else wants to help, let me know. We can always use more volunteers! I am confident that lots of you will step up and help with our community garden this year. That project should get going during the month of April. Remember, pitch in and be a part of our association!

Looking forward to seeing you all in April.

Happy Easter!

Nyra

This Month's Meeting—Friday, April 13 @ 10:00 am

We'll meet at the Extension Center with a covered dish lunch to follow. Holly Wadleigh from the University of Montevallo Organic Garden will speak on seed starting and the UM Environmental Studies program. We will also have our Spring Plant Swap so bring any seeds or seedlings you will not be using. Bring a nice plant if you want to participate in the drawing.

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

**TREASURER'S REPORT as of 03/20/2018
Submitted by Jim Strickland, Treasurer**

Check/Deposit	Balance
Beginning Balance	\$2,240.68
Deposits (2)	+176.00
Check (1)	-105.00
New Checks	-49.06
Statement Correction	-1.95
Ending Balance	\$2,260.67

Noteworthy Items:

SCMGA 2018 paid
Membership is now at 59
with 3 additions at the last
meeting.

Volunteers needed for Plant Sales

Birmingham Botanical Gardens

April 12 - 15
Contact SCMGA member, Carol Beard, for more information or to volunteer in the Annuals, Biennials and Climbers booth.

Help is needed for 3-hour shifts:
April 12—Volunteer/member sale
April 13—Public sale 8:30 - 5:30
April 14—Public sale 8:30 - 5:30
April 15—Public sale 11:00 - 3:00



Contact Carol at 205.981.2314
or cabbeard@bellsouth.net.

Aldridge Botanical Gardens

April 26 - 28
Contact SCMGA member, Jan Rogers, for more information or to volunteer at the annual Spring Plant Sale. Help is needed in shifts for:

April 23—24 Presale Setup
April 25—Presale Setup
April 26—Member Only Sale 3:00 - 6:00
April 27—Public sale 9:00 - 6:00
April 28—Public sale 9:00 - noon

Contact Jan at 205.307.9733 or jan2rogers@gmail.com

New interns and volunteers - volunteering at a plant sale is a great way to learn! Try it!

SCMGA Project—Seed To Table Community Garden

ATTENTION Master Gardeners:

Saturday, April 7, 8:30 a.m. marks the beginning of our community garden project. On that day, University of Montevallo students will volunteer in The Big Event, a service project organized by UM's Student Government Association. They will be cleaning and preparing the beds at the Montevallo Seed to Table Community garden to get them ready for spring planting. Our Master Gardeners are asked to help **supervise** the students with this job. We have a few MG's committed for this first day and will no doubt need additional volunteers throughout the season to plan and plant and upkeep our garden. A great way to get some of those volunteer hours we all need!

Shovels, hoes, wheelbarrows, weeding tools, etc. are needed for the initial clean out day **April 7 from 8:30 a.m. to about noon.** Planting dates will be established at a later date and we definitely need people with vegetable garden experience to help with planning and spacing of plants in the raised beds. Please call Dennis Stanek at 205-789-0341 or email him at dennis.stanek@att.net to volunteer for this project.

Directions:

The garden is located at 440 Overland Road just past University Baptist Church. Coming South on Hwy 119 into Montevallo turn left on Overland (first traffic light) and go approximately .4 miles, gardens are on your right. Coming from Spring Creek Road (Hwy 12) turn onto Overland at the recycling center and go approximately .8 miles; gardens are on your left.

Thanks in advance for your help making this project a success!

Dennis Stanek
SCMG Projects Coordinator





SAVE THE DATE

Next Month's Meeting—Friday, May 11



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

www.aldridgegardens.com/education/events/
www.bbgardens.org/all-events.php
www.hooverlibrary.org/events/calendar/
www.petalsfromthepast.com/events.html

This delicious soup was brought to our potluck by Elizabeth York. Thanks for sharing, Elizabeth!

Turnip Greens Soup

- 1 pound Kielbasa sausage cubed
- 1 medium onion chopped up
- 2 quarts chicken broth
- 2 16 oz bags frozen chopped turnips with or without roots
- 2 14.5 oz cans of great Northern beans rinsed and drained
- 1 package dried Knorr vegetable soup mix
- 1 tsp hot pepper sauce
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 pinch Creole seasoning



Heat a tablespoon of oil in a soup pot over medium heat. Stir in onion and sausage and cook until onion is tender. Add remaining ingredients and bring to a boil. Lower the temperature and simmer for approximately 2 hours.



Please send Tommie Harrison, Sunshine Comm. 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. Tommie 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 Tommie:

Email: torumo74@gmail.com
 Phone: 205-663-7146



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 12—Edith Johnston
- 15—Jane Spivey
- 19—Diane McKinnon
- 23—Judy (Helm) Cook
- 28—Sybil O'Brien



Cards sent by Tommie Harrison on behalf of SCMGA during March:

Help Spread
The Sunshine!



Birthdays:

Barbara Corley
John Driver
Barbara Kimberly
Sylvia Sheffield

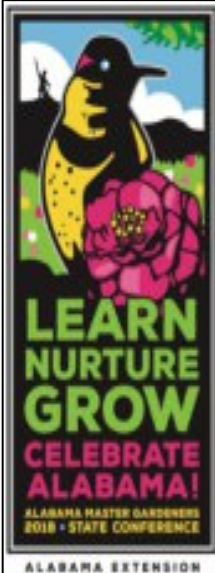
Dennis Staneck
David Thomas
Trish Williams

Thank You:

none

Thinking of You/Get Well:

George Hare
Diane McKinnon



Alabama Master Gardeners 2018 Conference

May 3 to May 5, 2018
Birmingham

Come Enjoy the Magic City

REGULAR REGISTRATION
(postmarked
March 2—April 1) **\$145**

LATE REGISTRATION
(postmarked
April 2—April 20) **\$155**

Register Online at
www.alabamang.org

TIME & T.L.C. ~ Heidee Vasant

Not long after SCMGA member Randall Robertson passed away on April 21st last year, his wife, Fran, sent out a request for assistance removing a pile of compost he had kept under the deck. She was preparing to sell the home and I wasn't about to miss a chance to reap some "Gardener's Gold!" I called my husband at work and told him to come straight home (do not pass GO, do not collect \$200; if you know what I mean) because I needed his pickup truck and strong back. We loaded a wheelbarrow and shovels and hit the road.

When we finished loading the compost (nearly half a pickup bed), I went to the door to thank Fran and let her know we were leaving. She thanked us for clearing out so much compost and handed me a rather sad looking African violet because plants weren't her "thing" and she thought I might be able to bring it back to life. I wish I had taken a "before" photo. It was barely hanging on with just a few leaves. I put it near my kitchen sink so I'd see it every day and never forget to water, fertilize, etc.

Here it is now. I was finally rewarded with blossoms this week!



Randall brought this Rhode Island Red Japanese Maple to the 2016 Dirty Santa party. I was very fortunate to go home with it!

I didn't do a thing for it over the winter and was afraid it was a goner, but it only took a couple weeks of warm weather for it to become completely leafed out.

Photos don't do it justice; it practically glows when seen by human eyes.



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

Scenes from our AMAZING field trip to SOUTHERN ORGANICS AQUAPONICS



Merle Schukoske, Karen Jensen, & Barbara Williams marvel at greens in three greenhouses.





General Pesticide Safety

This workshop is for homeowners and anybody that is interested in pesticide safety

April 5, 2018

To pre-register contact Shelby County Extension office (205) 669-6763
Pre-register by Monday, April 2nd

North Shelby County Library off of highway 119

P.O. Box 1606, Columbiana, AL 35051

10:00 – 12:00

(205) 669-6763



www.aces.edu

Soil Sampling Program



Monday, May 14, 2018

Time: 6:30 PM - 7:30PM

**Where: Pelham Library
3160 Pelham Parkway
Pelham, AL 35124**

The program is for anyone that wants to learn the correct way to collect a soil sample and how to use the soil test report. The program will cover Soil PH, Soil Group, Nutrient Rating, Lime Recommendation, and Fertilization recommendation. There is no cost to attend, but please call the Pelham Library to register at 205-620-6418.



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



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 2018

President	Myra Healy	665-4554	myhealy42@gmail.com
Vice-President	Kate Vogel	665-5878	kvogelashfield@aol.com
Secretary	Wayne Gainey	670-7101	wlgainey43@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jim Strickland	381-1042	JimStricklandInc@yahoo.com
Parliamentarian	Merle Schukoske	669-0783	schukos@gmail.com
Advisory Council Rep		POSITION OPEN	
Awards Committee Chair		POSITION OPEN	
By-Laws Chair	Trisha Williams	678-7875	trisha325@gmail.com
Communications	Jan Rogers	307-9733	janrogers@charter.net
Historian	Diane McKinnon	680-3282	bamabeach@bellsouth.net
Hospitality	Kate Vogel	665-5878	kvogelashfield@aol.com
Newsletter Editor	Heidee Vansant	669-3284	heidee.vansant@gmail.com
Nominating Committee Chair	Rita Forrest	620-1167	ritabe@bellsouth.net
Projects Coordinator	Dennis Stanek	789-0341	dennis.stanek@att.net
Sunshine Committee	Tommie Harrison	663-7146	torumo74@gmail.com
Webmaster	Rita Forrest	620-1167	ritabe@bellsouth.net

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.