

# GARDENERS' GAB



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

**Website:** <https://mg.aces.edu/shelby/>

**E-mail:** [SCMGA.email@gmail.com](mailto:SCMGA.email@gmail.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. 12, Issue 4

April 2019

## ***The President Ponders...***

Greetings SCMG,

Happy spring! Don't you just love this time of year? It still gets cool at night and warms up during the day, so we can enjoy being outside. Redbuds and dogwoods are blooming, along with lots of other trees and shrubs and plants that are waking up. All the nurseries are stocking up on plants and new gardening items to entice us. How many of you have already bought a new plant this year? I mean besides the buckets of tulips you bought at the Tulip Festival :-)) I must admit that I have. I just can't resist new plants! I intend to wait until the soil warms up and all that, but nope. Doesn't happen!

Speaking of tulips, wasn't our last meeting and the Tulip Festival a fun time? After our short meeting, and our speaker on tulips, we all leisurely visited the tulip gardens, bought tulips, and then came back for a delicious lunch at American Village. I think everyone enjoyed the day. Many thanks to Kate for arranging this wonderful and interesting program.

And speaking of plants, again, I hope everyone is getting ready for our Plant Swap this month. It is so much fun to share plants with each other, especially plants that are almost guaranteed to grow in your garden and yard. Usually, they are plants you don't find at retail garden shops either, so that is an added plus. Just remember most of them are prolific, which is why they are so easy to share, a point humorously made in my all-time favorite gardening book, *Passalong Plants*, by Steve Bender and Felder Rushing. This is an older garden book, first published in 1993, but it is timeless. I still chuckle when I think about some of the funny lines in the book, as the authors describe the plants. It is a must read if you love to laugh and love to read about old fashioned plants, two of my favorite things! It is available to enjoy and check out in our SCMGA Library.

William Edward Cureton, II, aka "Captain Compost", will be our featured speaker this month. He is always an enthusiastic and informative speaker. I look forward to seeing you all at our April meeting!

*Myra*

## **This Month's Meeting—Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> @ 10 a.m.** **Shelby County Extension Center**



Captain Compost, aka William Edward Cureton, II, will be our featured speaker this month.  
[www.captaincompostalabama.com](http://www.captaincompostalabama.com)

I hope everyone is getting ready for our plant swap! Remember to bring a nice potted plant for the swap. You may bring other plants, bulbs, seedlings, seeds & cuttings to share with everyone. Make sure they are labeled so everyone knows what they are getting. Also, you may bring tools, pots, vases & any other gardening items you may want to share. We will have bags, but it might be helpful to bring containers to help carry your items home with you. Looking forward to a successful swap! ~Kate Vogel & Lisa Wade

Please bring a covered dish for lunch.

*Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.*

**TREASURER'S REPORT as of March 15, 2019**  
**Submitted by Barbara Williams, Treasurer**

Check/Deposit	Balance
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	\$2,211.93
Deposits (2)	352.00
Checks (3)	(781.00)
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$1,782.93</b>

**Noteworthy Items:**

SCMGA 2019 paid  
 Membership is now 53.

**Shelby County Master Gardeners Association**  
**Minutes—March 8, 2019**

- The meeting was held at The American Village in Montevallo for The Tulip Festival. President Myra Healy called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests. Myra led in the Pledge of Allegiance and then called attention to the minutes and financial report published in the March GAB. There being no additions or corrections, both were approved as written and will be filed.
- Myra opened the business session of the meeting with reminders about the State Conference in May. Registration is still open, and she encouraged all members to attend. Volunteers should pick up their conference T-shirts and wear them for the pictures at the next conference meeting. Trisha reminded all that silent auction items and door prizes will be accepted through the end of March, but she needs forms completed as soon as possible to know what to expect. Elizabeth asked that volunteers meet with her to go over the vendor set up.
- Myra reminded everyone to mark their calendars for April 24, 2019 at 10:00 a.m., to meet at the Extension Center. We will put together conference bags at that time.
- Congratulations to Shauna Brown and Mary Mattingly upon receiving their certification and badges.
- Myra announced that orders for replacement badges are to be turned in today. Each person owes \$10.00 for the replacement badges.
- There is still a need for someone to write quarterly articles about our Association for Pathways, the state newsletter. Kate Vogel agreed to fill this role.
- Myra discussed the importance of taking pictures at our meetings and events to document for our scrapbook and for the GAB. Pictures and other relevant items may be sent to the SCMGA email. Thank you to Sandy Hixson who has agreed to be in charge of the pictures for the History Committee.
- Kate informed us that Captain Compost will be our speaker for our next meeting on Friday, April 12, 2019. We will also have a plant swap at this meeting and members are encouraged to bring a nice plant and/or cuttings from their gardens to share.
- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Teresa Boody, Secretary

*Party in the Garden*

Clanton, Alabama  
 May 8 – 10, 2019  
 Chilton, Autauga, and Shelby Counties



**THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR  
 2019 AMGA CONFERENCE  
 SO YOU CAN COME JOIN US FOR A GREAT TIME IN MAY!!!**

Conference registration is being extended through April 30<sup>th</sup> with no late fee. This includes online and manual registrations.

Anyone registering after April 12<sup>th</sup>, however,

**will not get a conference bag with free  
 T-shirt, gardening gloves and other "goodies".**

All tours and workshops will remain available as long as there are open slots. Original meal choices will also remain the same through April 30<sup>th</sup>. Go to [www.alabamamg.org](http://www.alabamamg.org)



Next Month—There will be **NO MEETING**;  
enjoy State Conference May 8-10!



**EASY BANANA PUDDING** from the kitchen of Merle Schukoske, Master Gardener

**Ingredients:**

- 1 large box (5.1 oz.) instant vanilla pudding
- 3 cups milk
- 1 can (14 oz.) Sweetened Condensed Milk
- 1 8 oz. container Cool Whip®
- 1 box vanilla wafers
- 5-6 ripe bananas

**Directions:**

In a large mixing bowl, whisk together pudding mix, milk & condensed milk until smooth. Let sit for 3 minutes. Fold in Cool Whip® until smooth.

In a large bowl assemble the pudding. First, lay one third of vanilla wafers across bottom of the bowl. Top with one third of the banana slices.

Cover with one third of the pudding mixture. Continue with two more layers, reserving a few



vanilla wafers to lay across the top as garnish.

Cover pudding and let it rest in refrigerator for at least 2 hours before serving. Best if made a day ahead. Keep refrigerated.



Sending  
Sunshine  
and Smiles!

Please send  
Tommie Harrison,  
Sunshine Comm.  
Chair, information  
about members (or  
their relatives) who  
are ill, 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](mailto:torumo74@gmail.com)  
Phone: 205-663-7146



**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

12—Edith Johnston  
15—Lisa Wade  
19—Dianne McKinnon  
23—Judy Cook  
28—Sybil O'Brien



**No winter lasts forever;  
no spring skips its turn.**

Hal Borland



## Cards sent by Tommie Harrison on behalf of SCMGa during March

### Birthdays:

Sylvia Sheffield  
Dennis Stanek  
David Thomas  
Trisha Williams

### Thank You:

none

### Thinking of You/Get Well:

Sue Brasher  
Edith Johnston

Help Spread  
The Sunshine!



## 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**

<https://aldridgegardens.com/education/events/>  
[https://bbgardens.org/#](https://bbgardens.org/#events.hooverlibrary.org/events?v=grid)  
[events.hooverlibrary.org/events?v=grid](https://petalsfromthepast.com/events.html)  
<https://petalsfromthepast.com/events.html>  
<https://mg.aces.edu/shelby/events>

## Scenes from our March Meeting/Field Trip to the Tulip Festival at American Village



Dennis Stanek



Beth Glasgow, Elizabeth York  
& Beth Strickland

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

A couple more shots from our March Meeting/Field Trip to the Tulip Festival at American Village...



Sandy Hixon

Shelby County MG, George Hare, passed away March 25<sup>th</sup>. No service is planned, but his family requests in lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to a favorite charity to honor him and help others. Please keep his wife Pat and their family in your thoughts and prayers. He will be missed!

## FARM DAY at STONE HOLLOW FARMSTEAD in Harpersville

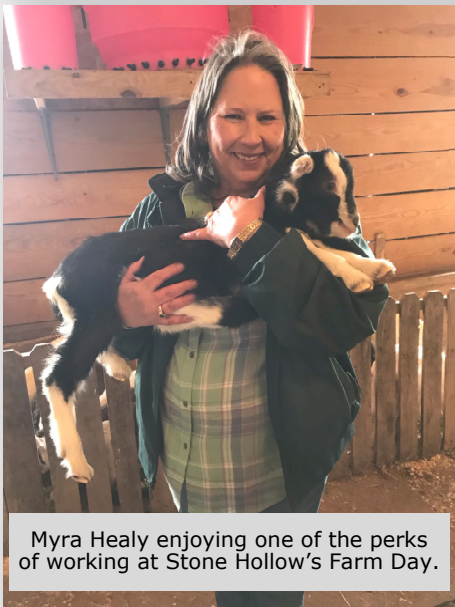


Myra Healy & Donna Shubert at our MG booth.

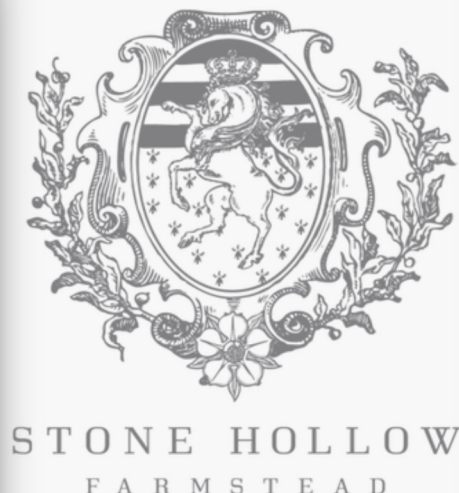


Donna Shubert tries to stay warm.

Shelby County  
Master  
Gardeners



Myra Healy enjoying one of the perks of working at Stone Hollow's Farm Day.



Kate Vogel wore a tasty coat!

## IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE TO STUFF BAGS FOR AMGA CONFERENCE



Please note I have had to change the date to stuff the bags for the State conference from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>. The **new date** is **FRIDAY APRIL 26<sup>th</sup> FROM 9-3**. I hope this change does not inconvenience anyone. Please let me know if you are planning to come. We have close to 400 bags to stuff, so we need lots of volunteers to help.

Myra Healy 665-4554 myhealy42@gmail.com

**FRIDAY, APRIL 26<sup>th</sup> at 9-3 at the Extension Center Meeting Room**

As a retired Thompson School history teacher, I have been asked to help with the Intermediate School's Bicentennial history project. They received a modest grant to build a small outdoor class, which has a small-scale replica of the old Thompson homeplace. I am asking for help with doing some landscaping around it. So, if you have any small, heat and sun hardy shrubs you can donate, it will be appreciated. Also, I would appreciate any help in advising "what to plant, how, etc." Digging and planting will not be required! The project is small.

Thanks,  
Tommie Harrison  
torumo74@gmail.com or call at 663-7146



**BLUE SPRINGS FARMS**

<http://sites.rootsweb.com/~alshelby/farm.html>

<https://georgiamastergardeners.org/2019register/>



**THE 2019 GARDEN CONFERENCE  
PLANTS & PLANES: OUR HERITAGE, OUR FUTURE  
PRESENTED BY  
GEORGIA MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION  
OCTOBER 19, 2019**

**MUSEUM OF AVIATION CENTURY OF FLIGHT  
BUILDING  
WARNER ROBINS, GA**



## INTERNATIONAL MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE

June 17–21, 2019  
Valley Forge, Pennsylvania

**Early registration closes April 14.** For all the details, go to:  
<http://www.cvent.com/events/2019-international-master-gardener-conference/event-summary-fe0b3d2168e346a5a98792b2ece1fc18.aspx>

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

As most of you know, Rita Forrest (Class of 2012) has moved to Florida to be close to family. We are sad for us, but happy for her! She has been very involved with our association for the past few years, and we are so thankful for her leadership and hard work. We'll miss her!





Celebrate 100 Years  
of Extending Knowledge  
and Changing Lives  
visit: [www.Extension100Years.net](http://www.Extension100Years.net)



## ALABAMA GARDENERS' CALENDAR FOR APRIL

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

**SHRUBS**—Prune spring flowering shrubs after flowering. Fertilize azaleas & 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 overplanted on Bermuda lawns.

**ROSES**—Watch for insects & 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 & divide dahlias.

**BULBS**—Plant gladiolus, fancy-leaved caladiums, milk & wine lilies, & ginger & gloriosa lilies. Feed bearded iris with super-phosphate & 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 & trees. Pinch out tips of new shoots to promote more compact shrubs.

**VEGETABLE SEED**—Plant tender vegetables such as beans, corn, squash, melons, & 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 2019

President	Myra Healy	665-4554	<a href="mailto:myhealy42@gmail.com">myhealy42@gmail.com</a>
Vice-President	Kate Vogel	665-5878	<a href="mailto:kvogelashfield@aol.com">kvogelashfield@aol.com</a>
Secretary	Teresa Boody	991-6463	<a href="mailto:wtmmb@yahoo.com">wtmmb@yahoo.com</a>
Treasurer	Barbara Williams	670-0191	<a href="mailto:bwilliams1581@gmail.com">bwilliams1581@gmail.com</a>
Parliamentarian	Merle Schukoske	669-0783	<a href="mailto:schukos@gmail.com">schukos@gmail.com</a>
Advisory Council Rep	Dennis Stanek	789-0341	<a href="mailto:dennis.stanek@att.net">dennis.stanek@att.net</a>
Awards Committee	Board Members		
By-Laws Chair	Trisha Williams	678-7875	<a href="mailto:trisha325@gmail.com">trisha325@gmail.com</a>
Communications	Heidee Vansant	669-3284	<a href="mailto:heidee.vansant@gmail.com">heidee.vansant@gmail.com</a>
Historian	Sandra Harris	300-5808	<a href="mailto:sharris5808@gmail.com">sharris5808@gmail.com</a>
Hospitality	Jim Strickland	669-6912	<a href="mailto:JimStricklandinc@yahoo.com">JimStricklandinc@yahoo.com</a>
Newsletter Editor	Heidee Vansant	669-3284	<a href="mailto:heidee.vansant@gmail.com">heidee.vansant@gmail.com</a>
Nominating Committee Chair	Myra Healy	665-4554	<a href="mailto:myhealy42@gmail.com">myhealy42@gmail.com</a>
Projects Coordinator	Dennis Stanek	789-0341	<a href="mailto:dennis.stanek@att.net">dennis.stanek@att.net</a>
Sunshine Committee	Tommie Harrison	663-7146	<a href="mailto:torumo74@gmail.com">torumo74@gmail.com</a>
Webmaster	Beth Glasgow		



## Thursday, May 9 Biscuit Breakfast Welcome

Jane McCarthy

Planning a Garden Design:  
"Creating A Party Ready Landscape"



AMGA Business Meeting

*Lunch*

Dr. Sue Webb

Using Native Plants in Our Landscapes:  
"Natives Are Always Welcome at the Party"

Sharon Capps of Bonnie Plant Farms

One Hundred Years of Family,  
Community and Innovative Plants and  
Marketing: "Partying Everywhere"



Judy Groover

Hosts:  
"Everyone's Favorite Party Guest"



*Meet and Greet  
Italian Buffet*

Awards Ceremony and  
Installation of New Officers

Joe Lamp'l

Favorites from Television Seasons:  
"Best Parties"

Friday, May 10th

Hospitality

Vendors

Silent Auction Check Out and Pick Up

Conference Wrap-Up

Taylor Hatchett

Supporting Local Farms:

"Party Close to Home"

Lelia Scott Kelly

Dumb Things We Do to Our  
Landscape: "Unwise Party Attire"

Conference Closing Remarks

Final Door Prize Drawing-You must be  
present to win.

2020 Conference Invitation



*Conference hosted by*

Chilton, Autauga  
and Shelby Counties

*Party in the Garden*



*Your  
Invitation  
To Party!*

**May 8, 9 & 10**

Clanton Performing Arts Center  
Clanton, Alabama

**2019**

AMGA Spring Conference

The public is invited  
Pre-registration is required

[www.alabamamg.org](http://www.alabamamg.org)

*Party in the Garden*

Convention details will be included in the schedule  
provided in the registration packet, online and in the  
convention booklet.

Wednesday, May 8

*Pre Conference Activities*



Registration

Hospitality

Vendors

Silent Auction

Tours (There is no cost, but advance registration is required)

Petals from the Past:

Orangery Tour "Party in the Tropics"

Permaculture Tour "Tried and True"

Chilton County Research and Extension Center:

North Tour

South Tour

Chilton County MGA Demonstration Garden

Self-Guided Tours

Joan McGriff

Workshop-Garden Whimsies:

"Party Decorations"

Mallory Kelley

Advanced Master Gardener Networking:

"Manning the Party Lines"

Dr. Neil Lamb

Updates of Research in Plant Genomics:

"Party Guest Diversity"

HOE DOWN Come as you are! Meet and greet  
old and new acquaintances • Win game prizes •  
Join the line dance • Have fun!



*B&B meal*

Jason Powell

The History of Petals from the Past:

"How Petals Started Its Party"



# Speakers



## The History of Petals from the Past: "How Petals Started its Party"

Jason Powell and his wife Shelley own Petals From the Past, a nursery in Jemison, Alabama. Jason earned degrees in horticulture and landscape design from Auburn University and Texas A&M University. The nursery specializes in antique roses, heirloom shrubs, cottage perennials and herbs as well as classical varieties of vegetables and fruits. Much of what is grown at the nursery is integrated into a garden setting. Petals from the Past approaches gardening from an educational standpoint and hosts lectures/workshops and guest speakers in its educational facility. Events such as "Antiques in the Garden" and the "Black and Blueberry Festival" are hosted at Petals from the Past annually.



## Bonnie Plant Farms - One Hundred Years of Family, Community and Innovative Plants and Marketing: "Party Everywhere"

Sharon Capps is the Office Manager and Accounts Receivable Manager for Bonnie Plants, Inc. She has served in many positions over the 44 years that she has been employed by Bonnie Plants. She is the historian of the Chunnungee Garden Club, which is the oldest garden club in the United States. Sharon grew up in a gardening family and enjoys getting her hands dirty working in her yard. Sharon's professional background is in business with a bachelor's degree in business management from Auburn University, Montgomery. She and her husband, Larry, live in Union Springs, Alabama.



## Workshop - Garden Whimsies: "Party Decorations"

Joan McGriff retired after 35 years teaching fourth grade in the Chilton County School System and is now a part time employee with the Chilton County Cooperative Extension Office. At the Extension Office she works with 4-H Enrichment and conducts workshops and camps for children and adults. Joan shares her talents with others by teaching the art of using glass vases, plates, bowls and other interesting items to create whimsical yard decorations. Joan is very active at Walnut Creek UMC in Clanton, Alabama where she is Planist and Nurture Team Leader.



## Planning a Garden Design: "Creating a Party Ready Landscape"

Jane McCarthy became a Virginia Master Gardener in 1995 and an Alabama Master Gardener in 1998. She received her B.S. in Horticulture/Landscape Design from Auburn University in 2000 and completed an internship at Blount Cultural Park and Alabama Shakespeare Festival in the same year. She was employed as the Maxwell Air Force Base Horticulturalist from 2001-2016. Jane has been a member of the Old Alabama Town Herb Society since 2007. In 2013, she established the Monday Morning Master Gardener Group, which is responsible for reclaiming, maintaining and improving a period appropriate design at the Alabama Governor's Mansion.



## Favorites from Television Seasons: "Best Parties"

Joe Lamp'l is one of the country's most recognized and trusted personalities in gardening and sustainability. His passion for teaching is evident to a nationwide audience that watches Joe in his current role as creator, Executive Producer and Host of the award-winning PBS series, Growing a Greener World®. Previously, he was host of Fresh from the Garden on DIY Network as well as on-air contributor to The Today Show, Good Morning America and The Weather Channel. Joe is also the founder and "Joe" behind joegardener.com.



## Advanced Master Gardener Networking: "Manning the Party Lines"

Mallory Kelley grew up in and currently resides in Selma, Alabama. She attended Auburn University and attained an undergraduate degree in Landscape Design Horticulture and a Master's Degree in Horticulture in 2009. Since that time, Mallory has been a Regional Extension Agent and Horticulturalist for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System; for over 9 years, she has served 6 counties in Central Alabama. Mallory and her husband Ron have two boys: Hudson, age 5 and Coleman, who is 3.



## Using Native Plants in Our Landscapes: "Natives are Always Welcome at the Party"

Sue Webb says that because of the reduction in native areas in the United States, wildlife that depend on native habitat for food and shelter are declining at an alarming rate. Join Sue as she talks about planting and maintaining native plants which have seasonal beauty and are a valuable food source for wildlife. As a research scientist with a Ph.D. in Microbiology, Sue brings a problem-solving approach to the plight of our wildlife and plant. She is an Alabama Master Gardener, natural landscape designer and is employed at Petals from the Past nursery in Jemison.



## Supporting Local Farms: "Party Close to Home"

Taylor Hatchett and her father Bobby own Boozer Farms in Thorsby, Alabama, where a variety of fruits and vegetables are grown rather than only one or two crops. Taylor earned degrees in agronomy and soils, and plant pathology from Auburn University. Produce is sold at the farm as well as at various farmers' markets in the area. Boozer Farms has "Community-Supported Agriculture" (CSA) plans; customer members who opt to participate, pay for produce before the season and in return receive a weekly box of in-season fruits and/or vegetables at harvest. A certain number of "shares" in the plan are offered each year.



## Updates of Research in Plant Genomics: "Party Guest Diversity"

Neil Lamb, Ph.D., is faculty investigator and Vice President for Educational Outreach at the Hudson Alpha Institute for Biotechnology. Keynote speaker of the 2017 AMGA Spring Conference, Dr. Lamb presented "Plant Genomics: From Ancient Crop Domestication to Modern Breeding and Selection". At the time of this presentation, he stated that results of research being conducted in this area would be available in two years; we are honored to welcome Dr. Lamb back as he presents an update of these research findings.



## Hostas: "Everyone's Favorite Party Guest"

Judy Groover started collecting hostas in 1999 and was soon growing many different varieties in her backyard nursery. She is a Master Gardener and former President of the Birmingham Fern Society; she served as President of the former Central Alabama Hosta Society for 5 years. She is a past Director of the Dixie Regional Hosta Society, a member of the American Hosta Growers Association, and served on the Executive Board of the American Hosta Society as Treasurer for five years. Judy is owner of Hostas on the Hill nursery located at her home in Dunnivant Valley near Birmingham.



## Really Dumb Stuff We do to our Landscapes: "Unwise Party Attire"

Lelia Scott Kelly, a lifelong gardener, earned a Ph.D. and M.S. in Horticulture from Mississippi State University (MSU). She served for 17 years as Consumer Horticulture Specialist and was the State Master Gardener Coordinator at MSU. She is a Mississippi Licensed Landscape Designer, a magazine columnist and award-winning writer. Lelia is known for wit and gardening wisdom; her talks are filled with personal anecdotes, storytelling and science. Audiences leave entertained, inspired and informed.