

# 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 12

December 2019

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

Who else loves Japanese Maples? I have always liked to collect things, especially things that I love! When I first became a Master Gardener I used to collect plants of all kinds. I never met a plant I didn't like! Now, after all these years, I still collect plants, but now it is more specialized plants, like Japanese Maples. There are so many different varieties, each one more beautiful than the last. What a wonderful program we had last month on them. Our speaker, David Doggett shared so much information with us, as well as a list of some of his favorite varieties. I am looking forward to adding some more varieties to my collection!

It was good to see so many of our intern class graduates at our meeting! They are very enthusiastic and already add so much to our association. Remember to congratulate them on carrying on our tradition and winning the First Place Ribbon for their MG booth at the Shelby County Fair. They did a great job!

I hope to see everyone this month at our December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. This one is always a lot of fun! After a short meeting, we will have our traditional covered dish lunch followed by our Dirty Gardener gift swap. Everyone should bring a covered dish to share and a \$15-\$20 gift (anything a gardener might enjoy) to participate. Don't miss the fun and fellowship with your fellow Master Gardeners, as we celebrate the Christmas season! Looking forward to seeing you all on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Merry Christmas to everyone!

See you all soon!

*Myra*

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

## This Month's Meeting Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> @ 10am Shelby County Extension Center Auditorium

Our annual "Dirty Gardener" Christmas Party/  
Meeting is a not-to-be missed event! Please bring  
your favorite holiday dish to share and a \$15-\$20  
garden-related gift for the game.



**NEXT MONTH'S MEETING—** Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 10am  
**Shelby County Extension Center Auditorium**

Bring your ideas for programs as we plan for 2020  
and a potluck dish to share!

### TREASURER'S REPORT as of November 18, 2019

Submitted by Barbara Williams, Treasurer

<b>Checks/Deposits</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Beginning Balance	\$5,307.50
Deposits (2)	426.25
Checks (2)	-117.57
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$5,616.18</b>

**Cards sent by Tommie Harrison on behalf of SCMGA during November:**

**Birthdays:**

Carol Beard  
Margot Glenboski  
Jessica Joslin

**Thank You:**

Speaker, David Doggett

**Thinking of You:**

Merle Schukoske  
Donna Shubert

Help Spread  
The Sunshine!



We have a private Facebook group called  
**"Shelby County Alabama Master Gardener Active Members"**  
This is a closed group for our members to help with  
communication, so if you are on Facebook,  
check it out and ask to join.



**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:

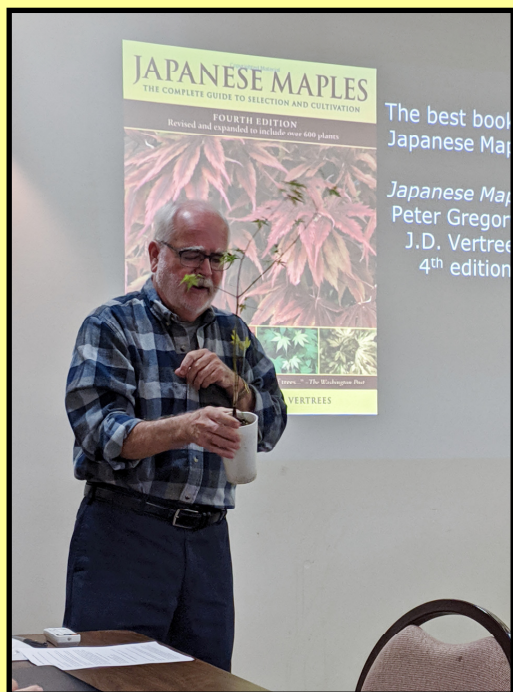


**ALDRIDGE GARDENS  
BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS  
HOOVER PUBLIC LIBRARY  
PETALS FROM THE PAST  
SHELBY CO. MASTER GARDENERS**

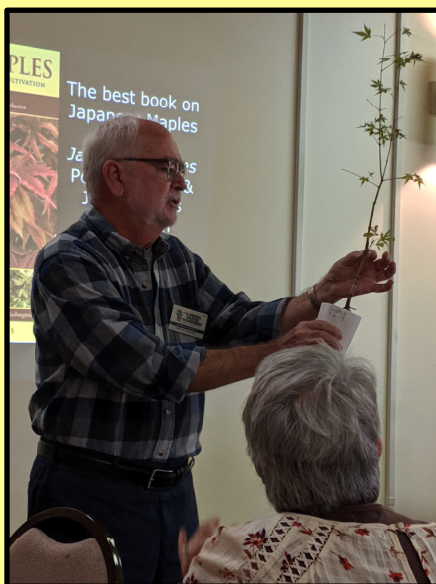
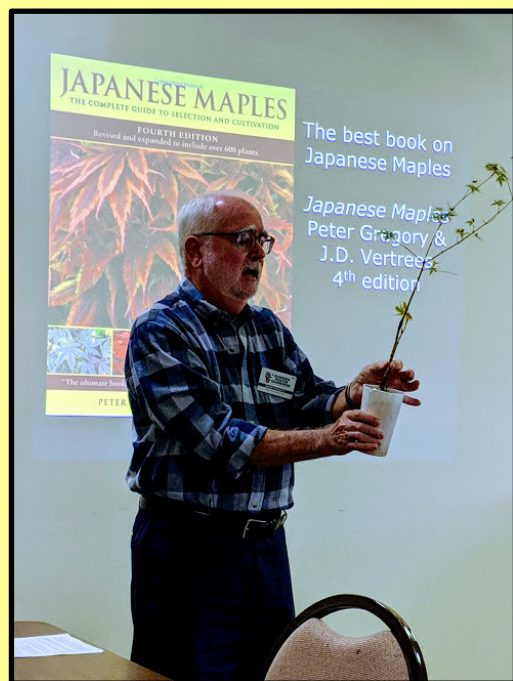
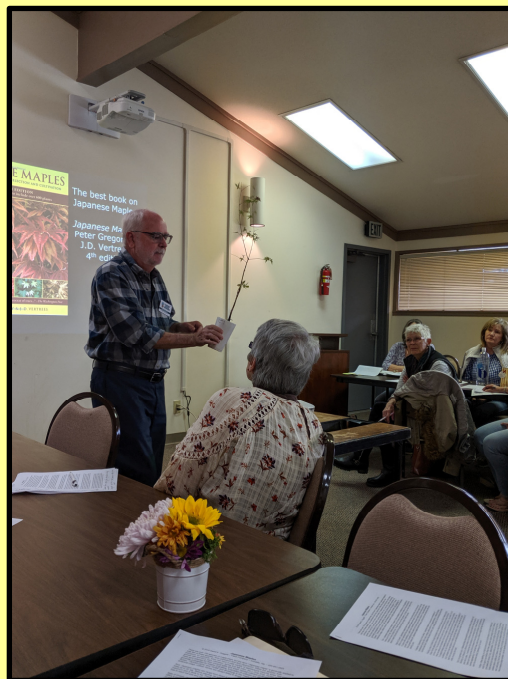
<https://aldridgegardens.com/education/events/>  
<https://bbgardens.org/#events.hooverlibrary.org/events?v=grid>  
<https://petalsfromthepast.com/events.html>  
<https://mg.aces.edu/shelby/events>

**ALL ALABAMA MASTER GARDENERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS,** June 2020 offers us a great opportunity to see the beautiful Pacific Coast and parts of the Canadian Rockies! Rocky Mountaineer has created an itinerary for us to see some of the most spectacular sites. You will receive the entire information package by email soon! In the meantime, please watch the sneak peek at:

<https://rockymountaineer.zoom.us/recording/share/GhVB5z7ceX9XpkIjL1hyHFMcm7rBy7iVKcNhhlmx3OywIumekTziMw>



David Doggett presented his program via PowerPoint slides of many different cultivars of Japanese maples and discussed how best to grow them. His program also included a discussion of grafting and why this is the most popular method of propagating Japanese maples. Handouts described proper placement and care of Japanese maples.



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

**Attention Members: Now is the time to pay dues for 2020.** Please remember, you must submit a new membership form (last page of this *Gab*) with your check, even if there are no changes to your information. Checks (made out to SCMGA) and forms should be submitted to our treasurer, **Barbara Williams, 825 Mountain View Drive, Wilsonville, AL 35186.**  
**All dues and forms must be submitted prior to 12/31/2019. \*\*\*Save on the cost of postage & an envelope by turning your dues in at our December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting!**

**Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association  
Minutes—11 October 2019**

- President Myra Healy welcomed all members and guests to our annual Harvest Festival and offered special recognition and thanks to Butch and Rebecca Poskey for welcoming us to their spacious and entertaining hangar. All enjoyed a hearty buffet dinner and delicious desserts. Following dinner, Dolores Hydock, actress and story performer, thoroughly entertained all with a funny and engaging story of "Becoming Mrs. Nash". All gardeners present were able to relate to the trials and joys of becoming a seasoned gardener, sometimes without even knowing it!
- Following dinner and entertainment, President Healy called to order a brief business meeting. She called attention to the minutes and Treasurer's Report, both printed in the October *Gardeners' Gab*. Members approved both reports as printed.
- **Old Business**
  1. The Nominating Committee has been hard at work and will have a slate of officers ready for presentation and vote in December. There is still a need for a Vice President, Parliamentarian, and several committee chairpersons.
  2. Our fundraiser/service project for this year was the state conference in May that we cohosted in cooperation with the Chilton and Autauga County associations. We have recently received a check for \$3,500.00 for our part of this project.
  3. Myra expressed gratitude for all who participated in the Thompson Middle School project.
- **New Business and Announcements**
  1. It is now time to pay our annual dues. Everyone must fill out a new form every year; forms are available in the *Gardeners' Gab*.
  2. President Healy gave special recognition to the current intern class who sat together for the evening's festivities.
  3. President Healy presented the following gardeners with their Master Gardener Certificates:  
Jim Busbin: Class of 2017  
Ernette Dawson: Class of 2018  
Donna Schubert: Class of 2018
  4. Our next meeting will be Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, at 10 am in the County Extension Office auditorium; program to be announced.
- Following the dinner and business meeting, members and guests enjoyed the silent auction and door prizes.

Respectfully submitted, Teresa Boody, Secretary



Isn't Jim Strickland's Thanksgiving cactus beautiful? I am especially impressed that he sent this photo the day after Thanksgiving! I wish mine would realize they should bloom at Thanksgiving instead of random times between just after Thanksgiving up until New Year's Day or later. I think I do pretty much everything that's supposed to be required to get them to bloom at the correct time... I keep them outside from late spring until our temperatures get down to around 50°F. They are usually full of buds when I bring them inside, but they never seem to mature by Thanksgiving Day.

Truth be told, all four of my cacti were marketed as "Christmas" varieties. I learned recently they are not. You see, mine have pointed edges and only the Thanksgiving cactus (*Schlumbergera truncata*) has pointed edges on the lobes of its leaves. Christmas cactus (*Schlumbergera buckleyi*) has rounded edges on the lobes of its leaves as do Easter cactus (*Schlumbergera gaertneri*).

These are my favorite houseplants, so I'll keep on loving them no matter when they decide to bloom! ~Heidee



## BEEF STROGANOFF

from the kitchen of Sandy Hixon, Master Gardener

I made this for the last luncheon, but served it over mashed potatoes. Enjoy!

\*\*\*This recipe is easily multiplied.

### Ingredients:

- 1 pound ground beef
- 16.25 oz. Cream of Mushroom Soup per pound of beef
- 1/2 envelope onion soup mix per pound of beef
- 6 oz. sour cream per pound of beef
- 8 oz. egg noodles per pound of beef
- Salt, pepper & garlic powder to taste



### Preparation Instructions:

- Brown ground beef, add onion soup mix and spices (salt, pepper, garlic powder) to taste. Drain.
- Add undiluted soup and cook until thoroughly heated.
- Stir in sour cream just before serving.

Noodles:

- Bring a pot of water to a full boil.
- Add egg noodles and cook according to package directions or your desired tenderness.
- Stir in a little olive oil to prevent sticking and drain.



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.

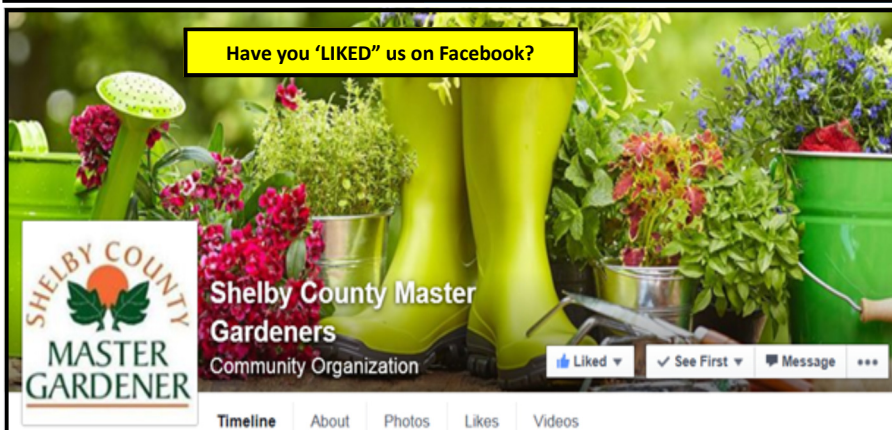
Here are two ways for you to get in touch with Tommie:

Email: [torumo74@gmail.com](mailto:torumo74@gmail.com)  
Phone: 205-663-7146



### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

10—Susan Seng  
20—Sunny Gilliam  
20—Susan Moore



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Our 2019 Master Gardener Intern Class followed tradition and took on the Shelby County Fair Booth as a project.



Lots of planning, construction and staging went into their booth.



All their hard work paid off...





CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2019 FOR KEEPING WITH OUR TRADITION OF WINNING FIRST PLACE WITH THEIR BOOTH AT THE SHELBY COUNTY FAIR!

## 2020 AMGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE—GARDENING WITH 20/20 VISION ATTENTION: Online registration opens January 1

The Conference registration packet will be included in Pathways Winter edition.

The conference will be held in the award-winning Renaissance Riverview Hotel on the Mobile waterfront. To make hotel reservations, please copy this link into your browser:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1555428147355&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

or call 1-800-922-3298 and ask for the AMGA 2020 Master Gardener room block.

- Come to Mobile for the March 30, Annual AMGA Conference. Rather, come to Mobile early and visit the stunning Providence Foundation Festival of Flowers March 26-29.
- The conference begins Monday, March 30, with three breakout sessions followed by our noon keynote speaker, Jim Martin, a veteran horticulturist, director of programs for the Charleston Parks Conservancy in South Carolina.
- The conference theme is *Gardening with 20/20 Vision*, so Jim will share his vision in "Gardening Future Forward." The new direction he is following is characterized by his organization, Compost in My Shoe, that began as a blog post about his garden and has grown into an enterprise in which he sells his garden produce weekly to faithful subscribers in a co-op. Jim's continuing interests are leading him into design, and growth of ornamentals. Martin's breakout session following his keynote address is titled "Star-Studded Floral Design Using Creative Structures, Grocery Store Fare, and Your Backyard."
- Another break-out session sharing a vision for gardening's future will be Bobby Green of Fairhope, AL, discussing the heat-tolerant native varieties growing on the Gulf Coastal Plain. Sarah Skelly, OD, will recommend strategies to care for our health and general well-being as gardeners. Evie Pankok of Florida will teach us recycling in our gardens, and Bill Finch shares his newest book, *Light in the Long Leaf*.
- Our Tuesday evening banquet speaker is storyteller and humorist Dolores Hydock who will share two gardening tales: "Becoming Mrs. Nash" and "Western Civilization." A film festival featuring environmental reporter, Ben Raines is scheduled, as well as the AMGA business meeting that will include electing new officers and the announcement of awards. These are just a few of the 18 speakers across 22 sessions offered.
- Admission discounts to Festival of Flowers will be available with your Master Gardener identification. Mobile is also home of two nationally and internationally acclaimed gardens, Bellingrath Gardens and Mobile Botanical Gardens, to which Master Gardeners will be offered discounts during conference week.





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



## ALABAMA GARDENERS' CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

**FRUITS AND NUTS**—Plant young pecan and other deciduous fruit trees and grapes. Select bud wood. Start dormant pruning of established fruits. Protect all young trees from rabbit damage by placing wire around the base of the tree. Apply dormant oil sprays for scale.

**LAWNS**—Control wild garlic, chickweed, Poa annua, dandelion, and other weeds. Read label on each package of weed killer used.

**ROSES**—Add plants to rose garden. Mulch all plantings.

**ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS**—Plant hardy annual seed without delay. Have you tried violas?

**BULBS**—Continue spring bulb planting.

**SHRUBS**—Planting is still the main activity but delay in case of freezing weather.

**MISCELLANEOUS**—Shrubs, trees, and indoor plants make excellent gifts.

### Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2019

President	Myra Healy	665-4554	myhealy42@gmail.com
Vice-President	Kate Vogel	665-5878	kvogelashfield@aol.com
Secretary	Teresa Boody	991-6463	wtmmmb@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Barbara Williams	670-0191	bwilliams1581@gmail.com
Parliamentarian	Merle Schukoske	669-0783	schukos@gmail.com
Advisory Council Rep	Dennis Stanek	789-0341	dennis.stanek@att.net
Awards Committee	Board Members		scmga.email@gmail.com
By-Laws Chair	Trisha Williams	410-5074	trisha325@gmail.com
Communications	Julie Hobaugh	767-8666	jlhobaugh@gmail.com
Historian	Sandy Hixon	441-8237	emailhixon@gmail.com
Hospitality	Jim Strickland	669-6912	JimStricklandinc@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor	Heidee Vansant	669-3284	heidee.vansant@gmail.com
Nominating Committee Chair	Myra Healy	665-4554	myhealy42@gmail.com
Projects Coordinator	Dennis Stanek	789-0341	dennis.stanek@att.net
Sunshine Committee	Tommie Harrison	663-7146	torumo74@gmail.com
Webmaster	Beth Glasgow	669-7981	bethglasgow@bellsouth.net

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**Please Note:** A new membership form must be completed each year and returned with your dues.

## **ALABAMA MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION, INC.**

### **MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Dear Master Gardener,

The Alabama Master Gardener Association (AMGA) Board of Directors has set \$10.00 as the annual membership dues for January 1—December 31, 2020. Members are very important to this Association, and we hope that you will join or renew your membership. To remain on the state membership list and to continue to receive Garden Pathways newsletter, please complete this application and give it, along with your dues, to your local association Treasurer ASAP.

Association Name: **Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #'s:

Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

State and Local Newsletters will be delivered online. County of Residence \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Information: County of Training: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Training: \_\_\_\_\_

In Case of Emergency Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

#### **TYPE of MEMBERSHIP** (Check one)

☐ Active Member

☐ Provisional Member (Interns)

☐ Lifetime Member

☐ Associate Member (Extension Employee)

☐ Honorary Member

#### **Local Dues**

\$12.00

No fee

\$240.00

No fee

No fee

#### **State Dues**

\$10.00

No fee

\$100.00

No fee

No fee

**Amount Enclosed: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO SCMGA AND MAIL TO:**

**Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association  
c/o Barbara Williams  
825 Mountain View Dr.  
Wilsonville, AL 35186**