

# 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. 13, Issue 3

March 2020

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

Spring is in the air. It will be here the week after our March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. I have already gotten out and overdone it twice. When we get a spring like day, I seem to forget that I'm not a "spring chicken" anymore.

We all seemed to have a lot of fun making dish gardens at our Valentine's Day meeting. Cedar Creek Nursery gave us a great price on three flats of succulents, and we had only ten plants left. I donated them to 4-H for their upcoming meeting on dish gardens. So many of you brought plants, dishes, etc. to share and after your monetary donations, we covered most of the cost.

Thanks to all of you who came out to help with Montevallo's Arbor Day. That was a great way to get in some volunteer hours. Contact Projects Chair Dennis Stanek about volunteering in our Seed-to-Table community garden beds. We will be up and running soon and the produce goes to Shelby Emergency Assistance <https://shelbyemergencyassistance.com/>.

*Kate*



**This Month's Meeting—Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> @ 10am  
Shelby County Extension Office Auditorium**



Our speaker will be Olivia Barone, Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Montevallo. She will educate us on waste reduction and discuss some other initiatives the City of Montevallo is starting.

Please bring a potluck dish to share for lunch.

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



# NEXT MONTH'S MEETING—Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 10am



Field trip to Pursell Farms in Sylacauga, tour and then lunch.

## SHELBY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS' ASSOC. MEETING MINUTES—14 FEBRUARY 2020

Shelby County Master Gardeners met at 10 a.m. and welcomed Chilton County transfer Karen Mims before saying the pledge. A motion to approve the minutes was provided by Diane McKinnon, seconded by Barbara Williams. Treasurer's report was approved; motion by Merle Schukoske, seconded by Diane McKinnon.

Dennis Stanek, Advisory Council Rep, spoke about upcoming events. Paula Mangum and Julie Baumgardner will do hospitality duties. Joy Morris will be our Fundraising Chairman. Myra Healy presented intern Chris Cooley his membership certificate and badge.

President Kate Vogel reminded folks to attend Montevallo's Arbor Day event at the Recycling Center on Feb 29<sup>th</sup> where we'll have a Master Gardener table. She announced our April 10<sup>th</sup> field trip will be to Mentone and the Wildflower Cafe, one of 10 best places to visit in Alabama according to this month's Southern Living magazine!

Announcements: Diane McKinnon needs 150 volunteers daily, on May 6,7,8 and 13th, for the Special Needs Fishing Event for Shelby & Jefferson County Schools at Oak Mountain State Park. The lake is stocked with 8,000 fish, trout & bass, and lunch is provided. MG volunteers can get hours & lunch. Judy Cook added we can take flower arrangements to Hospice in Alabaster (behind Arby's).

Dish Garden Program: President Kate Vogel had a table laden with Cedar Creek Nursery plants, succulents, moss, gravel, soil, figurines, pots, bowls, baskets, charcoal. Historian Becca Poskey took lots of photos as did the 4-H leader who wanted to inspire her 4-H'ers to enter gardens in the Shelby County Fair! Sandy Hixson gave the grace. We ate, crafted, visited, and donated \$71 for supplies (covered cost of succulents) – it was such fun to meet so many of the 2019 class!

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Jensen, Acting Secretary

## TREASURER'S REPORT as of February 18, 2020

Submitted by Barbara Williams, Treasurer

Checks/Deposits	Balance
Beginning Balance	\$5,812.18
Deposits	
Dues	34.00
Dish Gardens	71.00
Checks	
Dues x2	-440.00
Stamps for B. Williams & M. Grantham	-22.00
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$5,455.18</b>

Help Spread  
The Sunshine!



### Cards sent by Martha Grantham on behalf of SCMGA during February:

#### Birthdays:

Teresa Boody  
Michael Cooley  
Sydney Ellis  
Pat Hare

Myra Healy  
Jenny Lucas  
Joy Morris  
Merle Schukoske

#### Sympathy:

Chris Cooley

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/educationevents/>  
<https://bbgardens.org/#events>  
<https://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/GhVB5z7ceX9XpkjL1hyHFMcm7rBy7iVKcNhhlmx3OywIumekTziMw>



## **2020 AMGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE—GARDENING WITH 20/20 VISION** **ATTENTION: Online registration opened 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.



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.



## CORNERED BEEF and CABBAGE

from the kitchen of Kate Vogel, Master Gardener

Corned beef and cabbage (something I did not grow up eating in Bucksnot, Alabama) was always the favorite meal of my late husband and his father, my two sons and now my grandson. I stock up when it's on sale for St. Patrick's Day.

1. After 40 years, I learned the trick is to prepare the corned beef brisket (according to package directions) **the day before** you plan to serve it.
2. Refrigerate the brisket in the cooking broth overnight.
3. Remove from the refrigerator and strain the broth to remove the fat.
4. Remove as much fat as you can from the cold brisket and slice it into serving sized slices.
5. Prepare the vegetables and put them in the broth:
  - Cabbage
  - Potatoes
  - Carrots
  - Onions
6. Bring the vegetables to a boil and turn down to a simmer.
7. After 30 minutes, place the cold sliced corned beef on top of the vegetables, turn off the heat and put the lid on the pot.
8. The vegetables will be done and the corned beef heated through after 15 minutes.



Please send Martha Grantham, 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. Martha 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 Martha:

Email: Doggymamacj@gmail.com  
Phone: 205-663-8977



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 9—Kermit Baumgartner
- 11—David Thomas
- 13—Dennis Stanek
- 25—Trisha Williams
- 29—Sylvia Sheffield



# SCENES FROM OUR FUN FEBRUARY MEETING



Pres. Kate Vogel tells about the material available to build our gardens.



Gretchen Boling, Cindy Hearn, Barbara Williams & Karen Mims choose succulents for their dish gardens.



Karen Mims, Donna Shubert, & Edith Johnston choose plants for their gardens.



Trisha Williams, Sandy Hixon, Donna Shubert and Rose Levine filled their containers with gravel and soil.



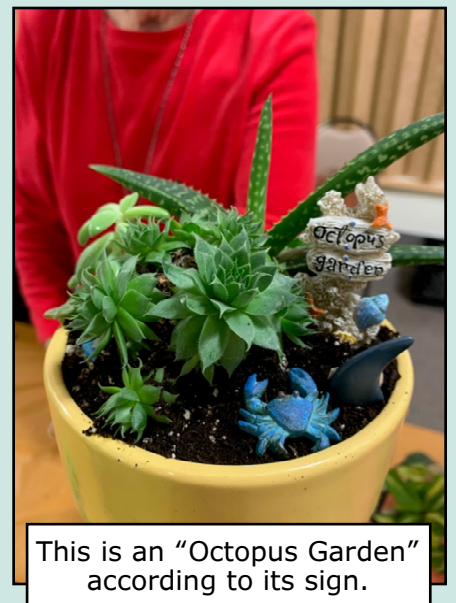
Dennis Stanek made a hole in a dipper gourd he grew to share the seeds and turn it into a planter.



Various containers were chosen for creation of dish gardens.



This lovely garden was created in a terrarium.



This is an "Octopus Garden" according to its sign.

# MORE SCENES FROM OUR FUN FEBRUARY MEETING



Kate Vogel's spring-themed container garden held a beautiful "Love One Another" message.



Myra Healy had a good time creating her succulent garden.



Marilyn Donoho's dish garden had a Dutch theme.



Edith Johnston finished two succulent gardens—one in a dipper gourd!



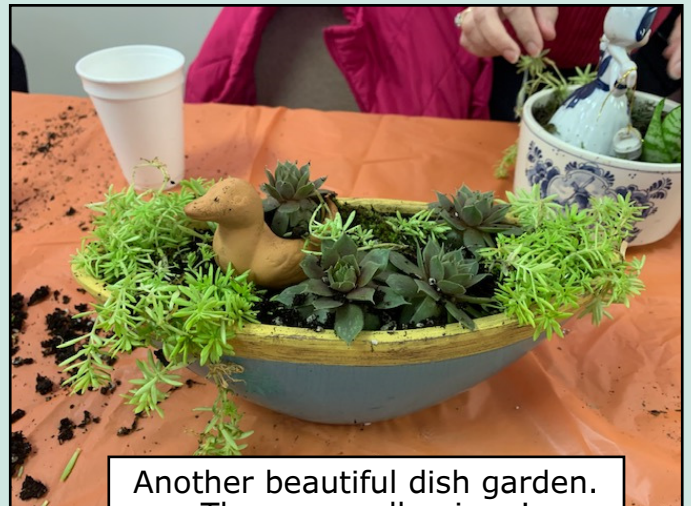
Karen Jensen, Karen Mims, Donna Shubert, Mary Mattingly & Trisha Williams gather soil and plants to build their succulent gardens.



Kermit Baumgartner, Ben Crunk, Heidee Vansant, Myra Healy & Merle Schukoske admire one another's creative processes.



Heidee Vansant's succulent garden in front and Myra Healy's in back



Another beautiful dish garden. They were all unique!

# Photos from the Arbor Day Event in Montevallo 2/29/2020



Myra Healy presented the Master Gardener certificate & name badge to Chris Cooley on 2/14.



Marilyn Donoho, Chris Cooley, Ben Crunk, Rose Levine, Myra Healy, and Sandy Hixson



Members of the community line up to select trees.



Dennis Stanek, Kermit Baumgartner, and Paula Mangum assist with the passing out of trees.



Marilyn Donoho, Myra Healy, and Rose Levine working the Master Gardener table.



Myra Healy and Kate Vogel select trees to use at home.



Kermit Baumgartner and Ben Crunk



Dennis Stanek and Sandy Hixson help pass out trees to folks.



Shelby County Master Gardeners volunteered to man a booth, stuff bags with trees and hand out trees at Montevallo's Arbor Day Celebration at the Recycling Center.



Dennis Stanek, Ben Crunk, Sandy Hixson, David Hixson, and Paula Mangum helped the Forestry Service bag 300 long leaf pines to give out to the community on Arbor Day.



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



## ALABAMA GARDENERS' CALENDAR FOR MARCH

**FRUITS & NUTS**—Continue strawberry & grape plantings. Bud apples and peaches. Start planting blackberries. Remember, if weather conditions prevent prompt planting, heel the plants in by placing the root system in a trench & covering the soil.

**SHRUBS**—Fertilize shrubs (except azaleas and camellias) according to a soil test. Late plantings may be made, particularly if they are container-grown. Watch shrubs for harmful insects.

**LAWNS**—Plant Bermuda, Zoysia, & Centipede in South Alabama. Seed bluegrass & grass mixtures in North Alabama. Fertilize established lawns.

**ROSES**—Watch new growth for aphids. Begin a spray or dust program. Begin fertilizing.

**ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS**—Tender annuals may be planted in South Alabama. Check garden centers for bedding plants.

**BULBS**—Plant gladiolus every two or three weeks if a long Blooming season is desired. Plant tuberous begonias in pots. Plant dahlias.

**MISCELLANEOUS**—Check & repair sprayers, dusters, and lawn mowers. Control lawn weeds with chemicals. Delay pruning of fruiting shrubs such as cotoneasters, pyracanthas, & hollies until after flowering.

**VEGETABLE SEEDS**—Plant hardy crops recommended for January & February. After danger of frost is past, plant tender vegetables.

**VEGETABLE PLANTS**—Plant cabbage, onions, lettuce, broccoli, & Brussels sprouts in North Alabama; plant tomatoes & peppers in lower South Alabama.

### Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2020

President	Kate Vogel	665-5878	<a href="mailto:kvogelashfield@aol.com">kvogelashfield@aol.com</a>
Vice-President	Jim Sherbrook	234-0291	<a href="mailto:jsherbrook@gmx.com">jsherbrook@gmx.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>
Advisory Council Rep	Dennis Stanek	789-0341	<a href="mailto:dennis.stanek@att.net">dennis.stanek@att.net</a>
Awards Committee	Myra Healy	665-4554	<a href="mailto:myhealy42@gmail.com">myhealy42@gmail.com</a>
By-Laws Chair	Trisha Williams	410-5074	<a href="mailto:trisha325@gmail.com">trisha325@gmail.com</a>
Communications	Julie Hobough	767-8666	<a href="mailto:jlhobough@gmail.com">jlhobough@gmail.com</a>
Fundraising	Joy Morris	847-307-9176	<a href="mailto:joymorris@outlook.com">joymorris@outlook.com</a>
Historian	Rebecca Poskey	641-3677	<a href="mailto:thrifysouthernchick@gmail.com">thrifysouthernchick@gmail.com</a>
Hospitality	Julie Baumgartner	601-405-3343	<a href="mailto:julie_baumgartner@comcast.net">julie_baumgartner@comcast.net</a>
	Paula Mangum	306-7144	<a href="mailto:mangumpc@hotmail.com">mangumpc@hotmail.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	Martha Grantham	663-8977	<a href="mailto:Doggymamacj@gmail.com">Doggymamacj@gmail.com</a>
Webmaster	Beth Glasgow	669-7981	<a href="mailto:bethglasgow@bellsouth.net">bethglasgow@bellsouth.net</a>

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.



# 4TH ANNUAL SPRING GARDEN SYMPOSIUM

## *Being a Responsible Gardener for a Happier Alabama*

Thursday, March 19, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Longleaf Botanical Gardens

920 Museum Drive · Anniston

The environment is a great concern to avid and novice gardeners. Bird and pollinator populations are declining, clean water and air are a great concern, while diseases and pests are changing the landscapes and forests. Whether dealing with the vagaries of a fickle climate, the invasion of exotic pests and diseases, or the overwhelming palette of plant choices, gardeners want to do the right thing to keep the balance of nature working in their landscape. The 4th Annual Spring Garden Symposium will focus on these issues and guide you to better plant choices to address the numerous concerns we all face.

### AGENDA

8:30 AM – Registration and Vendor Shopping

9:00 AM – Welcome and Introductions

9:15 AM – Michelle Reynolds - writer, author, and naturalist - "Being Water Wise with Rain Gardens"

10:00 AM – Break and Vendor Shopping

10:15 AM – Hayes Jackson - Director of Longleaf Botanical Gardens and Regional Extension Agent -  
"Forgiving Plants for Unforgiving Circumstances"

11:00 AM – Dr. Gary Knox - Extension Specialist, North Florida Research and Education Center -  
"Magnolias: Old Favorites, Native Treasures, and New Hybrids for a Sustainable Southern Garden"

NOON – Lunch, Vendor Shopping, and Submit Questions for Panel Discussion

1:00 PM – Dr. Gary Knox - Extension Specialist, North Florida Research and Education Center - "Research  
Updates on Crapemyrtle Bark Scale and Rose Rosette Disease"

1:30 PM – Emily Merritt - Merritt Consulting - "Ticks and Tick-borne Illnesses in Alabama"

2:20 PM – Short Topic Round Table - Hayes Jackson, Patricia Patty, Emily Richardson

3:00 PM – Adjourn - Support Our Vendors!

Funding for Speakers is Provided by the Bidikov Foundation

Pre-registration is required. To register online visit [www.ExploreAMAG.org](http://www.ExploreAMAG.org) or call 256-237-6766. Tickets are \$30 and AM&G members receive a \$5 discount. Members, when registering online, be certain to login to receive your member discount! Register by Thursday, March 12, to have lunch included in the cost. Lunch sandwich choices: ham, turkey, or Mediterranean vegetables.

