

GARDENERS' GAB



Shelby County Master Gardeners' Assoc.

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

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/>

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April 2020

The President Ponders...

Members,

As gardeners, we like to be "grounded" and not have things "up in the air" as they are now. We had to cancel our April field trip to Pursell Farms and since the ACES office is closed through May 9th, we will have to cancel our May 8th meeting as well. Vice-president Jim Sherbrook had a program on growing hemp planned for us and hopefully we can get it in later.

Traditionally in June we visit a member's garden and are looking for someone to host this. If we are able to meet in June and you would love to show off what you've done with all your extra time in social isolation, please contact Jim at jsherbrook@sherpower.com.

Since the University of Montevallo will not reconvene on campus, the students will not be able to help us clean out our beds in the Seed-to-Table Community Garden as part of their annual Big Event. If you can help with this, let Projects Chair Dennis Stanek know at dennis.stanek@att.net. Dennis' official planting day is April 18th. I've already started weeding our beds. Overcast days and wet soil make weeding less painful and my chickens love all the chickweed I bring them.

Our March speaker, Olivia Barone, Montevallo's Sustainability Coordinator, is looking to bring back Victory Gardens. Check out the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/211645273425974/>.

Keep Well,

Kate

ALABAMA EXTENSION CONTINUES TO SERVE DURING CORONAVIRUS

<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/home-family/alabama-extension-continues-to-serve-during-coronavirus/>

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**SHELBY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS' ASSOC.
MEETING MINUTES—13 MARCH 2020**

- President Kate Vogel opened the meeting at 10 a.m. after assuring all 22 in attendance that all surfaces had been wiped down with antiseptic solution. She noted the Extension Office is closed for face to face interactions due to virus concerns.
- President Vogel introduced our speaker Olivia Barone, City of Montevallo Sustainability Coordinator, on the job for 4 months now, who facilitates recycling and waste reduction. She noted we produce 267.8 million TONS of waste nationally each year: 22% is food, (worldwide one-third of food is lost/wasted every year), 19% is plastic, 13% is paper/paperboard. In Shelby County, we send 850 tons of waste DAILY to our landfill! Ways to reduce waste/trash were discussed: composting, recycling, etc. Olivia announced Montevallo is hosting a Sell, Shop, Sustainable Neighborhood Trade Day April 25th, and a March 28th Earth Hour awareness event: Turn off Lights/Power Gadgets from 8:30-9:30 p.m.
- Business Meeting: Jim Strickland moved we approve the minutes; Myra Healy seconded the motion. The treasurer's report was approved as well. The new hospitality committee of Julie Baumgartner & Paula Mangum were thanked for their decorative efforts. Myra Healy presented member certificates to Paula Mangum, Diane Armstrong, Cindy Hearn and Rose Levine.
- Committee Reports: 1) Dennis Stanek says the Mobile Festival of Flowers is cancelled, MG Conference is still on; 2) Deb Elliott reported volunteers of the Aldridge Gardens Veterans Memorial Arbor Project planted 134 shrubs and moved/pruned lots of roses. 3) Sandra Hixson said there were so many Montevallo Arbor Day trees left over that she planted 35 in her neighborhood. 4) Myra Healy asked if there was interest in helping establish a garden at the Pelham Senior Center where MG Sylvia Sheffield is employed.
- Old Business: Seed-to-Table Community Garden, Montevallo college student clean-up day is April 4th, Dennis Stanek's official planting day is April 18th. Come help if available.
- New Business: We'll have a carpooling field trip to Pursell Farms www.pursellfarms.com in April.
- Jim Strickland gave the luncheon blessing.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Jensen, Acting Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT as of March 19, 2020

Submitted by Barbara Williams, Treasurer

Checks/Deposits	Balance
Beginning Balance	\$5,455.18
Deposits: Dues	22.00
Checks: Dish Gardens	-93.31
Ending Balance	\$5,383.87

Help Spread
The Sunshine!



Cards sent by Martha Grantham on behalf of SCMGA during March:

Birthdays:

Kermit Baumgartner
Sylvia Sheffield
Dennis Stanek
Trisha Williams

Thank You:

Olivia Barone,
Speaker

Get Well:

Kermit Baumgartner

Condolence:

Jim Sherbrook
(loss of brother)

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	https://aldridgegardens.com/education/events/eventsataldridge.html
BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS	https://bbgardens.org/#events
HOOVER PUBLIC LIBRARY	http://events.hooverlibrary.org/events
PETALS FROM THE PAST	https://petalsfromthepast.com/events-2/
SHELBY CO. MASTER GARDENERS	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/GhVB5z7ceX9XpkIjL1hyHFMcm7rBy7iVKcNhhImx3OywIumekTziMw>



GROW MORE VEGGIES – A NEW PROJECT FOR MASTER GARDENERS

Gardeners quickly learn that success is often cyclical determined by rain, drought, bounty and disease. However, novice gardeners, and those just curious about gardening, have a lot to learn, and we can all help to bridge that knowledge gap.

It's a tradition in many communities to "plant a row" for your neighbor - whether that's sharing plants as pass-alongs or sharing the crop after harvest. This time of year, Master Gardeners are usually in full force, supporting community-based vegetable gardens, but circumstances make that more difficult this year.

So, a group of ACES Agents and talented Master Gardeners have joined together to promote community-based gardening and deliver healthy vegetables to Alabamians. "Grow More Veggies" is a program with two primary goals:

- Provide practical advice and resources for people to successfully grow tasty produce in containers, raised beds and rows.
- Build on existing and increase opportunities for your contributions to your community's well-being – contributions as a Master Gardener Volunteer.

How it will work: Starting this month (April), ACES Agents will distribute specifications for materials needed to grow certain vegetables. If you want to grow tomatoes in a 5-gallon bucket, we'll suggest supplies needed, where to place it, when to plant it and how to maintain it. The same will be true for other crops (think beans, greens, cucumbers, peppers), and various garden sizes (large containers, raised beds and in-ground rows).

We'll offer everyone (individuals and MG Vol's) specific gardening instructions in several ways: brief on-line tutorials via video, Facebook postings, website printed materials, and one-on-one assistance through the Master Gardener Helpline. In addition, the Master Gardeners will solicit materials and supplies for people in need of garden kit assistance and will help coordinate distribution of the local harvest. We're confident there's plenty to be shared!

Stay tuned for further details in the next week or two and please share your ideas to "Grow" our project. Contact me at bethany@aces.edu.



EASY EASTER CARROT CAKE

from the kitchen of Kate Vogel, Master Gardener

FOR THE CAKE

Sift together:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon

Puree together in a blender or food processor:

- 1-pound package baby-cut carrots
- 1 cup oil
- 3 eggs



Add the carrot mixture to the dry ingredients and mix by hand.
 Distribute batter evenly into two layer-cake pans.
 Bake at 350° F for 30 minutes.

FOR THE FROSTING

Cream together:

- 8 ounces cream cheese
 - ½ cup butter or margarine
 - 1-pound powdered sugar
 - 2 teaspoons vanilla
- Stir in by hand: (optional)
- 1 cup toasted pecan pieces
 - 3½ ounce package frozen coconut



SCMG's this feature cannot continue if we don't receive recipe contributions from all of YOU. The recipes can't keep coming from the same 3 or 4 of us month after month. Please send your recipes to: scmga.email@gmail.com



Please send Martha Grantham, Sunshine Committee 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



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 11—Sandra Harris
- 12—Edith Johnston
- 15—Lisa Wade
- 19—Diane McKinnon
- 23—Judy Cook
- 28—Sybil O'Brien

Have you "LIKED" us on Facebook?



SCENES FROM OUR MARCH MEETING



Four interns* received their Master Gardener certificates and name badges. L-R: Pres. Kate Vogel, *Rose Levine, Awards Comm. Chair Myra Healy, *Diane Armstrong, *Paula Mangum, and *Cindy Hearn (not present).



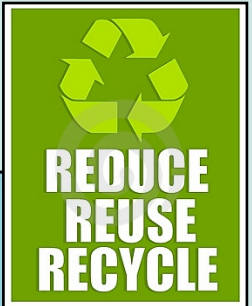
Olivia Barone, City of Montevally's Sustainability Coordinator



Sandy Hixon shows off green tote bags Olivia Barone shared with us.



Go here to find a million & one recycled/upcycled projects for the garden:
<https://www.pinterest.com/trashbackwards/garden-thrift-and-reuse/>



How Much Waste is Produced: Shelby County

- 144,904.28 tons municipal solid waste was received from a population estimate of 180,160 from July 2013-July 2014
- The Shelby County landfill takes in about 850 tons daily, or 17,000,000 pounds of waste **daily!!**

Table 7
Projected Tonnages for Disposal in Shelby County

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Population	200,941	204,180	207,626	221,369	225,353	229,409	233,538	237,741	245,362	250,269	255,274	260,379
C & D	27,431	30,646	35,239	39,592	38,248	38,936	39,637	40,350	41,644	42,476	43,326	44,192
In County MSW	109,292	120,326	109,886	117,160	119,268	121,414	123,599	125,824	129,858	132,454	135,103	137,805
Out of County MSW	4,729	4,911	4,911	4,911	4,911	4,911	4,911	4,911	4,911	4,911	4,911	4,911
Total MSW	114,021	125,237	114,797	122,071	124,179	126,325	128,510	130,735	134,769	137,365	140,014	142,716

Sell. Shop. Sustainable.
MONTEVALLO'S NEIGHBORHOOD TRADE DAY
 APRIL 25TH, 2020 | 10 AM TO 4 PM

Events:

- Earth Hour
 - March 28th 8:30pm-9:30pm
- City Wide Neighborhood Trade Day
 - April 25th 10am-4pm

Challenges:

- Plastic Film Recycling

Recycle your Clean, Dry Empty Plastic Bags and Film Packaging!
 Plastics to Collect



Martha Grantham, Olivia Barone, and Myra Healy

Food Waste and Composting:

- Food Waste
 - The Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that around 1/3 of the world's food was lost or wasted every year.
- Composting:
 - Reduces methane emissions from landfills and lowers your carbon footprint.
 - Enriches soil, helping retain moisture and suppress plant diseases and pests.

Food Recovery Hierarchy

- Source Reduction
- Feed Hungry People
- Feed Animals
- Industrial Uses
- Composting, Incineration or Landfill

Most Preferred
Least Preferred



Kate Vogel reminded us how she recycles/upcycles thrift store & found items and how much they bring at auctions.

extension
 ALABAMA A&M SYSTEMS

Alabama Garden Chat

EVERY WEDNESDAY IN
 APRIL | 3 PM

<https://auburn.zoom.us/j/531241108>



Kate Vogel showed several other examples of how to recycle/upcycle common items and things that would have ended up in the trash.

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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 and 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, and 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 2020

President	Kate Vogel	665-5878	kvogelashfield@aol.com
Vice-President	Jim Sherbrook	234-0291	jsherbrook@gmx.com
Secretary	Teresa Boody	991-6463	wtmmb@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Barbara Williams	670-0191	bwilliams1581@gmail.com
Advisory Council Rep	Dennis Stanek	789-0341	dennis.stanek@att.net
Awards Committee	Myra Healy	665-4554	myhealy42@gmail.com
By-Laws Chair	Trisha Williams	410-5074	trisha325@gmail.com
Communications	Julie Hobough	767-8666	jlhobough@gmail.com
Fundraising	Joy Morris	847-307-9176	joymorris@outlook.com
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	Paula Mangum	306-7144	mangumpc@hotmail.com
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Projects Coordinator	Dennis Stanek	789-0341	dennis.stanek@att.net
Sunshine Committee	Martha Grantham	663-8977	Doggymamacj@gmail.com
Webmaster	Beth Glasgow	669-7981	bethglasgow@bellsouth.net

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