

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/>

Vol. 14, Issue 4

April 2021

The President Ponders...

Members,

"April is the kindest month. April gets you out of your head and out working in the garden." ~Marty Rubin

I certainly hope April is kinder than March. The March 25th tornado that came through Brent and went on to Calera missed our farm by about half a mile. I tend to think of distance in steps walked and that is only 1,500 steps.

Sixteen of us were "out working in the garden" March 12th when we prepared our beds in the Seed-to-Table community garden in Montevallo. I think that was a great turnout considering what is going on in the world right now.

As more people are vaccinated and things open up, I hope we are able to return to regular monthly meetings. VP Jim Sherbrook is exploring venues for outdoor meetings for April 9th and May 14th.

At the last minute we have had to cancel our April 9th meeting due to the threat of bad weather. Hopefully, we will meet at Ebenezer Swamp May 14th. While not specifically about gardening, it is about those things gardeners are interested in—ecology, native plants, water.

www.facebook.com/Ebenezer-Swamp164667406337

Kate

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

SCMGA MEETING—Friday, May 14th at 10 a.m.

VP Jim Sherbrook has arranged an outdoor meeting May 14th at 10 a.m. at Ebenezer Swamp Ecological Preserve near Montevallo weather permitting. We look forward to seeing you if you are comfortable with meeting as a group.

The following is from Jessica Shumate, Director:

There is no physical address for Ebenezer Swamp Ecological Preserve but you can use google maps for directions: [Ebenezer Swamp](#) . It is located on the corner of County Road 24 and Stage Coach Rd.

If you are driving from I-65N:

You will take the Shelby County Airport Exit and take a left at the light. You will take a right at the next light onto Smokey Rd. About a mile down the road, you will see the County Road 24 sign and take that left. Less than half a mile, the Preserve is located on the right side. Stage Coach Rd is a dirt road, but you can park alongside the road and walk past the gate. I will meet everyone at the picnic tables and there are restrooms available on-site.

I suggest bringing water, mask, a light snack, and sunscreen. We will be walking along a boardwalk, but it is always a good idea to wear shoes with a good grip and that might get dirty. Participants will need to sign a waiver- here is a link to fill it out electronically or I can print some to fill out in person. [Participant Waiver](#) (they would fill it out as the "student")

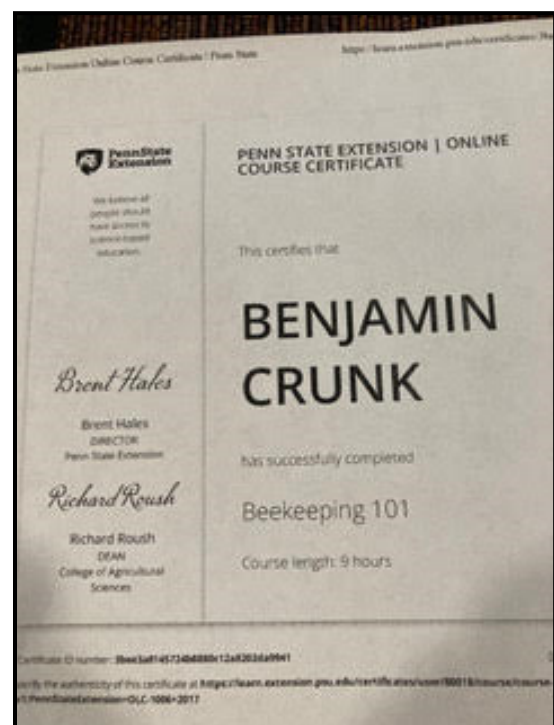
I am looking forward to meeting you next week! I will be checking the weather as we get closer.

Jessica Shumate
Environmental Education Program Director

University of Montevallo
Station 6195, UMOM 311
Montevallo, AL 35115
(205) 665-6195

www.montevallo.edu/eeprograms

Congratulations to Ben Crunk for completing the Beekeeping course through Penn State University online. He is planning a sizable pollinator garden and two (2) bee hives.



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

**SHELBY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
Minutes: 12 March 2021**

The weather cooperated Friday, March 12th, for Shelby County Master Gardeners to meet at the Seed-to-Table Community Garden (with plenty of social distancing) in Montevallo. This was the first in-person meeting since October 2020. Sixteen members were present.

President Kate Vogel conducted a short business meeting. She said Vice President Jim Sherbrook is going ahead with plans for outdoor meetings throughout the spring.

She asked members to contact the extension office if they can volunteer in the office March 18-19.

She asked members to consider money in next year's budget for scholarships for those wanting to take the Master Gardener course.

She announced that master gardener Karen Jensen is the RSVP newsletter's Volunteer of the Month.

Hettie Wagner, garden supervisor, welcomed members and told them how much fresh produce means to clients of Shelby Emergency Assistance. She introduced new SEA Director Amanda Fowler. Kate Vogel asked members to consider budgetary help to help replace some of the deteriorating raised beds each year.

The group got their four raised beds ready for planting and planted some early crops. The produce goes to Shelby Emergency Assistance. They also prepared the three beds used for teaching the two Alabama First 4K classes next door at University Baptist Church.



**A FREE webinar series hosted by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.
In partnership with the Alabamense Chapter of the Azalea Society of
America and the Davis Arboretum at Auburn University.**

March 25, 2021	April 22, 2021	May 20, 2021	June 10, 2021
Introduction to Evergreen Azaleas Introduction to Native Azaleas	Planting Azaleas Care & Maintenance of Azaleas	Propagating Evergreen Azaleas Propagating Native Azaleas	Insects, Diseases, and Disorders Azalea Society Opportunities



www.aces.edu/go/AllAboutAzaleas

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University), is an equal opportunity educator and employer. Everyone is welcome!



via Zoom @ 6 p.m. CST

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

PLEASE NOTE: The AMGA Conference scheduled for April 20-22 in Anniston HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

Looking for Volunteer Hours?

Spread the word! We still hear Alabama's MG's asking, "How can I get my hours this year?" Here's your friendly reminder.... Watch our Extension webinars and get your fill of CEU's. If your volunteer hours are on the shy side this year, then have no fear. A grand total of 25 reported hours, regardless of being Volunteer activities or CEU's, will fulfill your commitment for 2020. Maybe you've been watching these webinars already. Did you count them in your Volunteer Report? Tell everyone!

- https://www.facebook.com/AlabamaSmartYardsAlabamaExtension/videos/?ref=page_internal
 - https://www.facebook.com/AlabamaExtensionAAMU/videos/?ref=page_internal
 - https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension/videos/?ref=page_internal
- https://www.facebook.com/AlabamaExtensionCommercialHorticulture/videos/?ref=page_internal
 - https://www.facebook.com/acesfoodsafety/videos/?ref=page_internal



TREASURER'S REPORT as of March 22, 2021

Submitted by Barbara Williams, Treasurer

Checks/Deposits

Beginning Balance

Checks/Deposits

Ending Balance

Balance

\$5,784.88

0.00

\$5,784.88

Help Spread
The Sunshine!



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

Birthdays Cards:

Sylvia Sheffield
Dennis Stanek
Trisha Williams

Thinking of you Cards:



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 (may be rescheduled or cancelled due to COVID-19):

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>

We have a private Facebook group called

"Shelby County Alabama Master Gardener Active Members"



This closed group was formed to help communicate with our members. Please check it out and ask to join if you are on Facebook.

facebook



**GROW
MORE
GIVE MORE**

extension



Cindy Hearn is spearheading **Grow More, Give More** for SCMGA. Please let her know what you are doing.

cindy_hearn@att.net or 205-424-6352

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.



Pres. Kate Vogel

March 12th workday in the Seed-to-Table community garden in Montevallo.

Please forgive missing and incorrect names.



Karen Jensen, ????? and Trisha Williams



Dennis Stanek



"Striving for success without hard work is like trying to harvest where you haven't planted."
~David Bly



VP Jim Sherbrook & Chris Cooley



Karen Jensen, Dennis Stanek and Chris Cooley



Karen Jensen



Kate Vogel



Kate Vogel, Jeannie Bubbett, ????? & Trisha Williams



"I don't believe the half I hear,
Nor the quarter of what I see!
But I have one faith, sublime and true,
That nothing can shake or slay;
Each spring I firmly believe anew
All the seed catalogues say!"
~Carolyn Wells



Jonathan Payne And Dennis Stanek

Please forgive missing and incorrect names.



Jeannie Bubbett & Carolyn Key from the 2021 virtual class.




Gretchen Boling?

Spring Strawberry Pie (Chilton County Strawberries are ripe)
from the kitchen of Kate Vogel, Master Gardener

- 1 piecrust
- 3/4 cup of sugar
- 2 tablespoons of corn starch
- 1 cup of water
- 1 3-ounce package of strawberry Jello®
- 4 cups of sliced strawberries
- Whipped cream



Bake piecrust. Cool on a wire rack. In a small saucepan, combine the sugar, cornstarch and water until smooth. Bring to a boil; cook and stir until thickened, about 2 minutes. Remove from the heat; stir in gelatin until dissolved. Refrigerate until slightly cooled, 15–20 minutes. Arrange strawberries in the crust. Pour gelatin mixture over berries. Refrigerate until set. Serve with whipped cream.

 SCMG's please remember, we need recipe contributions from **all** of YOU. Please send 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

- 15—Lisa Wade
- 19—Diane McKinnon
- 23—Judy Cook
- 27—Steve Nadeau





Celebrate 100 Years
of Extending Knowledge
and Changing Lives
visit: 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 over planted 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 2021

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	531-5445	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	joymmorris@outlook.com
Historian	Rebecca Poskey	641-3677	thrifysouthernchick@gmail.com
Hospitality	Julie Baumgartner	601-405-3343	julie_baumgartner@comcast.net
	Paula Mangum	306-7144	mangumpc@hotmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Heidee Vansant	669-3284	scmga.email@gmail.com
Nominating Committee Chair	Myra Healy	665-4554	myhealy42@gmail.com
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

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.