

GARDENERS' GAB



Shelby County Master Gardeners Assoc.

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

E-mail: SCMGA.email@gmail.com

Meetings: Monthly, 2nd Friday at 10:00 AM
Shelby County Extension Office—Columbiana, AL

Like Us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1295873251386288>

Private Facebook Group for Active Members:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/738788633247421>

Alabama MGA: <https://www.alabamamga.org>

Alabama MG Program: www.aces.edu/mg

AMG Online Store: <http://www.victorydesigns.com/amg/>

Vol. 18, Issue 23

48 Members

March 2025

Spring is in the air. I have been doing garden cleanup, and I love seeing the new green growth at the bottom of the plant, peonies poking up, and new babies I need to dig up and transplant. Speaking of transplanting, the SCMGA is assisting with Arbor Day events on March 1 and March 8. Aldridge Gardens and Alabaster's Beautification Board at Veteran's Park, respectively. We will educate the community about transplanting bare-root trees and trees in one- and three-gallon pots. Remember to register for the AMGA Spring Conference in Prattville, April 3-5 <https://alabamamga.org/amga-conference/>. March 15th is the cutoff date.

Join us for our March 14th meeting where our own SCMGA member Carolyn Hudson will be sharing how she created a wildflower garden.

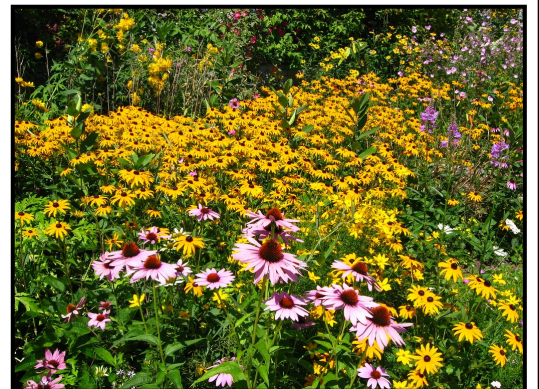
Happy Gardening,

Elizabeth



This Month's Meeting Friday, March 14th at 10:00 AM

Our March speaker is SCMGA member Carolyn Hudson. She will be sharing how she created a wildflower garden.



Elizabeth York
e.york24@yahoo.com
205-616-7648

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SHELBY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION
14 February 2025—Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the SCMGA was held on Friday, February 14, 2025, at 10: 00 AM in the Auditorium of the Shelby County Extension Office at 54 Kelly Lane, Columbiana, AL.

- **OFFICERS:** Elizabeth York—President, Kim Spouse-Howell—Vice-President (absent), Sue Owen—Treasurer, Martha Jones—Secretary (absent)
- **COMMITTEES:**
 - Nominating—Elizabeth York, Projects—Dennis Stanek, Communications—Elizabeth York (Facebook), Heidee Vansant (*Gardeners' Gab*), Audit/By-Laws/Membership—Trisha Williams, AMGA Advisory Council Representative—Kate Vogel (Pathways), Hospitality—Marisa Masters, Sunshine—Vacant (Barbara Williams Interim), Fundraising—Elizabeth York, Historian—Karen Jensen
- **PROJECTS:**
 - ♦ Grace Klein Community, Chelsea—this is ongoing when needed.
 - ♦ Family Connection, Alabaster—Landscape the shelter entrance. This will be an intern project with MG follow-up periodically. Raised bed gardening with kids seasonally.
 - ♦ Beeswax Park on Lake Lay—hiking trail native plant suggestions.
 - ♦ Front of Extension Office Building
 - ♦ Manna Farms will be meeting every Saturday at 9:30 AM for planting. Questions? call Karen Mims at (205)664-2322
 - ♦ Pelham Garden Club will be planting trees on February 17, 22, and 24. Questions? Call Dennis Stanek (205)789-0341
 - ♦ Lay Lake Clean up April 5-12. Questions? Call Karen Jensen (205)434-0642
- **PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**
- **MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT**—Approved as printed in the *Gardeners' Gab*, one correction noted for the Treasurer's report.
- Jessica Evans—Civil Rights Training was presented. The laminated poster that Elizabeth has needs to be present anytime we are speaking to the public.
- **STAR AWARDS**
 - ♦ Bronze Star: Eric Brown, Michael Cloyd, Madeline Harris, Larry Kronk, Marisa Masters
 - ♦ Silver Star: Sue Owen
 - ♦ Gold Star: Carolyn Hudson
 - ♦ Gold Badge: Dennis Stanek & Barbara Williams (to be received at Conference)
- **PRESENTATION**—Rose McCauley, Autauga County MG, "Vermicomposting"
- **OLD BUSINESS:** 2025 AMGA Fall Seminar, September 16, 2025. Flyer ready. A fundraising update was given by Elizabeth York.
- **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - ♦ Budget Review and Audit was held Feb. 4th, New Internal Controls Policy adopted per recommendation, see handout. Audit was performed by Judy Cobb, Chilton County MGA Treasurer. No deficits seen. 501(c)(3) IRS 990N Filed for 2024.
 - ♦ Lunch & Learn for Monday, February 10th—Martha Jones, "Garden Bed Cleanup" was held. May Lunch & Learn will be "Container Gardening", presented by Elizabeth York on May 5, 2025, 12:00-1:00 PM
 - ♦ SCMGA was asked to have a booth at Aldridge Gardens on Saturday, March 1st for Arbor Day and be available to answer questions. Need volunteers to sign up 8:00-11:00 AM. Our table will be under the pavilion and need to set up around 7:00 AM. 1,000-1,500 2/3 gallon trees.
 - ♦ Asked to help Alabaster Beautification Board with Arbor Day. They want us to educate citizens of the community about the trees they selected and how to properly plant. Saturday, March 8th at Veterans' Park off Hwy. 119 in Alabaster. See signup sheet and flyer. We need to be there at 8:15 AM.
 - ♦ AMGA Silent Auction Item—Kate Vogel purchased a Dogwood tree and will deliver it to Silent Auction Committee in April. Elizabeth York will deliver Dogwood watercolor painting donated by MG Margaret Copeland to Silent Auction Committee at the Feb. 4 AC Meeting. Passed the hat to reimburse Kate for the dogwood.
 - ♦ There is a new Herb Society for Alabama. The first meeting is Feb. 20, 2025 at Petals from the Past's Education room at 10:30 AM.
- **DATES:**
 - ♦ Mar 1 -Aldridge Gardens Arbor Day see signup sheet
 - ♦ Mar 8—Alabaster Arbor Day Veterans' Park see signup sheet and flyer
 - ♦ Mar 14—Carolyn Hudson SCMGA, "How to Build a Wildflower Garden"
 - ♦ Mar 20—Spring Garden Symposium Longleaf Gardens see flyer
 - ♦ Apr 3-5—AMGA Spring Conference Prattville, AL
 - ♦ Apr 4—Aldridge Gardens Annual Plant Sale
 - ♦ Apr 10-12—Birmingham Botanical Gardens Plant Sale
 - ♦ Apr 11—Kim Sprouse-Howell SCMGA, "Drying Herbs"
 - ♦ Apr 12—Chilton Co. MGA Plant Sale Goose Pond Park in Clanton 9:00 AM—1:00 PM
 - ♦ May 9—Field Trip to Deb Elliott's Garden in Helena
 - ♦ May 13 -Chilton/Shelby Plant Swap and Cornhole Competition at Judy Cobb's Farm in Rockford
- Lost Badge or Replacement needed? www.aces.edu/go/badges fill out form and pay \$10 replacement cost.

Submitted by: Elizabeth York for Martha Jones, Secretary

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TREASURER'S REPORT FEBRUARY 2025

Sue Owen, Treasurer



Deposits

2/14—Lunch & Learn \$40, Collection \$17, Membership Dues \$105	\$	162.00
2/27—Membership Dues	\$	25.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$	187.00

Checks

2/14 #1331 Void	\$	0.00
2/14 #1332 Barbara Williams (replace lost check #1324)	\$	(13.90)
2/14 #1333 Cecilia Adams (state dues)	\$	(40.00)
TOTAL CHECKS	\$	(53.90)

Beginning Balance

Deposit from Voided Check	\$	5,482.38
Checks	\$	187.00
	\$	(53.90)

Ending Balance

\$ 5,615.48

Help Spread
The Sunshine!



CARDS SENT BY BARBARA WILLIAMS ON BEHALF OF SCMGA DURING FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAY CARDS:

Sydney Ellis
Sue Owen
Michelle Wooten

February 10th Lunch & Learn Martha Jones—"Garden Bed Cleanup"



Intern Linda Clark
and Martha Jones



Martha Jones



Eric Brown received his Master
Gardener Certificate and badge.



2025 AMGA Annual State Conference and Business Meeting

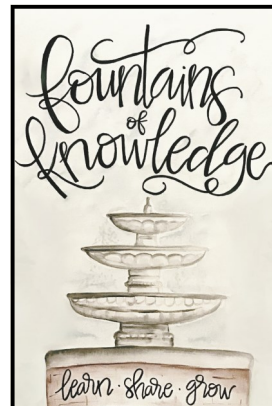
Fountains of Knowledge - Learn, Share, Grow

When: April 3 - 5, 2025

Where: First Baptist Church
138 S. Washington Street
Prattville, AL 36067

Register Online:

<https://reg.planetreg.com/AMGA2025>



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RECIPE: Easy Beef Stroganoff
FROM THE KITCHEN OF: Sandy Hixon (pulled from the archives)

***This recipe is easily multiplied.

Ingredients:

- 1 pound ground beef
- 16.25 oz. can 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.



SCMGA UPCOMING DATES

Mar 8 Arbor Day booth at Veterans' Park in Alabaster
 Mar 14 SCMGA Meeting 10 AM Carolyn Hudson—Creating a wildflower garden
 Mar 15 Cutoff date for State Conference registration
 Mar 22 Petals From the Past, 10:30 AM—Noon. Citrus and Persimmons in the Home Garden—Dr. Arlie Powell
 Register at: <https://petalsfromthepast.com/product/citrus-and-persimmons-in-the-home-garden/> Order a lunch for \$20 or bring your own.
 Apr 3-5 AMGA 2025 Annual Conference, Prattville, AL
 Apr 4 Aldridge Gardens Plant Sale
 Apr 10-11 Birmingham Botanical Gardens Plant Sale
 Apr 11 SCMGA Meeting 10 AM Kim Sprouse-Howell—Drying Herbs
 Apr 12 Chilton Co. MGA Plant Sale Goose Pond Park in

Clanton 9:00 AM—1:00 PM
 Apr 25-26 Petals From the Past—Antiques in the Garden Friday, 9 AM—5 PM. Saturday, 9 AM—3 PM
 May 9 SCMGA Meeting 10 AM Field Trip to Deb Elliott's garden in Helena
 May 13 Chilton/Shelby Plant Swap and Cornhole Competition at Judy Cobb's Farm in Rockford
 Jun 13 SCMGA Meeting 10 AM
 Jul 11 SCMGA Meeting 10 AM
 Aug 8 SCMGA Meeting 10 AM
 Sep 12 SCMGA Meeting 10 AM
 Sep 16 AMGA Fall Seminar—Hosted by SCMGA
 Oct 10 SCMGA Meeting 10 AM
 Nov 14 SCMGA Meeting 10 AM
 Dec 12 SCMGA Meeting 10 AM & Dirty Santa game



Please send Barbara Williams, interim 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. Barbara 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 Barbara:

Email:
 bwilliams1581@gmail.com
 Phone:
 205-902-1137



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

4—Richard Strum
 13—Dennis Stanek
 25—Trisha Williams
 29—Sylvia Sheffield
 30—Carolyn Key



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ALABAMA GARDENERS' CALENDAR FOR MARCH

FRUITS AND NUTS—Continue strawberry and grape plantings. Bud apples and peaches. Start planting blackberries. If weather conditions prevent prompt planting, heel the plants in by placing the root system in a trench and 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. Monitor shrubs for harmful insects.

LAWNS—Plant bermudagrass, goosegrass, and centipede grass in south Alabama. Soil test and add limestone as recommended. Fertilize fescue lawns at 1 pound slow-release nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. South: If daytime temps are consistently above 70° F, consider applying fire ant bait. Read label carefully for best control.

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

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS—**South:** Plant half-hardy annuals. Check garden centers for bedding plants such as geraniums and petunias.

BULBS—Plant gladiolus every 2 or 3 weeks if a long blooming season is desired. Plant tuberous begonias in pots. Plant dahlias.

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VEGETABLE SEEDS—**Central and North:** Plant all hardy crops recommended for January and February (garden peas, leafy greens, and root crops). **Central and South:** Continue planting carrots, lettuce, and radishes. Plant sweet corn and squash. South Alabama can start planting beans, melons, and southern peas in late March.

VEGETABLE TRANSPLANTS—**Central and North:** Plant asparagus, onion sets, and lettuce. Plant certified seed potatoes for Irish and red-skinned varieties in early March.

South: Harden off tomato, pepper, and eggplant transplants. Plant when the soil has warmed above 65° F and the threat of frost is over.

Shelby County Master Gardeners' Association Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2025

President	Elizabeth York	205-616-7648	e.york24@yahoo.com
Vice-President	Kim Sprouse-Howell	205-478-9170	carpediem_2030@myyahoo.com
Secretary	Martha Jones	205-410-7939	msmatha71@gmail.com
Treasurer	Sue Owen	205-580-9555	sueowen@gmail.com
Advisory Council Rep	Kate Vogel	205-665-5878	kvogelashfield@aol.com
Awards Committee	Trisha Williams	205-410-5074	trisha325@gmail.com
By-Laws Chair	Trisha Williams	205-410-5074	trisha325@gmail.com
Communications	Heidee Vansant	205-725-0541	heidee.vansant@gmail.com
Fundraising	Elizabeth York	205-616-7648	e.york24@yahoo.com
Grow More Give More	Elizabeth York	205-616-7648	e.york24@yahoo.com
Historian	Karen Jensen	205-434-0642	karenkjensen3@icloud.
Hospitality	Marisa Masters	870-703-3877	msmyth999@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor	Heidee Vansant	205-725-0541	heidee.vansant@gmail.com
Nominating Comm. Chair	Cindy Hearn	205-531-0616	cindy_hearn@att.net
Projects Coordinator	Dennis Stanek	205-789-0341	dennis.stanek@att.net
Sunshine Committee	Barbara Williams (Interim)	205-902-1137	bwilliams1581@gmail.com
Webmaster	Beth Glasgow	205-669-7981	bethglasgow@bellsouth.net

**ALABAMA MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION, INC.
MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Dear Master Gardener,

The Alabama Master Gardeners Association (AMGA) Board of Directors has set \$10.00 as the annual membership dues for January 1—December 31, 2025. 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. **DUE ON OR BEFORE: November 30, 2024.**

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

Name: _____ Office: _____

Address: _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone #'s:

Home: _____ Cell: _____ Work: _____

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

____ **Past Due Fee**

Local Dues

\$15.00

No fee

\$225.00

No fee

No fee

\$5.00

State Dues

\$10.00

No fee

\$150.00

No fee

No fee

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO S.C.M.G.A. AND MAIL TO:

**S.C.M.G.A.
c/o Sue Owen
350 Howard Hill Dr.
Wilsonville, AL 35186-7250**