

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 24

50 Members

April 2025

Happy Spring!! As usual, our temperatures are up and down. I am fully clothed with a jacket in the morning and in shorts by the afternoon. I've been busy getting my beds amended, starting seeds, and waking up my dahlias. That is a chore. Our AMGA Spring Conference in Prattville is April 3rd–5th. Our next meeting will have Kim Sprouse-Howell speaking on Herbs: Knowledge and Preservation. We will be spending our business meetings talking and finalizing our Fall Seminar. We have been blessed so far with door prizes. Please keep them coming. We also got permission for a silent auction. If you have any items to donate with \$50 or more in value, we could use them. The auction items currently include several pencil drawings of renowned golfers and race car drivers, a 6-foot wrought iron round trellis, and watercolor paintings of magnolias.

Put your thinking caps on and plan to strategize. Thank you for all you do!!

Happy Gardening,

Elizabeth



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

This Month's Meeting Friday, April 11th at 10:00 AM



Our April speaker is SCMGA member Kim Sprouse-Howell. She will be speaking on Herbs: Knowledge and Preservation.

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

SHELBY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION
14 March 2025—Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the SCMGA was held on Friday, March 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
- **PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**
- **PRESENTER:** Carolyn Hudson, How to Build a Wildflower Garden—Carolyn showed slides depicting her journey to beautify her neighborhood's walking trail. She showed how she navigated the HOA, nosey neighbors and tornados.
- **MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT**—Approved as printed in the *Gardeners' Gab*, one correction noted for the Minutes. Manna Farms meets at 8:30 AM not 9:30 AM.
- **INTERN CERTIFICATES:** Linda Clark was presented, JoAnne Holloway was absent
- **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. Considering.
 - ♦ Front of Extension Office Building upgrade—2025 Intern project
- **OLD BUSINESS:** 2025 AMGA Fall Seminar, September 16, 2025. Flyer ready. Fundraising update. Kate Pathways, AC Meeting in May hand out flyer. Got permission from Kerry Smith and Debbie Boutilier for Silent Auction. Got 3rd Vendor Tractor Supply.
- **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - ♦ Next Lunch and learn for Monday May 5, Elizabeth York to present on Container Gardening
 - ♦ Had a booth at Aldridge Gardens Saturday, March 1st for Arbor Day and was available to answer questions. Had a signup sheet for interest in MG class to begin in August. Had some networking with JCMGA.
 - ♦ Helped Alabaster Beautification Board with their Arbor Day. We educated the citizens of the community about the trees they selected and how to properly plant. Was held on Saturday, March 8th Veterans Park off Hwy. 119 in Alabaster.
 - ♦ We need suggestions on ways to advertise for upcoming classes, Facebook, Shelby County, Neighborhood pages, supermarket bulletin boards, Lunch and Learns, Arbor Days
 - ♦ Thoughts on Volunteer opportunity from Susan Arvin RE: elderly yard upkeep. Everyone thought it was a good community endeavor
 - ♦ Youth Program Training is due March 12th
 - ♦ AMGA Bylaws changes were sent in email to be read prior to conference for voting
 - ♦ Montevallo Library is doing a 4-part Gardening Series, Kate is doing March, needing someone to present in April on the 10th. Michelle Wooten offered to do May. If anyone would like to volunteer, contact Kate Vogel.
- **UPCOMING DATES**
 - Mar 14 Carolyn Hudson SCMGA How to Build a Wildflower Garden
 - Mar 20 Spring Garden Symposium Longleaf Gardens
 - 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 Spouse-Howell Presenting on Drying Herbs and their use
 - Apr 12 Chilton Co MGA Plant Sale Goose Pond Park Clanton 9 AM—1 PM
 - May 9 Deb Elliott's Garden Field Trip Helena
 - May 13 Chilton/Shelby Plant Swap and Cornhole Competition at Judy Cobb's Farm in Rockford
 - June 13 Field Trip to Vogel Blueberry Farm Hot dogs and bring side dishes and drinks, chair, hat, sunscreen, bug spray, plan to pick blueberries last years rate was \$10/gallon
- **Lost Badge or Replacement needed?** www.aces.edu/go/badges fill out form and pay \$10 replacement cost.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Elizabeth York, President for Martha Jones, Secretary

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TREASURER'S REPORT MARCH 2025

Sue Owen, Treasurer



Deposits

3/28/2025 Dues—W. Gainey

\$ 30.00

TOTAL DEPOSITS

\$ 30.00

Checks

3/11/2025 #1334 Cecilia Adams—State Dues—M. Johnson

\$ (10.00)

TOTAL CHECKS

\$ (10.00)

Beginning Balance

\$ 5,615.48

Deposits

\$ 30.00

Checks

\$ (10.00)

Ending Balance

\$ 5,635.48

Help Spread
The Sunshine!



CARDS SENT BY BARBARA WILLIAMS ON BEHALF OF SCMGA DURING MARCH

BIRTHDAY CARDS:

Carolyn Key
Dennis Stanek
Richard Strum
Trisha Williams



Carolyn Hudson—How to Build a Wildflower Garden

Carolyn Hudson profiles her pollinator garden efforts at Greystone Farms, 2019-2025.

Carolyn showed slides depicting her journey to beautify her neighborhood's walking trail. She showed how she navigated the HOA, nosey neighbors and tornados.



Linda Clark is now an official SCMG!

RECIPE: VANILLA WAFER CAKE FROM THE KITCHEN OF: Kate Vogel, SCMG

I saw this on TV on *Simply Southern* and made it three times in two weeks because it was so good.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup unsalted butter, room temperature
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 (11-ounce) package vanilla wafers, crushed
- 6 eggs
- ½ cup of milk
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 2 (6-ounce packages) frozen coconut, thawed***
- 2 cups chopped pecans

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat the oven to 325°F. Grease and flour a 10- to 12-cup Bundt™ pan.
2. Use a mixer to cream the butter and sugar in a large

bowl. Add 1 egg at a time, beating well after each addition. Add the crushed vanilla wafers and milk and mix well. Add the coconut, vanilla, and pecans and stir to combine.

3. Spread the batter into the prepared Bundt™ pan and bake for about 1 hour or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out mostly clean with a few moist crumbs.

***This recipe specifically calls for using frozen shredded coconut. It's usually found in the freezer section near the frozen fruit. It is less sweet than shelf-stable sweetened coconut flakes and has a different texture. If you can't find the frozen variety, use 1½ to 2 cups of sweetened coconut flakes and ¼ cup less sugar.



UPCOMING DATES

Apr 10-12 *Birmingham Botanical Gardens Plant Sale.*

10th Members only, 11th & 12th Public

Apr 11 SCMG Meeting 10 AM Kim Sprouse-Howell—*Herbs: Knowledge and Preservation*

Apr 12 *Chilton Co. MGA Plant Sale* at 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 SCMG Meeting 10 AM *Field Trip to Deb Elliott's garden* in Helena

May 10 10:00 AM *Petals From the Past—Mother's Day Brunch.* Make Mom feel special by treating her to a delicious brunch buffet! Fee \$25 Advanced reservations & payment required.

May 13 *Chilton/Shelby Plant Swap and Cornhole Competition*

at Judy Cobb's Farm in Rockford

May 24 *Petals From the Past—Herbs For Life: An Herbal Experience.* Start your experience at 10 AM with a lecture on *Growing & Using Herbs in Every Day Life* presented by Herbalist Debbie Boutelier. Register under Events on the Website (free)

Jun 13 SCMG Meeting 10 AM *Field Trip to Vogel Blueberry Farm.* Hot dogs for lunch. Bring side dishes and drinks, chair, hat, sunscreen, bug spray. Plan to pick blueberries (last years rate was \$10/gallon).

Jul 11 SCMG Meeting 10 AM

Aug 8 SCMG Meeting 10 AM

Sep 12 SCMG Meeting 10 AM

Sep 16 AMGA Fall Seminar—Hosted by SCMG

Oct 10 SCMG Meeting 10 AM



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



APRIL BIRTHDAY

4—Steve Nadeau



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

ALABAMA GARDENERS' CALENDAR FOR APRIL

Fruits and Nuts—Season for strawberry planting continues. Start spray program for all fruits. Plant raspberries and blackberries and continue budding apples and peaches.

Shrubs—Prune spring flowering shrubs after flowering. Fertilize azaleas and camellias. Spray all shrubs with a fungicide as new growth begins to mature.

Lawns—Planting new lawns continues. When daytime temperatures are consistently above 70 degrees F, apply fire ant bait. Read the label carefully for best control. Start a mowing routine as spring growth begins. Monitor the thatch layer in bermudagrass and zoysiagrass lawns. Dethatch if thicker than 1/2 inch. Wait until active growth. Monitor for fungal disease in wet, cool weather. Fertilize warm-season lawns after fully green.

Roses—Watch for insects and diseases. Keep old flower heads removed. Plant container-grown plants from nurseries or garden centers.

Annuals and Perennials—Plant early started annuals or bedding plants from nurseries or garden centers. Divide mums or root cuttings. Dig and divide dahlias.

Bulbs—Plant gladiolus, fancy-leaved caladiums, milk and wine lilies, and ginger and gloriosa lilies. Apply super phosphate to bearded iris and scout for iris borer moth caterpillars. Avoid cutting foliage of narcissus or other bulbs until it has turned brown naturally.

Miscellaneous—Spray camellias, hollies, etc., for scale insects. Carefully water new plantings of shrubs and trees. Pinch out tips of new shoots to promote more compact shrubs.

Vegetable Seeds—South: Plant heat-loving crops, such as okra. Continue planting other frost-tender crops. **South and Central:** Continue planting frost tender vegetables (beans, southern peas, corn, squash, melons, and cucumbers). **North:** Wait until late April to plant beans, cucumbers, melons, southern peas, and squash. Plant sweet corn each week for a staggered summer harvest.

Vegetable Transplants -Whole state: Plant transplants of tomato, pepper, and eggplant.

South: Plant certified sweet potato slips. **North and Central:** Plant sweet potato slips in late April.

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**