

# 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 10:00 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](http://www.aces.edu/mg)

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

Vol. 18, Issue 29

54 Members

September 2025

Happy September,

We have a busy month with the Fall AMGA Seminar occurring and our association hosting this event. We get 4 hours of CEU's and lots of volunteer time. My thanks go out to everyone who contributed their time and efforts to make Shelby County MGA shine.

Our September speakers will be Hugh Nichols from Chilton County MGA and Patrick Thompson, Curator of Davis Arboretum at Auburn, speaking on the Conservation Project.

Remember to enter your volunteer hours and beginning in October, we will start collecting annual dues. A late fee applies after December 1<sup>st</sup>.

I am still looking for a President and Treasurer for next year. If you would like to help the Association, please let me know.

*Elizabeth*



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



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## SHELBY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION 8 August 2025—Meeting Minutes



The regular monthly meeting of the SCMGA was held on Friday, August 8, 2025, at 10:00 AM in the Auditorium of the Shelby County Extension Office at 54 Kelly Lane, Columbiana, AL.

### • **OFFICERS:**

Elizabeth York—President  
Vice President—Vacant  
Sue Owen—Treasurer  
Martha Jones—Secretary

### • **COMMITTEES:**

Nominating—Elizabeth York  
Projects—Dennis Stanek  
Communications—Elizabeth York (FB), Heidee Vansant (GAB)  
Audit and 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  
Lunch & Learn—Martha Jones

### • **PROJECTS:**

- Grace Klein Community Chelsea—this is ongoing when needed
- Family Connection—Raised bed gardening with kids seasonally
- Front of Extension Office Building upgrade—will be 2025 Intern Project

### • **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

### • **Minutes and Treasurer's Report** approved as printed in the *Gardeners' Gab*.

### • **PROGRAM PRESENTER:** Trisha Williams presented "Native Plants in Grandmother's Garden"

### • **OLD BUSINESS:** 2025 AMGA Fall Seminar—Tuesday, September 16, 2025

The church is supplying a microphone for the speakers. The board elected to buy a slide advancer and laser pointer. No objections from association to buy this.

### • **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Status of fundraising for seminar: Applied again to Publix. All donations and door prizes need to be at the office by or before our next meeting so that Door Prize committee can get things numbered.
2. New Intern class—Beginning on August 14<sup>th</sup>, currently 19 are registered. Orientation was July 31<sup>st</sup>. We will do a Potluck Meet & Greet on August 14<sup>th</sup>, they are doing the soils lab at extension. Please fill out signup sheet.
3. Lunch & Learn for November 3<sup>rd</sup> is Plant Propagation. Karen Mims to present.
4. Looking for Officers: VP & Treasurer. Susan Arvin has volunteered for Secretary.
5. Service report is getting an update. Two layouts with expanded lists coming soon. Database security with two actor login coming soon.
6. Extension MG Monthly Update Webinars, last Friday of the month at 1:00 PM. You can get CEU's, Refer to page for upcoming programs. Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://auburn.zoom.usmeetingregistertZ0qduyoqzwoEtcddKk7yjuUNvZ4e4WCmulfA>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information

about joining the meeting.

7. 2025 Intern Graduation is Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> in Auburn.
8. APT Fall Series, Spotlight on AG. It will highlight the AMGA Extension Volunteers, purpose, history and impact. No date yet.
9. Discussed the Extension MG Volunteers and Public Education Programs. The Civil rights disclaimer goes into effect October 1<sup>st</sup>.
10. Be sure to read *Pathways* and *What's Happening* on the State website (<https://alabamamga.org>); it lets you know what's going on.
11. Two (2) free conference registration giveaways, one each at Fall and Spring conferences.
12. 2026 Spring Conference will focus on Natives. Each participant will receive a native plant and if you read the data sheet and plant your plant, you can enter a 1-hour CEU.
13. There will be leadership training at every Spring conference. 2025 was Treasurer, 2026 will be President.
14. Silent Auction Item for Spring Conference—Note: if sending money, send a check with your county name and for Spring Conference silent auction item to the State Treasurer. Do this in November.
15. Dues Tracker—Getting rid of “UNDECLARED”. The state thinks they are mostly interns. Go delete them. HARD AND FAST RULE! 10 CEU's and 25 Volunteer hours required to be **active certified**. Can be active and pay dues without hours. HARD AND FAST RULE! Dues are due to the State NLT Dec 31<sup>st</sup> as well as entering hours completion.
16. Watch video President York will be sending out on POLLINATOR DAY.

• **DATES:**

Aug 8 SCMGA Meeting—Trisha Williams—*Native Plants in Grandmother's Garden*

Aug 14 First Intern class 10:00 AM—12:00 PM

Sep 12 SCMGA Meeting—Chilton Co. MG Hugh Nichols will speak on Native Plant Conservation

Sep 15 Set up at First Baptist Church for conference, door prizes and silent auction

Sep 16 AMGA Fall Conference

Oct 2 Blount County Fall Conference

Oct 10 SCMGA Meeting

Nov 3 Lunch & Learn

Submitted by Elizabeth York  
for Martha Jones, Secretary

**ATTENTION:** Set up  
for the Fall Conference  
is at 1:00 PM on  
Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>

First Baptist Church  
208 N. Main Street  
Columbiana

## The 2026 Alabama Master Gardener State Conference

- **Hosts:** Limestone Co. MGA, Morgan Co. MGA, and Master Gardeners of North Alabama
- **Date:** May 6-8, 2026
- **Location:** Huntsville, AL
- **Theme:** *Gardening to the Moon & Back*



**ALABAMA  
MASTER  
GARDENERS**  
ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM



**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**AUGUST 2025** (Through 8/23/2025)  
 Sue Owen, Treasurer


**DEPOSITS**
**AMOUNT**

8/8/2025 Cash (Lunch & Learn 8/4 Grandma's Garden)	\$ 20.00
8/8/2025 Deposit for Fall Conference	\$ 400.00
8/14/2025 Deposit for Fall Conference	\$ 400.00
8/18/2025 Deposit for Fall Conference	\$ 400.00
8/22/2025 Deposit for Fall Conference	\$ 40.00
8/23/2025 Deposit for Fall Conference	\$ 160.00
<b>TOTAL DEPOSITS</b>	<b>\$ 1,420.00</b>

**CHECKS**

Susan Arvin (Family Connection Intern Project)	<b>\$ (94.02)</b>
<b>TOTAL DEPOSITS</b>	<b>\$ (94.02)</b>

**BEGINNING BALANCE**

Deposits	\$ 8,674.17
Checks	\$ 1,420.00
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ (94.02)</b>
	<b>\$ 10,000.15</b>

**CARDS SENT BY BARBARA WILLIAMS ON BEHALF OF SCMGA DURING AUGUST**

Help Spread  
The Sunshine!


**BIRTHDAY CARDS:**

Julie Adams  
Susan Arvin  
Deb Elliott

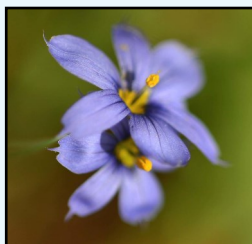
Holly Lightsey  
Karen Mims  
Kim Sprouse-Howell

**GET WELL CARDS:**

Deb Elliott  
Karen Jensen

**ACES.EDU has several publications pertaining to Alabama's Native Plants:**

- **Going Native: Why Planting Native Species is Crucial**  
<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/forestry/going-native-why-planting-native-species-is-crucial/>
- **It's Important to Plant Native Species**  
<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/forestry-wildlife/its-important-to-plant-native-species/>
- **Native Azaleas for Alabama** <https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/landscaping/native-azaleas-for-alabama/>
- **Butterfly Gardens** <https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/landscaping/butterfly-gardens/>
- **Native Replacements for Commonly Sold Invasive Plants**  
<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/landscaping/native-replacements-for-commonly-sold-invasive-plants/>
- **Native Fruits: Pawpaw** <https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/forestry/native-fruits-pawpaw/>
- **Deer-Tolerant Native Flowers and Grasses for Alabama Landscapes**  
<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/forestry-wildlife/deer-tolerant-native-flowers-and-grasses-for-alabama-landscapes/>
- **Alabama Wildflowers** <https://webhome.auburn.edu/~deancar/>



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**RECIPE:** Classic Shepherd's Pie (from America's Test Kitchen)

**FROM THE KITCHEN OF:** Heidee Vansant, SCMG (this is what I brought to welcome the new interns)

**INGREDIENTS:**

**Filling**

2 tablespoons unsalted butter  
1 large onion, chopped fine  
2 medium carrots, peeled and chopped fine  
2 pounds 85 percent lean ground beef  
Salt and pepper  
5 tablespoons all-purpose flour  
1 tablespoon tomato paste  
¼ cup heavy cream  
1¾ cups low sodium-chicken broth  
¾ cups beer  
2 tablespoons soy sauce  
2 teaspoons minced fresh thyme leaves  
1 cup frozen peas

**Topping**

2½ pounds russet potatoes, peeled and cut into 2-inch pieces  
Table salt  
2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted  
1/3 cup heavy cream, warmed  
Ground black pepper  
1 large egg, beaten

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. **FOR THE FILLING:** Heat butter in large skillet over medium-high heat until foaming. Add onions and carrots and cook until soft, about 8 minutes. Add meat, ½ teaspoon salt, ½ teaspoon pepper and cook breaking up meat into small pieces with wooden spoon, until browned,

about 12 minutes. Add flour and tomato paste and cook until paste begins to darken, about 1 minute.

2. Add cream and cook until it spatters, about 1 minute. Add broth, beer, soy sauce, and thyme and simmer over medium heat, stirring frequently, until mixture is thick but still saucy, 15 to 20 minutes. Remove from heat, stir in peas, adjust seasonings, and transfer to broiler-safe 2-quart casserole dish.
3. **FOR THE TOPPING:** Bring potatoes, ½ teaspoon salt, and water to cover to boil in large saucepan over high heat. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer until tender, 15 to 20 minutes. Drain potatoes, return to saucepan, and mash potatoes with butter and cream until smooth. Season with salt and pepper.
4. Adjust oven rack to upper-middle position and heat oven to 375°F. Spread potatoes over filling, using spatula to smooth top (see photo). Brush with egg and drag fork across top to make ridges. Bake until filling is bubbling, about 15 minutes. Turn on broiler and cook until top is golden brown, 3 to 5 minutes. Remove from oven and cool 10 minutes. Serve.

**NOTE:** I made this in a 9"x13" pan and it fit well.



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Sep 12 SCMG Meeting 10:00 AM at Extension auditorium  
Sep 12 & 13 Dixie African Violet Society Show—at Petals From the Past. For more info go to [DAVS.org](http://DAVS.org)  
Sep 15 1:00 PM Set up First Baptist Church for Fall Seminar  
Sep 16 8:30—2:45 AMGA Fall Seminar—Hosted by SCMG  
Sep 20 Petals From the Past—The Great Fall Garden Festival  
For more information go to:  
<https://petalsfromthepast.com/events-2/>  
Oct 5 Petals From the Past 2:00 PM —Oriental Persimmon, Citrus & Kiwi fruit Walking Tour with

Dr. Arlie Powell. Register at:

<https://petalsfromthepast.com/events-2/>

Oct 10 SCMG Meeting 10:00 AM  
Nov 2 Petals From the Past 2:00 PM—Repotting Orchids with Shelley Powell. \$15 Register at:  
<https://petalsfromthepast.com/events-2/>  
Nov 3 Lunch & Learn: *Propagation*—Karen Mims  
Nov 14 SCMG Meeting 10:00 AM  
Nov 22 Petals From the Past 9:00 AM—3:00 PM Christmas Open House



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](mailto:bwilliams1581@gmail.com)  
Phone: 205-902-1137



**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

4—Marisa Masters  
11—Wayne Gainey  
13—Gina Dobson  
19—Martha Jones  
24—Elizabeth York  
29—Kate Vogel

**Have you "LIKED" us on Facebook?**  
(this is our public page)

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





## ALABAMA GARDENER'S CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

**Fruits & Nuts**—New catalogs will be arriving soon. Start plans for future selection and plantings. Take soil test for new planting areas. Fertilize established strawberry plantings.

**Shrubs**—Study landscape to determine plant needs. Check early camellia varieties for damage caused by insects and disease. Replace landscape plants as needed that have severe damage caused by insects, disease or freezes. After fall growth is completed, spray all shrubs with a fungicide.

**Lawns**—Mow often (5 to 10 days) to remove just 1/3 the grass height at each mowing. If daytime temperatures are consistently cooler than 80° F, apply the ant bait. Read the label carefully for best control. If winter or spring weeds were a concern this year, apply preemergent herbicides. Reseed tall fescue lawns and fertilize at 1 pound slow-release nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.

**Roses**—Protect fall crops of blossoms from aphids and thrips. Keeps plants healthy.

**Annuals & Perennials**—Plant perennials and biennials. This is the last planting time for these. Divide old clumps of perennials. Plant peonies.

**Bulbs**—Plant spring flowering bulbs late this month in north Alabama. Delay planting in south Alabama.

**Miscellaneous**—Clean up infestations of insects on azaleas, camellias, boxwoods, gardenias, hollies, etc. If oil spray is needed, don't use in freezing weather. Build a compost bin or box, leaves will be falling soon. Monitor house plants for insects and diseases before moving them indoors. Treat as needed to prevent carrying unwanted pest inside.

**Vegetable Seeds—South:** Plant beets, carrots, Brussels sprouts, collars, kale, lettuce, mustard, onion sets, parsley, radishes, spinach, Swiss chard and onion seed. **Central & North:** Continue planting carrots, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, onion seeds, parsley, radishes, spinach, Swiss chard, and turnips.

**Vegetable Transplants—Whole State:** Continue planting cole crops, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, and spinach transplants, and onion sets. **South:** Plant celery transplants.

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

President	Elizabeth York	205-616-7648	e.york24@yahoo.com
Vice-President			
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	Elizabeth York	205-616-7648	e.york24@yahoo.com
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, 2026. 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, 2025.**

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)

	<b>Local Dues</b>	<b>State Dues</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Active Member	\$15.00	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Provisional Member (Interns)	No fee	No fee
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Member	\$225.00	\$150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Member (Extension Employee)	No fee	No fee
<input type="checkbox"/> Honorary Member	No fee	No fee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Past Due Fee</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>	

**Amount Enclosed: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO **SCMGA**  
Mail check and membership form to:

**Sue Owen  
350 Howard Hill Dr.  
Wilsonville, AL 35186**