

GARDENERS' GAB



Hello Gardeners,

Can you believe October is here? After a busy prep from the summer up until our fall seminar, it seemed like time was going slow. Now it seems like it has sped up. I want to thank everyone again for a successful fall seminar. We did very well from a profitability standpoint, and that will be discussed at the meeting.

I need to remind everyone again. We are looking for officers. We need a president and a treasurer. If you have any questions, feel free to discuss it with me or the current treasurer.

The last page of *Gardener's Gab* has a printable membership form. We will be taking membership registrations during the months of October and November. If you can't attend the meeting, please be sure to fill it out and mail it with your check to Sue Owen. Her address is listed at the bottom. Remember anything received after December 1st will have an additional five dollars added onto it. We need to get our membership money to the state before December 31st. Your help is appreciated in getting this turned in early.

Remember also to fill out your volunteer hours page. All hours need to be completed by December 31st. Moving forward, the state will no longer accept hours entered after December 31st for 2025 credit.

Elizabeth



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

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

Our speaker will be Shelby County
MG Pam Dyer. Her topic is:
A Walk Thru My Pollinator Garden

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 30

54 Members

October 2025



SHELBY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION 12 SEPTEMBER 2025—Meeting Minutes



The regular monthly meeting of the SCMGA was held on Friday, September 12, 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, Chair

- **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 SCMGA/2025 Intern Project. Discuss estimates with Denise Stanek

- **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

- **Minutes and Treasurer's Report:** Meeting Minutes from August 2025 approved as printed in the *Gardeners' Gab*. Treasurers report approved as printed in the *Gardeners' Gab*.

- **PROGRAM PRESENTER:** Hugh Nichols Chilton County MG presented on *The Native Plant Conservation Project in Alabama*

- **OLD BUSINESS:** 2025 AMGA Fall Seminar, September 16, 2025. We can get into the Church at 1:00 PM on September the 15th for setup, discuss registration, silent auction now vendor booth with items for sale and door prizes, September 16th church doors open at 7:30 AM.

- **NEW BUSINESS:**

- ◇ Lunch and Learn for November 3rd Plant propagation presented by Karen Mims
 - ◇ Looking for officers: President and Treasurer. Susan Arvin has volunteered for Secretary. Pam Dyer has volunteered for VP.
 - ◇ Service report enter hours before December 31st.
 - ◇ Membership dues due Oct/Nov late fee assessed on December 1st.

- **DATES:**

- ◇ Sep 12 Chilton Co. MGA, Hugh Nichols—Native Plant Conservation Project in Alabama
 - ◇ Sep 15 Set up at Church for conference, door prizes and silent auction
 - ◇ Sep 16 AMGA Fall Conference
 - ◇ Oct 2 Blount Co. Fall Conference
 - ◇ Oct 10 Meeting, Kate Vogel to moderate
 - ◇ Nov 3 Lunch and Learn

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Elizabeth York for Martha Jones, Secretary



TREASURER'S REPORT
AUGUST 2025 (Addendum)
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
8/28/2025 Deposit for Fall Conference	\$	120.00
9/2/2025 Deposit for Fall Conference	\$	560.00
9/5/2025 Deposit (Conference \$120. Cash cup \$15)	\$	175.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$	2,275.00

CHECKS

Susan Arvin (Family Connection Intern Project)	\$	(94.02)
Elizabeth York (laser pointer)	\$	(16.19)
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$	(110.21)

BEGINNING BALANCE

Deposits	\$	8,674.17
Checks	\$	(110.21)
ENDING BALANCE	\$	10,838.96



TREASURER'S REPORT
SEPTEMBER 2025
Sue Owen, Treasurer



DEPOSITS

AMOUNT

9/9/2025 Dues	\$	200.00
9/15/2025 Dues	\$	300.00
9/17/2025 Vendor Sales	\$	490.00
9/17/2025 Cheddar Up (Vendor Sales)	\$	20.00
9/18/2025 Cheddar Up (Vendor Sales)	\$	325.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$	1,335.00

CHECKS

9/16/2025 #1344 Caterer	\$	(1,650.00)
9/18/2025 #1345 Marisa Masters (snacks for conference)	\$	(116.90)
9/19/2025 #134 Venue for Conference	\$	(150.00)
9/19/2025 #134 Cleanup for Conference	\$	(25.00)
9/19/2025 #134 Table Cloths for Conference (E. York)	\$	(75.46)
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$	(2,017.36)

BEGINNING BALANCE

Deposits	\$	10,838.96
Checks	\$	(110.21)
ENDING BALANCE	\$	10,838.96

Help Spread
The Sunshine!



CARDS SENT BY BARBARA WILLIAMS ON BEHALF OF SCMGA DURING AUGUST

BIRTHDAY CARDS:

Gina Dobson
Wayne Gainey
Martha Jones

GET WELL CARDS:

Marisa Masters
Kate Vogel
Elizabeth York

SCENES FROM OUR SEPTEMBER 12TH MEETING



A room full of enthusiastic gardeners.



President Elizabeth York thanks Chilton County MG, Hugh Nichols, for the program and starting the Native Plant Conservation Project, first in state! Reach him at ghughmic@yahoo.com. He's gifted a loaf of Kate Vogel's sourdough bread.



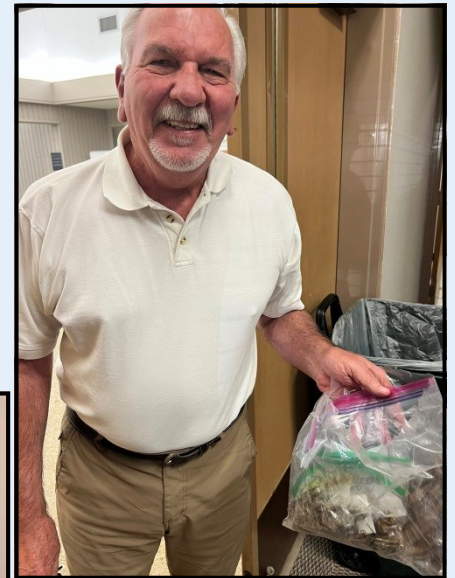
Larry Kronk, Michelle Wooten, and Dennis Stanek



Lucky Karen Jensen purchased Linda Clark's table runner with a pollinator theme.



Seed Swap Committee stayed after the meeting to prepare conference packets.



SCMG Jim Strickland, father of newly elected Columbiana mayor, contributes seeds for the Fall Conference seed swap.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:

- **Plant Native Species:** Incorporate native plants into your landscape to support local wildlife.
- **Control Invasive Plants:** Remove non-native invasive plants from your own property.
- **Support Conservation**

Organizations: Join or support organizations dedicated to native plant conservation.

- **Educate Yourself and Others:** Learn about the importance of native plants and share that knowledge with your community.
- **Use Resources:** Utilize tools like the Native Plant Trust's Go Botany database to identify local native plants.

We hosted our first **AMGA Fall Seminar "All About Pollinators"** on September 16th. There were 145 gardeners in attendance with 4 outstanding speakers, a seed swap, catered lunch, vendors and lots of door prizes. So many pitched in! SCMGAs members grew flowers, donated door prizes, provided snacks, set up tables and stations. We discussed loss of pollinators, Alabama native plants for pollinators, plants that multitask, safest way to tend gardens, companion planting, etc.

Our speakers were:

- ♦ Debbie Boutelier, Advanced Autauga Co. MG & AMGA President—*Benefits of Pollinators in Our Gardens*
- ♦ Jason Powell, Co-Owner of Petals From the Past—*Alabama Native Plants for Pollinators*
- ♦ Allyson Shabel, ACES Regional Extension Agent, Home Horticulture—*Beneficial Nighttime Pollinators*
- ♦ Dani Carroll, ACES Regional Extension Agent, Home Horticulture—*Pollinator Friendly Pest Control*



Karen Mims sets up Seed Swap table with Dennis Stanek & Martha Jones.



Silent Auction committee



Holly J. & floral artist, Margaret Copland, set tables.



Jeannie Bubbett, Carolyn Key, Marisa Masters & Beth Glasgow set up snack station.



Interns Nedra Moore, a Calera "Farm to Table" baker and Susan Harville help Larry Kronk with door prizes.



Beth Glasgow delivered huge arrangements from Susan Conn of Main Street Florist. Two were donated by her.

These gardeners grew dahlias and other flowers for centerpieces.





Registration desk at First Baptist Church of Columbiana



John Vanderford, Shelby County Ext. Advisor welcomes attendees.



Kerry Smith, ACES Administrator III, Outreach Programs Horticulture; John Vanderford, Shelby Co. Extension Director; and Jessica Evans, Administrative Support Associate II-ACES/AAES



Seed Swap was a popular event! Richard Sturm, Karen Mims, and Dennis Stanek



Karen Jensen wore her Pollinator hat to impress Jason Powell, speaker & owner of Petals from the Past.



Debbie Boutelier, an herbalist, is President of AMGA. The new Herb Society of AL meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at Petals from The Past.



Seed Swap in full swing.



Larry Kronk presents a door prize donated by Susan Conn of Main Street Florist.



SCMG Carol Beard, long time Chair of annuals at BBG's plant sale with SCMG Phyllis Weaver.



Speaker Dani Carroll receives thank you gift from SCMG President Elizabeth York.

SCMGs Margaret Copeland, Mike Mahaffey, & Richard Sturm make sure beverages are available.



PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

TOURS

U.S. SPACE AND ROCKET CENTER

Most comprehensive manned spaceflight hardware museum in the world

HUDSON ALPHA INSTITUTE FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY

Genomic research, educational outreach, clinical genomics & economic development

HUNTSVILLE BOTANICAL GARDEN

Extension Master Gardener demonstrations & Walking Tour with Harvey Cotten
Free garden admission 9am-6pm, Wed, May 6

WORKSHOPS

Morning & afternoon garden-related workshops at Murray Hall at the Huntsville Botanical Garden

LOCAL HEROES

MEET & GREET PHOTO OP

USAF Lt. Colonel Ed Yielding
SR-71 Blackbird pilot &
"fastest man on earth" in 1990

Brigadier General (Ret) Robert Stewart
Astronaut & Pilot- 289 hours in space and first astronaut to walk untethered in space

Soar to new heights at the
AMGA 2026 State Conference at
the Westin Huntsville!



The Westin blends elegance and southern hospitality with the world class shopping, dining, and entertainment of

BRIDGE STREET TOWN CENTRE

6800 Governors Road NW

CONFERENCE LOCATION:

The Westin Ballroom

CONFERENCE HOTELS:

The Westin Huntsville and
The Element on the top floors

Centrally located near highways and
conference tours & workshops



Please join us!

AMGA

State Conference

2026

May 6-8, 2026 Huntsville

Hosted by the Extension
Master Gardener Associations
of Limestone, Madison, and Morgan
Counties

Inspiring Speakers | Informative Topics

Creating Biodiversity Through Creative Gardening Concepts

Conference Objective: To provide new ideas garnered from tours, workshops, and speakers to enhance outreach activities throughout the state

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Doug Tallamy

Nationally known University of Delaware professor of Entomology & Wildlife Ecology, NY Times best-selling author and co-founder of Homegrown National Park

Conference Topic:

HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK

Learn how we can make small changes that will create diverse ecosystems in our yards & communities by reducing lawns, planting native plants, and removing harmful invasives.



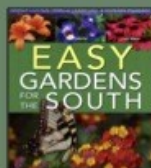
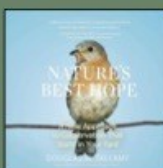
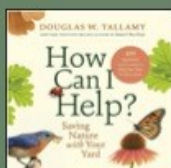
Harvey Cotten

Director Emeritus of the Alabama Nurserymen's Association, former COO and chief horticulturalist at the Huntsville Botanical Garden & co-author of *Easy Gardens for the South*

Conference Topic:

WHAT'S NEW in 2026:

MUST HAVES FOR YOUR GARDEN!



Jesse Akozbek

Creator & Hike
Lead for Feral
Foraging

Darryl Patton

The Southern
Herbalist

Edward Pate

Grow More, Give
More: Galactic
Benefits for School
Gardens

Patrick
Thompson

Curator of oaks &
deciduous azaleas at
Davis Arboretum

Cindy Upton

NASA:
Gardening in
Space

RECIPE: Baked Catfish with Spinach & Feta Crust

FROM THE KITCHEN OF: Sweet Grown Alabama Magazine

SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tsp. olive oil
- 2 Sweet Grown Alabama garlic cloves, minced
- 8 oz. fresh Sweet Grown Alabama spinach, stemmed and coarsely chopped
- 4 oz. feta, crumbled (Greek feta preferably)
- 1 egg
- 1 cup panko breadcrumbs, divided
- ¼ cup chopped fresh Sweet Grown Alabama dill, divided
- ½ tsp. Kosher salt
- 1 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- 4 (7-8 ounce) Sweet Grown Alabama catfish fillets
- 2 Tbls. melted butter
- Lemon wedges

DIRECTIONS:

1. Heat olive oil and garlic in a large nonstick skillet over medium heat 2 minutes until lightly toasted; add spinach.
2. Cook 2 to 3 minutes until spinach is wilted.
3. Transfer to a bowl and cool slightly. Add egg,

½ cup breadcrumbs, 2 tablespoons dill, salt and pepper.

4. Arrange catfish fillets on a foil lined and greased sheet pan. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.
5. Top each fillet evenly with spinach mixture. Combine remaining ½ cup breadcrumbs, 2 tablespoons fresh dill and butter; sprinkle over fish.
6. Bake at 425°F for 15 minutes or until fish is cooked through.
7. Serve with lemon wedges.
8. For make-ahead: Prepare the spinach topping up to 2 days ahead of time. Keep refrigerated until ready to use.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 10 SCMGGA Meeting 10:00 AM
Oct 12 Petals From the Past 2:00 PM *Fall is for Gardening—What? When? Where?* with Jason Powell
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 SCMGGA Meeting 10:00 AM

Nov 22 Petals From the Past 9:00 AM—3:00 PM *Christmas Open House*
Nov 22 Petals From the Past 1:00 PM—3:00 PM *Herbs for the Holidays: Gifts & Goodies* Debbie Boutelier. Fee \$35 Advanced registration and payment required: <https://petalsfromthepast.com/product/herbs-for-the-holidays/>
Dec 12 SCMGGA Meeting 10:00 AM—Annual “Dirty Gardener” gift exchange.



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



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

26—Michael Johnson

Have you “LIKED” us on Facebook?
(this is our public page)

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



Shelby County Master Gardeners
Community Organization

Like See First Message

Timeline About Photos Likes Videos

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

ALABAMA GARDENER'S CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

Fruits and Nuts: Planting season for strawberries starts in south Alabama. Clean up orchard area. Remove broken limbs, old fruit, and debris from orchard floor.

Shrubs: Plant new trees and shrubs in the landscape. Water when needed. Note varieties of camellias and other landscape plants in bloom. Start mulching all shrubs that do not have a mulch.

Lawns: Perform a soil test to determine if limestone is recommended and apply anytime this fall. If winter or spring weeds were a concern this year, apply preemergent herbicides. Fertilize fescue lawns at 1 pound slow-release nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. As fall rain returns, monitor for fungal disease in fescue.

Roses: Continue insect and disease control practices. New rose catalogs will be coming in. Study closely; add some new varieties to your list.

Annuals and Perennials: Visit flower shows and gardens. List desirable varieties of mums. Clean up flower beds immediately after first killing frost. Plant half-hardy annuals, such as snapdragons.

Bulbs: Plant tulip, hyacinth, daffodil, crocus, Dutch iris, anemone, and ranunculus. Watch planting depth. Dig caladiums; clean and store in a warm place.

Miscellaneous: Renew mulch around shrubs and rose beds. Loosen mulches that have packed down. Spray with oils before freezing weather to kill scale, mites, etc. Remove all dead stems and trash from flower beds. Transplant into small pots any cuttings taken earlier.

Vegetable Seeds: South—This is the last fall month to plant the winter garden. Plant carrots, collards, kale, mustard, onion seeds, radishes, spinach, and turnips. Plant Swiss chard in early October. **Central and South**—Continue planting winter-hardy crops such as beets, carrots, collards, kale, parsley, and spinach. **North**—Plant onion seeds and radishes in early October.

Vegetable Transplants: Whole state—Continue planting winter-hardy transplants. Soil test garden soil and apply limestone as recommended anytime this fall.

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 GARDENERS 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)

	Local Dues	State Dues
<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 type="checkbox"/> Past Due Fee (if received after Nov. 30th)	\$5.00	

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

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

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