

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 32

44 Members

December 2025

Happy December Gardeners,

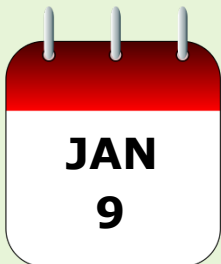
We have a lot to be Thankful for as we finish out our year. We have increased our membership and increased our bank account. That is due to all your hard work recruiting and helping with the AMGA Fall Seminar.

As we move into 2026, we will have installation of new Officers at our December meeting. I will continue as President until I can get the Vice President trained. Our Officer selection is Pam Dyer as VP, Susan Arvin as Secretary and Richard Sturm as Treasurer. When this occurs, we will need a VP replacement. We have a new committee for our quarterly Lunch & Learns, Martha Jones, Chair, with Pam Dyer assisting. We have a new Sunshine Committee Chair, Karen Mims, new Hospitality Chair, Sue Owen, and a new Board Member at Large, Steve Nadeau. Barbara Williams and Marisa Masters will be stepping down, so please thank them for their service. There is a lot that goes on behind the scenes to make our association successful.

Please remember to log your volunteer hours before December 31st and if you have not filled out the membership form and paid your dues yet, you may do so at our December meeting but add an additional \$5 late fee.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our annual Christmas Potluck and Dirty Santa Party. If you cannot attend, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and will see you next year!

Elizabeth



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

Next Month's Meeting
Friday, January 9th
at 10:00 AM

Our January 2026 speaker is
Pam Dyer, Shelby County MG
Her topic is:
The Simple Truth About Orchids



SHELBY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION 14 NOVEMBER 2025—Meeting Minutes



The regular monthly meeting of the SCMGA was held on Friday, November 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 (to continue for one year)
Vice President—Vacant, Vice President Elect Pam Dyer
Sue Owen—Treasurer, Treasurer Elect Richard Sturm
Martha Jones—Secretary, Secretary Elect Susan Arvin

- **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

- **TREASURE'S REPORT:** Please note: From last month's *Gardeners' Gab*, the starting and ending numbers were reversed.

- **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, Sue Owen
Sunshine—Vacant (Barbara Williams Interim), Karen Mims to take over
Fundraising—Elizabeth York
Historian—Karen Jensen
Lunch & Learn—Martha Jones, Chair
Member at large Elect—Stephen Nadeau

- **PROJECTS:**

- Grace Klein Community Chelsea—this is ongoing when needed
- Jeannie Bubbett discussed a new Grace Klein site in Pelham
- Family Connection—Raised bed gardening with kids seasonally
- Front of Extension Office Building upgrade—will be SCMGA Project. Dennis Stanek has estimates. We will have several workdays. Work Dates available, Dec. 4th and 6th.
- Montevallo Pollinator Garden—new project. Assist with advice to the University of Montevallo.

- **PROGRAM PRESENTER:** Marissa Masters spoke on Beekeeping Husbandry

- **OLD BUSINESS:** 2025 AMGA Fall Seminar, September 16, 2025. Report given by Kate Vogel of expenditures and registration, and profit sharing. Check mailed to AMGA by Sue Owen.

- **NEW BUSINESS:**

- ◇ New Interns have graduated and were presented with their certificates.
- ◇ Lunch & Learn for November 3rd Plant Propagation by Karen Mims, she did a fabulous job.
- ◇ Nomination for Officers:
President Elizabeth York will continue for one year.
Treasurer: Richard Sturm
Secretary: Susan Arvin
Vice President: Pam Dyer
- ◇ Service report enter hours
- ◇ Hospitality sign-up sheet for December Christmas luncheon
- ◇ Jefferson County MGA may ask us for assistance for the 2027 AMGA Spring Conference. We voted on this and it passed.
- ◇ Trisha Williams made a motion to accept the slate of officers. Pam Crawford seconded the motion, the motion passed. Our new officers will be installed in December.

- **DATES:**

- ◇ Dec 12 Potluck and Dirty Santa \$15-\$20

- Meeting adjourned

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Martha Jones, Secretary



SHELBY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

TREASURER'S REPORT for NOVEMBER 2025

Sue Owen, Treasurer



DEPOSITS

		AMOUNT
11/6/2025 Membership Dues \$50, Lunch & Learn \$34	\$	84.00
11/6/2025 Cheddar Up membership	\$	25.00
11/18/2025 Membership Dues	\$	675.00
11/21/2025 Membership Dues	\$	25.00
12/1/2025 Membership Dues	\$	110.00
12/3/2025 Membership Dues & Late Fee	\$	55.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$	974.00

CHECK

11/14/2025 #1347 Elizabeth York (turkey & ham for Christmas Party)	\$	(51.57)
12/2/2025 AMGA for Membership Dues (1 Lifetime Member-\$150, 33 State Dues \$330)	\$	(480.00)
TOTAL CHECKS	\$	(531.57)

BEGINNING BALANCE

Deposits	\$	8,583.11
Checks	\$	974.00
ENDING BALANCE	\$	9,025.54

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 12SCMGA Meeting 10:00 AM Potluck & Annual "Dirty Santa" gift exchange (\$15-\$20).	www.petalsfromthepast.com
Jan 9 SCMGA Meeting 10:00 AM	Feb 13 SCMGA Meeting 10:00 AM
Jan 17 Petals From the Past 10:30 AM—12:00 PM Dr. Powell will discuss variety selection, care and maintenance of fruit plants such as blackberries, blueberries, bunch grapes, muscadines, & strawberries.	Feb 14 Petals From the Past 10:30 AM-12:00 PM <i>Tree Fruit in the Home Garden</i> —Dr. Arlie Powell will discuss variety selection, care & maintenance of tree fruits such as apples, pears, figs, persimmons, peaches & nectarines. Whether you are a beginner or experienced gardener, you will gain valuable knowledge for establishing or maintaining you tree fruit garden.
12:00—Lunch (optional) \$20 Advance registration and payment required. You may bring your own lunch or purchase one from Petals.	12:00 PM <i>Lunch</i> (optional) \$20—Advanced registration & payment required. You may bring your own lunch or purchase from Petals. If you wish to order a lunch please place you order by February 11 th .
12:30—Walking tour of Petals' small fruit gardens You may register for this and order your lunch on the Events page at www.petalsfromthepast.com	12:30 PM <i>Walking Tour of Petals' Tree Fruit Garden & Pruning Clinic</i> . You may register for this and order lunch on Petals' Events page at www.petalsfromthepast.com
Jan 24 Petals From the Past 10:30 AM <i>From Monrovia to Martha Stewart—Using the Color Wheel to Help Design a Garden</i> . Instructor: Susan K. Hagan, Mary Collett Munger Professor Emerita of English Birmingham Southern College. It's your garden. Combine plant colors in any way you want to create coherence, movement, and eye catching designs in your garden. You may register for this on Petals' Events page at	Mar 13SCMGA Meeting 10:00 AM
	Apr 10 SCMGA Meeting 10:00 AM
	May 6—8 AMGA State Conference— <i>Gardening to the Moon & Back</i> Location: Huntsville, AL Hosts: MGs of Limestone/Madison/Morgan counties.

Help Spread
The Sunshine!



CARDS SENT BY BARBARA WILLIAMS ON BEHALF OF SCMGA DURING NOVEMBER

BIRTHDAY CARDS:

Carol Beard
Linda Clark
Michael Cloyd
Jessica Joslin

GET WELL CARDS:

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

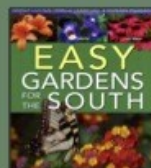
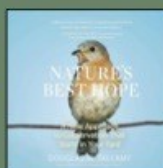
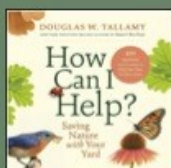
Conference Topic:
HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK
Learn how we can make small changes that will
create diverse ecosystems in our yards &
communities by reducing lawns, planting native
plants, and removing harmful invasives.



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
Herballist

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: Greek Chicken Bowls
FROM THE KITCHEN OF: Heidee Vansant, SCMG

SERVES: 4

INGREDIENTS:

For the Chicken Marinade

- 1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breast
- 3 Tbls olive oil
- 2 Tbls lemon juice
- 3 cloves garlic minced
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1 tsp dried thyme
- 1 tsp paprika
- Salt and pepper to taste

For the Tzatziki Sauce

- 1 cup Greek yogurt
- 1 cucumber, grated and squeezed to remove excess water
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 Tbls olive oil
- 1 Tbls lemon juice
- 1 tsp fresh dill, chopped (or 1 tsp dried dill)
- Salt and pepper to taste

For the Bowls

- 2 cups cooked rice or quinoa
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 cup cucumber, diced
- ½ cup red onion, thinly sliced

- ½ cup Kalamata olives, pitted and sliced
- ½ cup feta cheese, crumbled
- Fresh parsley or dill for garnish

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Marinate the Chicken**—In a bowl, mix the marinade ingredients. Add the chicken breast, ensuring they are fully coated. Cover & refrigerate for at least 30 minutes or up to 4 hours for more flavor.
2. **Prepare the Tzatziki Sauce**—In a mixing bowl, combine Tzatziki Sauce ingredients. Mix well. Refrigerate until ready to use.
3. **Cook the Chicken**—Preheat a grill or skillet over medium-high heat. Remove the chicken from the marinade and cook for 6-7 minutes on each side, or until the temperature reaches 165°F. Let the chicken rest for a few minutes before slicing.
4. **Assemble the Bowls**—Divide the Cooked rice or quinoa among four bowls. Top with sliced grilled chicken, cherry tomatoes, diced cucumbers, red onions, olives, and crumbled feta cheese. Drizzle with Tzatziki sauce and garnish with fresh parsley or dill.
5. **Serve and Enjoy**—Serve immediately, or store in the refrigerator for meal prep. Enjoy your homemade Greek Chicken Bowls with a side of pita bread if desired.

Please send Karen Mims, 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. Karen 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 Karen:



Email: mimskaren@yahoo.com
Phone: 205-664-2322



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

6—JoAnne Headrick
7—Connie Griffin
21—Mike Mahaffey
23—Pam Dyer

Have you "LIKED" us on Facebook?
(this is our public page)
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1295873251386288/>



ALABAMA GARDENER'S CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

FRUITS AND NUTS—Plant young pecan and other deciduous fruit trees and grapes. Select bud wood. Start dormant pruning of established fruits. Protect all young trees from rabbit damage by placing wire around the base of the tree. Apply dormant oil sprays for scale.

SHRUBS—Planting is still the main activity but delay in case of freezing weather. Get your soil tested and be prepared for spring gardening.

LAWNS—Control wild garlic, chickweed, Poa annua, dandelion, and other weeds. Read label on each package of weed killer used.

ROSES—Add plants to rose garden. Mulch all plantings.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS—Plant hardy annual seed without delay. Have you tried violas?

BULBS—Continue spring bulb planting.

MISCELLANEOUS—Shrubs, trees, and indoor plants make excellent gifts.

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)

☐ Active Member

☐ Provisional Member (Interns)

☐ Lifetime Member

☐ Associate Member (Extension Employee)

☐ Honorary Member

☐ **Past Due Fee (if received after Nov. 30th)**

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 **SCMGA**

Mail check and membership form to:

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