

# 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. 19, Issue 33

47 Members

January 2026

Happy New Year Gardeners,

The New Year always brings new possibilities for your garden. Did you complete your garden plans last year? Did you get a chance to sketch out your bulb planting or new garden beds? There is no time left. Just label it "2026 Plans" and move forward. Moving forward for SCMGA brings opportunities for networking with Lunch & Learns, Arbor Day, the upcoming AMGA Spring Conference, new intern class recruitment, and of course our monthly meetings with CEU's so you can keep your active status. Volunteer Opportunities are available with Manna Farms, Grace Klein Ministries, Alabama Youth Shelter raised beds, and Extension either in the office or with 4H. Those are just some options. I will try and send out opportunities when available. Thanks for all you do to keep this Association a place where we enjoy connecting our gardening community.

Happy Gardening,

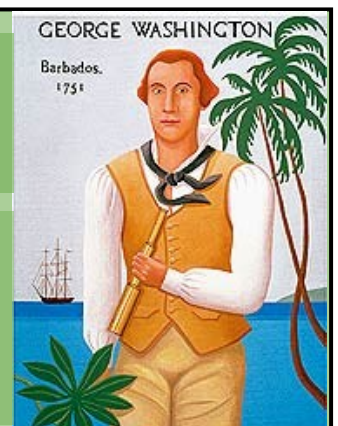
*Elizabeth*



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

This Month's Meeting  
Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM

Our speaker is Karen Jensen, Shelby County MG.  
Karen will be presenting "How George Washington's trip to Barbados helped us win the War and it's environmental impact."



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.



## SHELBY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION DECEMBER 12, 2025—Meeting Minutes



The regular monthly meeting of the SCMGA was held on Friday, December 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—Pam Dyer  
Treasurer—Richard Sturm  
Secretary—Susan Arvin

- **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

- **Treasurer's Report & Minutes approved**

- **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) (Kathy Hagood to take over.)
- ◇ Hospitality—Marisa Masters (Sue Owen to take over.)
- ◇ Sunshine—Barbara Williams, interim (Karen Mims to take over.)
- ◇ Fundraising—Elizabeth York
- ◇ Historian—Karen Jensen
- ◇ Lunch & Learn—Martha Jones, Chair
- ◇ Member at Large—Stephen Nadeau
- ◇ Grow More Give More Ambassador/Secretary—**need a new ambassador**

- **OFFICER INSTALLATION**—Kate Vogel installed: Elizabeth York—President, Pam Dyer—Vice-President, Richard Sturm—Treasurer, Susan Arvin—Secretary

- **PROJECTS:**

- ◇ Grace Klein Community Chelsea—this is ongoing when needed.
- ◇ New Grace Klein site in Pelham. Jeannie Bubbett will chair the committee.
- ◇ Family Connection—Raised bed gardening with kids seasonally. Susan Arvin to check with Jeremy.
- ◇ Front of Extension Office Building upgrade—Almost complete. Need frame and plaques installed.
- ◇ Montevallo Pollinator Garden—new project. Assist with advice to the University of Montevallo.

- **PROGRAM PRESENTER:**

- **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **NEW BUSINESS:**

- ◇ Service Report—enter hours by December 31<sup>st</sup>
- ◇ January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting—Change of speaker to Karen Jensen—*Historical Perspective on Environmental Impacts*
- ◇ State AMGA is creating an endowment. We voted to give \$100 annually.

- **DATES:**

- ◇ December 31—All volunteer hours must be submitted
- ◇ January 9—Meeting
- ◇ January 15—AMGA Spring Conference registration goes live
- ◇ March 7—Hoover Arbor Day and Alabaster Arbor Day. We will need 2 teams.

- Meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Martha Jones, Secretary



# SHELBY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

TREASURER'S REPORT for DECEMBER 2025

Sue Owen, Treasurer



## DEPOSITS

12/8/2025 Membership Dues	\$	60.00
12/9/2025 Membership Dues	\$	20.00
12/31/2025 Membership Dues (G. Dodson)	\$	30.00
<b>TOTAL DEPOSITS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>110.00</b>

## CHECKS

12/9/2025 #1349 High Country Landscape (Extension Project)	\$	(404.25)
12/9/2025 #1350 Dennis Stanek (Extension Project)	\$	(459.65)
12/12/2025 #1351 Jeannie Bubbett (Extension Project)	\$	(63.68)
12/13/2025 #1352 Elizabeth York (Extension Project)	\$	(553.87)
12/13/2025 #1353 AMGA State Dues	\$	(40.00)
12/13/2025 #1354 Donald Langston (Refund over paid dues)	\$	(10.00)
<b>TOTAL CHECKS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(1,531.45)</b>

## BEGINNING BALANCE

Deposits	\$	9,025.54
Checks	\$	110.00
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7,604.09</b>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>Jan 17 10:30 AM—12:00 PM <i>Small Fruit in the Home Garden</i><br/>Dr. Powell will discuss variety selection, Care &amp; maintenance of fruit plants such as blackberries, blueberries, bunch grapes, muscadines, &amp; strawberries.<br/>12:00 PM Lunch (optional) \$20 Advanced registration and payment required. You may bring your own lunch.<br/>12:30 PM—Walking tour of Petals' small fruit gardens You may register for this and order your lunch on Petals' Events page at <a href="http://www.petalsfromthepast.com">www.petalsfromthepast.com</a></p> <p>Jan 22 Petals From the Past 10:30 AM—12:30 PM<br/>Herb Cooking Class with Linda Franzo; Fee—\$35 Advanced registration &amp; payment required.<br/><i>OODLES OF NOODLES for LONGEVITY 2026</i>. You will learn to make fresh Ramen noodles with pork or shrimp, &amp; Rice Paper Spring Rolls with sweet chili sauce. Finish with Coconut Lime Snow &amp; Ginger Turmeric Lemon Tea.</p> <p>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 <a href="http://www.petalsfromthepast.com">www.petalsfromthepast.com</a></p> | <p>Feb 13 SCMGA Meeting 10:00 AM</p> <p>Feb 14 Petals From the Past 10:30 AM—12:00 PM<br/><i>Tree Fruit in the Home Garden</i>—Dr. Arlie Powell will discuss variety selection, care &amp; maintenance of tree fruits such as apples, pears, figs, persimmons, peaches &amp; nectarines. Whether you are a beginner or experienced gardener, you will gain valuable knowledge for establishing or maintaining you tree fruit garden.<br/>12:00 PM <i>Lunch</i> (optional) \$20—Advanced registration &amp; payment required. You may bring your own lunch. If you wish to order a lunch please place you order by February 11<sup>th</sup>.<br/>12:30 PM <i>Walking Tour of Petals' Tree Fruit Garden &amp; Pruning Clinic</i>. You may register for this and order lunch on Petals' Events page at <a href="http://www.petalsfromthepast.com">www.petalsfromthepast.com</a></p> <p>Feb 28 10:30 AM—12:00 PM <i>Antique Roses in the Garden</i><br/>Jason Powell will discuss all classes of antique and old garden roses and their care &amp; maintenance.<br/>12:00 PM <i>Lunch</i> (optional) \$20 Advanced registration and payment required. You may bring your own lunch.</p> <p>Mar 13 SCMGA Meeting 10:00 AM</p> <p>Apr 10 SCMGA Meeting 10:00 AM</p> <p>May 6—8 AMGA State Conference—<i>Gardening to the Moon &amp; Back</i> Location: Huntsville, AL Hosts: MGs of Limestone/Madison/Morgan counties.</p> <p>Jun 12 SCMGA Meeting 10:00 AM</p> |
|--|---|

Help Spread  
The Sunshine!



## CARDS SENT BY BARBARA WILLIAMS ON BEHALF OF SCMGA DURING DECEMBER

### BIRTHDAY CARDS:

Pam Dyer  
Connie Griffin  
JoAnne Headrick  
Mike Mahaffey  
Mikki Vineyard

### GET WELL CARDS:

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.



## 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.



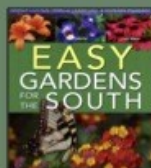
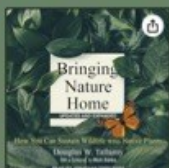
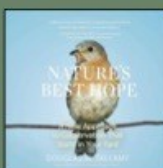
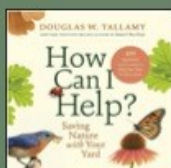
### Harvey Cotten

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: Sausage and Orzo Soup

**FROM THE KITCHEN OF:** Rock House Farms, Fruithurst, AL/Sweet Grown Alabama Magazine

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 lb. Sweet Grown Alabama Italian Sausage
- 1 large jar of Sweet Grown Alabama canned tomatoes (crushed) or a 28 oz. crushed tomatoes
- 4 cups of low sodium chicken stock (I like to use homemade)
- 2 cups of water
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 Sweet Grown Alabama onion, diced
- 2 tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. pepper
- ½ tsp. of dried each oregano, basil and parsley (you can use fresh here if you have it—yum!)
- 2 cups (2 big handfuls) of fresh Sweet Grown Alabama spinach
- 1 cup of orzo pasta
- ½ - 1 cup of freshly shredded parmesan cheese

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Brown your Italian sausage in a large soup pot.
2. Once browned, remove with a slotted spoon and use the fat (use olive oil here if no fat) to cook your garlic and onion until translucent.
3. Add in your tomatoes, chicken stock, water, spices and herbs.
4. Add back in your sausage and bring the mixture to a simmer. Turn the heat down to low and simmer for 15-20 mins. If you're not ready to serve the pasta yet, stop at this point. You can make this early in the day and then later you

can reheat to this point.

5. When it's close to chow time, bring it back up to a simmer.
6. Add your spinach and allow it to simmer for about 5 minutes before adding in the pasta.
7. Adding in the pasta can be tricky, because if you cook it for too long it will swell and soak up all of your liquid. You don't want that. So I always wait until close to time for serving the soup before adding the pasta and cook it at a low simmer for about 5-7 mins, then turn off the heat to finish cooking.
8. Add your fresh parmesan on top of your dished up soup and serve with cheesy garlic bread. So delicious! And it makes such good leftovers!



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](mailto:mimskaren@yahoo.com)  
Phone: 205-664-2322



### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1—Julie Baumgartner  
10—Phyllis Weaver  
12—Heidee Vasant  
13—Margaret Copeland  
17—Jennifer Gregory  
19—Larry Kronk  
26—Natalie Dudchock

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



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## ALABAMA GARDENER'S CALENDAR FOR JANUARY

**FRUITS AND NUTS**—Set out apples, peaches, pears, and grapes. Start grafting pecans. Prune dormant trees.

**SHRUBS**—Plant shrubs & trees, including broadleaf, narrow leaf, & deciduous. Graft camellias in south Alabama. Apply an ultrafine horticultural oil spray to all deciduous shrubs to help with control of insects and diseases. Spray when weather is on warming trend.

**LAWNS**—Soil test & add limestone as recommended. Apply preemergent herbicides if forgotten in September & if spring weeds were a concern last year.

**ROSES**—Visit nurseries & garden centers to select varieties. Plant roses. Consider old fashioned, disease tolerant cultivars.

**ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS**—Plant hardy annuals.

**BULBS**—Late plantings of Dutch bulbs will flower if planted now. Plant lilies of all types, except Madonna. Check stored bulbs & discard rotten ones. Make indoor plantings of amaryllis, callas, & gloxinias.

**MISCELLANEOUS**—Prune winter-damaged limbs. Give house plants a bath in lukewarm water to remove dust. To keep poinsettias that have finished flowering, turn pots on their sides & let them dry completely. Cut them back lightly. Keep in a temperature of 55°-60F°

**VEGETABLE SEEDS**—**South:** Plant hardy vegetables & root crops (garden peas, radishes, mustard, spinach, turnips). Start cabbage, broccoli, lettuce, & Swiss chard seeds in cold frames.

**VEGETABLE TRANSPLANTS**—**South:** Plant broccoli, celery, collards, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce transplants, & onion sets. **South and Central:** Plant asparagus in late January. **Central:** Plant cabbage & cauliflower transplants. Wait until the end of January to plant Swiss chard, mustard, transplants, & onion sets.

### Shelby County Master Gardeners Association Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2026

President	Elizabeth York	205-616-7648	e.york24@yahoo.com
Vice-President	Pam Dyer	205-520-4067	dyer4881@bellsouth.net
Secretary	Susan Arvin	205-222-8141	susanarvin@gmail.com
Treasurer	Richard Sturm	205-383-6377	rsturm42@yahoo.com
Advisory Council Rep	Kathy Hagood	205-422-4025	khagood@juno.com
Awards Committee	Trisha Williams	205-410-5074	trisha325@gmail.com
By-Laws Chair	Trisha Williams	205-410-5074	trisha325@gmail.com
Communications (Facebook)	Elizabeth York	205-616-7648	e.york24@yahoo.com
Communications ( <i>Gardeners' Gab</i> )	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.com
Hospitality	Sue Owen	205-580-9555	sueowen@gmail.com
Lunch & Learn Chair	Martha Jones	205-410-7939	msmatha71@gmail.com
Member at Large	Stephen Nadeau	678-710-5884	sanadeau27@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Heidee Vansant	205-725-0541	heidee.vansant@gmail.com
Nominating Committee Chair	Elizabeth York	205-616-7648	e.york24@yahoo.com
Projects Coordinator	Dennis Stanek	205-789-0341	dennis.stanek@att.net
Sunshine Committee Chair	Karen Mims	205-664-2322	mimskaren@yahoo.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. 30<sup>th</sup>)**

**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:

**Richard Sturm**  
5832 Heather Way  
Hoover, AL 35244