

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: <https://www.victorydesigns.com/amg/>

Vol. 19, Issue 2

54 Members

February 2026

Happy February,

The wintry weather is still among us, but I know gardeners are planning for spring. Our Lunch and Learn on February 2nd was with Pam Dyer speaking on "All about Orchids". At our association meeting, Karen Mims spoke on "Plant Propagation". I know we are all thinking of starting seeds after hearing this. The end of February has always been a good time to prune roses and Crape Myrtles or still stay warm inside researching your spring planting. We hope to see you at our next meeting on March 13th.

Elizabeth

AMGA Reach For The Stars Program

2025 Shelby County Stars

Fifty-seven Shelby County Master Gardeners reported 4,326.33 volunteer hours, earned 627 Continuing Education hours and made 3,698 contacts.

Top Annual Hours—Carolyn Hudson 440.6, Top Lifetime Hours—Karen Jensen 4,866.59



BRONZE (100-299 hours)

Julie Adams
Susan Arvin
Johnnie Brown
James Busbin
Linda Clark
Pam Crawford
Pam Dyer
Katherine Hagood

Joanne Holloway
Kim Howell
Holly Jackimowski
Michael Johnson
Archie (Mike) Mahaffey
Richard Sturm

SILVER (300-499 hours)

Margaret Copeland
Martha Jones

Carolyn Key
Larry Kronk

GOLD (500-999 hours)

Stephen Nadeau
Sue Owen

GOLD NAME BADGE (1,000-1,999 hours)

Carolyn Hudson
Karen Mims

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

RECIPE: Alabama Seafood Jambalaya

FROM THE KITCHEN OF: Sweet Grown Alabama Kitchen

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 lb. Sweet Grown Alabama shrimp
- 12 Sweet Grown Alabama shucked oysters, liquor reserved
- 8 oz. Sweet Grown Alabama red snapper, cut into 2 in. cubes
- 2 cups Sweet Grown Alabama sausage, diced
- 1 cup Sweet Grown Alabama yellow onion, diced
- 1/2 cup celery, diced
- 1/2 cup Sweet Grown Alabama green bell pepper, diced
- 1 Tbsp. Sweet Grown Alabama garlic, minced
- 5 cloves Sweet Grown Alabama garlic, peeled and crushed
- 1 Tbsp. blackening seasoning
- 1/4 cup white wine
- 3 Tbsp. thyme, picked
- 3 Tbsp. parsley, chopped
- 3 Tbsp. green onion, finely chopped
- Tabasco sauce to taste
- 3 lbs. Sweet Grown Alabama red tomatoes
- 4 cups Jasmine Rice

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. Cook the rice and set aside.
3. Core the tomatoes and slice a shallow "X" in the tomato opposite of the core and roast with 5 cloves of peeled crushed garlic. Roast for 10-12 minutes until

the skins separate and have a good roasted color.

4. When done, let cool and then peel the tomatoes, move them to a pot and gently crush the peeled tomatoes and roasted garlic and set aside.

5. Season the shrimp and red snapper with salt, white pepper, and blackening seasoning.

6. In a medium rondeau (or Dutch oven) over medium-high heat sear the red snapper and shrimp until almost done, then remove and set aside.

7. Reduce the heat and add the sausage into the pot and cook until the sausage begins to crisp. Then add the diced onion, celery, green bell peppers, and minced garlic and sauté. Cook on medium-low heat until the onions are translucent, making sure not to brown or burn the trinity.

8. Deglaze with the white wine and let reduce.

9. Next add a healthy dash of Tabasco sauce, blackening, the reserved oyster liquor, and the roast tomatoes and let stew for 5-10 minutes over low heat.

10. After stewing, add in the rice and mix; next return the shrimp, snapper, and raw oysters and very gently mix making sure not to break up the snapper.

11. Finish with the parsley, green onion, and thyme and let stew for a couple of minutes making sure not to over cook the shrimp and snapper.



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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/6—Sydney Ellis
2/10—Michele Wooten
2/26—Sue Owen



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



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 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

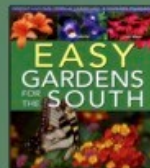
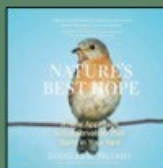
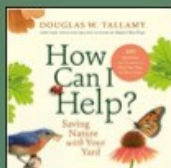
Conference Topic:
HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK
Learn how we can make small changes that will create diverse ecosystems in our yards & communities by reducing lawns, planting native plants, and removing harmful invasives.



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



SHELBY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION 9 JANUARY 2026—Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the SCMGA was held on Friday, January 9, 2026, at 10:00 AM in the Auditorium of the Shelby County Extension Office at 54 Kelly Lane, Columbiana, AL



- **OFFICERS:**
 - Elizabeth York—President
 - Pam Dyer—Vice President
 - Richard Sturm—Treasurer
 - Susan Arvin—Secretary
- **COMMITTEES:**
 - Nominating—Elizabeth York
 - Projects—Dennis Stanek
 - Communications—Elizabeth York (Facebook), Heidee Vansant (*Gardeners' Gab*)
 - Audit and By-Laws, Membership—Trisha Williams
 - AMGA Advisory Council Representative—Kate Vogel
 - Pathways—Kathy Hagood
 - Hospitality—Sue Owen
 - Sunshine—Karen Mims
 - Fundraising—Elizabeth York
 - Historian—Karen Jensen
 - Lunch & Learn—Martha Jones
 - Board Member at Large—Stephen Nadeau
- **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
- **Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report approval from *Gardeners' Gab*:**
 - ◆ Meeting Minutes from December 2025 approved as printed in the January 2026 edition of the *Gardeners' Gab*.
 - ◆ Treasurer's Report approved as printed in the January 2026 edition of the *Gardeners' Gab*.
- **PROJECTS:**
 - ◆ Grace Klein Community Chelsea—this is ongoing when needed.
 - ◆ Grace Klein Pelham, Pathways United Methodist Church. Jeannie Bubbett to lead. No updates.
 - ◆ Family Connection—Seasonal Raised Bed gardening with kids. Susan Arvin met with Jeremy Raines. A meeting with shelter leadership will be scheduled in February/March to discuss plans for spring planting.
 - ◆ Shelby County Extension Office Building Entrance—upgrade is almost complete.
 - ◇ Frame for mosaic is painted and ready to install (Dennis Stanek and Sue Owen).
 - ◇ Plaques will be ordered—one for mosaic; one to identify the MG Intern classes that have performed maintenance at the front of the Extension office (Elizabeth York).
 - ◇ Bottle Tree has been installed in the corner by the entrance; need to add more colored wine bottles (members).
 - ◇ Grant will be completed and submitted by 1/31/2026 to reimburse cost of project (Elizabeth York and Dennis Stanek).
 - ◆ Montevallo Pollinator Garden consult—Assist with advice to the University of Montevallo (Dennis Stanek).
 - ◆ Seed to Table in Montevallo—Kate Vogel. If anyone would like to help, get with Kate.
 - ◆ Owens House Sensory Garden—2025 Intern Project
 - ◇ Johnnie Brown will coordinate with Owens House completion of the project to install a fence and build some beds.
 - ◆ ARC of Shelby County Consult, Pelham (Dennis Stanek).
 - ◇ Talked to Lisa Dale. ARC works with adults having intellectual disabilities. Previous efforts at gardening have not been successful. Would like MG input to make it more productive for the clients. They would like to set up a bucket garden. Dennis Stanek will schedule a meeting for additional discussion. If anyone is interested in helping, let Dennis know.
 - ◆ Manna Farms (Karen Mims)
 - ◇ Volunteer work begins the last weekend in January.
 - ◇ Regular Saturday serve day starts January 17th from 8:30 AM—until. This schedule will continue until next fall except for holidays and inclement weather.
- **PROGRAM PRESENTER:** Karen Jensen presented "How George Washington's Trip to Barbados Helped Win the American Revolution."
- **OLD BUSINESS:**
- **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - ◆ Budget review—discussion about fundraising.
 - ◆ Audit (January 21, 2026) to be completed as required for nonprofit status and to have new Treasurer, Richard Sturm, added to accounts.
 - ◆ Front of Extension Office watering schedule—Need to develop schedule especially during the summer months. If anyone would like to help, let Elizabeth York know.
 - ◆ AMGA Project Funding Grant application will be completed by Elizabeth York and Dennis Stanek and will be submitted by 1/31/2026.
- **DATES:**
 - ◆ Jan 31—AMGA State Spring Conference registration goes live.
 - ◇ Get Westin hotel discount through registration page; other hotels can be called directly.
 - ◇ Pathways will have a link to the registration page; there is an early bird discount for registration by 2/14/2026
 - ◆ Jan 31—Manna Farms onion planting
 - ◆ Feb 2—(12:00-1:00) Lunch & Learn @ Shelby County Extension Office. "The Simple Truth About Orchids", by Pam Dyer.
 - ◆ Feb 13—SCMGA meeting. "Plant Propagation" by Karen Mims.
 - ◆ Feb 28—Montevallo Arbor Day
 - ◆ Mar 7—Will need people to sign up, Elizabeth York will provide sign-up sheets at the February SCMGA meeting. Set up table, discuss how to plant a tree, provide information about how to become a Master Gardener.
 - ◇ Hoover Arbor Day (Aldridge Gardens, Elizabeth York coordinator)
 - ◇ Alabaster Arbor Day (Veterans Park, Pam Dyer coordinator)
 - May 6-8—AMGA State Spring Conference, Huntsville, AL: "Gardening to the Moon and Back."
 - ◆ May 8—There will be no May SCMGA meeting due to conflict with AMGA State Spring Conference.
- **ATTENDANCE**—There were 23 members in attendance.
- **MEETING ADJOURNED**

Respectively submitted by Susan Arvin, Secretary



SHELBY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report for January 2026
Richard Sturm, Treasurer



DEPOSITS

| | \$ | AMOUNT |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Membership Dues & Late Fee (Joslin) | \$ | 30.00 |
| Membership Dues (Brown) | \$ | 15.00 |
| TOTAL DEPOSITS | \$ | 45.00 |

CHECKS

| | | |
|--|-----------|-----------------|
| 1/21/2026 #1355 Elizabeth York—Plaques for Extension project | \$ | (172.40) |
| 1/21/2026 #1356 Karen Mims—Stamps | \$ | (31.20) |
| 1/21/2026 #1357 AMGA—Dues (Dodson and Joslin) | \$ | (20.00) |
| TOTAL CHECKS | \$ | (223.68) |

BEGINNING BALANCE

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Deposits | \$ | 7,759.55 |
| Checks | \$ | 45.00 |
| ENDING BALANCE | \$ | 7,580.87 |

UPCOMING EVENTS

| | |
|---|---|
| Mar 13—SCMGA Meeting 10:00 AM | 12:00 PM Lunch—You may bring your own or purchase one from Petals for \$20.00. Advanced registration and payment required. If you wish to purchase a lunch, please place your order by March 18 th . |
| Mar 14—10:30 AM Petals From the Past— <u>Lets Create a Native Mixed Border for Pollinators and Birds</u> —Instructor: Sue Webb. In this program, Sue will talk about the very beautiful outcome when we combine many of our native pollinator supporting perennials & shrubs with the structure, fall color & winter interest of many of our bird supporting native shrubs & small trees. The result is a garden that reflects the natural beauty of nature while simultaneously working hard to support our pollinators & birds. | 12:30—Tour of Petals Orangery. You may register for this program and order your lunch on the Events page at www.petalsfromthepast.com |
| You may register for Sue's program on Petals' Events page at www.petalsfromthepast.com | Apr 10—SCMGA Meeting 10:00 AM |
| Mar 21—10:30 AM-12:00 PM—Petals From the Past Dr. Arlie Powell: <u>Citrus and Persimmons in the Home Garden</u> —Dr. Powell will discuss variety selection, care, & maintenance of citrus plants such as satsuma oranges, Meyer lemons, limes & kumquats. He will also discuss Oriental Persimmons & their care & maintenance. | May 6—8 AMGA State Conference— <i>Gardening to the Moon & Back</i> Location: Huntsville, AL Hosts: MGs of Limestone/Madison/Morgan counties. |
| | May 8— No SCMGA Monthly meeting due to conflict with State conference. |
| | Jun 12—SCMGA Meeting 10:00 AM |
| | Jul 10—SCMGA Meeting 10:00 AM |
| | Aug 14—SCMGA Meeting 10:00 AM |
| | Sep 11—SCMGA Meeting 10:00 AM |
| | Oct 9—SCMGA Meeting 10:00 AM |
| | Nov 13—SCMGA Meeting 10:00 AM |
| | Dec 11—SCMGA Meeting 10:00 AM |

CARDS SENT BY KAREN MIMS ON BEHALF OF SCMGA DURING JANUARY

Help Spread
The Sunshine!



BIRTHDAY CARDS:

Margaret Copeland
Jennifer Gregory
Heidee Vansant
Phyllis Weaver

SYMPATHY CARD:

Michael Johnson

ALABAMA GARDENER'S CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

FRUITS AND NUTS—Planting season continues for dormant trees. Fertilize fruit trees. Apply half of the fertilizer recommended for grapes now; apply the other half soon after fruit sets. Continue dormant pruning and grafting. Start strawberry plantings.

SHRUBS—Planting season continues. Visit camellia shows to learn of hardy varieties in your area. Graft camellias in central and south Alabama. Spray all shrubs with a fungicide before new growth starts. Don't prune early-blooming species because flower buds will be removed.

ROSES—Prune hybrid tea roses in south Alabama; delay pruning for few weeks in north Alabama. Continue planting.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS—Replant early plantings or hardy annuals. Prepare beds for summer annuals.

BULBS—Plant cannas, amaryllis, gladiolus, & zephyranthes in south Alabama; delay planting for a few weeks in north Alabama.

MISCELLANEOUS—House plants are beginning to show signs of activity. Fertilize with liquid or soluble fertilizer according to manufacturer's directions.

LAWNS—Apply preemergent herbicides if forgotten in September and if spring weeds were a concern last year. If south Alabama's winter was mild, centipede grass may not be fully dormant. Monitor for fungal disease.

VEGETABLE SEEDS—**South & Central:** Plant the same vegetables listed for January. Add carrots, Swiss chard, kohlrabi, lettuce, spinach, Swiss chard, radishes, & turnips.

VEGETABLE TRANSPLANTS—**Whole State:** Plant asparagus, cabbage, & broccoli, onion sets, kale, lettuce, cauliflower, & Brussels sprouts. **South & Central:** Plant asparagus, cabbage, & broccoli, & certified seed potatoes for Irish & red-skinned varieties. **North:** Wait towards the end of the month to plant certified seed potatoes for Irish & red-skinned varieties & asparagus.

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 |
| Treasurer | Richard Sturm | 205-383-6377 | rsturm42@yahoo.com |
| Secretary | Susan Arvin | 205-222-8141 | susanarvin@gmail.com |
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| Awards Committee | Trisha Williams | 205-410-5074 | trisha325@gmail.com |
| Board Member At Large | Stephen Nadeau | 678-710-5884 | sanadeau27@gmail.com |
| By-Laws Chair | Trisha Williams | 205-410-5074 | trisha325@gmail.com |
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| Communications (<i>Gardeners' Gab</i>) | Heidee Vansant | 205-725-0541 | heidee.vansant@gmail.com |
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| Grow More Give More | Elizabeth York | 205-616-7648 | e.york24@yahoo.com |
| Historian | Karen Jensen | 205-434-0642 | karenkjensen3@icloud. |
| Hospitality | Sue Owen | 205-580-9555 | sueowen@gmail.com |
| Newsletter Editor | Heidee Vansant | 205-725-0541 | heidee.vansant@gmail.com |
| Lunch & Learn | Martha Jones | 205-410-7939 | mismatha71@gmail.com |
| Nominating Comm. Chair | Elizabeth York | 205-616-7648 | e.york24@yahoo.com |
| Pathways | Kathy Hagood | 205-422-4025 | khagood@juno.com |
| Projects Coordinator | Dennis Stanek | 205-789-0341 | dennis.stanek@att.net |
| Sunshine Committee | Karen Mims | 205-664-2322 | mimskaren@yahoo.com |
| Webmaster | Beth Glasgow | 205-669-7981 | bethglasgow@bellsouth.net |