

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/>

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54 Members

May 2026

Happy May Gardeners,

It feels like it's been summer for a month. All my plants are blooming sooner. I can't wait for the grass pollen numbers to drop so I can clean off my deck and enjoy the weather before it gets really hot. We have an exciting month. Saturday, May 2nd is the first of 2 plant sales at Helena Market Days. Richard Sturm is coordinating this event. We will be doing "Ask a Master Gardener" and promoting the Master Gardener program with a new intern class beginning in August. May 4th is our Lunch & Learn. Kathy Hagood is presenting "Milkweed to Monarchs" from Noon-1:00 PM at the Extension Office auditorium. The AMGA State Conference is May 6—8 in Huntsville this year. Due to the conference, we will not have a monthly meeting and thus no speaker. We also have a field trip planned to the Montgomery Botanical Gardens with a Docent on May 22nd. Pam Dyer is coordinating this event.

Happy Gardening,

Elizabeth



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

**NO SCMGA MEETING
THIS MONTH**

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.



SHELBY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION
10 April 2026—Meeting Minutes



The regular monthly meeting of the SCMGA was held on Friday, April 10, 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, 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
 - Grow More Give More Ambassador—Linda Clark
 - Board Member at Large—Stephen Nadeau
- **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
- **Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report approval:**
 - ◆ Meeting Minutes from March 2026 approved as published in the *Gardeners' Gab*, April 2026 edition.
 - ◆ Treasurer's Report from March 2026 approved as published in the *Gardeners' Gab*, April 2026 edition.
- **SPEAKER:** Adam Lyons, Lyons Arbor Consulting, presented "Words to Know & Fruits to Live By" (fruit trees)
- **PROJECTS:**
 - ◆ Grace Klein Community Chelsea—this is ongoing when needed.
 - ◆ Grace Klein Pelham, Pathways United Methodist Church—Jeannie Bubbett
 - *The church is beginning to work on beds. They are still working toward plantings.
 - ◆ Family Connection—Seasonal Raised Bed gardening with kids—Susan Arvin
 - *4/21/2026—Spring clean workday scheduled for the entrance. A signup sheet was provided for volunteers.
 - ◆ Montevallo Pollinator Garden Consult—Assist with advice to the University of Montevallo—Dennis Stanek
 - *No update.
 - ◆ Seed to Table in Montevallo—Kate Vogel
 - *4/17/2026—plant sale
 - ◆ Owens House Sensory Garden—Johnnie Brown
 - *The 2025 Master Gardener intern class is still working on this project. No update.
 - ◆ Church at Cahaba Bend (Helena) Consult—Elizabeth York
 - *4/18/2026—workday scheduled from 9 AM—12 PM for summer planting. Food grown will be donated to Oak Mountain Missions for distribution.
 - ◆ ARC of Shelby County Consult, Pelham—Dennis Stanek
 - *No update.
 - ◆ Manna Farms—Karen Mims
 - *Meet every Saturday at 8:30 AM to work in the garden.
- **OLD BUSINESS:**
- **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - ◆ Jacob Turner provided a thank you card for the diapers, wipes, and other gifts the SCMGA provided to them for their first baby.
 - ◆ 2026 Proposed AMGA By-Laws Amendments were provided for review. Proxy votes for those not attending conference are due to AMGA Secretary BY May 1, 2016. Contact information is provided in the document.
 - ◆ Volunteer Opportunities:
 - *4/6/2026—Chelsea Homeschool kids milk jug gardening is complete.
 - *4/15/2026—Extension Open House from 10:00 AM—12:00 PM. Stop by and say hello.
 - *4/15/—4/17/2026—Birmingham Botanical Gardens plant sale
 - *4/16—4/17/2026—Aldridge Gardens plant sale
 - *4/22/2026—Shelby County Senior Picnic Booth; a signup sheet was provided. Volunteers need to be there at 8:30 AM.
 - ◆ Helena Market Days—Richard Sturm has scheduled May 2nd and June 6th for SCMGA to have a table. It will be used to promote the Master Gardener class of 2026. There will also be plants for sale as a fundraiser. An information sheet was provided for those interested in donating plants for the sale.
- **DATES:**
 - ◆ April 29—next Board Meeting
 - ◆ May 2—Helena Market Days SCMGA Plant Sale
 - ◆ May 4—Lunch & Learn from 12:00-1:00 PM at the Extension office. Kathy Hagood to present "From Milkweed to Monarchs"
 - ◆ 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.
 - ◆ May 22—Field trip to Montgomery Botanical Gardens (Pam Dyer, coordinator). A signup sheet was provided. A tour will be provided.
 - ◆ June 6—Helena Market Days SCMGA Plant Sale
 - ◆ June 30—Pollinator Training, Petals from the Past; details to come.
 - ◆ Sept 1—Peach Pepper Garden to pantry, Shelby County Extension office. Details to come.
- **ATTENDANCE**—There were 23 members in attendance.
- **MEETING ADJOURNED (Potluck lunch followed)**
Minutes respectively submitted by Susan Arvin, Secretary



SHELBY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report for April 2026
Richard Sturm, Treasurer



DEPOSITS

No Activity	\$	0.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$	0.00

CHECKS

No Activity	\$	0.00
TOTAL CHECKS	\$	(0.00)

BEGINNING BALANCE

Deposits	\$	7,602.74
Checks	\$	0.00
ENDING BALANCE	\$	7,602.74

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 2—Helena Market Days **SCMGA Plant Sale**
- May 4—**Lunch & Learn** from Noon-1:00 PM at the Extension office. Kathy Hagood to present "From Milkweed to Monarchs"
- May 6—8 **AMGA State Conference—Gardening to the Moon & Back**—Location: Huntsville, AL—Hosts: MGs of Limestone/Madison/Morgan Counties. **SOLD OUT**
- May 8—**No SCMGA Monthly meeting** due to conflict with State Conference
- May 9—10:00 AM Petals From The Past **Mother's Day Brunch**—Fee \$25 Advanced registration and payment required. Last day to make reservations is May 6. Menu: Fruit, Biscuit bar, Breakfast casserole, Ham with Orange Marmalade, Grits, Sausage, Pastries, Coffee, & Juice. You can register for this program on Petals' Events page www.petalsfromthepast.com
- May 22—Field trip to **Montgomery Botanical Gardens**. Pam Dyer, coordinator.
- May 30—10:30 AM—**Blackberry Walking Tour**—Join Dr. Arlie Powell as he discusses how to plant & maintain blackberries. Tour the blackberry plantings & learn how to properly trellis the plants for a bountiful harvest in your home garden. There is no charge, but you must register for this program on Petals' Events page at www.petalsfromthepast.com
- Jun 6—Helena Market Days **SCMGA Plant Sale**
- Jun 6—9:30 AM—Petals From The Past—**Herbs for Life Lemon Herbalicious presented by Debbie Boutellier**. Start your herbalicious experience with a lecture on Growing & Using Herbs in Everyday Life presented by Herbalist Debbie Boutellier. There is no charge for this lecture. Continue your herbalicious immersion experience with a full afternoon of classes, an herbal feast/luncheon, demonstrations, samples & tastings. There will be a fee for the afternoon sessions. You can register for this program on Petals' Events page at www.petalsfromthepast.com
- 12:30 PM—1:30 PM—**An Herbal Feast—Herb Society of America, Wild Thyme Unit**—Join us for a fabulous herbal feast featuring lemon herbs. Janell Diggs will lead a review of the recipes so you will have no trouble recreating them at home!
- 1:30 PM—1:45 PM—**Break-Yoga Stretches** with Betsy Smith
- 1:45 PM—2:45 PM—**Managing Stress with Nervines & Companion Herbs**—Debbie Boutellier, Herbalist. You're anxious, worried, stressed about ((pick one): money, health, work, family, love. Your heart is beating fast, your breathing is shallow and rapid, your mind is imagining doom and you wish you could just relax...NOW! Learn about this wonderful class of herbs that can help mitigate all of that & contribute to better health
- 2:45 PM—3:30 PM—**Clean, Green & Herbal**—Sharon Hosch & Betsy Smith—Stop using toxic products to clean & freshen your home. Making you own herbal cleaning products is easy, cost effective and environmentally friendly, In this session, learn how to make environmentally safe cleaning products using some basic household ingredients and herbs.
- 3:30 PM—3:45 PM—**Break**
- 3:45 PM—4:45 PM—**Herbal Smooth as Silk Hand Care**—Sandy Rosamond & Sheila Pearson. Finish your herbalicious experience learning how to pamper our hands with healthy, herbal formulations. Your hands will feel fabulous when you leave.
- ***Participants will receive a beautiful booklet to commemorate the day with all recipes, formulas, and methods to recreate the Herbalicious experience when you get home. Join us and be pampered!
- Fee for afternoon sessions is \$80.** You can register and pay on Petals' Events page at www.petalsfromthepast.com
- Jun 12—**SCMGA Meeting** 10:00 AM
- Jun 13—10:30 AM Petals From The Past—**Blueberry Walking Tour**— Dr. Arlie Powell. Dr. Powell will discuss variety selection, care & maintenance of blueberries. Sign up for this program on Petals' Events page at www.petalsfromthepast.com
- Jun 20—7:00 AM—2:00 PM Petals From The Past—**Annual Greenhouse Sale**. Whether you are starting a new garden or just adding to the one you already have this is the sale for you. All the plants in our greenhouse growing area are 50% off. Many of the plants in the retail area are also on sale including the pottery & many of the items in the gift shop.
- Jun 30—**Pollinator Training**, Petals from the Past; details to come.
- Jul 10—**SCMGA Meeting** 10:00 AM
- Aug 14—**SCMGA Meeting** 10:00 AM
- Sept 1—**Peach Pepper Garden to Pantry**, Shelby County Extension office. Details to come.
- Sep 11—**SCMGA Meeting** 10:00 AM
- Oct 9—**SCMGA Meeting** 10:00 AM
- Nov 13—**SCMGA Meeting** 10:00 AM

Help Spread
The Sunshine!



CARDS SENT BY KAREN MIMS ON BEHALF OF SCMGA DURING APRIL

BIRTHDAY:

Steve Nadeau

THINKING OF YOU:

Pam Dyer
Sue Owen
Barbara Williams

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Our April 10, 2026 meeting had arborist Adam Lyons who gave a presentation titled, "Words to Know & Trees to Live By" (fruit trees). Photos submitted by Karen Jensen



Veep Pam Dyer presents Tree expert Adam Lyons & apprentice Josh Cummings with homemade sourdough bread, April 10, 2026



L-R: Steve Nadeau, Trisha Williams, Jeannie Bubbett



L-R, 10 Ap '26: Dennis Stanek, Pam Crawford, Sue Arvin



L-R: Sue Owens, Pam Dyer, Josh Cummings, Adam Lyons, Marisa Masters

RECIPE: Easy Strawberry Shortcake
FROM THE KITCHEN OF: K. Marie, 2024 Sweet Grown Alabama Ambassador

SERVES: 8

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 box cake mix butter or yellow (and ingredients to prepare it)
- 1 pound Sweet Grown Alabama strawberries
- 1 (12 ounce) container strawberry gel (glaze)
- 1 (8 ounce) tub Cool Whip®



DIRECTIONS:

1. Bake cake according to instructions on the cake mix box.
2. Wash strawberries and cut them into small pieces (you can add a few teaspoons of sugar to strawberries if desired).
3. Add strawberries to gel and mix well.
4. Layer slices of cake, strawberries, and Cool Whip®, then add any desired toppings.



Please send Karen Mims, Sunshine Committee Chair, information about members (or their family members) 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



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 5/2—Carolyn Hudson
- 5/13—David Langsdale
- 5/16—Jim Busbin, Jr.
- 5/22—Marilyn Donoho
- 5/27—Jeannie Bubbett
- 5/29—Joanne Holloway

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(this is our public page)
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1295873251386288/>



ALABAMA GARDENERS' CALENDAR FOR MAY

FRUITS AND NUTS—Continue spray program. Keep grass from around trees and strawberries. Peaches and apples can still be budded.

SHRUBS—Newly planted shrubs need extra care now and in coming weeks. Do not spray with horticultural oils when temperature is above 85° F.

LAWNS—Start new lawns from seeds. Call the Master Gardener Helpline at (877)252-4769 to learn more about seasonal fertilizer use and proper mowing. Overfertilizing and overwatering lead to lawn problems. Wait until warm-season lawns are fully green before applying any fertilizers. Mow often (5 to 10 days) to remove just 1/3 the grass height at each mowing. Apply 1 pound nitrogen per 1,000 square feet to all warm-season lawn types: Bermuda grass, Centipede grass, St. Augustine grass, and Zoysia grass (or wait until after dethatching). Dethatch warm-season lawns if needed. Check thatch layer, as in April. Water and fertilize after dethatching (1 pound nitrogen per 1,000 square feet).

ROSES—Spray or dust for insects and diseases. Fertilize monthly according to a soil test. Plant container-grown plants in flower. Prune climbing roses after the first big flush of flowering.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS—Late plantings of bedding plants still have time to produce. Watch for insects on day lilies.

BULBS—Summer bulbs started in containers may still be planted. Do not remove foliage from spring flowering bulbs. Do not let seedheads form on tulips and other spring flowering bulbs.

MISCELLANEOUS—Mulch new shrub plantings if not already done. Monitor new landscape plantings of shrubs, trees, and turf. To establish healthy root systems, prevent them from drying out and water deeply.

VEGETABLE SEEDS—Whole State: Continue plantings of all April seeds across the state. **Central and North:** Add okra and southern peas to your garden.

VEGETABLE TRANSPLANTS—Whole state: Continue plantings of April transplant crops. **Central and Northern:** Plant certified sweet potato slips.

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
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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	Linda Clark	863-632-3855	lhclark49@gmail.com
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Newsletter Editor	Heidee Vansant	205-725-0541	heidee.vansant@gmail.com
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