

GARDENERS' GAB



Shelby County Master Gardeners Assoc.

Website: <https://mq.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

July 2026

Hello Gardeners,

With all this rain, it looks like I'm growing mushrooms and powdery mildew rather than healthy vibrant plants. This rain and humidity put a damper on our outdoor gardens and challenged us to keep up with deadheading and weeding.

This month's speaker is Kathy Hagood. She will present *Milkweed to Monarchs*. July is also our ice cream social. So be ready to enjoy a sweet treat after our meeting.

We have again been asked to help the Chelsea Co-op Homeschool group plant pumpkin seeds at Yellowleaf Creek Stables and Farm. I need five volunteers. We had a great time last time. The event will be held on August 3rd at 10:00 AM. Please let me know if you can help.

Our new intern class orientation begins August 6th. I will pass around a sign-up sheet for anyone who can help with the classes. As of this writing, sixteen people have registered.

Elizabeth



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

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

SCMG Kathy Hagood will be speaking on
Milkweed to Monarchs

We will have an Ice Cream Social after the meeting.



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SHELBY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION 12 June 2026—Meeting Minutes



The regular monthly association meeting of the SCMGA was held on Friday, June 12, 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 (FB), Heidee Vansant (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 and Learn—Martha Jones
 - GMGM Ambassador—Linda Clark
 - Board Member at Large—Steve Nadeau
- **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- **SPEAKER** Bethany O'Rear, Extension Agent for Blount County, spoke about "Pollinators & Pollinator Gardens". She provided detailed information about the Great Pollinator Count scheduled for August 21-22, 2026
- **MEETING MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT**
 - No minutes were produced for May 2026. The regular monthly meeting scheduled for May 8, 2026 was cancelled due to conflict with the Alabama Master Gardeners Association annual state conference taking place in Huntsville, AL May 6-8, 2026.
 - Treasurer's report from April 2026 was approved as provided in the June 2026 Gardeners' Gab.
- **PROJECTS:**
 - Grace Klein Community Chelsea—this is ongoing when needed
 - Grace Klein Pelham, Pathways United Methodist Church—Jeannie Bubbett. The church is currently working on a grant. Additional work will continue after this process is complete.
 - Family Connection—Susan Arvin. Seasonal Raised Bed Gardening with Kids.
 - Montevallo Pollinator Garden Consult—Dennis Stanek. Assist with advice to the University of Montevallo
 - Seed to Table in Montevallo— Kate Vogel. Continuing to clean out.
 - Owens House Sensory Garden—Johnnie Brown. Waiting for Owens House to complete prep work. The 2025 Master Gardener intern class is still working on this project.
 - Church at Cahaba Bend (Helena) Consult—Elizabeth York and Dolores Davis. Sixteen raised beds. Veggies growing abundantly.
 - ARC of Shelby County, Pelham—Dennis Stanek. Have not heard any additional information.
 - Manna Farms—Karen Mims. Meet each Saturday at 8:30 to work in the garden.
- **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - Helena Market Days plant sale was held on June 6th at Cahaba Lily Park. \$354.00 was raised.
- **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - There was discussion about sharing the public Facebook page. It contains information on becoming a Master Gardener and relevant gardening information for the season. There was a recommendation to create a QR code to provide at public events.
 - Patrick Thompson, curator of the Auburn University Davis Arboretum, has provided information about plants in Alabama that are becoming endangered. There are four(4) native species in peril that have been found in Shelby County—Alabama Sandstone Oak, Georgia Aster, Alabama Azalea, and Sweet Shrub. Kathy Hagood presented information on forming a conservation group that would involve attending training at the Arboretum for propagation and searching in nature to find locations of plants. The group voted to move forward with creating the group. Resource: The Alabama Plant Atlas is a website that provides information on all plants found in the state (<http://floraofalabama.org>)
- **Dates:**
 - June 23—Pollinator Partners of Alabama Certification Training—West Central Region, Tuscaloosa County Courthouse, 8:30 AM-3:00 PM.
 - June 30—Pollinator Partners of Alabama Certification Training—Central Region, Petals from the Past, registration now closed.
 - Next Board meeting is July 1st.
 - August 3—Chelsea Homeschool Coop asked Master Gardeners to return to Yellowleaf Creek Farms and Stables to help them plant pumpkin seeds. The event will be 10:00-11:00 AM.
 - August 3—Lunch & Learn, Caitlyn Barr will talk about Vegetable Gardening
 - September 1—Peach Pepper Jelly, Garden 2 Pantry, Shelby County Extension Office, details to come
 - October 1—Blount County Master Gardeners Fall Conference, "Happiness is the Garden!" Blount County Multipurpose Building, \$40, 4 CEUs will be available.
 - October 8-9—AMGA Fall Seminar, on Oct 8th from 2:00-3:00 PM there will be a visit to the Auburn University Raptor Center. October 9th will be the main event. Registration begins August 1st.
- **Attendance:** There were fourteen members in attendance.
- Meeting adjourned.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Susan Arvin, Secretary



SHELBY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report for June 2026



	AMOUNT
DEPOSITS:	
May Plant Sale—Cheddar Up	\$ 122.00
Lunch & Learn	\$ 60.00
June Plant Sale—Cash	\$ 260.00
June Plant Sale—Cheddar Up	\$ 94.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$ 536.00
CHECKS: (No Activity)	\$ (0.00)
TOTAL CHECKS	\$ (0.00)
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 7,728.12
Deposits	\$ 536.00
Checks	\$ 0.00
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 8,264.12

CARDS SENT BY KAREN MIMS ON BEHALF OF SCMGA DURING JUNE

Help Spread
The Sunshine!



BIRTHDAY:

Karen Jensen

THINKING OF YOU:

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jul 8—12:00—1:00 PM National Resources Webinar Series—Landscaping with Alabama Native Plants
There are many reasons to select for native plants, including beauty, resilience, and ecosystem function. Join us to learn more about how to select native plants for your landscape needs. Register online at <https://aces.edu/Natural-Resources-Webinar-Series-Landscaping-w-Alabama-native-Plants/>
- Jul 10—SCMGA Meeting 10:00 AM
- Jul 18—Petals From the Past 10:30 AM—Apples, Asian Pears & Bunch Grapes walking tour. Join Dr. Arlie Powell as he discusses how to plant and maintain these fruits in your home garden. Tour the growing fields and learn the proper pruning techniques for each fruit. Register for this on Petals' Events page.
- Aug 3—Help Chelsea Homeschool Coop plant pumpkin seeds at Yellowleaf Creek Farms and Stables 10:00-11:00 AM
- Aug 3—Lunch & Learn, Caitlyn Barr will talk about Vegetable Gardening
- Aug 14—SCMGA Meeting 10:00
- Sep 1—Peach Pepper Jelly, Garden 2 Pantry, Shelby County Extension Office, details to come.
- Sep 11—SCMGA Meeting 10:00 AM
- Oct 1—Blount County Master Gardeners Fall Conference, "Happiness is the Garden!" Blount County Multipurpose Building, \$40, 4 CEUs
- Oct 9—SCMGA Meeting 10:00 AM
- Oct 8-9—AMGA Fall Seminar, Oct 8 from 2:00-3:00 PM will be a visit to the Auburn University Raptor Center. Oct 9th will be the main event.
Registration begins August 1st.
- Nov 13—SCMGA Meeting 10:00 AM
- Dec 11—SCMGA Meeting 10:00 AM—Annual Dirty Santa Potluck

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RECIPE: OLD-FASHIONED TOMATO PIE

FROM THE KITCHEN OF: Heidee Vansant, SCMG, Class of 1997

Ingredients:

- 1 pie crust (homemade or store bought)
- 2¼ pounds assorted heirloom tomatoes, thinly sliced
- 1¼ tsp. kosher salt, divided
- 1 sweet onion, chopped
- 1¼ tsp. freshly ground pepper, divided
- 1 Tbls. canola oil
- ½ cup assorted chopped fresh herbs (such as chives, parsley, and basil)
- ½ cup freshly grated Gruyere cheese
- ½ cup freshly grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese
- ¼ cup mayonnaise

Tip: You don't have to use "fancy" cheeses. Just use what you have on hand or buy something like cheddar or Colby-Jack.

Directions:

1. Prebake pie crust and let cool.
2. Place tomatoes in a single layer on paper towels; sprinkle with 1 tsp. salt. Let stand 10 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, sauté onion and ¼ tsp. each salt and pepper in hot oil in a skillet over medium heat 3 minutes or until onion is tender.

4. Pat tomatoes dry with a paper towel. Layer tomatoes, onion, and herbs in prepared crust, seasoning each layer with pepper (1 tsp. total). Stir together cheeses and mayonnaise; spread over pie.
5. Bake at 350°F for 30 minutes or until lightly browned, shielding edges with foil to prevent excessive browning. Serve hot, warm, or at room temperature.



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



JULY BIRTHDAYS

12—Beth Glasgow
21—Barbara Williams
23—Linda McCollugh



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ALABAMA GARDENERS' CALENDAR FOR JULY

FRUITS AND NUTS—Protect figs and other ripening fruit from birds.

SHRUBS—Continue to root shrub cuttings until late in the month and mulch to keep soil moist. Remove faded blooms promptly from crape myrtle and other summer-blooming plants.

LAWNS—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. Mow often (5 to 10 days) to remove just 1/3 the grass height at each mowing. Water lawns as needed (grayish color or curling leaf blades).

ROSES—Keep roses healthy and actively growing. Apply fertilizer. Wash off foliage to prevent burning if any fertilizer falls on plants.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS—Water as needed to keep plants active. Dead head or cut back for later summer blooms.

BULBS—Plant iris and spider lilies late this month.

MISCELLANEOUS—Keeping flowers, shrubs, trees, and lawns healthy is the major task this month. Observe closely for insects and diseases. Water as plants indicate need.

VEGETABLE SEEDS—Whole state: Plant pumpkins for fall harvest. Continue plantings of beans, southern peas, squash, and cucumber. **North:** Plant cabbage, carrots, and cauliflower. Wait until late July to plant beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, collards, and kohlrabi, or start them in flats for transplant later. **South and Central:** Start seeds in flats for August and September transplants, including beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, radishes, and spinach.

VEGETABLE TRANSPLANTS—Whole state: Plant a second season of tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant for fall harvest. **North:** Plant certified seed potatoes for Irish and red-skinned varieties in late July.

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

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