

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

August 2026

Happy August gardeners,

We have a busy August in the association. On August 3rd at 12:00 PM at the Extension Office was our quarterly Lunch & Learn with horticulturalist Katelyn Bahr, speaking on vegetable gardening. Also, on August 3rd at 10:00 AM, several master gardeners met at Yellow Leaf Creek Farms and Stables in Chelsea to assist the Chelsea homeschool co-op with planting pumpkin seeds. Last time we helped, we had 30 kids! On August 6th, we had a potluck for the new intern class at 11:30 AM. As of this writing, we had 21 sign up.

The Owen's house sensory garden grand opening will be on August 14th in Columbiana. This was the 2026 intern project.

On August 19th, at 10:00 AM, the AU Horticulture Conservation Group for Shelby County, made up of SCMGA members, will be headed down to the Davis Arboretum in Auburn to learn about our responsibilities. If you would like to join our group, please let me know.

I hope to see you at our meeting where we will hear all about orchids, from Pam Dyer, Shelby County Master Gardener.

Happy gardening,

Elizabeth



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

This Month's Meeting
Friday, August 14th at 10:00 AM

SCMG Pam Dyer will be speaking on
All About Growing Orchids



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The regular monthly association meeting of the SCMGA was held on Friday, July 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 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:** Kathy Hagood, Shelby County Master Gardener, presented "From Milkweed to Monarchs".
- **MEETING MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT**
 - ◊ The June 2026 meeting minutes were approved as provided in the July 2026 *Gardeners' Gab*.
 - ◊ Treasurers' report from June 2026 was approved as provided in the July 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.
 - ◊ 2025 Master Gardener intern class project
 - ◊ On July 10th Johnnie is meeting contacts to discuss the next steps where MGA can provide assistance.
 - ◊ Owens House has been building out the garden area. MGA will assist in the layout of the garden and help identify what will be planted.
 - Church at Cahaba Bend (Helena) Consult—Elizabeth York
 - ◊ Dolores Davis and Elizabeth York assisted with creating 16 raised beds.
 - ◊ Veggies are 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 AM to work in the garden.
- **OLD BUSINESS:**
- **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - ◊ Volunteer Activities Survey was provided to identify general volunteer activities of the associate. The results will be submitted to Carrie Smith for the MGA.
 - ◊ Seeds—Elizabeth York recommended the association start a seed exchange program to provide seeds to visitors when a booth is set up. A volunteer coordinator will be needed. Information to provide on the seed packet would include name of seeds, source and date collected.
 - ◊ The 2026 Intern class begins on August 6th (21 people are currently signed up). A potluck will be provided by SCMGA after orientation. A signup for food was provided. Jessica is finalizing the classes. A signup sheet will be available to master gardeners who want to assist. The goal is to have 1-2 at each class.
 - ◊ Plant Sale—the Board decided to make the plant sale an annual event in the April/May timeframe to get repeat and consistent buyers. A central location will be identified, perhaps Heardmont Park Pavillion. Association members are requested to pot up seedlings when thinning out so established plants can be provided at the sale. A committee will be organized; Johnnie Brown is interested in being on the committee.
 - ◊ The Great Southeast Pollinator Census is August 21-22. A flyer can be downloaded from [The Great Southeast Pollinator Census – Citizen Science at Work](#) to be shared with contacts. The counting sheet can be downloaded from the same site. SCMGA members are invited to Pam Dyer's home to participate in the count. Her address will be provided by email notification.
 - ◊ Kate Vogel provided information received at the training on pollinators she attended in Tuscaloosa.
 - ◊ The horticulture group will meet with Patrick Thompson at the Davis Arboretum for training. He will select 2 plants on which to focus. The group will meet at 9:15 AM at the Walmart shopping center in Chelsea and ride together. The training will be 11:00 AM-3:00 PM. Pack a lunch. Let Elizabeth York know if you plan to attend.
 - ◊ An ice cream social was enjoyed by the members after the meeting.
- **DATES:**
 - ◊ August 3—Pumpkin seed planting with Chelsea Homeschool Coop at Yellowleaf Creek Farms and Stables from 10:00-11:00. Need 5 volunteers. Carol Beard, Susan Arvin, Kathy Hagood, Marissa Masters have signed up.
 - ◊ August 3—Lunch 'n Learn, Caitlyn Barr to discuss Vegetable Gardening
 - ◊ August 6— 2026 Intern class begins, potluck will be provided by SCMGA
 - ◊ August 14—Next SCMGA meeting
 - ◊ August 19—AU Horticulture Conservation Learning at Davis Arboretum from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM
 - ◊ August 21-22— Great Southeast Pollinator Census
 - ◊ 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. Registration now open \$40, Hayes Jackson and Felder Rushing speakers, 4 CEUs will be available
 - ◊ October 8-9— AMGA Fall Seminar, Oct 8th from 2:00-3:00 will be a visit to the Auburn University Raptor Center. October 9th will be the main event. Registration begins August 1st.
- **ATTENDANCE:** There were 21 members in attendance.
- **MEETING ADJOURNED**

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Susan Arvin, Secretary



SHELBY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report for July 2026

Richard Sturm, Treasurer



	AMOUNT
DEPOSITS:	
No Activity	\$ 0.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$ 0.00
CHECKS:	
1363 Sue Owen— Ice Cream Social	\$ (65.46)
TOTAL CHECKS	\$ (65.46)
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 8,264.12
Deposits	\$ 0.00
Checks	\$ (65.46)
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 8,198.66

CARDS SENT BY KAREN MIMS ON BEHALF OF SCMGA DURING JULY

Help Spread
The Sunshine!



BIRTHDAY:

Pam Crawford
Beth Glasgow
Linda McCullough
Barbara Williams

THINKING OF YOU:

Elizabeth York

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug 13—Petals From the Past 10:30 AM—12:30 PM
Herb Cooking Class with Linda Franzo. Fee \$35.
Advanced registration & payment required. Experience
a Julia Child Tasting Menu. www.petalsfromthepast.com
- Aug 1—**SCMGA Meeting** 10:00 AM
- Aug 21 & 22—Petals from the Past 10 AM - 12 PM
The Great Southeast Pollinator Census
Join us for the count. The Great Southeast Pollinator
Census is a community science project that counts
pollinators to help researchers better understand and
protect them. Fun for the whole family. Pollinator Bingo
& Wildflower Seed Bombs. Register on Petals' Events
page.
- Sep 1—**Peach Pepper Jelly**, Garden-2-Pantry, Shelby County
Extension Office, details to come.
- Sep 11—**SCMGA Meeting** 10:00 AM
- Sep 27—Petals From the Past 2:00 PM **Traditional Southern
Folk Medicine** in the Gardens \$25 Instructor: Darryl
Patton, MA, ND, Master Herbalist, Clinical
Hypnotherapist. Darryl Patton has been hunting,
gathering & working with medicinal plants for the past 42
years on Lookout Mountain in the Southern
Appalachians. Darryl is an ND (Naturopathic Doctor) as
well as a Master Herbalist and brings many years of
experience to the field of alternative medicine. Register
& pay on Petals' Events page.
www.petalsfromthepast.com
- Oct 1—**Blount County Master Gardeners Fall Conference**,
"Happiness is the Garden!" Blount County
Multipurpose Building, \$40, 4 CEUs
- 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.
- Oct 9—**SCMGA Meeting** 10:00 AM
- Oct 11—Petals From the Past 2:00 PM **Fall Is For Gardening**—
Jason Powell. What? When? Jason will discuss his q
favorite plants for fall blooms and planting. Learn why
fall is an optimal season to plant for great success!
Register on Petals' Events page.
www.petalsfromthepast.com
- Nov 13—**SCMGA Meeting** 10:00 AM
- Nov 21—Petals From the Past—**Christmas Open House**
9:00 AM-3:00 PM This is our opportunity to thank those
of you who have shopped with us throughout the
year. There will be food, fellowship, music, and lots of
items on sale.
- Nov 21—Petals From the Past 1:00 PM—3:00 PM **Herbs for the
Holidays!** Goodies and Gifts Instructor: Debbie
Boutelier—Advanced registration is required. Fee: \$40
included in the cost of the class are a booklet with
recipes & instructions and tastings of herbal holiday
treats. You will leave inspired to start the holiday
season! Class will last approximately 2 hours. Register &
pay on Petals' Events page. www.petalsfromthepast.com
- Dec 11—**SCMGA Meeting** 10:00 AM—Annual Dirty Santa Potluck

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RECIPE: Vanilla Wafer Cake

FROM THE KITCHEN OF: Kate Vogel, SCMG Class of 2005

***I saw this on TV on *Simply Southern* and made it three times in two weeks because it was so good!

Ingredients:

1 cup unsalted butter, room temperature
2 cups sugar
1 (11-ounce) package vanilla wafers, crushed
6 eggs, room temperature
½ cup milk
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
2 (6-ounce packages) frozen coconut,
thawed*

2 cups chopped pecans

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 325°F. Grease and flour a 10 to 12 cup Bundt® pan.
2. In a large bowl, use a mixer to cream the butter and sugar together. Add 1 egg at a time, beating well after each addition. Add the crushed vanilla wafers and milk and mix well. Add the coconut, vanilla, and pecans and stir to combine.
3. Spread the batter into the prepared Bundt® pan and bake for about 1 hour or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out mostly clean with a few moist crumbs. Let cool in pan 5–10 minutes before tipping out.

*This recipe specifically calls for using frozen shredded coconut. It's usually found in the freezer section near the frozen fruit. It is less sweet than shelf-stable sweetened coconut flakes and has a very different texture. If you can't find the frozen variety, you can use 1½ to 2 cups of the sweetened coconut flakes and ¼ cup less sugar.



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



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

9—Julie Adams
11— Deb Elliott
17—Susan Arvin
25—Karen Mims
31—Kim Sprouse-Howell



ALABAMA GARDENERS' CALENDAR FOR AUGUST

Fruits and Nuts—Cut out old blackberry canes after fruiting and then fertilize and cultivate for replacement canes. Remember to order new catalogs for fruit selection.

Shrubs—Propagate woody plants, such as hydrangeas and azaleas, by layering. Do not fertilize woody plants in late summer. It will stimulate new growth that might not have time to harden off before winter's first frost.

Lawns—Apply 1 pound nitrogen per 1,000 square feet to Bermuda grass and St. Augustine grass. Skip this month for fertilizing Centipede grass and Zoysia grass. Mow often (every 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). Stop fertilizing warm-season turf types at the end of the month.

Roses—Keep roses healthy and actively growing. Lightly prune hybrid teas and floribundas to prevent a scraggly appearance. Old-fashioned roses will experience second bloom flush, so no need to prune these types.

Annuals and Perennials—Water as needed. Plant perennials and biennials for spring.

Bulbs—Divide old iris plantings and add new ones.

Miscellaneous—Keeping flowers, shrubs, trees, and lawns healthy is the major task during this month. Closely observe for insects and diseases. Water.

Vegetable Seeds—Whole state: Continue planting beans and squash. Central and North: Continue planting cole crops, beets, carrots, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, Swiss chard, parsley, radishes, and turnips.

Vegetable Transplants—South and Central: Plant certified seed potatoes for Irish and red-skinned varieties until mid-month. North: Plant cole crop transplants that were started in July.

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
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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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Lunch & Learn	Martha Jones	205-410-7939	msmatha71@gmail.com
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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

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