

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: <http://www.alabamamga.org>

Alabama MG Program: www.aces.edu/mg

AMG Online Store: <https://www.victorydesigns.com/amg/>

Vol. 19, Issue 9

54 Members

September 2026

Hey Gardeners,

Well we have reached the season of high heat and no rain!!! It makes working in the garden difficult with fewer hours working in our yards, summer vegetable gardens getting pulled and lots of watering to keep plants alive. It does give us time to stay inside and remain cool. It is also a time to enter your volunteer hours and watch some webinars.

The Fall AMGA Seminar in Auburn is October 9th and registration ends September 18th. The Blount County Fall Seminar is on October 1st. More information can be found on the alabamamga.org website. Also please remember the monthly extension update and CE webinar. This requires registration and information can also be found on the AMGA website.

Fall is also our time to collect local and state dues. They are \$25 and due no later than November 30th. There is a \$5 late fee for dues received after November 30th. The Membership form is at the end of this newsletter. Please print it off, fill it out and mail it with your check or come to the meeting and submit it to Treasurer Richard Sturm.

The speaker for our next meeting is Louise Billings, speaking on "A Stumpery Garden".

Happy Gardening,

Elizabeth

**PLEASE DON'T WAIT! MAKE SURE YOU ARE UP TO DATE
ENTERING YOUR VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS.**

www.acesagmg.site/login.php



**This Month's Meeting
Friday, September 11th at 10:00 AM**

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

**Our speaker will be Louise Billings,
Jefferson County Master Gardener,
"Creation of a Stumpery Garden"**

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.



SHELBY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION
14 August 2026—Meeting Minutes



The regular monthly association meeting of the SCMGA was held on Friday, August 14, 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
- ♦ GMGM Ambassador—Linda Clark
- ♦ Board Member at Large—Steve Nadeau

• **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

- **SPEAKER:** Pam Dyer, Shelby County Master Gardener, presented "The Simple Truth About Orchids from the Crazy Orchid Lady".

• **MEETING MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT**

- ♦ The July 2026 meeting minutes were approved as provided in the August 2026 *Gardeners' Gab*.
- ♦ Treasurers' report from July 2026 was approved as provided in the August 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
 - ◊ Teachers and students are out during the summer. Dennis will touch base in the fall to see if they are still interested in proceeding
- ♦ Seed to Table in Montevallo—Kate Vogel
 - ◊ Some of the old beds are being replaced with metal beds.
 - ◊ A Great Southeast Pollinator Count banner will be put up in the garden.
- ♦ Owens House Sensory Garden—Johnnie Brown.
 - ◊ 2025 Master Gardener intern class project
 - ◊ There will be an open house on August 14, 2026 from 1:00 PM— 3:00 PM.
 - ◊ They are dedicating the sensory garden to the service dogs used by the organization.
 - ◊ The garden includes four (4) raised beds as well as interactive equipment for the children
- ♦ Church at Cahaba Bend (Helena) Consult—Elizabeth York—Over 250 lbs. of produce have been collected and donated to Oak Mountain ministries.
- ♦ ARC of Shelby County, Pelham—Dennis Stanek. Has not heard any additional information.
- ♦ Manna Farms—Karen Mims. Work in the garden has started winding down for fall
- ♦ AU Conservation Horticulture Project—Kathy Hagood. The horticulture group will meet with Patrick Thompson at Davis Arboretum for training on August 19th.

• **OLD BUSINESS:**

• **NEW BUSINESS:**

- ♦ The 2026 Intern Class orientation was held August 6, 2026 at the Extension Office auditorium. 19 interns attended. A potluck sponsored by the SCMGA followed.
- ♦ On August 14, 2026 the Owens House had an open house from 1:00-3:00 PM for the sensory garden. This was the 2025 Intern Class project.
- ♦ On August 19, 2026 the horticulture group will meet with Patrick Thompson at the Davis Arboretum for training. He will select 2 endangered 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.
- ♦ 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. There will be a pollinator census on Friday, August 21 at 10:00 AM at Pam Dyer's house located on 334 Dogwood Trail, Alabaster, AL 35007. Her number is 205-520-4067.
- ♦ The next Lunch & Learn will be November 2, 2026. Elizabeth York will present on "Sowing Seeds in Milk Jugs"
- ♦ A QR code for the public Shelby County Master Gardener Association FaceBook page was shared. It will be displayed at all future community events.
- ♦ The SCMGA Board recommended a \$200 donation to the Auburn Endowment Fund. All members present at the SCMGA meeting voted in favor of making the donation.
- ♦ The 2026 MG Interns will start a seed library as part of their intern project. The Association will need to bring in seeds for packaging and labeling. A committee of 3 will be needed to maintain the library once it is completed.

• **DATES:**

- ♦ August 19—AU Horticulture Conservation Learning at Davis Arboretum from 11:00am—3:00pm
- ♦ August 21-22—Great Southeast Pollinator Census
- ♦ August 31—Remember to log in all your pounds for Grow More, Give More
- ♦ September 1—Peach Pepper Jelly Garden 2 Pantry, Shelby County Extension Office, details to come
- ♦ September 2—SCMGA Board meeting, Pam Dyer to lead
- ♦ September 11—Shelby County Master Gardener Association meeting
- ♦ 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 8 from 2:00-3:00 PM will be a visit to the Auburn University Raptor Center. October 9th will be the main event. Registration begins August 1.
- ♦ November 2—Lunch & Learn, Elizabeth York will present "Sowing Seeds in Milk Jugs"

• **ATTENDANCE**— there were 23 members in attendance

• Meeting adjourned

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Susan Arvin, Secretary

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.



SHELBY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report for August 2026

Richard Sturm, Treasurer



	AMOUNTS:
DEPOSITS:	
No Activity	\$ 0.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$ 0.00
CHECKS:	
1364 Johnnie Brown—Owens House Project	\$ (88.47)
TOTAL CHECKS	\$ (88.47)
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 8,198.66
Deposits	\$ 0.00
Checks	\$ (88.47)
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 8,110.19

CARDS SENT BY KAREN MIMS ON BEHALF OF SCMGA DURING AUGUST

Help Spread
The Sunshine!



BIRTHDAY:

Julie Adams
Susan Arvin
Deb Elliott
Kim Sprouse-Howell

THINKING OF YOU:

Margaret Copeland
Martha Jones

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sep 5—Aldridge Gardens 10:00-11:30 AM—**Nature Journaling Class**—Amy Sides will teach you how to find nature's artistic inspiration in the gardens, in the city, or wherever you may be. Amy will provide pencils, paper, & colored pencils. This series of classes is free & will be held on the following days: [September 5 and 9](#), [October 3 and 7](#), [November 7 and 11](#), [December 5 and 9](#). These classes are free, but you will need to reserve your spot by using the "register now" button at the top of the page for each class. You can click within the list above to link to the event calendar for each month. The number of reservations is limited.
- Sep 11—**SCMGA Meeting** 10:00 AM
- Sep 12—8:00 AM-3:00 PM—Petals From the Past will host the **Dixie African Violet Society Show**. "Children's Stories" (Design Theme) The event will be open to the public from 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM.
- Sep 23—9:00 AM—**Volunteer Garden Workday**—Aldridge Gardens Field Trip Garden. We will be hosting a weekly garden workday on Wednesdays, from Sept. 23rd through November 11th. Volunteers are welcome to drop in on those days, as we have plenty of garden work available. Please contact Katy Houston at katy.houston@hooveralabama.gov or (205)739-6555 to let her know if you will be joining her to work on one of those days.
- 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 and pay [HERE](#)
- Oct 1—**Blount County Master Gardeners' Fall Conference**—"Happiness is the Garden!" Blount County Multipurpose Building, 6700 County Road 1, Cleveland, AL \$40, 4 CEU www.alabamamga.org
- Oct 8-9—**AMGA Fall Seminar**, Oct 8th from 2:00-3:00 PM will be a visit to the Auburn University Raptor Center to meet some game day superstars! You'll get a sneak peek at new Transformation Garden projects like the Children's Garden and Vineyards—plus a chance to win exciting prizes! Registration opens August 1. www.alabamamga.org
- 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 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

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

RECIPE: Sweet Peach Scones

FROM THE KITCHEN OF: Scott's Orchard via Sweet Grown Alabama Magazine



Ingredients:

For the scones:

- 2 cups flour
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1/4 tsp. baking soda
- 1 stick of cold or frozen Sweet Grown Alabama butter
- 1 Sweet Grown Alabama egg
- 1/2 cup of sour cream or Greek yogurt
- 1 Sweet Grown Alabama sliced peach

For the icing:

- 1 cup of powdered sugar
- Peach juice (add till it reaches preferred consistency)

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 400°F.
2. Combine all dry products in food processor, and then add cold butter until you have a rough crumble. Directly follow by adding your peeled peach.
3. Combine sour cream (or Greek yogurt) with your egg in a separate bowl, and then add to the mixture and pulse until you have a consistent dough.
4. Generously pat dough out on a pre-floured smooth surface and cut into triangles. Follow by placing your cut-out dough on parchment paper and let it bake for 12-15 minutes.
5. For icing, add extra peach juice to the sugar and mix well. Drizzle icing onto scones as generously as you wish and enjoy!



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



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3—Kathy Hagood
4—Marissa Masters
11—Wayne Gainey
19—Martha Jones
24—Elizabeth York



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

ALABAMA GARDENERS CALENDAR For SEPTEMBER

Fruits & Nuts—New catalogs will be arriving soon. Start plans for future selection and plantings. Take soil test for new planting areas. Fertilize established strawberry plantings.

Shrubs—Study landscape to determine plant needs. Check early camellia varieties for damage caused by insects and disease. Replace landscape plants as needed that have severe damage caused by insects, disease or freezes. After fall growth is completed, spray all shrubs with a fungicide.

Lawns—Mow often (5 to 10 days) to remove just 1/3 the grass height at each mowing. If daytime temperatures are consistently cooler than 80° F, apply the ant bait. Read the label carefully for best control. If winter or spring weeds were a concern this year, apply preemergent herbicides. Reseed tall fescue lawns and fertilize at 1 pound slow-release nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.

Roses—Protect fall crops of blossoms from aphids and thrips. Keeps plants healthy.

Annuals & Perennials—Plant perennials and biennials. This is the last planting time for these. Divide old clumps of perennials. Plant peonies.

Bulbs—Plant spring flowering bulbs late this month in north Alabama. Delay planting in south Alabama.

Miscellaneous—Clean up infestations of insects on azaleas, camellias, boxwoods, gardenias, hollies, etc. If oil spray is needed, don't use in freezing weather. Build a compost bin or box, leaves will be falling soon. Monitor house plants for insects and diseases before moving them indoors. Treat as needed to prevent carrying unwanted pest inside.

Vegetable Seeds—**South:** Plant beets, carrots, Brussels sprouts, collars, kale, lettuce, mustard, onion sets, parsley, radishes, spinach, Swiss chard and onion seed. **Central & North:** Continue planting carrots, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, onion seeds, parsley, radishes, spinach, Swiss chard, and turnips.

Vegetable Transplants—**Whole State:** Continue planting cole crops, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, and spinach transplants, and onion sets. **South:** Plant celery transplants.

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
Advisory Council Rep	Kate Vogel	205-665-5878	kvogelashfield@aol.com
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
Communications (<i>Facebook</i>)	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.
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	msmatha71@gmail.com
Nominating Committee 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

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

**ALABAMA MASTER GARDENER 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, 2027. 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, 2026.**

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)

	Local Dues	State Dues
☐ Active Member	\$15.00	\$10.00
☐ Provisional Member (Interns)	No fee	No fee
☐ Lifetime Member	\$225.00	\$150.00
☐ Associate Member (Extension Employee)	No fee	No fee
☐ Honorary Member	No fee	No fee
☐ Past Due Fee	\$5.00	

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO SCMGA AND MAIL TO:

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