

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/>

Vol. 19, Issue 10

54 Members

October 2026

Hello Gardeners,

Well, it's October and the drought is still ongoing and this heat is brutal. Hopefully, the cooler temperatures will start soon, then we can get back to our own garden upkeep.

October is a busy month. We have membership renewal, due no later than November 30th. Please fill out the form attached to this newsletter. State dues are \$10 and Association dues are \$15 so a total of \$25. Mail to Richard's address on the form or come to the meeting and join us.

The Intern class is currently ongoing, and we have a great group. They are working on a seed bank, so if you have extra seeds to donate, bring them to the meeting or drop off at the MG office at the Extension office.

We need volunteers to help with changing out the flowers at the Extension office. Please reach out to Sue Owen (205)580-9555 and offer your help.

Remember the AMGA Fall Conference in Auburn October 9th. AMGA Spring Conference will open hotel links in October and Registration will open in January 2027. Hope to see you at the meeting!!

Elizabeth

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

www.acesagmg.site/login.php



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

This Month's Meeting Friday, October 9th at 10:00 AM

Our Speaker will be Cameron Strouss, Clinical/Functional Herbalist, Registered Herbalist with the American Herbalist Guild, Certified Aromatherapist, Master Gardener, medicine maker extraordinaire, forager of 14 years and clinician of 9 years. Her topic will be "Weeds and Invasives as Medicine".

<https://deeprootsherbschool.com>



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SHELBY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION 11 September 2026—Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly association meeting of the SCMGA was held on Friday, 11 September 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**
- **SPEAKERS:** Louise Billings and Greg Smith, Birmingham Fern Society, presented "Living Roots—A Stumpery Garden"
- **MEETING MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT**
 - ◆ The July 2026 meeting minutes were approved as provided in the August 2026 *Gardeners' Gab*.
 - ◆ Treasurer's 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.
 - ◆ Owens House Sensory Garden—Johnnie Brown.
 - ◇ 2025 Master Gardener intern class project
 - ◆ 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 met with Patrick Thompson at Davis Arboretum for training on August 19th.
- **OLD BUSINESS:**
- **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - ◆ Martha Jones is stepping away from LUNCH~N~LEARN coordination. Need to find someone to coordinate. Marissa Masters volunteered to attend and facilitate the meetings. Kathy Hagood will help find speakers.
 - ◆ The next LUNCH~N~LEARN will be November 2, 2026. Elizabeth York will present "Sowing Seeds in Milk Jugs". Association members were requested to collect and bring plastic jugs for the event.
 - ◆ The deadline to upload Pollinator Census count information is September 14th.
 - ◆ The 2026 MG Interns have started a seed library as part of their intern project. The Association will need to bring in seeds for packaging and labeling. Marilyn Oliver and Penny Swindle are coordinating the effort on behalf of the Interns. They provided an update on progress made to this point, including contacting merchants to donate commercial packets, scheduling seed packing events, researching an appropriate container for storage, creating a master spreadsheet to turn over to MGA, and researching national donation opportunities. A committee of 3 will be needed to maintain the library once it is completed—Richard Sturm, Beth Glasgow, and Sue Owens volunteered.
 - ◆ Marisa Masters and Trish Williams volunteered to attend the September 17th Intern lab at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.
 - ◆ A QR code for the public Shelby County Master Gardener Association Facebook page was shared. It will be displayed at all future community events.
 - ◆ Sue Owen shared that a discussion needs to be conducted about the plants in the containers at the Extension Office. New ideas are needed for what will thrive in these areas.
 - ◆ Owens House had the open house for Fritz Garden on August 14th.
 - ◆ Annual SCMGA dues should be submitted by November 30, 2026, after which a \$5 late fee will be applied. A membership form was provided by Richard Sturm. The fee and form can be mailed to Richard or brought to the October or November meetings.
- **DATES:**
 - ◆ September 21, September 26, September 28—Pelham Garden Club will have invasive plant cleanup days at the Pelham City Park from 8:00-12:00. Volunteers should meet at the dog park parking lot. Wear long pants and long sleeves. Bring pruners, loppers, etc. Herbicide will be provided by Dennis Stanek.
 - ◆ September 30—next SCMGA Board 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 8th 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 1st.
 - ◆ October 9—next SCMGA meeting
 - ◆ November 2—LUNCH~N~LEARN, Elizabeth York will present "Sowing Seeds in Milk Jugs"
 - ◆ April 7-9, 2027—AMGA Conference in Homewood, AL. Registration will open in October and close in March; the fee is \$200.
- **ATTENDANCE**—there were 25 members in attendance
- Meeting adjourned

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Susan Arvin, Secretary



SHELBY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

Treasurer's Report for September 2026

Richard Sturm, Treasurer



	AMOUNTS:
DEPOSITS:	
Dues	\$ 215.00
Lunch & Learn	\$ 45.00
Dues	\$ 25.00
Void Check #1354 (David Langsdale)	\$ 10.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$ 295.00
CHECKS:	
1297 Aces Home Horticulture (tablecloth)	\$ (150.00)
1365 David Langsdale (Reissue check for lost check #1354)	\$ (10.00)
TOTAL CHECKS	\$ (160.00)
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 8,198.66
Deposits	\$ 295.00
Checks	\$ (160.00)
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 8,110.19

CARDS SENT BY KAREN MIMS ON BEHALF OF SCMGA DURING SEPTEMBER

Help Spread
The Sunshine!



BIRTHDAY:

Wayne Gainey
Kathy Hagood
Martha Jones
Marissa Masters
Elizabeth York
Kate Vogel

THINKING OF YOU:

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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 & Vineyards—plus a chance to win exciting prizes! Registration opens August 1st. www.alabamamga.org
- Oct 9—**SCMGA Meeting** 10:00 AM
- Oct 10—**Lee County MG Native Azalea Sale**—8 AM-12 PM Groome Parking Lot, Auburn at the southwest corner of E. Glenn Ave and E. University Dr. They will have one gallon (\$15) and 3 gallon (\$30) pots for sale. *Credit only. No cash or checks accepted.*
- Oct 11—**Fall Is For Gardening**—2:00 PM-Petals From the Past-Jason Powell. What? When? Jason will discuss his favorite plants for fall blooms & planting. Learn why fall is an optimal season to plant for great success! Register on Petals' Events page: www.petalsfromthepast.com
- Oct 14—**Volunteer Garden Work Day**—9:00 AM-3:00 PM, Aldridge Gardens-The Field Trip Garden. Calling all volunteers to help get our Field Trip Garden ready for students to learn this fall! Wednesdays, at 9 AM thru Nov 11th. Contact Katy Houston at katy.houston@hooveralabama.gov to let her know if you will be joining her to work on one of those days.
- Oct 18—**From Plant to Medicine with a Focus on Colds & Flu (workshop)**—2:00-4:00 PM-Petals From the Past. Join Debbie Boutelier, Community Herbalist & Master Gardener, as we discover ways to make your current herb garden provide not only aesthetic and culinary benefits, but medicinal benefits as well. Also, in this workshop, we will cover in-depth how to make an herbal tea, a decoction, a tincture, an herbal salve and a fire cider. The participant will also get a popular herbal remedy to take home as well as handouts explaining all of the procedures covered. \$35—register and pay [HERE](#)
- Oct 22—**Fall Harvest Dinner**-Petals From the Past 10:30 AM-12:30 PM Let's start this event with a Glistening Bright Cherry Ricottapone spread. Perfect for all your holiday events or just for a healthy snack. Linda will tempt you with cozy Chicken Marsala, a creamy, cheesy Mashed Potato pie, a Wine poached Pear salad & dessert, of course! You will be ready for holiday entertaining! \$35—Register and pay [HERE](#)
- Nov 2—**LUNCH~N~LEARN**, Elizabeth York will present "Sowing Seeds in Milk Jugs"
- Nov 13—**SCMGA Meeting** 10:00 AM
- Nov 21—**Christmas Open House**—Petals From the Past—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—**Herbs for the Holidays!** Petals From the Past 1:00—3:00 PM Goodies & Gifts. Instructor: Debbie Boutelier—Advanced registration is required. Fee: \$40. Included in the cost of the class are a booklet with recipes and 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 Gift Swap and Potluck Lunch
- Apr 7-9, 2027—**Save the Date** for the 2027 Annual State Conference! Registration will open in October and close in March; the fee is \$200.

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

RECIPE: Cranberry Orange Mini Loaves
FROM THE KITCHEN OF: Pam Dyer, SCMG (Class of 2024)

Soft, moist Cranberry Orange Bread is perfect for that Fall or Winter breakfast or brunch! So delicious!

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Total Time: 10 minutes

Servings: 8 mini loaves

Calories: 515 kcal

Equipment: 1 Mini Loaf Pan

Ingredients:

- 4 cups all purpose flour
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1¼ cups granulated sugar
- 4 medium eggs room temperature and beaten
- 1¼ cups fresh orange juice
- 2 Tablespoons orange zest
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- ½ cup butter, melted
- 2 cups fresh or frozen cranberries, chopped

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350° F.
2. In a large bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and sugar.

3. In another bowl, beat the eggs. Add the orange juice, orange zest, vanilla and butter. Whisk until well combined.
4. Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients. Blend until smooth.
5. Fold in the cranberries and if you would like, you can also add nuts in this step.
6. Grease a mini loaf pan or a full size loaf pan with cooking spray. Scoop batter into the loaf pans filling about 2/3 full.
7. For mini loaves: Bake at 350° F for about 20-25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. For a full loaf: Bake at 350° F for about 60-70 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.
8. Remove from oven, allow to cool in pan for 10 minutes and then remove to wire cooling rack.
9. Serve with butter, icing or honey.

Master Gardeners, Please send your recipes to our association's email inbox: scmga.email@gmail.com



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



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

17—Dolores Davis
26—Michael Johnson



ALABAMA GARDENERS' CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

Fruits and Nuts: Planting season for strawberries starts in south Alabama. Clean up orchard area. Remove broken limbs, old fruit, and debris from orchard floor.

Shrubs: Plant new trees and shrubs in the landscape. Water when needed. Note varieties of camellias and other landscape plants in bloom. Start mulching all shrubs that do not have a mulch.

Lawns: Perform a soil test to determine if limestone is recommended and apply anytime this fall. If winter or spring weeds were a concern this year, apply preemergent herbicides. Fertilize fescue lawns at 1 pound slow-release nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. As fall rain returns, monitor for fungal disease in fescue.

Roses: Continue insect and disease control practices. New rose catalogs will be coming in. Study closely; add some new varieties to your list.

Annuals and Perennials: Visit flower shows and gardens. List desirable varieties of mums. Clean up flower beds immediately after first killing frost. Plant half-hardy annuals, such as snapdragons.

Bulbs: Plant tulip, hyacinth, daffodil, crocus, Dutch iris, anemone, and ranunculus. Watch planting depth. Dig caladiums; clean and store in a warm place.

Miscellaneous: Renew mulch around shrubs and rose beds. Loosen mulches that have packed down. Spray with oils before freezing weather to kill scale, mites, etc. Remove all dead stems and trash from flower beds. Transplant into small pots any cuttings taken earlier.

Vegetable Seeds: **South**—This is the last fall month to plant the winter garden. Plant carrots, collards, kale, mustard, onion seeds, radishes, spinach, and turnips. Plant Swiss chard in early October. **Central and South**—Continue planting winter-hardy crops such as beets, carrots, collards, kale, parsley, and spinach. **North**—Plant onion seeds and radishes in early October.

Vegetable Transplants: **Whole state**—Continue planting winter-hardy transplants. Soil test garden soil and apply limestone as recommended anytime this fall.

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	mismatha71@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

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**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**