

Volunteer Project Feature: Endeavor Classroom

“Two years ago, I was contacted by April Waltz, the director of the Alabama Wildlife Federation’s Outdoor Classroom (OC) program. She wanted to know if I’d be interested in helping some teachers at Endeavor Elementary reinvigorate their OC. It had been neglected for several years, after the founders’ children had moved on to middle school. Add to this, Endeavor just happens to be in my figurative backyard, and I’m convinced that we need to reach kids at the elementary school level, my answer was a resounding, “YES!”



At that time, there were five raised beds with nothing but weed breeders, a few trees, and a single makeshift bed at the side entrance containing two struggling Loropetalums and an array of more weeds plus an overgrown butterfly bush. Weeds and crabgrass had taken over every square inch of the space, including the shaded pergola area and surrounding the fishpond.

It was an almost overwhelming challenge, but the teachers were engaged and energetic and the potential was definitely there. We spent that first summer just ridding the space of all the weeds that had taken over during the period of neglect. From June of 2014 through the end of that summer, we had most of it under control, and a number of classes enjoyed the space when they returned in August and through the winter.

{ Garden Spotlight }

Learn more about your fellow Master Gardeners around the state!

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{ Volunteer Opp's }

Check out the many opportunities to volunteer across Alabama!

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{ Calendar! }

Spread the word about upcoming events like Lunch & Learn.

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Endeavor Classroom Continued:

“The spring of 2015 saw the start of planning new OC elements, including a Sunflower and a Pollinator Garden. We also planted new trees outside the main entrance, and cleared the area outside the 5th grade entrance to plant oakleaf hydrangeas donated by Huntsville’s Operation Green Team.

Then we set our sites on a few new ideas. We decided to clear the weed-infested berm behind the koi pond to prepare it for planting in 2016 as a Monarch Butterfly Habitat. This would allow us to officially participate in the Million Pollinator Challenge. We accomplished all of our 2015 goals and then some! The school is now revamping its curriculum and teaching model to include dedicated science teachers, a new focus on critical thinking and taking science outdoors, which includes two new-hire teachers and a combined nature and garden club.

“We feel reaching kids at the elementary school level is critical to creating future gardeners, farmers, and pollinator ambassadors.”

Sue Khoury, MG’s of North Alabama



Russell Co. MG Clean Up at Phenix City Library



Master Gardener, Nancy Stainsby, helps at the Phenix City-Russell Co Library Cleanup.

On October 13, 2016, the Russell County Master Gardener Volunteers held a fall spruce-up for the Phenix City Russell County Library. With the help of the Phenix City Parks and Recreation landscape crew, the volunteers provided a much needed litter pick up, put out pine straw and held an impromptu tree pruning lesson for the Landscape crew. The Master Gardener Volunteers have been assisting with the maintenance of the library beds for a number of years in thanks for use of library space for meetings. We are lucky to have a dedicated group in Phenix City-Russell Co!

Volunteering Across Alabama

Autauga County Master Gardeners

Demonstration Garden Workdays

When: Every Tues. and Thurs. at 8:00 AM
Governor's Mansion Workdays every Monday

Claybank Master Gardeners

Dale County Lake Walking Trail

Contact Carole Ball at (334) 774-5353

Ozark First United Methodist Church Meditation Garden

Contact Jan Lisenby at (334) 774-6998

The Ozark-Dale County Public Library

Contact Carole Ball at (334) 774-5353

Calhoun County Master Gardeners

Cane Creek Gardens

When: every Tuesday morning
 Where: Anniston, AL

Chilton County Master Gardeners

Demonstration Garden

When: Mondays and Thursdays at 9:00AM
 Where: Chilton Research and Extension
 Center (CREC)

Pruning Days

When: Mondays and Thursdays at 8:00AM
 Where: CREC

Craft Days

Contact Sondra Henley at (205) 567-3333

Lee County Master Gardeners

Kiesel Park Demonstration Garden

When: Most Tuesday mornings at 7:30 am
 Contact Charlot Ritenbaugh (334) 750-1984

Caroline Dean Wildflower Trail

When: 8:00 – 10:00 AM, 2nd & 4th Tuesdays
 Where: Municipal Park; Opelika, AL
 Contact: Spencer Roy, 334-744-0769

Grandma's Garden

When: 8:00 am Thursdays Where: Lee
 County Historical Society, Pioneer Park,
 Loachapoka, AL Contact: Deborah McCord,
 334-821-1301

Tuscaloosa County Master Gardeners

Eagles' Wings

When: Wednesday mornings
 Where: Coker, AL

Hospice of West Alabama

When: Wednesday mornings
 Where: Tuscaloosa, AL
 Contact Judith Rives, jjarives@gmail.com

Shoals Master Gardeners

Florence Community Gardens

When: Call the office; Volunteers are needed

Wiregrass Master Gardeners

Dothan Area Botanical Garden

When: Mondays, 8:00 AM
 What: Maintain demonstration beds

Helpline Reminder!

Please volunteer to work the Helpline this spring in one of the following counties.

Autauga	Etowah	Madison
Baldwin	Jefferson	Mobile
Chilton	Lauderdale	Montgomery
Elmore	Lee	



Find us on
Facebook


Alabama Master Gardener Helpline

Mark Your Calendar!

Join and promote the following events

November Lunch & Learn:

Lunch & Learn occurs once a month, shares a new topic every event, and takes place from 12:00—1:00 p.m. Drinks are provided, but tell friends to bring a sack lunch. L&L is a cooperative effort between Extension Agents and several hard working crews of Master Gardeners.

<p>1</p>	<p>Houston County: Topic: Holiday Decorating Where: Houston-Love Memorial Library</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>Cherokee County: Topic: TBA Where: Cherokee Co. Public Library</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Montgomery County: Topic: Care and Selection of Garden Tools Where: Armory Learning Arts Center</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>Mobile County: Topic: Longleaf Pine, A Southern History Where: Jon Archer Ag Center</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Autauga County: Topic: Winterizing your Garden Where: Christ Lutheran Church</p>		
<p>8</p>	<p>Elmore County: Topic: Hydroponics Where: Elmore Co. Extension Office</p>		
<p>9</p>	<p>Morgan County: Topic: Beekeeping Basics Where: Aquadome, Decatur</p>		
<p>15</p>	<p>St. Clair County: Topic: Decorating with Natural Materials Where: Purser-Ray Hall, Odenville</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>Mobile County: Christmas Décor, Carl Clark from Southern Veranda (10:00-12:00)</p>

Have a cool story or project you'd like to share? We'd love to hear what your MG association is doing in your community. Contact us so we can learn more and publish it in an upcoming *Volunteer Opp's!*

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