

Volunteer Opp's Bulletin

Chilton County Master Gardeners Harvest a Bounty

You might remember that the Chilton County Master Gardeners had a summer surprise in the new shrub bed at the Extensions office. Their compost brought an unexpected bounty of spaghetti squash, tomatoes, and ornamental gourds. So as the old saying goes, "When life gives you lemons...." (or in this case, vegetables).... you can't let them go to waste! The tomatoes and squash were shared with the Extensions Office employees and the ornamental gourds are being saved for their fall fundraiser. Once everything was harvested, the shrub bed received a little TLC with irrigation installation.



In addition to this excitement, the Chilton County MGs stayed busy with work in their demo garden and helping out with a couple of 4H events - Sewing Camp and 4H Chick Chain. At least some of us stayed cool while volunteering.



[Activity Spotlights]

Learn about your MG neighbor activities around the state.

1-3

[Pest Updates]

News from the AU Diagnostic Lab

4

[Calendar and More!]

Support and promote upcoming events like Lunch & Learn, and other public programs.

5-7

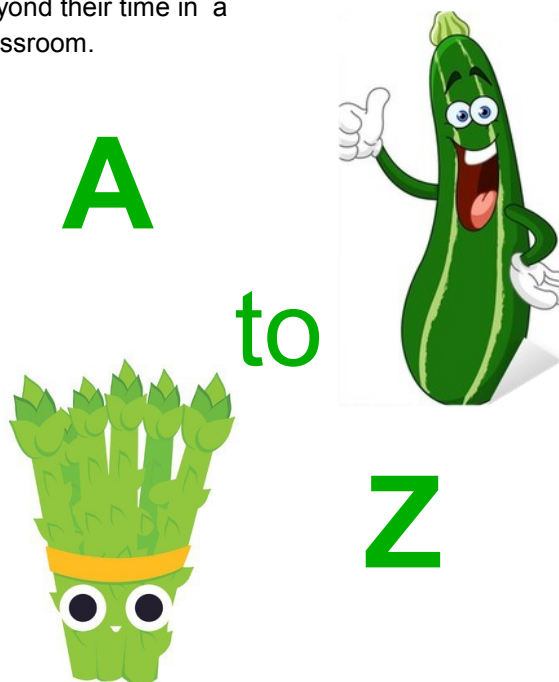
Activity Spotlights

Autauga County MGs Kick Off A New Year at Marbury Middle School

With the help of the Autauga County MGA, students at Marbury Middle School are learning science through hands-on gardening. In the May 2018 issue of Volunteer Opp's, we saw where they started helping Ms. Spring Brunner's middle school students, ranging from 6th grade to 8th grade. They cultivated a teaching garden, taught the students lessons on summer veggies, as well as shared recipes for the students to try.

School is back in session now, and the Master Gardeners are back in school too, continuing to instill an interest in gardening. For their first class, Glenn Huovinen taught the class a lesson on "A to Z Garden Veggies" while other MGs (Debbie Boutelier, Rita Nichols, Ofie McCoy, and Tim McCoy) engaged the students in conversations about gardening and answered any questions the students had.

Throughout the school year the MGs will return to teach additional lessons, with Debbie Boutelier teaching about Pizza Gardens and Rita Nichols teaching about flowers, and more. It's great to see students learning science through hands-on learning in the form of gardening. These lessons will stick with them far beyond their time in a classroom.



Central Alabama MGs - Fall and Winter in the Learning Garden

About 12 years ago, the Central Alabama Master Gardeners Association (CAMGA) initiated an effort to create an outdoor laboratory. We call it the Learning Garden. We hope it illustrates ideas of interest to the typical homeowner. There are ornamental shrub plantings, a Water Garden at home in any backyard, a Shade Garden, a sunny Butterfly Garden, Herb beds, a Rain Garden, Raised Beds and more. Each year we test at least one new idea like straw bale gardening, growing veggies on vertical elements, etc.

When things cool down this fall and winter, we have a few new projects. Better signage will help visitors identify gardening concepts and plants that appeal to them; ideas they can take home. We're creating a bigger sitting area at our water feature so groups can sit in the cool shade and enjoy the sound of water. That'll involve head scratching, landscape paint, relocating plants, and installing more flagstone. We're reworking our rain garden that provides drainage away from one of our buildings. Over time, plants have gotten out of hand and the garden needs refreshing. We plan to add a demonstration of trellised blackberries, an element currently missing from our gardens. These projects along with planting winter veggies and keeping the weeds at bay should keep us busy through the end of 2018.

Activity Spotlight

Master Gardeners Train to Share Their Passion for Gardening With Cancer Survivors

In select counties across the state, Master Gardeners have volunteered to be Mentors in a program called Harvest For Health — a UAB study to measure the positive effects gardening can have in the overall well-being of cancer survivors. Pilot Studies showed that having a home garden resulted in survivors eating more vegetables, having improved strength and flexibility, and more motivation to exercise daily. Master Gardeners who wish to volunteer for this program: promise to a one-year commitment, are trained by Extension for this commitment, are paired with a survivor as their mentor, make monthly visits to the cancer survivor's home to help them cultivate their gardens, as well as call them between visits to check up and share gardening tips. Harvest for Health is an excellent opportunity for Master Gardeners to make a difference in the lives of others, simply by doing something they love — gardening!

Master Gardeners are currently being recruited as mentors in the Harvest for Health program for next spring. We'll be in the Jefferson County area, as well as multiple areas across North Alabama. For more information or to volunteer, please email hforh@auburn.edu.

Pictured: Master Gardeners from Dale County at a Meet & Greet event in August, and an example of a home garden sent in by a current participant



Late Summer and Early Fall Problems

The “not too hot but not too cold” weather, of the late summer and early fall months, can be ideal conditions for certain pest and disease problems. Here are a few recently reported by the AU Diagnostic Lab — be on the watch for them this time of year...

Nematode damage

The best time to test for nematodes is August through October when populations are highest. Planning ahead is the only way to stay on top of this pest! Symptoms of nematode damage varies and can be confused with other common plant problems. Soil tests can be mailed to the Plant Diagnostic Lab at Auburn University for a \$10 service charge. Check out this ACES publication on sampling (<http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0114/index2.tmp>), or contact your local Extensions office for more information.

Pictured above: forking in carrots caused by nematode damage



Fusarium Wilt

Fusarium wilt is a disease caused by *Fusarium* fungi in the soil. It affects a wide range of plant species, including most vegetables and cucurbits. The fungus enters the plant's vascular tissue, leading to a reduction in water uptake and movement which causes the plant to wilt. Preventative measures include selecting resistant varieties, using certified disease-free seeds, and using a fertile, well-drained soil. Photo: watermelon w/ Fusarium wilt



Downy Mildew

Downy Mildew is a disease having angular yellow patches on the surface of the leaves and cotton-like fungi on the underside of the leaf. Photo: downy mildew on pumpkin foliage



Bacterial Leaf Scorch

Bacterial Leaf Scorch affects ornamental and fruit trees. The foliage on infected plants begins to turn brown along the outer edges, giving the leaf a “scorched” appearance. After the leaves turn brown, they hang onto the tree rather than falling off like normal dead foliage. Photo: bacterial leaf scorch on red oak leaves; Travis Cleveland



Volunteering Across Alabama

Autauga County Master Gardeners

Demonstration Garden Workdays

When: Every Tuesday & Thursday, 8:00 a.m.

Governor's Mansion Workdays

When: Every Monday

Capital City Master Gardeners

Lilly's Garden

When: 1st Thursdays, 8:45 a.m.

Where: Forest Avenue School

Contact: Ann Oldham, 334-318-9762

Claybank Master Gardeners

Dale County Lake Walking Trail

Contact Carole Ball at (334) 774-5353

Ozark First UMC 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 at Extension Center

When: Monday and Thursdays, 8 a.m.

Where: Chilton Research and Extension Center (CREC)

Contact: Sondra Henley

Lee County Master Gardeners

Kiesel Park Demonstration Garden

When: September 11 & 25, 7:30 am

Contacts: Jimmy Petrey 334 821-6412; Charlot Ritenbaugh 334-750-1984

Caroline Dean Wildflower Trail

When: Call Billie for workdays; 8:00 am

Where: Municipal Park; Opelika, AL

Contact: call to be sure of work dates, Billie Oliver, billieoliver@gmail.com , or text, 334-749-2679

Grandma's Garden

When: September 6th, 8:00 am

Where: Pioneer Park, Loachapoka, AL

Contact: Kathy Hayward, bryaub@hotmail.com

Kreher Preserve & Nature Center, Butterfly Garden

When: Thursday mornings at 8:00 , weather permitting

Contact: Margaret Holler, (334) 740-8548

2017 MG Annual Activity Report!

<https://bit.ly/2J99Zlp>

Helpline Reminder!

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

Autauga Elmore Lee Montgomery
Jefferson Chilton Etowah Madison
Lauderdale Baldwin Mobile



Find us on
Facebook

Alabama Master Gardener Helpline

Volunteering Across Alabama

Morgan County Master Gardeners

Pond Spring, General Joe Wheeler Home

When: 1st Thursday of the month
Where: 12280 AL Hwy 20, Hillsboro, AL, 35643.
Volunteers meet at Pond Spring.
Contact: Sabrina Green, mskmgreen@msn.com

Hospice of the Valley Memory Garden

When: Weeding, planting, and maintaining occurs when needed.
Contact: Nancy Shannon, swampboss7@aol.com

Morgan County – Decatur Farmers Market

What: Volunteers are needed for the *Ask a Master Gardener Booth* at each special event at the market.
Contact: Judith Looney, judyjill@bellsouth.net

Shoals Master Gardeners

Florence Community Gardens

When: Call the office; Volunteers are needed

Tuscaloosa County Master Gardeners

Eagles' Wings

When: Wednesday mornings
Where: Coker, AL,

Hospice of West Alabama

When: Wednesday mornings
Where: Tuscaloosa, AL

Wiregrass Master Gardeners

Dothan Area Botanical Garden

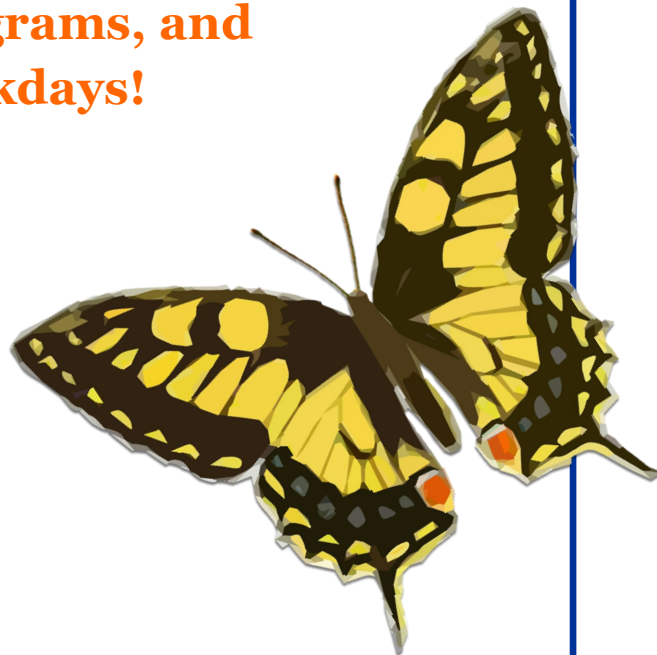
When: Mondays, 8:00 a.m.
What: Maintain demonstration beds

Landmark Park

When: 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month

**WE HAVE MORE
ROOM FOR YOUR
ANNOUNCEMENTS!**

**Please email Kerry (p. 7)
to send your upcoming
volunteer opportunities,
programs, and
workdays!**



Helpline Reminder!

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

Autauga Elmore Lee Montgomery
Jefferson Chilton Etowah Madison
Lauderdale Baldwin Mobile



Find us on
Facebook


Alabama Master Gardener Helpline

Mark Your Calendar!

Join and promote the following events

Lunch & Learn, and ETC.:

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. *Similar events are listed here too, but may have other arrangements.*

4	Houston County: Topic: Herbs Where: Dothan Houston County Library	12	Morgan County: Topic: Fall Decorations Where: Aquadome, 1202 5th Ave. SW
5	Montgomery County: Topic: Decorating With Gourds Where: Armory Learning Arts Center	12	Dale County: Topic: Landscape Diseases Where: 202 South Hwy 123, Ste. D, Ozark
6	Autauga County: Topic: Drought Tolerant Plants for the South Where: Trinity United Methodist	26	Calhoun County: Topic: Tremendous Trees Known for their Size or Character Where: Cane Creek Community Gardens
11	Elmore County: Topic: Fall Gardening and Harvest Where: Elmore Co. Extension Office		
11	Russell County: Topic: TBA Where: 508 14th Street		 <p>ALABAMA MASTER GARDENERS ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM</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!*

Kerry Smith — smithkp@auburn.edu

Produced by Frances Sledge and Taylor Thompson, ACES Home Grounds Assistants

Published by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University), an equal opportunity educator and employer.

© 2018 by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. All rights reserved.

www.aces.edu