

# Volunteer Opp's Bulletin

Volume 4 Issue 10

## Coffee County MGs Share their Passion

The Coffee County Master Gardeners kicked off fall by spreading their love and knowledge of gardening with others across their communities.

October started at the Coffee County Farm-City Petting Zoo. Over 900 preschoolers, kindergartners and seniors from all over the county were introduced to native plants, seeds for planting, indoor plants and a show-and-tell with real cotton and peanut plants.



They landscaped a new Habitat for Humanity home, designing the flowerbed layout, purchasing all of the necessary materials, and installing the landscape prior to the home presentation to the proud new owners.

Coffee County MG, Brenda Evans, visited Covington

County for a Lunch and Learn event. Her topic was Butterfly Gardening. Attendees learned fascinating facts about these incredible insects and how to incorporate pollinator-friendly plants into their landscapes. Evans reminded everyone that butterflies are appreciated for their beauty and their roll as pollinators. In order to stay informed and have a pollinator friendly yard, it is necessary to be aware of the different types of plants different pollinators like. One very important aspect for butterflies is providing both host and nectar plants from early spring to late fall.



## [ Activity Spotlights ]

Learn about your MG neighbor activities around the state.

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## [ Pest Updates ]

News from the AU Diagnostic Lab. No news this month.



## [ Calendar and More! ]

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

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# Activity Spotlights

## Master Gardeners of North Alabama's are Busy Bees

From educating kids about gardening to creating homey habitats, MGNA is bustling this fall! Their Habitat for Humanity team, headed by Sue Khoury, is preparing to plant their fifth landscape this year.

Kathy Gardener is training interns for the compost project at the Huntsville Botanical Garden. Their three-bin demonstration is a long-standing project.

MGs at the Morris P-8 School are beginning to use a new greenhouse (pictured, above, right), built with money raised earlier this year. The fifth grade students they are working with are super excited. And I think it's safe to say the MGs are just as excited as the students!



(new greenhouse, Morris P-8 School )

## Baldwin Co MGs Spread the Word About Gardening

The Baldwin County Master Gardeners' Speaker Bureau has 18 members who travel throughout the Southeast sharing their expertise on a variety of gardening topics. They are invited to speak to a wide variety of audiences too; from sororities to senior groups.

They are always looking for new speakers to bring new, interesting topics to the table. Share your knowledge and help promote the Master Gardener Program, by contacting the BCMG Speaker Bureau chair, Karen Rhea White.



## Getting Ready for Spring this Fall

The Morgan County Master Gardeners use their greenhouse for both educational programs and growing plants for the plant sale. This cool fall weather is just right for a workshop in the greenhouse.

Using the guidelines of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Susan Ledbetter taught a hands-on workshop about geranium propagation. A mix of new members, gardening veterans, and MG Interns gathered to learn more about propagating plants with cuttings. They immediately put what they learned to good use and started preparing geranium pots for their 2019 Plant Sale.

Morgan County MGs can contact Susan Ledbetter, at 256-476-4504, for more information.



# Activity Spotlight

## Chilton County MG Energy!

The Chilton County Master Gardeners spent part of their October brightening up the city of Jemison by potting up new hanging baskets. The cooler fall weather also made their chores a bit lighter in their Demo Garden and Extension Office flower beds.

Several Chilton County Master Gardeners helped out with various 4-H activities, including the 4-H Clover Sale fundraiser at Tractor Supply Company, and a Sewing Club Camp. The Clover Sale Fundraiser was a great opportunity for current 4-H members to connect with former 4-H'ers, and share the 4-H program with people who are not familiar with it. The program's purpose is developing leadership, citizenship, responsibility, and life skills in Alabama's youth.

And just to show the tireless energy of this small MGA, they're busy getting ready for the 2019 AMGA Conference next May. Many hands and hours go into gathering support from local businesses, organizing the speakers, and lots of fun for this annual event. Thank you Chilton County MGA!



## Hurricane Michael — A Monstrous Mess

We've seen the pictures and heard stories about our neighbors in Florida. Certainly other states were hit too, Alabama's wiregrass area is one, but the Florida panhandle was hit very hard by Hurricane Michael. Alabama Extension Agents are in conversation with several IFAS Agents and hope to have information how we can best offer help. We'll update you later.

Do you live close to the Alabama-Florida line? Here's an annual food drive that might interest you. All Florida Extension (IFAS) offices in the panhandle host The Peanut Butter Challenge every year — October 1 through November 21. Yes, it's a friendly competition too. The annual charity drive stocks the shelves of panhandle food pantries. This year much of the peanut butter is headed directly to areas affected by the storm.

<http://nwdistrict.ifas.ufl.edu/hort/2018/09/25/peanut-butter-challenge-in-the-panhandle/>

# 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: 1<sup>st</sup> 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: call Charlot for workdays

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

### **Caroline Dean Wildflower Trail**

When: call Billie for workdays

Where: Municipal Park; Opelika, AL

Contact: Billie Oliver, [billieoliver@gmail.com](mailto:billieoliver@gmail.com), or text, 334-749-2679

### **Grandma's Garden**

When: call or email Kathy

Where: Pioneer Park, Loachapoka, AL

Contact: Kathy Hayward, [bryaub@hotmail.com](mailto:bryaub@hotmail.com)

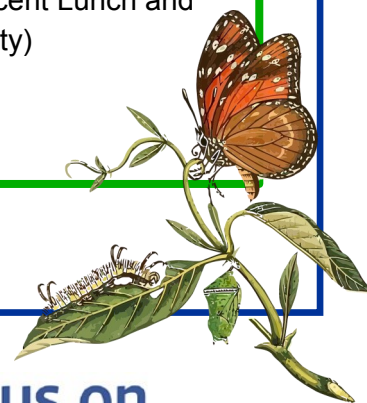
### **Kreher Preserve & Nature Center, Butterfly Garden**

When: Thursday mornings at 8:00, weather permitting

Contact: Margaret Holler, (334) 740-8548

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

Ancient Egyptians believed butterflies were symbols of the human soul. (shared by Brenda Evans, Coffee County MG, at recent Lunch and Learn in Covington County)



## **Helpline Reminder!**

Please volunteer to work the Helpline 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: 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

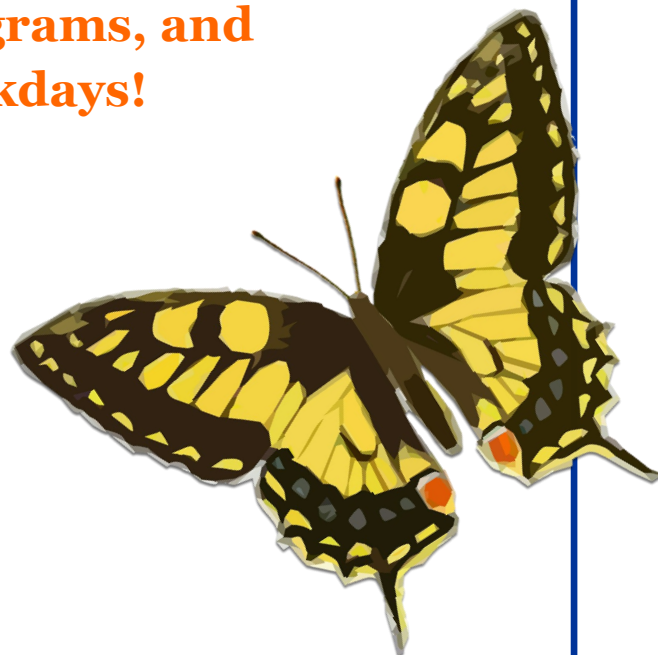
When: Mondays, 8:00 a.m.  
What: Maintain demonstration beds

### **Landmark Park**

When: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month

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

**Please email Kerry (p. 6) to send your upcoming volunteer opportunities, programs, and workdays!**



## **Helpline Reminder!**

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Find us on  
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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.*

<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>Autauga County:</b> Topic: Growing Citrus in Containers Where: Trinity United Methodist</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>Morgan County:</b> Topic: Terrariums Where: Aquadome, 1202 5th Ave. SW</p>
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Houston County:</b> Topic: Fruit and Citrus Trees Where: Dothan Houston Co Library</p>		
<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>Montgomery County:</b> Topic: Capturing the Beauty in Photography Where: Armory Learning Arts Center</p>		
<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>Elmore County:</b> Topic: Garden Varmits Where: Elmore Co. Extension Office</p>		
<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>Dale County:</b> Topic: Holiday Décor Where: 202 South Hwy 123, Ste. D Ozark</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 publish it in an upcoming *Volunteer Opp's!*

Kerry Smith — [smithkp@auburn.edu](mailto:smithkp@auburn.edu)

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

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