

Volunteer Opp's Bulletin

Volume 4 Issue 11

Members of MGNA are in the Christmas Spirit!

The month of December is an exciting one for the Master Gardeners of North Alabama. This year, they have their first ever tree in the Tinsel Trail at Big Spring Park, downtown Huntsville. The tree was the vision of Susan Meyer. She gathered all of the needed supplies and orchestrated the decorating of the tree. Two members of MGNA, Sue Khoury and Ann Tippie, assisted the decorating. Three of Susan's grandchildren—Callie, Ryan, and Ryley—helped as well.

The Tinsel Trail at Big Spring Park consists of approximately 300 decorated trees. Each tree is sponsored and decorated by a local corporation, group, or family. This free and festive community event is open daily through the holiday season. The trees are fully lit from dusk until midnight. Come by and enjoy this season of delight!

(Pictured top, right: Susan Meyer and Ann Tippie. Pictured bottom, right: Susan, Callie, and Sue Khoury.)



[Activity Spotlights]

Learn about your MG neighbor activities around the state.

1-4

[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.

5-7

Activity Spotlights

Forging Christmas Memories

Jason Kirby, Jefferson County Master Gardener and Archivist for the library at The Birmingham Botanical Gardens, recently led a holiday decorating workshop for *Forge*, a breast cancer survivor support network. Workshop participants created festive tabletop trees with greenery generously donated by Jefferson County Master Gardeners. The tabletop trees ranged in style from loosely naturalistic to formal Victorian. The decorating event, held on November 27th at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, was one of several horticulture-related workshops conducted throughout the year with the guidance of Bethany O’Rear, Regional Extension Agent.



Activity Spotlight

Master Gardeners Help make Christmas Merry at the Governor's Mansion

Each year for the past three years, the Monday Morning Mansion Garden Group has shown off their creativity and love for nature by decorating a tree for the Governor's Mansion, Christmas Candlelight Tour. These volunteers are MGs from multiple MG associations, Autauga County MGA, Central Alabama MMGA in Elmore County, and the Capital City MGA in Montgomery. They make unique ornaments from Mother Nature's bounty using leaves, feathers, twigs, cotton, okra, moss, seeds, and other materials. Each volunteer brings different talents, ideas, and styles to the table, making each ornament special.

This year, the tree will be on display in the Farley-Hill House dining room. The volunteers are super excited that thousands of people will be seeing their hand-made ornaments this year. They hope this will inspire others to look more carefully at the world around them and use nature's gifts to create their own unique decorations.

(shared with permission: original article by Debra Davis, published in ALFA's *Neighbor's Magazine*)



Activity Spotlight

Morgan County MGA Spreads Cheer to Hospice

Most Master Gardener volunteers would agree, this program offers many rewards, not the least of which is sharing their talents and knowledge with each other and their community. Morgan County MGA has an ongoing project at Hospice of the Valley in Decatur Alabama. They regularly deliver plants to brighten patient rooms. Plants add something special to any place and every season. (Pictured, Susan Kingsley)



Did you know?

An acre of Christmas trees produce enough oxygen per day for 18 people (per University of Illinois Extensions Christmas Tree Facts). And they also clean that air we breath.



Morgan County MGA in the Christmas Marketplace

Saturday, December 8th, the Morgan County/Decatur Farmers Market is having a Christmas Marketplace. Be sure to check out the Morgan County MGA booth between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. They will be featuring centerpieces made from pumpkins, gourds, and succulents, as well as arrangements made from poinsettias donated by The Home Depot. Take one home for your holiday season!



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: 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, or text, 334-749-2679

Grandma's Garden

When: call Kathy Hayward

Where: Pioneer Park, Loachapoka, AL

Contact: Kathy Hayward, 540-233-3028

Kreher Preserve & Nature Center, Butterfly Garden

When: Thursday mornings at 8:00, weather permitting

Contact: Margaret Holler, (334) 740-8548

DID YOU KNOW?

According to the National Christmas Tree Association, approximately 30 million real Christmas trees are sold in the United States each year!



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



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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. 6)
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.

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Lauderdale Baldwin Mobile



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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>1</p>	<p>Autauga County: Topic: Growing Citrus in Containers Where: Trinity United Methodist</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>Morgan County: Topic: Terrariums Where: Aquadome, 1202 5th Ave. SW</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Houston County: Topic: Fruit and Citrus Trees Where: Dothan Houston Co Library</p>		
<p>7</p>	<p>Montgomery County: Topic: Capturing the Beauty in Photography Where: Armory Learning Arts Center</p>		
<p>13</p>	<p>Elmore County: Topic: Garden Varmits Where: Elmore Co. Extension Office</p>		
<p>14</p>	<p>Dale County: 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!*

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