



# DIRTY DIGS



Autauga County Master Gardeners Association

January 2014

*ENTERTAIN, EDUCATE, ELEVATE*

## Next Meeting

**January 9,  
2014**

Meeting Location:

First Baptist Church

@6:00 PM

## President's Message

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Thank you for the trust and honor you have given me to be your president in 2014. I will do my best for you and this wonderful organization.

Welcome to our new members formerly known as interns. You have already proven to be very active considering the number of hours you have earned during your internship.

Autauga County Master Gardeners Association (ACMGA) has many projects on our calendar including (but not limited to) Prattvillage Garden, Prattville-Autauga Demonstration Garden, Arbor Day, Master Gardener Helpline, Lanark Flora and Fauna Weekend, CityFest, Autauga County Fair and, last but not least, our Annual Master Gardener Plant Sale. I challenge each member to find a project that you enjoy and dedicate your time and energy to helping us improve that project. When we work together we can accomplish so much.

Looking forward to a great year in 2014 for ACMGA!!

Rose McCauley

# January 2014

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 <i>ACMGA Meeting 6 PM</i>	10	11
12	13 <i>Governor's Mansion</i>	14 <i>Demo Garden <u>8:30 AM</u></i>	15	16 <i>Prattvillage TBD</i>	17	18
19	20 <i>Governor's Mansion</i>	21 <i>Demo Garden <u>8:30 AM</u></i>	22	23 <i>Prattvillage TBD</i>	24	25 <i>Plant English Pea Seed Directly into the Garden</i>
26	27 <i>Governor's Mansion</i>	28 <i>Demo Garden <u>8:30 AM</u></i>	29	30 <i>Prattvillage TBD Start planting indoor tomato and pepper seeds</i>	31 <i>Begin Pruning Shrub roses</i>	

**Garden Buzzzz January 2014 Page 2**

## **Create an Indoor Garden this Winter**

For a breath of spring in the depths of winter, it's hard to beat a pot of flowering paperwhite narcissus. Paper-white narcissus are easy and foolproof enough that forcing them to flower is a good project even for the newest gardener and they make a beautiful decoration for your home or as a gift.

Purchase the bulbs anytime after October 1 from a reputable nursery or garden center. With paper-whites it is a good idea not to set them out all at once. Space out the time between when you set them out to every 10 days and then your blooms will not come all at once, then you will have blooms from December to Spring. Once you do set out the paper-white bulbs you should begin to see flowers in 4-6 weeks. Although the term "forcing" is used when speaking of paperwhites in our area of the Southeast it might be better expressed as "fooling" since what you really do is fool the bulb into thinking winter is over and it is time to bloom. Paperwhites are the easiest indoor bulbs to force or "fool", and are usually available at local nurseries and home improvement centers, or through catalogs.



Paperwhites are best grown in a shallow pot or bowl with no drainage holes in the bottom and best of all, no soil is require, only water. You will start by finding a container and filling the bottom with gravel, small stones, or even fun things like colored beads or marbles (there are tons of creative options). Then place as many paper-white bulbs as will fit on top of the gravel, with the pointed side up. Place the bulbs down in the gravel or marbles so that they act as support to hold the bulbs in place, but do not bury the bulbs. You want at least half of the bulb exposed. Add water up to the base of the bulbs and maintain it at this level making sure that the bulb does not stay in the water once it begins to send out roots or the bulb will rot. Place the container in a cool, dark place for two weeks before placing it in a warm, sunny location.

Add water as evaporation and root uptake deplete the supply. Avoid disturbing the bulbs after planting as the roots are fragile. There may be a slight difference in flower timing depending on the temperatures. Higher temperatures encourage weak growth and poor flowering.

Bulbs immediately placed at a temperature of 60-70°F will bloom in about 6 weeks. For later bloom you can delay setting them out or the pot can be maintained at 50°F, and then moved to the higher temperature. For late spring bloom, the bulbs can be stored dry at 50°F. When potted, these will usually bloom in 3-4 weeks. The cooler the room, the longer it will take the bulbs to flower

and the longer they will remain in bloom. Paper-white narcissus are tender bulbs that will not overwinter outdoors easily and they may be forced only once.

After the foliage begins to turn yellow, discard the bulbs and the potting medium (Gravel or marbles may be washed and stored and used again next year). Wash containers immediately and thoroughly to remove salts and lime deposits and hopefully by now, warmer temperatures and outdoor spring flowers have arrived!

## **Message from Mallory**

**Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests**



# What's Bugging You?



Do You know the name of this critter? Is it beneficial or destructive or both?

Answer and information can be found on Page 9



# Alabama Gardener's Calendar

## January

### Fruits and Nuts

- Set out apples, peaches, pears, and grapes.
- Start grafting pecans. Prune dormant trees.

### Shrubs

- Plant shrubs and trees, including broadleaf, narrowleaf, and deciduous.
- Graft camellias in south Alabama.
- Spray all deciduous shrubbery with a dormant spray to control diseases and insects.
  
- Spray when weather is on warming trend.

### Lawns

- Soil test before setting up fertility program.

### Roses

- Visit nurseries and garden centers to select varieties.
- Start planting.

### Annuals and Perennials

- Plant hardy annuals.

### Bulbs

- Late plantings of Dutch bulbs will flower if planted now.
- Lilies of all types, except Madonna, may be planted.
- Check stored bulbs and discard rotten ones.
- Make indoor plantings of amaryllis, callas, and gloxinias.

### Miscellaneous

- Prune winter-damaged limbs.
- Give houseplants a bath in lukewarm water to remove dust.
  - To keep poinsettias that have finished flowering, turn pots on their sides and let them dry completely.
  - Cut them back lightly.
  - Keep in a temperature of 55 to 60 degrees.

### Vegetable Seed

- Plant hardy vegetables, root crops, roots, and tubers in southern-most areas.
- Plant lettuce, cabbage, and broccoli in cold frames.

### Vegetable Plants

- Set out cabbage plants.



# All Bugs Good and Bad

## 2014 Webinar Series

Please join us for this webinar series for information you can use about good and bad insects. Webinars will be on the first Friday of each month at 2 p.m. Eastern.

- February 7** If Flowers are Restaurants to Bees, Then What Are Bees to Flowers?  
*Dr. John Skinner*
- March 7** Straight Talk About Termites  
*Dr. Xing Ping Hu*
- April 4** Get TickSmart: 10 Things to Know, 5 Things to Do  
*Dr. Thomas Mather*
- May 2** Are Those Itsy Bitsy Spiders Good or Bad?  
*Dr. Nancy Hinkle*
- June 6** Fire Ant Management  
*Elizabeth Brown*
- August 1** Minimize Mosquito Problems  
*Molly Keck*
- September 5** Kudzu Bug Takes Over the Southeastern U.S./Brown Marmorated Stinkbug—All Bad  
*Dr. Michael Toews/Dr. Tracy Leskey*
- October 3** Alien Invasions, Zombies Under Foot, and Billions of Decapitated Fire Ants  
*Dr. Sanford Porter*
- November 7** Where Have All the Honey Bees Gone? Hope for the Future  
*Dr. John Skinner*



For more information on the series and how to connect to the webinars, visit: <http://www.extension.org/pages/70120>.



Brought to you by these eXtension Communities of Practice: Imported Fire Ants, Urban IPM, Bee Health, Invasive Species, & Gardens and Landscapes.



Citations for pictures: Jim Occi, BugPics, bugwood.org; Jerry A. Payne, USDA-ARS, bugwood.org; Nadeer Youssef, TN State Univ.; USDA ARS Photo Unit, USDA-ARS, bugwood.org; David Cappaert, Michigan State University, bugwood.org; Sturgis McKeever, Georgia Southern University, bugwood.org.

## 2013 Hummingbird Award recipients:

Paula Seamon—January

Kathryn Whaley—February

Carol Bonifay—March

Pam Olson—April

Deborah Cheatum—May

Gaines Smith—June

Jimmy Prince—July

Helen Allen—August

Carolyn Gray—September

Glenda Armstrong—October

Sherry Hodge—November

Anthony Yarbrough—December

## What's Bugging You Answer:

The **Cabbage Looper** (*Trichoplusia ni*) is a member of the moth family Noctuidae. It is found throughout the southern Palaeartic ecozone, all of North America, parts of Africa and most of the Orient, parts of Europe and Indo-Australian region.<sup>[1]</sup> In the United Kingdom, where the adult is primarily a (sometimes numerous) immigrant but breeding is rare, the species is also known as the Ni Moth.<sup>[2]</sup> The name derives from the forewing marking, which resembles the lowercase Greek letter Ni.

The caterpillar, a measuring worm, is smooth and pale green with white stripes and is one of a many species called **cabbage worm**. It is called a "looper" because it arches its body as it crawls, inchworm-style. This species is very destructive to plants due to its voracious consumption of leaves. It is not restricted to cole crops; other plant hosts include tomato, cucumber and potato.<sup>[3][4][5]</sup> The adult of the species is a nocturnal brown moth.

I have seen these on collards, turnips, and other greens normally grown in our area. Can be controlled with applying a bacterial dust which is completely harmless to humans, birds fish, pets, etc. This dust is labeled as *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *Kurstaki* or as we know it, Dipel. Another method of control is to pick off worms and destroy them.

## The Wearing of the Green

If you have wondered how to obtain an ACMGA apron, read on.

By Nancy Waggoner



If you are a newly installed member of Autauga County Master Gardeners Association, or been a member for some time, there is an apron available for you.

Worn at special events such as the Autauga County Fair, ACMGA Plant Sale and City Fest, aprons identify us as being part of a very special volunteer organization. Members of the public quickly spot us as individuals who can provide information about home gardening. In addition to that, the aprons just look good!

Buying and wearing an apron *is an option* for our members. In fact, for any member who would like to wear one and doesn't wish to buy, there are a limited number of aprons that may be borrowed for special events.

New aprons are ready for purchase and are sold to certified ACMGA members at cost. Since we all come in different sizes and shapes, there are two apron "models" to choose from, diplomatically identified as sizes #1 and #2. They will be available to try on and purchase at regular membership meetings for the next few months. After that, members may arrange to obtain an apron by e-mail correspondence at [gnwaggoner@charter.net](mailto:gnwaggoner@charter.net).

Aprons are priced as follows:

Size one: \$17.00

Size two: \$18.00

If you are paying by check, make it out to Autauga County Master Gardeners Association and put "apron" on the memo line; give to Tina Reed, treasurer.

We hope that you wear your new apron with pride!



## **2014 Alabama Master Gardener Conference**

**April 28-30 2014 in Daphne, AL**

**hosted by Baldwin Master Gardeners**

**<http://alabamamg.org/AMGAConference.html>**

Baldwin County Master Gardeners take great pleasure in inviting you all to participate in a JUBILEE, gardening style!

A JUBILEE is a relatively rare occurrence happening when the oxygen level on the bottom of the bay's water closest to mainly the Eastern Shore gets depleted due to a combination of conditions. Those conditions cause the "bottom feeders" like flounder, crabs, and eels but sometimes shrimp and catfish to go into a comatose-like state heading for the shore line where astute Eastern Shore dwellers are ready with gigs, buckets, bare hands - anything to catch them before the conditions change and the fish and crustaceans recover putting up the fight of their lives to get away from the shore and those humans!

This type of "fishing/crabbing" becomes a celebration - a JUBILEE

**Reprinted from  
the AMGA website**

## Important Announcements

**From Pam Olson:** Here's your monthly reminder to bring items for the "Cultivating Our Community" project with you to the next meeting. Pam Olson usually collects them. If she's not at the meeting, Nancy Waggoner steps in. This is our sister project to the Prattville-Autauga Demonstration Garden. Produce from the garden supplies fresh vegetables to AICC, Autauga Interfaith Care Center – our county's food bank. But people who need a temporary helping hand have many needs in addition to food. Cleaning products, both personal and for the home, can take a big bite out of one's wallet, yet are essential for one's dignity. We, as individual members, help supply the non-food items AICC is in constant need of: **toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, dish detergent, laundry detergent, and household cleaners**. Smaller-sized store brand cleaning products are better because your dollars put products into more bags at the center. Sample sizes of any of the items are okay, too. Anything is appreciated! As with all our MG projects, participation is optional.

**Governor's Mansion**—We are working at the Governor's Mansion every Monday morning. If you would like to join us, please let Rose McCauley know during the week prior so that your name can be sent in for a security check. At this time, she will let you know where and when to meet to carpool into Montgomery.

### **PALS Beautification Award**

Anytime you see a yard that you would like to nominate for this award and do not have a nomination form, please get the information to me, Deborah Cheatum, by regular mail, email or drop it by my home. Include the following -

Your name and contact information

Category - Private House, Business, School, Government

Nominee's Name (if you have it)

Nominee's Address

Nominee's Phone Number (if you have it)

Directions

Reasons for Nomination

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Deborah Cheatum

**Committee Chair Person Needed. The following committees need leaders. Please consider stepping up to the plate. Sign up sheets will be available at the next ACMGA meeting, January 9th.**

Social Committee

Lunch & Learn Committee

Meeting Refreshments Committee

Prattvillage Committee

Education Booth Committee

Plant Sale Committee

Autauga County Master Gardeners Association

Membership Form

Annual County membership dues for 2014 are \$10. State dues, which entitle you to State membership and **Garden Pathways** newsletter as well as receive state awards such as, "Reach for the Stars." State dues are \$10 and optional. Please complete this form and return it to our Treasurer, Tina Reed, by September 13, 2013.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

(only give email address if you wish to receive info via email)

If any of your information has changed, please check here.

COUNTY OF TRAINING \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR OF GRADUATION \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

	Local Dues	State Dues
__ Active Member Local & State (includes graduation interns)	\$10	\$10
__ Active Member Local Only (includes graduation interns)	\$10	\$0
__ Active Member w/current State Lifetime	\$10	\$0
__ Active Member w/new State Lifetime	\$10	\$100

Please make checks payable to ACMGA and mail or give to:

Tina Reed  
1936 Tara Dr.  
Prattville AL 36066

# December Christmas Luncheon



Intern Graduation

Awards



# Officers for 2014



From Left to Right: Tina Reed-Treasurer; Kathryn Whaley Secretary; Carolyn Gray—Vice President; Rose McCauley—President Helen Allen (Far Right) Installed the new officers

# Editor's Corner

Wow! It's already 2014. Someone said the other day that when you are six years old, a year feels like two years. When you reach your twenty's, a year feels like a year. But when you reach your sixties, a year feels like six months. In my case four months! Any way, I hope all had a very happy and joyous new year and I hope all have a very prosperous 2014, especially in your garden and Master Gardener endeavors.

One change I would like to see this year is to have a chair person for all committees. Earlier in this newsletter I listed all the committees. Please take time to look over and volunteer to work on the committees of your choice but seriously consider being a chair person. It's ok if more than one person wants to share being the chair.

We need to have a concerted effort this month to sign up members for our next intern class. This is where our newest members can help the most. Each of you know people that probably have never been approached and if each of you would find two people we could have enough for the 2014 class. Please take home several applications and give to prospective members. Applications should be available at the next ACMGA meeting.

We will be having a meeting very soon to firm up our Lunch and Learn plans. These plans will be announced at the next ACMGA meeting.

I need articles for the Newsletter. I am planning on asking one person each month to submit a guest article; however, anyone may contribute at any month. The deadline for the February newsletter is January 25th. God Bless till next time!!



Anthony Yarbrough,  
Editor