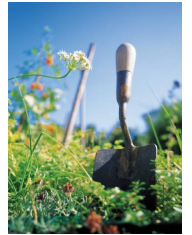




DIRTY DIGS



Autauga County Master Gardeners Association

May 2014

ENTERTAIN, EDUCATE, ELEVATE

Next Meeting

May 8, 2014

Meeting Location:

First Baptist
Church

@6:00 PM

Guest Article



Master Gardeners Show Spirit of Service

Contributed by:

Rose McCauley, President ACMGA

In mid-February on a mild Spring morning, thirteen members of Autauga County Master Gardeners Association gathered at the Prattville-Autauga Demonstration Garden to work in the garden beds to get them ready for our Spring and Summers vegetable Plantings.



We had some super soil (topsoil and compost mix) delivered to the garden area the day before. Some of us started in immediately to attack some of the beds and, yes, even master gardeners sometime allow a few weeds to grow in their gardens. Others grabbed shovels and wheelbarrows

to move the soil into the beds. Once the first bed was filled with soil, some members began planting the potato eyes. With everyone working together, we were able to fill four large beds and two smaller ones with the super soil. We also planted two smaller ones with English peas. It was a wonderful and very productive but tiring day for this group of volunteers but the fellowship shared was unbeatable.

Over the Summer and into the Fall, these beds will be planted with other produce including, but not limited to, tomatoes, peppers, squash, black-eyed peas, eggplant, cabbage and collards.

(Continued on next page)



ACMGA plants these beds each year to provide fresh produce to Autauga Interfaith Care Center (AICC). AICC assists over 2,500 households or more than 5000 neighbors in our county with food, clothing, personal care items, housewares and financial aid. ACMGA has provided AICC with hundreds of pounds of produce each year.

When you go to the Autauga-Prattville Public Library, come visit our garden. Even better, bring a friend who might be interested in becoming a Master Gardener.



Autauga County Master Gardeners Association

JOIN US FOR LUNCH & LEARN 2014!

THE 1ST TUESDAY

12:00-1:00 P.M.

- MARCH 4TH VEGETABLE GARDENING**
- APRIL 1TH CONTAINER GARDENING**
- MAY 6ND CREATING AN EDIBLE LANDSCAPE**
- JUNE 3RD FERNS**

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Prattville

FREE PROGRAM

BRING A SACK LUNCH

DRINKS PROVIDED

For more information contact the Autauga County Extension Office. (334) 361-7273

<http://www.aces.edu/counties/Autauga/>



May 2014

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	3
4	5 <i>Governor's Mansion</i>	6 <i>Demo Garden 8:30 AM Lunch and Learn Edibles in the Landscape</i>	7 <i>Helpline Friends of the Forest</i>	8 <i>ACMGA meeting FBC 6PM Prattvillage TBD Friends of the Forest</i>	9	10
	12 <i>Governor's Mansion</i>	13 <i>Demo Garden 8:30 AM</i>	14 <i>Helpline</i>	15 <i>Prattvillage TBD</i>	16	17 <i>Lee Co Garden Tour</i>
18 <i>Montgomery Botanical Gardens fund raiser at Montgomery City Auditorium</i>	19 <i>Governor's Mansion</i>	20 <i>Demo Garden 8:30 AM</i>	21 <i>Helpline</i>	22 <i>Prattvillage TBD</i>	23	24
25	26 <i>Memorial Day</i> 	27 <i>Demo Garden 8:30 AM</i>	28 <i>Helpline</i>	29 <i>Prattvillage TBD</i>	30	31

APRIL TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report April 2014

BEGINNING BALANCE \$ 4,306.94

REVENUE

Dues	\$ 10.00
Aprons	\$ 35.00
Plant Sale	\$ 4,084.32

REVENUE SUBTOTAL \$ 4,129.32
\$8,436.26

CHECKS/EXPENSES

Water	\$ 14.84
712 Anthony Y.	\$ 161.27
713 Bob. Scheffler	\$ 55.71
714 Cash	***** \$ 1,000.00
715 Marjorie Hannah	\$ 19.46

EXPENSES TOTAL \$ 1,251.28

ENDING BALANCE \$7,184.98

*****The \$1000 dollar cash item was money taken out to make change for the plant sale and was redeposited. The plant sale brought in \$3084.32. but if you notice above the plant sale money deposited was \$4084.32. So it was basically a wash.

What's Bugging You?



Silken web



Larval Stage

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

Answer and information can be found on Page 18

April Meeting

The April meeting was held at the Prattvillage Garden to get ready for the plant sale. Please see pictures below.



2014 Annual Plant Sale

The plant sale was a huge success as we sold over \$3000.00 dollars worth of plants and store items. But I don't measure success only by dollar amounts. The gardens looked superb, I did not hear one complaint from our customers or our Master Gardeners who made this such a great event. Everything ran smoothly and all had a wonderful time. I do believe the success we had this year was a result of all the past members who had worked on previous plant sales. But a lot of credit also goes to Rose McCauley for her being able to get all of us working in a cohesive manner. Thanks to all that helped. Pat yourselves on the back.



Lunch and Learn



Our own Jimmy Prince presented the lunch and learn program on April 1, 2014. The program topic was container gardening. These programs are presented on the first Tuesday of each month at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church. There were over 20 people in attendance with 11 being non master gardeners. Several people were interested in the next intern class.

Lanark Flora and Fauna Weekend

ACMGA members manned a booth at Lanark for their Floral and Fauna Weekend. Sun hats were made for children and information passed out to visitors. Also this weekend is used to recruit prospective members for our next intern class. See pictures below.



Alabama Gardener's Calendar

May

Fruits and Nuts

- Continue spray program.
- Keep grass from around trees and strawberries.
- Peaches and apples can still be budded.

Shrubs

- Newly planted shrubs need extra care now and in coming weeks.
- Don't spray with oil emulsions when temperature is above 85 degrees F.

Lawns

- Now is the best time to start lawns from seed.
- Water new lawns as needed to prevent drying.
- Keep established lawns actively growing by watering, fertilizing, and mowing.
- Spray weeds in lawns with proper herbicide.

Roses

- Spray or dust for insects and diseases.
- Fertilize monthly according to a soil test.
- Container-grown plants in flower may be planted.
- Prune climbing roses after the first big flush of flowering.

4 Alabama Cooperative Extension System Annuals and Perennials

- Late plantings of bedding plants still have time to produce.
- Watch for insects on day lilies.

Bulbs

- Summer bulbs started in containers may still be planted.
- Do not remove foliage from spring flowering bulbs.
- Do not let seedheads form on tulips and other spring flowering bulbs.

Miscellaneous

- Mulch new shrub plantings if not already done.
- Avoid drying out new shrub, tree, and lawn plantings.

Vegetable Seed

- Plant heat-loving and tender vegetables.
- Start cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, and celery in cold frames for the fall garden.

Vegetable Plants

- Plant tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and sweet potatoes.



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.

Hummingbird Award for April.



President Rose McCauley, on the left, presents the Hummingbird Award for April to Marjorie Hannah. Marjorie has been very active in our organization especially performing administrative duties as well as helping out with all ACMGA functions. Kudos to Marjorie for all that she does.



Montgomery Botanical Gardens, Why?

Sunday, May 18, 2014

2:00 pm

\$5.00 Donation at the Door

Proceeds go to the Montgomery Botanical Gardens.

City Hall Auditorium

103 N. Perry Street

Montgomery, AL 36103

Presenting Fred Spicer, Jr.

Executive Director/CEO Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Mr. Spicer is a polished, energetic, and humorous speaker who will highlight the benefits the Birmingham Botanical Gardens brings to their city.

Sponsors

For more information: www.capcitymga.org or 334-294-9797

SPONSORS



**Capitol City
Master Gardeners**



For more information: www.capcitymga.org or 334-294-9797

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: **adult toothbrushes, 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.

New Item Requested for "Cultivating Our Community" Project

We have a new item to add to the other six we regularly collect for AICC – **adult toothbrushes.** The center has finally run out of the generous supply donated by a local dentist. Thank you for your generosity. AICC is always grateful for our donations.

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, Rose McCauley, 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.

Rose McCauley

Plant Sale

Plant Sale is scheduled for April 2015. Thanks to all who helped this year.



HELP THE AMGA SCHOLARSHIP FUND GROW

BUY A MASTER GARDENER AUTO TAG -- \$20

These look great not only on the front of your vehicle but also as garden art on fences or walls.

And they aren't just for Master Gardeners but for anyone who wants to endorse our mission of volunteering, so buy one for a friend or relative. You're helping yourself when you do!

\$10 stays in the MG program and supports workshops and other projects.

\$10 supports the AMGA Scholarship Endowment Fund for worthy Auburn University horticulture students. Last year, two \$1500 undergraduate scholarships were awarded. As the fund grows, graduate level scholarships will be added.

It's an easy way to donate to a GREAT cause and get a beautiful tag in the bargain!

Contact Pam Olson to purchase tags. polsonhome@charter.net, 361-7030.



Forget-me-nots

by Pam Olson

Continuing Education Units – As Varied As Our Members

I was asked recently if a canning workshop counts as CEU. It sounded as if the member was already anticipating my answer to be something like “Well, not really because...,” so she was very pleased with an “Oh, yes!” It occurred to me that it may not be obvious, especially to newer members, what DOES count.

First, a little background information – CEU stands for Continuing Education Unit. These are the hours we report that are NOT volunteer hours, and, as I mentioned in last month’s piece, they aren’t broken down into descriptive categories. We record them in their own “Educational Hours” box on the on-line Service Report screen. To quote from ACES’ description of CEU listed in the dark green side bar (from that pesky list I keep asking everyone to click on and read): “All Certified Master Gardeners are requested to attend at least 10 CEU hours per year.”

Why do we need to do that? Because the more we know, the better we can answer questions. And that’s what Master Gardeners DO, and not just while working the Helpline. As soon as someone finds out you’re a Master Gardener, the questions begin. We’ve all had that experience. So what type of education qualifies? The scope may be a lot broader than you think. It covers all programs, seminars, webinars, conferences, workshops, field trips, and tours connected directly or indirectly to the MG curriculum and to our mission.

We’ll start with the direct connection. Think back over all the subjects covered in your classes, but keep in mind that the curricula haven’t been identical through the years. My classes included one on wildlife and one on houseplants. A class on entomology is typical, which may include information not just about insects but also other “buggy” arthropods. Anything having to do with growing, maintaining, propagating, harvesting, or controlling plants has a direct connection. Besides the usual topics, this also includes landscape design and pesticide safety. Back to wildlife – You can probably guess that knowing something about deer or armadillo habits can help with gardening practices, especially in rural areas. Helpline workers are asked about identifying and deterring snakes. Most gardeners want to plant what will attract birds and butterflies. So whether you want to welcome or discourage the local fauna, these areas of information have a direct connection to the MG curriculum.

Now, what are some areas indirectly connected? Preparing or storing edible plants, making wreaths from dried or living plant materials, creating hypertufa pots or mosaic stepping stones, choosing the correct gardening tools, bee keeping, or the history of a particular garden, to name just a few.

And what about our mission? Water conservation and waste management practices both “promote environmental awareness,” to quote from our ACMGA mission statement.

Learning about any of these topics makes us better Master Gardeners. Besides enriching ourselves, we’re better able to answer the questions that come our way, or to at least know where to turn to for the answers. Whether we’re listening to a speaker at our monthly meeting or the meeting of any number of plant societies or clubs OR viewing or attending any of the other types of presentations mentioned earlier in this piece, there’s no shortage of opportunities for receiving education. And so many wonderful subjects qualify as CEU’s that it’s easy to find hours that interest each one of us – they truly are as varied as our members themselves.

Questions or comments? Email or call me: polsonhome@charter.net, 361-7030.



By Mallory Kelley
Regional Extension Agent
Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests



Ambrosia Beetles Attacking Small Trees

The Granulate Ambrosia beetles have been causing quite a stir in home landscapes over the past few weeks. This beetle was introduced into the United States in the early 1970's in South Carolina and has since spread throughout the southeast and as far north as Maryland. This tiny beetle is a pest of woody ornamental, fruit, and nut trees and can cause significant damage in nursery, landscape, and orchard settings.

Granulate ambrosia beetles emerge in early spring and attack thin barked, deciduous trees. Tree species most commonly reported to be damaged are dogwood, redbud, maple, ornamental cherry, Japanese maple, and crepe myrtle. Other reported hosts include pecan, peach, plum, persimmon, golden rain tree, sweet gum, Shumard oak, Chinese elm, magnolia, fig, hydrangea and azalea.

Young trees and small branches of mature trees are where these beetles attack. Female beetles bore into the trunks and branches (1-3 inches in diameter) and excavate galleries in the wood. In addition to boring damage, female beetles inoculate trees with ambrosia fungus which can block xylem vessels and interfere with vascular transport. Infested plants often die from boring damage, ambrosia fungus, or infection by a secondary pathogen.

These beetles attack seemingly healthy trees as well as stressed or unhealthy trees. Visible symptoms include wilted foliage and strands of boring dust protruding from small holes. Serious attacks that result in tree death usually occur during leafing-out stage.

Infestations can be easily identified by toothpick-like strands protruding up to 1.5 inches from the bark of the host plant. The strands of boring dust are produced by the female beetle as she excavates her gallery. The strands are fragile and are easily broken off by wind or rain leaving only pencil-lead sized holes.

Preventative applications of pyrethroid insecticides can protect trees by preventing Granulate Ambrosia Beetles from excavating galleries. However, once beetles are inside trees they cannot be killed with insecticides and fungicides are ineffective against the ambrosia fungus. Thus, the timing of preventative insecticide applications is crucial to protect trees from damage by this pest. Dr. Charles Ray, Auburn University Extension Entomologist says "recent research of the first flight of granulate ambrosia beetle in spring has found it occurs at almost exactly the same time as bradford pears beginning to bloom. This gives a clear sign to a homeowner of when they should apply the preventative sprays."

If you notice the white strands protruding from the branches or main trunk of your trees or shrubs the plant parts should be removed and destroyed.

Sources: Dr. Charles Ray, Auburn University, Extension Entomologist.

North Carolina State University <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/O&T/trees/note111/note111.html>

What's Bugging You Answer from page 5

The answer is the eastern tent caterpillar. Luckily this insect does not cause much damage and will not defoliate trees. It is mainly an aesthetic problem in the landscape.

Source is from the ACES website

New Apple App for iPhone and iPad called SOW. Just search on the App Store and download free App. It gives you information about what vegetables to plant today for your area and information about all vegetables in Alabama. I love this App. Remember the name is SOW.

True story on Global Warming

The Washington Post

The Arctic Ocean is warming up, icebergs are growing scarcer and in some places the seals are finding the water too hot, according to a report to the Commerce Department yesterday from Consulafft, at Bergen, Norway

Reports from fishermen, seal hunters, and explorers all point to a radical change in climate conditions and hitherto unheard-of temperatures in the Arctic zone. Exploration expeditions report that scarcely any ice has been met as far north as 81 degrees 29 minutes.

Soundings to a depth of 3,100 meters showed the gulf stream still very warm. Great masses of ice have been replaced by moraines of earth and stones, the report continued, while at many points well known glaciers have entirely disappeared.

Very few seals and no white fish are found in the eastern Arctic, while vast shoals of herring and smelts which have never before ventured so far north, are being encountered in the old seal fishing grounds. **Within a few years it is predicted that due to the ice melt the sea will rise and make most coastal cities uninhabitable.**

* * * * *

I apologize, I neglected to mention that this report was from November 2, 1922, as reported by the AP and published in The Washington Post; 93+ years ago.



Anthony Yarbrough,
Editor