



DIRTY DIGS



Autauga County Master Gardeners Association

September 2014

ENTERTAIN, EDUCATE, ELEVATE

Next Meeting
September 11,
2014

Meeting Location:

First Baptist
Church

@6:00 PM

Guest Article: Submitted by Bob Scheffler

My garden sweet potatoes

Those of us who show an interest in the Master Gardener program usually start with the desire to find out "what can I do to get better plants in my gardens?". We take the course to get the information and then we share our experiences, both good and not-so-good, with others. This article is about one of my experiences with my vegetable garden.

Prior to last year I grew many different vegetables but never sweet potatoes so I decided to give them a try. I bought a small bundle (~25) of sweet potato slips at a local feed & seed store, planted them mid Spring, and began waiting for the knowledge to start. First thing I learned was that they make LONG vines and totally covered a big portion of my garden. They were healthy and pretty much insect tolerant above ground, but like normal potatoes I never knew what was happening under the ground.

By the end of September the vines were still healthy but I was worn out gardening and tired of waiting for the potatoes. I cut all the vines, dragged them out of the garden, waited another week, and then started digging. And dug, and dug, and dug! Come to find out, rather than the potatoes forming right under the main plant like white potatoes, these were running under ground also, many at least 3' from the main plant. The problem with that in an open area is there is a possibility of damaging potatoes with a shovel where you least expect any to be. Here's what I harvested and kept:



Sweet potatoes need to be spread out to cure for at least 2 weeks. The cure process lets them convert their starch into sugar. (i.e. "sweet" potato)

In addition to those larger ones were quite a few smaller ones that weren't worth trying to cook. But rather than throwing them away I thought I might save them for planting this year. I put them in a bucket, covered them with sand, and put them in my shed. The sand was to keep insects off them, control moisture, and insulation from cold weather.

That worked well. This spring I poured them out and there were only a few that had ruined over the winter. But then came the big question - can they be used as seedlings rather than the normal slips? I planted them in the garden not knowing what would happen. Two weeks later still no

sprouts came up. Then they started popping up everywhere! Each potato was putting out a cluster of slips, 6 - 10 per potato in the ground. When they got up about 6" I would pull back the soil and break off all except 1-2 and recover the potato. The broke off slips had roots forming along the stem on each one so I replanted those slips in another area of the garden. Those ~40 small potatoes had produced over 200 slips. I planted all that I needed and started giving them away. Another "to learn" item is that bought slips normally come from north Alabama, so would slips started here still be good? That is still to be learned.

Here's what the sweet potatoes looked like when planted this spring:(note the electric fence to keep the deer out of them)



And here's what they are in August:



So the overall 'big picture' is that 25 original sweet potato slips produced all that I wanted to eat the 1st year and maybe 10x that many this year. (If I can stand all the digging!!!!!!!!!!)



Bob Scheffler

September 2014

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<p>1</p>  <p>HAPPY LABOR DAY</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Demo Garden <u>8:00 AM</u></p>	<p>3</p> <p>Intern Class begins</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Prattvillage <u>7:30 AM</u></p>	<p>5</p> <p>ACMGA Bd Meet</p> <p>Webinar 1PM</p> <p>Kudzu bug</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Deadline for registration for AMGA Fall Conference (see flyer)</p>
7	<p>8</p> <p>Governor's Mansion 8-11</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Demo Garden <u>8:00 AM</u></p>	<p>10</p> <p>Intern class — Plant Physiology And Entomology</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Prattvillage <u>7:30 AM</u></p> <p>ACMGA meeting <u>FBC 6 PM</u></p>	12	13
14	<p>15</p> <p>Governor's Mansion 8-11</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Demo Garden <u>8:00 AM</u></p> <p>AMGA Fall Seminar (see flyer)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Seed Saving Workshop 9am-12pm Elmore Co</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Prattvillage <u>7:30 AM</u></p> <p>Lanark Tour <u>9AM</u></p>	19	20
21	<p>22</p> <p>Governor's Mansion 8-11</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Demo Garden <u>8:00 AM</u></p> <p>First Day of Fall</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Intern Class</p> <p>Soils and plant nutrition</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Prattvillage <u>7:30 AM</u></p>	26	27
28	<p>29</p> <p>Governor's Mansion 8-11</p> <p>More herbs and less salt day</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Demo Garden <u>8:00 AM</u></p>				

October 2014

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 <i>No Class, moved to October 2nd</i>	2 <i>Intern class trip To petals and Chilton Co res Prattville <u>7:30</u></i>	3	4
5	6 <i>Governor's Mansion 8-11</i>	7 <i>Demo Garden <u>8:00 AM</u></i>	8 <i>Intern Class Turf and Lawn</i>	9 <i>Prattville <u>7:30 AM</u> ACMGA meeting- Don and Glenda Armstrongs for tour and brunch 9AM</i>	10	11
12	13 <i>Governor's Mansion 8-11</i>	14 <i>Demo Garden <u>8:00 AM</u></i>	15 <i>Intern Class Container Gardening and pruning of plants</i>	16 <i>ACMGA meeting</i>	17	18
19	20 <i>Governor's Mansion 8-11</i>	21 <i>Demo Garden <u>8:00 AM</u></i>	22 <i>Intern Class Plant propagation and herbs</i>	23 <i>Prattville <u>7:30 AM</u></i>	24	25
26	27 <i>Governor's Mansion 8-11</i>	28 <i>Demo Garden <u>8:00 AM</u></i>	29 <i>Intern Class Vegetable Gardening</i>	30 <i>Prattville <u>7:30 AM</u></i>	31 	



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

Planting a Fall Vegetable Garden

We are blessed by our warm Alabama climate that we can grow vegetables almost year round. Many vegetables we grow in the summer are well adapted for fall harvest and even further into the fall and winter if protected from frost, examples of these are tomatoes and peppers.

Many cool-season vegetables, such as carrots, broccoli, cauliflower, collards and brussels sprouts, produce their best flavor and quality when they are maturing during cool weather. In Alabama, the spring temperatures often heat up quickly causing vegetables such as lettuce and spinach to bolt (flower) or develop a bitter flavor. This is why planting these veggies late in the summer or early fall when we are transitioning to cooler temps is more ideal than in the spring.

Growing a productive fall vegetable garden requires thoughtful planning and good cultural practices. In Alabama, August and September are the ideal months for planting a fall garden. For a more accurate planting schedule, determine the average date of the first killing frost in the fall, and then count backward from the frost date, using the number of days to maturity to determine the best time to plant in your area.

Alabama summers can be hot and dry, and soils may form a hard crust. If you choose to plant your fall veggies from seed you must be careful to keep the soil moist. Incorporating organic matter into the soil will help add nutrients and also break up the hard crust that has developed throughout the summer, particularly in heavy clay soil. Lettuce and spinach seeds will not germinate if the soil temperature exceeds 85 degrees F so for these you may need to wait a bit longer before sowing or plant from transplants. Also remember to mulch the garden to moderate moisture levels as September and October are our driest months with very little rainfall.

You can extend your summer vegetable crop and your semi-hardy vegetables on into the fall and winter easily by protect-

ing them from frost. In Alabama, we often enjoy several weeks of good growing conditions after the first frost. Cover growing beds, rows or individual plants with burlap or a floating row cover supported by stakes or wire to keep the material from directly touching the plants.

Most hardy vegetables require little or no frost protection, but semi-hardy vegetables should be harvested before a heavy freeze. Root crops such as carrots and radishes should be harvested or mulched heavily before a hard freeze. Mulched root crops can often be harvested well into the winter, and during mild winters, harvest may continue until spring.

So, if your summer garden was a flop or your wanting to continue your progress of home vegetables into this fall and winter, it's not too late. There is still time to plant, especially the HARDY vegetables that can withstand a light frost such as: Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage (by transplant), Carrots, Collards, Kale, Kohlrabi, Onions by seed or sets, Radishes, Spinach and Turnips.

Also, if you would like to learn how to save seeds we are hosting a workshop on September 17th from 9-12:00 at the Elmore County Extension office, cost is \$10 per person. For more information or to register please call: 334-567-6301.



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 27

Wild About Our Back Yards



Seminar Sessions...

1. All About Eagles
2. Easy Gardens For The South
3. Nature Calls: Photographing Your Backyard and Beyond
4. Landscaping That Works
(Full Day = 4 CEU's)



AMGA 2014 Fall Seminar

September 16, 2014
9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Guntersville
State Park
Goldenrod Room

Registration: \$25
Payable to:
Marshall County
Master Gardeners
(MCMG)

Send Registration
and Check to:

Wilma Tanner
80 Ensley Drive
Arab, AL 35016



9-9:30 – Registration

Morning Sessions:

9:30 – Welcome

9:45 – Patti Donnellan,



Lake Guntersville State
Park Naturalist

All About Eagles

10:45 – Harvey Cotton,



Vice President & Chief Horticulturist
Huntsville Botanical Garden, Co-Author of

Easy Gardens For the South

Books will be available for purchase/signing

Box Lunch 11:45-12:30

Provided by Guntersville State Park

12:30 – David Moore, Publisher and Editor of



Good Life Magazine

**Nature Calls: Photographing
Your Backyard and Beyond**

1:30 – George Bennett,



President of Bennett Nurseries, Inc.

Make Your Landscape

Interesting!

Plants will be available to purchase

**AMGA 2014
Fall Seminar**

September 16, 2014
9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Lake Guntersville
State Park
1155 Lodge Drive
Guntersville, AL 35976
256-571-5440
800-548-4553

Goldenrod Room

Registration: \$25
Payable to:
Marshall County
Master Gardeners
(MCMG)

Send Registration and
Check to:

Wilma Tanner
80 Ensley Drive
Arab, AL 35016

256-586-8615



Alabama A&M and
Auburn Universities



AMGA Fall Seminar:
Wild About Our Back Yards- September 16, 2014

Name:

MGA Affiliation:

Address:

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

We encourage you to wear your official Master Gardener name tags.

Registration forms must be received by September 6, 2014.*

The \$25 will include morning snack, a lunch and drink.

Box Lunch Choices: ___ Cold Cut Sandwich
(Select One) ___ Chicken Salad on croissants
 ___ Pulled Pork Barbeque on bun

All box lunches include potato chips, fruit salad, tea and pickle slices.

For more information contact:

Wilma Tanner, 256-586-8615/email: wtanner@otelco.net or

Linda Widner, 256-586-7483/email: widner@otelco.net

Please mail your check made out to MCMG along with this form to:

Wilma Tanner
80 Ensley Drive
Arab, AL 35016

*Refunds will be decided on a case by case basis and cannot be guaranteed after lunches are ordered.



AMGA 2014 Fall Seminar

September 16, 2014
9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Directions from within Alabama:
(As you can see by these directions, all roads lead to Guntersville State Park. If we missed covering the directions from your location, give us a call and we will be glad to assist you. Should you choose to use an internet mapping service and it tells you to take Martling as your route into the park, we encourage you to stay on the main roads of Highways 431 and 227 instead. The roads through Martling can be confusing and cause you to become lost if you are not familiar with this community.)

Auburn - Take Hwy. 431 North towards Anniston. Stay on Hwy. 431 into Guntersville. Turn onto Alabama Highway 227 South and follow into Guntersville State Park.

Birmingham - Take I-59 North to Gadsden and exit onto Hwy. 431. Follow Hwy. 431 North to Guntersville. Turn onto Hwy. 227 South into Guntersville State Park.

Montgomery - Take I-65 North to I-459 North to I-59 North to Gadsden. Take the Hwy. 431 exit and follow Hwy. 431 North to Guntersville. Turn onto Hwy. 227 South into Guntersville State Park.

Lodging:

**Lake
Guntersville
State Park Lodge
1155 Lodge Drive
Guntersville, AL 35976**

Reservations:

**256-571-5440
800-548-4553**

www.alapark.com/lakeguntersville/

Chamber Of Commerce:

**Albertville
256-878-3821**

**Arab
256-586-3138**

**Guntersville
256-582-3612**



Alabama Gardener's Calendar

September

Fruits and Nuts

- New catalogs will be arriving soon.
- Start plans for future selection and plantings.
- Take soil test for new planting areas.
- Fertilize established strawberry plantings.

Shrubs

- Study landscape to determine plant needs.
- Check early varieties of camellias.
- You may want to replace those damaged in spring by late freezes.
- After fall growth is completed, spray all shrubs with a fungicide.

Lawns

- Plant seed of winter grasses where situation prevents planting permanent grasses.
- Winter seeds will appear soon.
- Stop fertilization three weeks before frost.

Roses

- Protect fall crops of blossoms from aphids and thrips.
- Keep plants healthy.

Annuals and Perennials

- Last chance for planting perennials and biennials.
- Old clumps of perennials may be divided.
- Plant peonies.

Bulbs

- Spring-flowering bulbs may be planted late this month in north Alabama.
- Delay planting in south Alabama.

Miscellaneous

- Clean up infestations of insects on azaleas, camellias, boxwoods, gardenias, hollies, etc.
- If oil spray is needed, don't use in freezing weather.
- Build compost bin or box; leaves will be falling soon.
- Move houseplants indoors.

Vegetable Seed

- Plant hardy vegetables and root crops.

Vegetable Plants

- Plant cabbage, collards, cauliflower, celery,



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 August



Rose McCauley was awarded the Hummingbird Award at the August meeting. Rose took on the project chair to create a display and put together a talk for the County Agents national conference in Mobile, Alabama. The display highlighted our Demonstration Garden and the talk covered the history and many uses of our Prattville Garden. Rose was instrumental in our association receiving many high complements. Hats off to Rose for these accomplishments.





August Monthly Meeting

Our regular meeting was held on August 14, 2014 at the First Baptist Church. Mr. Joel Duke from the City's Planning Department gave the program on future plans for development of the City and hinted on some zoning changes.

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.

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

Helpline Notes

The helpline for this year has ended. Final totals will be in the next newsletter.



Forget-me-nots

By Pam Olson

Something New About Reporting Drive Time

We know to report drive time separately when recording CEU's and to lump it in with volunteer hours of any category. But there's one exception when we DON'T lump it in with the hours we spend volunteering. That's when the drive time to a volunteer activity is excessively long. State MG Program Coordinator Kerry Smith asks that it then be reported as a separate volunteer entry. The reason for the separation is for clarity in ACES records. Of course this means two separate service report entries because two volunteer categories can't be recorded on the same screen. Make one entry recording the time spent on the volunteer activity, and make a second one recording the time spent traveling to and from the activity, choosing "Drive Time" as the volunteer category. An example: Three of our members presented a display at the recent agricultural agents' conference in Mobile, about a three-hour drive one way from Prattville. Six hours is a significant amount of volunteering that ACES would like to know how it was spent. The time spent volunteering at the actual conference is recorded under "Public education program," but the six-hour round trip is recorded as a separate entry under "Drive Time."

Now for a quick review of some drive time why's:

Why is drive time a type of volunteering? Because it's time carved out of our busy schedules in service to Master Gardening, and we're giving that time just as we give the time we spend on our various volunteer activities. If it takes us half an hour to drive to Prattville to cut grass, we give not only the time it takes working at the garden but also the hour it takes for the round trip. One hour isn't much by itself, but consider how many times the grass is cut each year. And that's just one of a myriad of ACMGA projects.

Why can't drive time to an educational program (CEU) be combined with the time spent at the program? Because drive time is volunteering. It's not receiving education. And Extension wants a clear distinction between what we give and what we receive. Both the educational program and the drive time can be reported on the same screen – one in the Educational Hours field and the other in the Volunteer Hours field.

Why may we count drive time when we're a passenger? Because we're giving just as much of our time whether or not we're behind the wheel. (Only the driver counts mileage because that's done for income tax purposes.)

HERE'S THE BIG ONE – Why is it important to count ALL our drive time? Because when we don't, Extension, Kerry, and Mallory lose out on numbers that validate the Master Gardener Program and the agents who work with it. Throughout an entire year, all those one hours and two hours and even the half hours on the road REALLY ADD UP! Let's keep track of them and make sure they're reported.

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

Harvest For Health

A grant from UAB has allowed the opportunity for Master Gardeners to mentor cancer survivors in hopes that it will continue to improve their health and well-being.

In short, UAB is looking for approximately 25 Master Gardeners from the Autauga, Elmore and Montgomery region who would be interested in mentoring a cancer survivor in the area of Vegetable Gardening.

You will attend an orientation in the coming weeks for a refresher in vegetable gardening and to learn any other specifics about the program. Then another meeting is scheduled where all the Master Gardeners will meet their cancer survivor.

UAB will be providing all the materials and supplies for the vegetable garden and you will be providing the expertise.

Your involvement is to make contact with the cancer survivor 2 times per month. One time is through phone and the other face to face to help them in their garden. The program will start in September and last one year!

The hopeful outcome of this program is to improve the quality of life of the survivor, not only through nutritional food, but also through exercise and overall well-being. You all know the sense of worth and satisfaction you get from picking and cooking something you grew.

Please let me know if you are interested in being a mentor by emailing me at: jones57@auburn.edu

Thank you,

Mallory Kelley

Here is a video about it that is also helpful:

<http://www.uab.edu/news/innovation/item/4827-gardens-help-cancer-survivors-cope-heal-and-grow+fdfeature>

May have to copy above link and paste in your browser.

JULY TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report July 2014

BEGINNING BALANCE \$6,409.24

REVENUE

Aprons \$ 34.00

REVENUE SUBTOTAL
\$6,443.24

CHECKS/EXPENSES

720 Rose McCauley - Office \$ 241.49

722 Pam Olson- Office \$ 35.03

Water - Prattvillage \$ 60.19

723 AKD - Aprons \$ 607.73

EXPENSES TOTAL \$ 944.44

ENDING BALANCE \$5,498.80

Sponsors & Supporters



Tallapoosa Publisher's, Inc.

FLOYD'S FEED & SEED

The 2014

Fall Gardening Extravaganza

will be held at the
Betty Carol Graham Technology Center
located on the campus of
Central Alabama Community College
1675 Cherokee Road
in
Alexander City, Alabama



The Betty Carol Graham Technology Center (X)
is on east side of campus. Parking for the
building will be on the left just past the pond.

Fall Gardening Extravaganza

October 10, 2014
Alexander City, Alabama

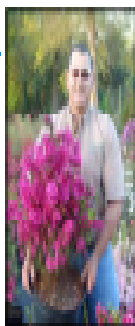


Hosted by
Tallapoosa County Extension Office and
Tallapoosa County Master Gardeners Association

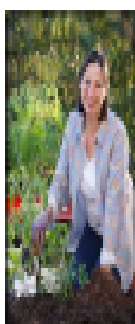


Alabama A&M and Auburn Universities

Robert "Buddy" Lee, the inventor of Encore® Azalea, the world's best-selling re-blooming azalea, has more than 30 years' experience in nursery management, breeding, propagation, and new plant development. Buddy currently serves as Director of Plant Innovations for Plant Development Services (PDSI), the Introdusers of Encore® Azalea, the Southern Living® Plant Collection, and the new Sunset Western Garden Collection. Buddy resides in Independence, Louisiana.



Lois Trigg Chaplin is the Director of Marketing for Bonnie Plants and lifelong vegetable and herb gardener. She studied horticulture and entomology at the University of Florida. She loves to exchange tips and tales about plants with other gardeners. After her first career as garden editor of *Southern Living* magazine for 13 years, she went solo for 20 years, communicating gardening in print, web, TV, and on stage for companies, publications, and garden brands. Lois is also author of multiple books, including the best-selling *Southern Gardener's Book of Lists*.



Steve Bender is a senior writer for *Southern Living*, where he has been since 1983. In that time, he's produced such well-known books as *Passalong Plants*, *The Southern Living Garden Book*, and the *Southern Living Landscape Book*, and is rumored to be the true author of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. His humorous articles emphasize that gardening is supposed to be fun, no matter how many expensive plants you accidentally destroy along the way. His popular blog, "The Grumpy Gardener," answers each and every gardening question with 100% accuracy. Steve lives in Hoover, Alabama with his beautiful wife, Judy. He is currently working on a revision of the *Southern Living Garden Book* that is due out in January 2015.



Fall Gardening Extravaganza

Friday, October 10th

- 8:30 a.m. Arrival / Registration
- 9 a.m. Welcome and Introductions
- 9:15 a.m. Robert "Buddy" Lee
"New Plant Explosion"
- 10:15 a.m. Lois Trigg Chapman
"Eat Your Way Around the House"
- 11:15 a.m. Recognize Sponsors
- 11:30 a.m. Catered Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Steve Bender
"Grumpy's Deadly Garden Plagues"
- 1:30 p.m. Jason Powell
"Reliable Plants for the Fall Garden"
- 2:30 p.m. Conclusion

Jason Powell, along with his wife Shelley, and parents Arle and Gwen Powell own and operate Petals From the Past nursery in Jemison, Alabama. His nursery specializes in antique roses, heirloom shrubs and hard to find perennial flowers, herbs, and fruit crops. Since starting Petals From The Past in 1994, Jason and his wife Shelley have applied contemporary techniques in growing the finest old-garden plants along with new varieties. Jason holds a master's degree in horticulture from Texas A&M University.



Event Registration

\$15 per Person
(Includes Lunch)

Registration Deadline: Friday, October 3, 2014

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Phone Number: _____

e-mail: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Submit Registration Form and Payment to:

Tallapoosa County Extension Office
125 N. Broadnax Street, Room 23
Dadeville, AL 36853

Make check payable to:
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

To register online or for more information, visit www.aces.edu/Tallapoosa. Registration also available by calling 256-825-1050.





Seed Saving Workshop 101

Where:
Elmore County Agricultural Center
340 Queen Ann Road,
Wetumpka AL 36092

When:
Wednesday,
September 17, 2014
9:00am—12:00pm

There is a \$10.00 fee,
Call Elmore County Extension System to register.
(334) 567-6301

Learn about seed saving principles of common vegetables and annuals. Learn what types of seeds can be saved and what types can not. (hybrid vs. open pollinated).

Come and talk with others about the value of local seed exchanges.

We will be having a seed exchange in February 2015 so start backyard seed preservation now.

Sponsored by:
Alabama Cooperative Extension System
Central Alabama Master Gardener Association



PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

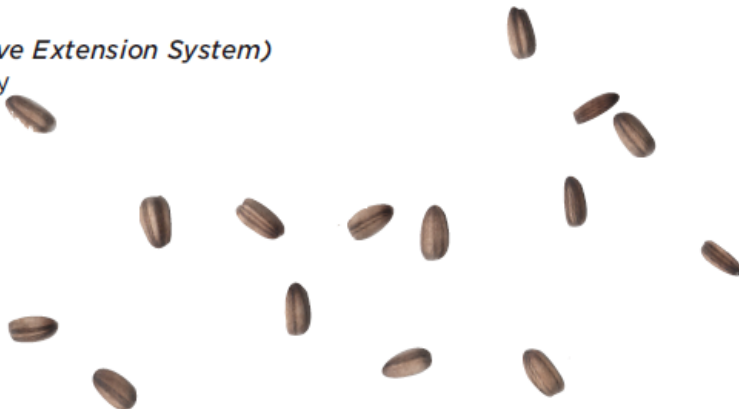
Phone #: _____ E-mail address: _____

_____ # of Participants _____ X \$10 _____ = _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

(Make check payable to: Alabama Cooperative Extension System)
Return Pre-Registration Form and Payment by
Wednesday, September 10th, 2014 to:

Elmore County Agricultural Center
340 Queen Ann Rd
Wetumpka, AL 36092
Phone: (334) 567-6301



Autauga County Master Gardeners Association
Membership Form

Annual County membership dues for 2014 are \$10. State dues, are \$10 and optional. State dues entitle you to State membership and **Garden Pathways** newsletter. You can also receive state awards such as, Reach for the Stars. Please complete this form and return it to our Treasurer, **NO LATER THAN**

OCT. 15th 2014.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ CELL _____

EMAIL _____ DOB _____

(Only give email address if you wish to receive info via email) mm/dd

COUNTY OF TRAINING _____ YEAR OF GRAD _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

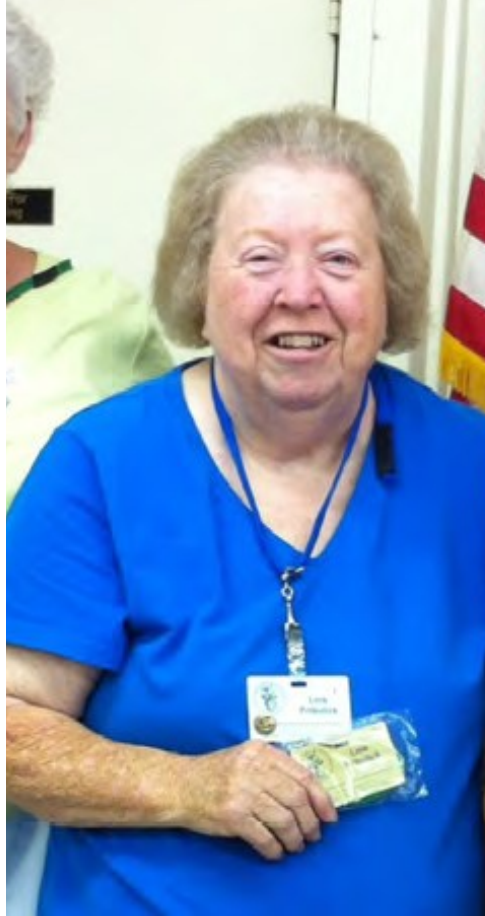
	Local Dues	State Dues
___ Active Member Local & State (includes graduating interns)	\$10	\$10
___ Active Member Local Only (includes graduating interns)	\$10	\$0
___ Active Member w/ current State Lifetime	\$10	\$0
___ Active member w/ new State Lifetime	\$10	?
		(One-time fee)

___ Yes, I am a dual member. County of primary membership _____

Make check payable to ACMGA. Mail or give to:

Tina Reed
1936 Tara Dr.
Prattville, AL 36066

Deepest Sympathy



Lois Pribulick



Lois unexpectedly lost her son in August 2014. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.



Mark Your Calendars
Southern Region Master Gardener Conference
October 21-24
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

The [East Baton Rouge Master Gardener Association](#) of the LSU AgCenter's MG Program is proud to host the 2014 Southern Region Master Gardener Conference. When gardening enthusiasts from Texas to Virginia converge on Louisiana's capital city, they will be greeted with riveting speakers, entertaining tours and a trade show that promises to offer those 'one-of-a-kind' items.

This event will bring together master gardeners, vendors, horticulture professionals and others with a common interest in all aspects of gardening, the environment and plant sciences. The 2014 Conference Committee is grateful to all who have made this conference possible through [sponsorships](#), in-kind gifts and hundreds of volunteer hours from our members.

Please join us in beautiful [Baton Rouge](#) from October 21st through October 24th at the [Crowne Plaza Hotel](#). Check back often for updates! Hope to see you there!



Keynote Speakers' Productions



Baton Rouge



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Telephone: (334) 361-7273
Fax: (334) 361-7275*

For Immediate Release
September 2, 2014

Start Improving Next Summer's Garden This Fall

We receive a lot of questions at the Extension office each year from farmers and home gardeners with many kinds of problems. Oftentimes the problems in a field or garden fall into one or more of the following categories: disease, insect, weed, wildlife damage, nutrition, or disorder. Many times during the year gardeners will contact the Extension office with a plant problem thinking it is a disease when in fact it is a disorder. Examples of plant disorders could be problems related to heat stress, cold stress, lack of moisture, too much moisture, or too much shade. One season's production will be different from another, but there are things that can be done to encourage better quality crops each year.

I would like to encourage growers to have a soil test on their fields or gardens. A soil test is basically an analysis of the nutrients in your soil. With this analysis, we can determine what nutrients are needed, and oftentimes, not needed in your field or garden. The goal is to apply the needed nutrients for the crops being grown. Crops may not grow well with too little or even too much of certain nutrients. All crops will not need the same amounts of nutrition, and too much of certain nutrients can often times make them less productive. The soil test will tell us what nutrients to apply to what crops and the amounts needed.

A common recommendation would be to apply half the nitrogen, all the phosphorus, and half the potassium at planting. Then add the remaining nitrogen and potassium in one, or even two more, applications later in the season. Without a soil test we would be guessing at how much and what kind of fertilizer to use. The soil test will explain when to apply the nutrients and you can always call the Extension office with soil testing and fertility questions. I always recommend commercial vegetable farmers test their soil every year. I sometimes suggest home gardeners test each year as well, depending on what nutritional problems they have been having in their garden. Unless a nutritional problem has occurred, testing every 2 or 3 years is often what many gardeners practice.

Our soil test form can be found on our web site at

<http://www.aces.edu/anr/soillab/documents/soilform20080609.pdf> or by visiting your local Extension office. This form has instructions for collecting soil samples, as well as information on how to send the soil samples to the lab in Auburn. Basically all you need is to collect several subsamples from your field or garden, mix the subsamples together, and send a sample of that mixture to Auburn University for an analysis. Taking several subsamples and mixing them together provides an average soil sample from your field or garden which results in a more accurate sample than from taking only one sample from one spot. If more than one field or garden is tested, the same procedure of collecting subsamples and mixing them will be conducted. For example, if you

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www.aces.edu

have three garden spots you may send three soil samples in three separate containers for testing. There is a \$7.00 charge per sample, and you get the results back in about a week. When is the best time of year to have a nutrient analysis on your soil? If you are having problems or have not had your soil analyzed in a few years, I would do a soil test as soon as possible. However, I like sending soil tests in the late summer and early fall before I plow the garden under and plant cover crops. It takes time for lime to start working in the soil. If lime is needed it could be applied, plowed in, cover crops planted, and the garden would be in good shape for the spring.

I also want to take this time to remind you of planting cover crops. When your garden is done for the year, do not just leave it. The stubble needs to be pulled up and composted or plowed in the soil. Getting rid of the old spent plant parts in the field will help on disease control. But don't just leave the plowed garden either. Planting a fall cover crop such as rye, wheat, or crimson clover will help keep the garden soil from washing. Even if your garden is level the organic matter that you work so hard to get can float away. Not only does a cover crop help keep the soil in place, but it adds organic matter to the soil as it breaks down, and some cover crops such as clover will add nitrogen to your soil. If you have unused areas in the summer you can plant summer cover crops as well. We have a publication titled "Cover Crops for Alabama" that describes the benefits of cover crops and lists the different cover crops that can be planted, along with the recommended seeding rate and the time of year for planting. From our web site at www.aces.edu, just type in "cover crops for Alabama" in the search box.

One thing to think about before planting cover crops is how they will be removed in the spring. Before planting in the spring, the cover crops may need to be killed so they will not compete with the crops being planted. Mowing and plowing are common methods of killing cover crops, but there are others. If you do not have the equipment to mow or plow cover crops, you may not choose to plant any. Mulch could be applied to the garden in the fall and would help in the spring in the same ways as cover crops. Of course mulch would not provide nitrogen as annual clover would, but anything we can do to keep the soil from washing is a benefit. If you have any questions on soil testing or planting cover crops just give us a call at the Extension Office.

Chip East
Commercial Horticulture

What's Bugging You Answer from page 6

Green June Beetles feeding on ripe fruit. This causes leakage of juices which attract stinging bees. Chip East comment: The big problem comes later when the fruit starts getting ripe. The fruit will start leaking sweet juice and yellow jackets and bees will wrap them up. The bees will claim ownership of the fruit and protect it by stinging you. No one is going to recommend killing bees but if we could kill the June bugs we can help prevent the problem to come.

Working at the Governor's Mansion

If you are looking for a rewarding gardening project, please consider joining us for workdays at the Governor's Mansion. We meet every Monday 8:00-11:00 a.m. during the summer months to beat the heat, and--with all the beautiful blooming plants--it is a lovely place to work. Add to that the pleasant company of your fellow laborers, and I believe you'll find it a truly enjoyable way to earn volunteer hours. Please call Jane McCarthy (334-221-9936) by noon the Friday prior to any workday to be put on the list for access to the grounds. Bring your favorite tools.

Future Events Schedule from Paula Seamon

September 18: Lanark Tour at Lanark 9:00 Spouses/friends included

October 9th : ACMGA meeting at Don & Glenda Armstrongs

Jim Scott Tour in May and Youngs Plant Farm tour in June

Please remind organization that Hyundai Tour has been cancelled due to intern class and seed saving class scheduled on same day. Also please remind them Lanark Tour is scheduled for September 18, at Lanark, at 9 a.m. Spouses or friends are invited to join us on this tour. Thanks Paula

One last note. Due to time constraints, the deadline for submitting articles to the newsletter is now the 25th of the month. Thanks



Anthony Yarbrough,
Editor