



# DIRTY DIGS



Autauga County Master Gardeners Association

March 2014

*ENTERTAIN, EDUCATE, ELEVATE*

**Next Meeting**

**March 13, 2014**

Meeting Location:

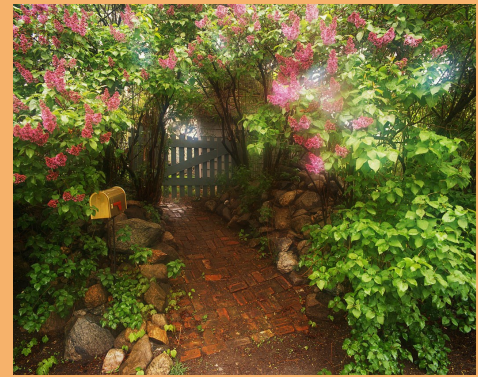
First Baptist Church

@6:00 AM

## Guest Article



Glenda Armstrong



### MAMA AND THE GARDEN

Tears were streaming from my eyes. I was crying, half asleep, half awake. "Mama, Mama, why did you leave me? This yard is not finished. There is so much left to do."

Mama was sitting on the edge of the bed, comforting as ever. "Baby, I am tired. I will see you in the spring."

It was all a dream. Mama has passed away the previous November. It was now February 1998, and I was just starting to grieve. She had died in Mississippi on her way from San Antonio to visit us here in Prattville. There was a lot to do to get Mama to Florida for her burial. I was in graduate school; it was Thanksgiving Holidays, a lot to do to get Dad settled, and a lot of people to notify. There had been no time to grieve then.

In 1996, as soon as we moved into our new house, Mama brought three pickup truck loads of plants for our garden and helped me plant them. Gardening was one of my mom's favorite pastimes. She could make anything grow. She believed in the old fashioned ways of gardening, passing along plants, making cuttings, trying new varieties.

Then, in early spring of 1998, all the bearded iris that Mama had planted in my yard started blooming. The blooms were every color, every size, and every one reminded me that mama's promise had come true. Our yard was filled with promises made and kept by Mama. She comes to visit me every spring now, and my heart is rejuvenated and my faith renewed with the wonder of it all.

Gardening is more than hobby. It is more than job or chore. Gardening provides beauty and food for the soul. It helps keep us "rooted" to our heritage and past. I always feel closer to God when I am in the garden. Try it.

# March 2014

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2	3 <i>Governor's Mansion</i>	4 <i>Lunch and Learn</i>	5 <i>Helpline begin</i> 	6 <i>Prattvillage TBD</i>	7 <i>Webinar— Termites 1 PM</i>	8
9  <i>Spring Forward Daylight savings</i>	10 <i>Governor's Mansion</i>	11 <i>Demo Garden 8:30 AM</i>	12 <i>Helpline</i>	13 <i>ACMGA meeting At First Bap at 6pm Prattvillage TBD</i>	14	15
16	17 <i>Governor's Mansion</i>	18 <i>Demo Garden 8:30 AM</i>	19 <i>Edible Landscape workshop —Grace Episcopal Ch-Montgomery</i>  <i>Helpline</i>	20 <i>Prattvillage TBD</i>	21 <i>First day of Spring</i>	22 <i>Petals from the Past Seminar- Citrus in the home garden</i>
23	24 <i>Governor's Mansion</i>	25 <i>Demo Garden 8:30 AM</i>	26 <i>Helpline</i>	27 <i>Prattvillage TBD</i>	28	29
30	31 <i>Governor's Mansion</i>					

# JANUARY TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurers Report January 2014

<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>		\$5,109.17
<b>REVENUE</b>		
	Dues	\$100.00
	Aprons	\$35.00
<b>REVENUE SUBTOTAL</b>		\$5,244.17
<b>CHECKS</b>		
#695	Tina Reed - Stamps	\$ 9.20
#696	Pam Olson - Star Pins	\$ 51.00
	Deluxe Checks	\$ 24.60
<b>EXPENSES TOTAL</b>		\$ 84.80
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>		\$5,159.37

# 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 20



# Reach for the Stars Awards



<u>Bronze stars:</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Ann Fuller –	172
Deb Hill	151
Elsie Jones –	197
Shari McCandless –	129
Rita Nichols –	103
Linda Parrish –	129
Elise Smith –	154
Gaines Smith –	235
Debbie Watkins –	122

<u>Silver stars:</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Gayle Myers –	308
Lynn Yarbrough –	336

<u>Gold stars:</u>	
Carolyn Gray –	676
Millie Ledford –	527
Rose McCauley –	793
Paula Seamon –	902
Billie Willis –	545

<u>– Gold badges:</u>	
Mark Carmichael –	1,028
Marjorie Hannah –	1,061

## Explanation of Awards

---We belong to a great local Master Gardeners association here in Autauga Co., and we have the option each year of joining or renewing our membership in the state association when we renew our local membership. One of the perks of belonging to the Alabama Master Gardeners Assoc. is the “Reach for the Stars” program.

---A bronze star is awarded to members who have volunteered a minimum of 100 cumulative or lifetime hours. A silver star is awarded for a minimum of 300 hours, and a gold star for a minimum of 500 hours. Gold name badges are awarded to members who have reached 1,000 hours, and platinum name badges are awarded for a lifetime minimum of 2,000 hours of service to the Master Gardeners program

---Our newest gold badge members are Mark Carmichael and Marjorie Hannah, and AMGA is so proud of anyone who reaches this and similar milestones, that special name badges are held for presentation at the state conference and each recipient is recognized before the assembly. And even if you don’t attend the conference, your name and county are announced for everyone to hear. Of course, we’ll recognize Mark and Marjorie again once they have their new badges at one of our meetings following the conference.

---Each local association is also encouraged to submit a nomination for the state *Top Hours of the Year Award* and one for the *Jean Lee Lifetime Hours Award*. Our nominee for the *Top Hours of the Year Award* is Deborah Cheatum with 786 volunteer hours for 2013, and her name will appear on the conference banquet printed program along with the names of other nominees from around the state. Debbie Boutelier is our nominee for the *Lifetime Hours Award* with 5,937 cumulative hours.

---And one last nominee this year is *Dirty Digs* for the newsletter award. Anthony’s May and October issues were required for submission, and we wish Anthony the best of luck. He does an outstanding job.

---Congratulations to all our winners and nominees. Thank you for the incredible work you do for our association. Of course, it’s all about teamwork here in Autauga County, so thank you to all our members for the support each one of you gives in so many ways to Master Gardeners. And that also deserves a hand.

# Alabama Gardener's Calendar

## March

### Fruits and Nuts

- Continue strawberry and grape plantings.
- Bud apples and peaches.
- Start planting blackberries. Remember, if weather conditions prevent prompt planting, heel the plants in by placing the root system in a trench and covering the soil.

### Shrubs

- Fertilize shrubs (except azaleas and camellias) according to a soil test.
- Late plantings may be made, particularly if they are container-grown.
- Watch shrubs for harmful insects.

### Lawns

- Plant bermuda, zoysia, and centipede in south Alabama.
- Seed bluegrass and grass mixtures in north Alabama.
- Fertilize established lawns.

### Roses

- Watch new growth for aphids.
- Begin a spray or dust program.
- Begin fertilizing.

### Annuals and Perennials

- Tender annuals may be planted in south Alabama.
- Check garden centers for bedding plants.

### Bulbs

- Plant gladiolus every 2 or 3 weeks if a long blooming season is desired.
- Plant tuberous begonias in pots. Plant dahlias.

### Miscellaneous

- Check and repair sprayers, dusters, and lawn mowers.
- Control lawn weeds with chemicals.
- Delay pruning of fruiting shrubs such as cotoneasters, pyracanthas, and hollies until after flowering.



Vegetable Seed

- Plant hardy crops recommended for January and February.
- After danger of frost is past, plant tender vegetables.

Vegetable Plants

- Plant cabbage, onions, lettuce, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts in north Alabama; plant tomatoes and peppers in lower south Alabama.
- plant tomatoes and peppers in lower south Alabama.

# **Autauga County Master Gardeners Association JOIN US FOR LUNCH & LEARN 2014!**

**THE 1<sup>ST</sup> TUESDAY**

**12:00-1:00 P.M.**

**MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup> VEGETABLE GARDENING**  
**APRIL 1<sup>TH</sup> CONTAINER GARDENING**  
**MAY 6<sup>ND</sup> CREATING AN EDIBLE LANDSCAPE**  
**JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup> 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/>**



# All Bugs Good and Bad

## 2014 Webinar Series



Photo Credit: USDA-ARS Photo Unit, USDA-ARS, bugwood.org

### Straight Talk About Termites

March 7, 2014  
2:00 PM EST

*Dr. Xing Ping Hu*

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 2:00 PM EST.

Learn how termites live and what you need to know to prevent them from recycling your stuff. This webinar will be presented by Dr. Xing Ping Hu, a Professor in the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology at Auburn University. Moderated by Mallory Kelley, Regional Extension Agent, Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

For connection information, visit: <https://learn.extension.org/events/1371>.

For more information on the series 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 &  
Disasters.



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.



# 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.

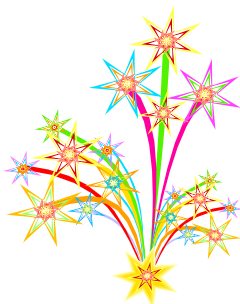


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# Hummingbird Award for January.



President Rose McCauley, on the left, presents the Hummingbird Award for February to Jean Hare. Jean has been very active in our organization especially being in charge of refreshments for our ACMGA monthly meetings and she is the liaison between Autauga County and the Association for the PALS beautification award. Kudos to Jean for all that she does.





## **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: **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 schedule for April 26. Please start gathering and potting plants for the sale. It will be here before we know it.



**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.**



Forget-me-nots

by Pam Olson

## Counting Contacts— Conclusion

Last month I began a series of tips on reporting educational and volunteer hours called “Forget-me-nots.” I started with “counting contacts” because the data are so important for ACES’s records, but the wording on the online service report can make determining whom to count a little confusing. If you missed the first piece, take a look at it in the February issue. As promised, this month I’ll finish up with guidelines on how many contacts to count when reaching out to the public through news media.

When submitting articles to a newspaper or other publication, the number of contacts equals circulation. When speaking on television or radio, the number equals the viewing or listening audience. The *Prattville Progress* has a minimum circulation of 8,000 and the *Montgomery Advertiser* has one of 35,000. One of our 2013 Interns did a radio spot for a station with an estimated listening audience of 10,000. Yes, these numbers seem high to report, but this is the guideline ACES uses. The figures reflect the number of individuals introduced to the MG program or who received research-based information through these means. A phone call to the station or the circulation department will supply you with up-to-date numbers.

When advertising workshops or seminars in a newspaper calendar, such as the “Prattville Calendar” in the *Progress*, follow this same guideline, but when submitting notices for our monthly meetings, DON’T report contacts. According to Kerry Smith, MG meeting notices target mainly MG members.

Another point to remember – we DON’T count contacts when writing for *Dirty Digs*, *Garden Pathways*, or any MG publication. The time it takes to research a topic or write an article counts as volunteer hours, of course, but we don’t count our MG audience as contacts.

Questions or comments? Email or call me: [polsonhome@charter.net](mailto:polsonhome@charter.net), 361-7030.



# Autauga County Master Gardeners Association

## Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, April 26, 2014

8:00 a.m. until Noon

Prattvillage Gardens

- ♦ *Plants of all types available*
- ♦ *pH Soil Testing*
- ♦ *Gardening Items*
- ♦ *Yard Art*



For more information, contact the  
Autauga County Extension Office  
334.361.7273



The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

[www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu)

# Canning Workshop



**Date: April 8, 2014**

**Location: Autauga County Extension Office, 2226 Hwy 14W Autaugaville**

**Time: 9:30-12:30**

**Registration Fee: \$5.00, non-refundable**

**Free Food Preservation Cookbook and more!**

**Please call the Autauga County Office at 334-361-7273 and reserve your seat.**



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[www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu)

# Creating an Edible Landscape



Hosted by the  
Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the  
Capital City Master Gardener Association

**Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> 2014**

**Grace Episcopal Church**

**906 Pike Road**

**Pike Road, Alabama**

**9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

### Topics to be discussed:

**Come learn how to incorporate edible plants  
into your landscape and your dinner menu.**

**Fruits, Vegetables, Herbs, and Flowers**

**Along with a Drip Irrigation Demonstration**



**To sign-up or for more information, contact the Montgomery County Extension office  
at 334-270-4133. Cost is \$15 per person and includes lunch.  
Pre-Registration and Payment is required by Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.**

### PRE-REGISTRATION FORM-Edible Landscape Workshop

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ # of Participants X \$15 = Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Return Pre-Registration Form and Payment by Friday, March 14, 2014 to: **Montgomery County Extension Office**  
Make check payable to: **Alabama Cooperative Extension System** **Eastmont Shopping Center**  
**5340 Atlanta Highway**  
**Montgomery, AL 36109**

# Editor's Corner

What's Bugging you answer:

## Colorado Potato Beetle

God Bless till next time!!



Anthony Yarbrough,  
Editor