



DIRTY DIGS



Autauga County Master Gardeners Association

Next Meeting

January 8,
2015

Meeting Location:

First Baptist
Church

@6:00PM

January 2015

ENTERTAIN, EDUCATE, ELEVATE

Guest Article: Submitted, by Rose McCauley



Happy New Year!!

I have been reflecting on the very productive year we had in 2014. Last year began with an unusually harsh winter but we did not let it slow us down. Some of our many accomplishments included filling the beds in the Demo Garden with supersoil. We planted these beds with various vegetables throughout the year and we were able to deliver 1,052.5 pounds of produce to AICC this year. Several of us attended the AMGA State Conference in Daphne. We held Lunch & Learn programs. Our annual plant sale was held in April and it was outstanding. Our meeting programs were varied and informative. We took some interesting field trips and shared some lunches together. We had 16 interns begin class in September and I am so pleased to see many of them participating in events. Finally in December, with help from volunteers from Home Depot, we installed edgers around the garden beds at Prattvillage and they look beautiful. None of this would have been possible without your involvement.

I look forward to a great year in 2015 for Autauga County Master Gardeners. We plan to expand our Lunch & Learn sessions. We already have a couple of field trips on the calendar. Our April plant sale is our fundraiser and expectations will be high this year after the record breaking sale we had last year. We will continue our work in the Demo Garden and Prattvillage. These are just a few of the activities we have planned. Educational and volunteer opportunities are available for everyone and I encourage you to participate.

Remember, ACMGA is your organization. If you have a program suggestion, interest or new idea, we would like to hear from you. Much can be accomplished when we work together.

Rose

January 2015

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1 	2 ACMGAuBd Meeting TBD	3
4	5 Governor's Mansion 9-11	6 Demo Garden 8:00 AM	7	8 Prattvillage 7:30 AM ACMGA Planning Meeting 6PM FBC	9	10 House Plant Appreciation Day 
11	12 Governor's Mansion 9-11 NCAA National Championship 	13 Demo Garden 8:00 AM	14	15 Prattvillage 7:30 AM	16	17
18	19 MLK Day and R E Lee Day Governor's Mansion 9-11	20 Demo Garden 8:00 AM	21 Helpline "Thankyou Luncheon" Autaugaville 11:30-1:00	22 Prattvillage 7:30 AM Black Bear Seminar 6pm Autaugaville	23	24
25	26 Governor's Mansion 9-11	27 Demo Garden 8:00 AM	28	29 Prattvillage 7:30 AM	30	31 Mardi Gras Parade 

February 2015

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>1</p> <p>NFL Super Bowl</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>Governor's Mansion 9-11</p> <p>Ground Hog Day</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>Demo Garden</p> <p><u>8:00 AM</u></p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Prattville</p> <p><u>7:30 AM</u></p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Governor's Mansion 9-11</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Demo Garden</p> <p><u>8:00 AM</u></p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Prattville</p> <p><u>7:30 AM</u></p> <p>Lincoln's Birthday</p>  <p>Lincoln</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Valentines day</p> 
<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Governor's Mansion 9-11</p> <p>Presidents Day</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>Demo Garden</p> <p><u>8:00 AM</u></p>	<p>18</p> <p>Ash Wednesday</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Prattville</p> <p><u>7:30 AM</u></p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Governor's Mansion 9-11</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Demo Garden</p> <p><u>8:00 AM</u></p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Prattville</p> <p><u>7:30 AM</u></p>	<p>27</p> <p>Herbicide Seminar – Autaugaville 9am-2pm</p>	<p>28</p>

What's Bugging You



Can You Identify the above insect?
Beneficial or Destructive

(Answer on Next Page)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
2015 ALABAMA MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE
MARCH 23-25, 2015

HOSTED BY BLOUNT & CULLMAN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

WOW! The Alabama Master Gardeners Conference is early this year! But that gives us plenty of time to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of our organization, not to mention time to implement all that we will learn from the outstanding slate of speakers and workshops we have lined up for this conference. We hope you will join us as we host "Gardening...WOW!" on March 23rd, 24th, and 25th, 2015 at the Cullman Civic Center in Cullman, Alabama. The conference will begin with a terrarium workshop on Monday afternoon given by internationally renown Tova Martin, followed by a fish fry Monday night. In addition, Blount and Cullman Counties have some amazing sights to see. Some are well known, like the Ava Maria Grotto in Cullman and the Covered Bridges of Blount County, and some are local treasures just waiting for you to discover, like the Palisades Park in Oneonta and the CCMG Demonstration Garden in downtown Cullman. We have several more features within a two-mile radius of the Civic Center that you can easily explore if you come early or stay later.

Conference registration is open to the public, so invite your gardening buddies and come discover new ways to put the WOW! in gardening.

What's Bugging You Answer

!The answer is "Tiger Beetle". This insect is highly predatory and probably one of the fastest insects running on the ground. In fact it runs so fast that it goes blind and has to stop to relocate its prey. Probably considered beneficial unless it bites you.

Governor's Mansion Report by Amanda Borden

During December, volunteers tidied up front and side beds in preparation for the holiday open houses to be held at the Governor's Mansion. They trimmed sago and wind-mill palms in front of the bungalow, cleaned up day lilies at the portico, and removed volunteer trees from the beds in front of Hill House. On December 10, volunteers were invited to a "Coffee and Cookies" reception at the Governor's Mansion, where they had an opportunity to visit with Governor and Mrs. Bentley. Master Gardeners are taking off December 22 and 29 due to the holidays, but they will be back with gusto in the New Year.

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.



(A little late so save for future use)

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. Paperwhite 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 required, 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 out-doors 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 re-move 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



LEARN BASIC HONEY BEE MANAGEMENT

Six week class from 6:00-8:00 pm at Elmore County Ex-tension Auditorium 340 Queen Ann Road, Wetumpka, AL 36092 Hurry ~ Classes start February 17 Continuing on Feb 24, March 3, 17, 24 & ending March 31 Only \$50 per person if paid by Feb 1 deadline; \$75 if received after Feb 1 (You will receive instruction from practicing master bee-keepers, First Lessons in Beekeeping book, + annual membership in CABA)

CENTRAL ALABAMA

BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

BEGINNING BEEKEEPING CLASS

Submit payment to Central Alabama Beekeepers Assn c/o Myles Wright, Treasurer

1318 Woodward Av, Montgomery 36106

CENTRAL ALABAMA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION www.cababees.org Questions? Call CABA

President Allyson Andrews at 334-799-2254

Promoting beekeeping & positive apiary management practices through education

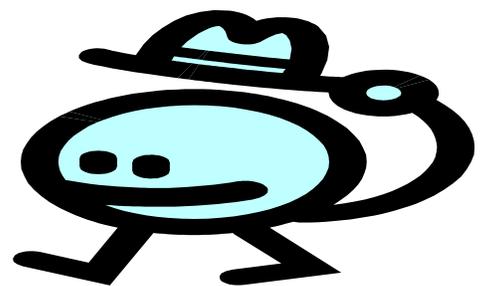
Includes: Honey bee biology and behavior, types and use of equipment, where to put your hives, honey production and processing, disease diagnosis and treatment, and lots more Classes taught by certified MASTER BEEKEEPERS Support and future access to local beekeepers through member association including monthly meetings with timely topics and informative monthly newsletters



Hummingbird Award for December



The Hummingbird Award for the month of December went to Carroll Bonifay. She has done an outstanding job in coordinating the Demo-Garden over the past several years which grows fresh vegetables for the Autauga Interfaith Community Concern. This past year we gathered over 1000 pounds of fresh produce for the poor. She will be stepping down as coordinator this year but plans to still work in the garden. Hats off to Carroll. Job well done.



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.

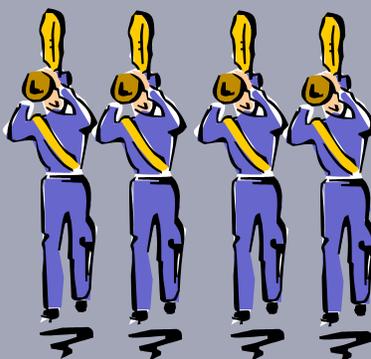
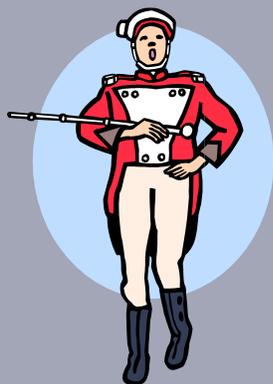
Christmas Luncheon



Master Gardener of the Year



Paula Seamon (right) is 2014 Master Gardener of the Year, as voted on by the members present at the Christmas Luncheon.



2015 Board Members



L to R—Rose McCauley-President,
Ann Fuller-Vice President,
Kathryn Whaley-Secretary,
Deb Hill-Treasurer.



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

ACMGA Board of Directors For 2015

Officer positions are in bold type and were voted on by membership at Christmas Luncheon.

President – Rose McCauley

Vice President – Ann Fuller

Secretary – Kathryn Whaley

Treasurer – Deb Hill

Database Manager – Leanne Wadsworth

Helpline Coordinator – Glenda Armstrong

Newsletter Editor – Anthony Yarbrough

Volunteer Hours Coordinator – Pam Olson

Historian – Carroll Bonifay

Advisory Council Rep. – 1st half yr.: Pam Olson, 2nd half yr.: Paula Seamon

Immediate Past President – Rose McCauley

Non-board contacts:

Prattville-Autauga Demonstration Garden – Rose McCauley

Prattvillage Garden – Linda Parrish

Other volunteer positions:

Directory/Handbook – Anthony Yarbrough

Telephone Committee chair – Helen Allen

Advisory Council Alternate Rep. – 1st half: Paula Seamon, 2nd half: Pam Olson

Assistant to Helpline Coordinator – Anthony Yarbrough

Assistant to Historian – Paula Seamon

Prattvillage Garden Committee – Shari McCandless

Refreshments – Jean Hare

Autauga Co. MGA quarterly articles for *Garden Pathways* – Nancy Waggoner

Farmers' Market booth – Lynn Yarbrough

2014 Nominating Committee

Paula Seamon, Anthony Yarbrough

Pam Olson

Autauga Forestry & Wildlife Stewardship Council
in partnership with
Autauga County Extension Office
presents
2015 Herbicide Seminar



Friday, February 27, 2015
William Howard Smith Agricultural Building
2226 Highway 14 West, Suite E
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Cost: \$15.00 (non-refundable)
Lunch will be served.

**Topics will include
but are not limited
to:
pesticide safety,
sprayer calibration,
and an entomology
update.**

Please mail your payment to:

Autauga County Extension Office
Attn: Herbicide Seminar
2226 Hwy 14 W, Ste. E,
Autaugaville, AL 36003

**The registration deadline
is Noon, February 20, 2015.**



Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce. Educational programs of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or national origin.

www.aces.edu

**The Autauga Forestry & Wildlife Stewardship Council
in partnership with
The Alabama Cooperative Extension System
presents a**



**Black Bear Seminar
Thursday, January 22, 2015
6:30 p.m.**



**This event is free and open to the public.
For more information about the program visit: [http://wp.auburn.edu/
sfws/researchers-receive-grant-to-study-black-bears-in-alabama/](http://wp.auburn.edu/sfws/researchers-receive-grant-to-study-black-bears-in-alabama/)**

**William Howard Smith Agricultural Building
2226 Highway 14 West, Suite E
Autaugaville, AL 36003-2540**



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www.aces.edu

Help Line Luncheon (Late Breaking News)

The Autauga Co Helpline Thank you Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 21st from 11:30-1:00 at the Autauga Co office. PLEASE reply to GLENDA ARMSTRONG if you ARE COMING so we will have a headcount for food. Pins will also be awarded at this time. Glenda's contact information: gfarmstrong@bellsouth.net or 334-361-0273

Future Events Schedule

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

Alabama Master Gardener's Conference in Cullman March 23-25, 2015

Sad News: Just found out that Jean Hare's husband passed away this Wednesday morning. Please keep Jean and her family in your prayers.



Anthony Yarbrough, Editor
Email: ayarb@knology.net