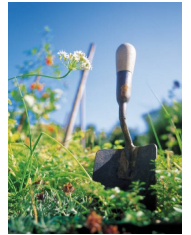




# DIRTY DIGS



Autauga County Master Gardeners Association

September 2015

*ENTERTAIN, EDUCATE, ELEVATE*

**Next Meeting**  
**September 10,**  
**2015**

Meeting Location:  
First Baptist  
Church  
6PM

**Guest Article: Submitted, by Don Armstrong**



**MYSTERY GARDEN**  
**By Don Armstrong**  
**With Edits by Glenda, of course!**

Mystery Garden??? Everyone should have one. You know. A garden where things are coming up and you don't know where they came from, if you planted them, or what they are! Glenda and I have one. It just happened!

Nothing actually just happens, so here is the story.

Like good Master Gardeners (at the time of this story I was still an Intern – hence allowed to be a little ignorant) we have a compost pile. It is not a properly built one with three or four bins to turn the compost every two weeks, and move it from bin to bin. I only had room to build two bins, but they are 4' x 4' on the ground, and, if I filled them to the top, they could be 4' high. So, our compost does not get turned every two weeks, like I learned to do in the Intern class. I turn it when the "new stuff stack" gets too full and needs to be turned into the "let it finish stack." Not the best way to create compost, but that is all that gets done.

In late January 2015, or early February, I needed to turn the "new stuff stack." So, by definition, the "let it finish stack" was finished! The garden bed, a 65 foot long strip about 3' wide, was fully dead. So, I did the obvious thing. I took the "completed" compost, and one pitchfork at a time, spread it across the garden bed. At the end of this effort all looked really good. I turned the "new stuff stack" into the "let it finish stack," and Glenda started to fill up the "new stuff stack." All was well and good at the Armstrong Slave Labor Camp. Right!

As some of you know, we took a 24 day driving trip with our Georgia friends and drove to Arizona in April and May this Spring, our Western Ramble. Being the clever Intern that I was, I knew not to plant any veggies in the garden bed before we left because we were going to be gone a long time. I did not want the lady housesitting for us to have to water the new plants. My plan was to plant a summer garden when we got back.

About a week or two before we left I noticed little tomato plants coming up in the garden area. I was busy with other work, so I left them and figured I would pull the dead plants out when we got back. Then I would plant our summer garden. After all, the garden bed was not going to get watered. Ha!

This little garden area is actually the top of a terrace that I created to slow the water down as it runs down the hillside behind the house. The terrace is sloped so that the top of the terrace is higher than the back of the terrace, hence the terrace catches all of the water. The idea is to conserve water and to slow down the erosion of the hillside. I can tell you this idea works!!!

When we got back from our Western Ramble in May I took a look at the garden. Instead of a few dead tomatoes I had a sixty-five foot long tomato patch with tomatoes 20 – 24 inches tall!!! So, I told the tomatoes to just grow, and we would see what they could do. Now, I hope you remember your Intern training on hybrid vs heritage plants, and you saw the same slide I saw. They showed us a picture of a bell pepper with about 50 other peppers lined up next to it. Someone had collected the seeds from a hybrid bell pepper, dried them, and then planted them to see what would come of the seeds. None of the seeds produced any nice bell peppers. There were some very interesting pepper shapes on the slide. I decided to leave the garden area alone, no water and no weed pulling. I wanted to see what we would get as we had planted essentially all hybrid tomatoes the previous year.

We are actually getting some tomatoes, all little ones, with an interesting set of shapes. We pick them and use them. I would show you a photo of them, but as I write this I have to tell you that I chopped about twenty of them up last night for one of our own recipes for a tomato sauce to go over pasta. Are you interested in having the “secret” recipe? Just bring over a bag of tomatoes, and we will create it for you as we make up a batch right before your eyes. Dinner at the Armstrongs is a lot of fun – we cook right in front of you as we visit.

The tomato horn worm really likes these plants, but I don’t care – I am hoping the little wasp will have a field day planting “babies” on the worms.



Mystery Garden looking West



Mystery Garden looking East

A Mystery Garden with just tomatoes can be boring. Somehow, a couple of Four O’Clock plants have shown up. I don’t know where they came from – the other Four O’Clock plants are on the front of the house and well over 100 feet away. We also have this mystery flower too – a fuchsia color. It is some kind of a red spiked thing. There is no mystery in where the seeds came from on this one as I put a bunch of them in the compost. The mystery is we don’t know the name of the flower. This plant has moved around the garden beds for two years. It must be in the Cock’s Comb family, but it does not have the big Cock’s Comb – just the same color in cute spikes! The photo below shows a Cock’s Comb on the same plant with the little spikes. We have lots of Zinnias too – they were planted in this garden last year and reseeded, so no mystery to them coming back.



Four O’Clock



Zinnia

A Mystery Garden with just tomatoes can be boring. Somehow, a couple of Four O’Clock plants have shown up. I don’t know where they came from – the other Four O’Clock plants are on the front of the house and well over 100 feet away. We also have this mystery flower too – a fuchsia color. It is some kind of a red spiked thing. There is no mystery in where the seeds came from on this one as I put a bunch of them in the compost. The mystery is we don’t know the name of the flower. This plant has moved around the garden beds for two years. It must be in the Cock’s Comb family, but it does not have the big Cock’s Comb – just the same color in cute spikes! The photo below shows a Cock’s Comb on the same plant with the little spikes. We have lots of Zinnias too – they were planted in this garden last year and reseeded, so no mystery to them coming back.



Mystery Fuchsia Plant



Fuchsia "Cock's Comb"



Fuchsia Spikes – same plant

And, our Mystery Garden has some vines too. One of the vines produced a nice, edible, cucumber. It produced a second one, but I missed it. It is now about four inches long and three inches in diameter. The vine is dead, and Glenda said to just leave the second cucumber, as it would not taste good. Then there is this other set of vines. I thought these were also cucumber vines. I have been picking the vines up off the ground and tucking them back into the top of the 24" high fence to keep the cucumbers off the ground. But, they are some kind of melon vine. I picked the first melon as it looked like it was ripening. When I cut into the melon, it was rotten – a worm had gotten into it from the bottom. It smelled really bad too. I have picked another melon because it was splitting the vine. I plan to cut it tomorrow – A melon report is at the end of the article. The vines are still producing little melons. The next one looks like it has stripes and is elongated, maybe a watermelon??? Oh, the fun of a Mystery Garden.



The melon



A baby melon – Watermelon?

We have a purple plant too. A couple of years ago I sent some babies of this plant to the Master Gardener Plant Sale. I understand several people spent up to an hour or more looking for the name of this plant. They never got a satisfactory name. One of the Master Gardeners bought one/some anyway, and tells me she really likes the plant. I had a professional (Auburn type professional) look at the plant and tell me it was a mint because the stalk was square. I think it is purple basil. One thing is for sure, it is prolific!!! It is a weed and has overtaken the Mystery Garden. It is beautiful in great, big bunches!

The Mystery Garden had a tall sunflower, about seven feet tall. A wind storm snapped it over about 24 inches off the ground. I cut off the bloom and brought it into the house. It stayed nice for a couple of weeks. The bent over sunflower stalk produced new shoots that went straight up about twelve inches and had little blooms that were about two inches in diameter. The whole plant has now died.



The Purple Mystery



Two Compost Bins



Vines and Melon on Back Fence

With all of this mystery growing, you would think that is the end of the story. Nope. The compost that I turned over back in late January/early February has been sitting there doing its compost thing. No, it has not been turned, like it should be, every two weeks. We have mystery vines growing out of the back and along the fence. It even has a melon. And, the mystery fuchsia color flower is growing on top of the compost too.

The mystery continues at the Armstrong Slave Labor Camp's Mystery Garden. Come pick anytime you would like and share the produce from the Mystery Garden.

Oh, yes, the melon report. We cut it this morning. It had a faint smell, almost like that of a pumpkin. It had the seeds of a cantaloupe, and it had the look of a cantaloupe. It was a little green and had a very thick rind. The meat of the cantaloupe was a little thinner than that of a normal one. It was a bit crunchy to the bite and barely had the flavor of a cantaloupe. We ate the melon and appear to have survived eating this Mystery Melon. The seeds and rind are in the "new stuff stack." I wonder what will come up next year in the Mystery Garden???



Mystery Melon Halves





Mystery Melon Slice

Post Script: Don thought he got two of the mystery plants from Jane McCarthy at Maxwell AFB. He contacted Jane and learned the bright fuchsia is a celosia of some variety. It self-seeds vigorously and produces spikes and combs and may be reverting back to its parent. About the purple plant that Don thinks is a basil, Jane confirmed with the possible perilla...cross pollination loses some characteristics.

# September 2015

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

		<p><i>1</i></p> <p><i>Demo Garden</i> <i><u>8:00 AM</u></i></p>	<p><i>2</i></p>	<p><i>3</i></p> <p><i>Demo Garden</i> <i><u>8:00 AM</u></i></p> <p><i><u>Lunch and</u></i> <i><u>Learn Garden</u></i> <i><u>Design</u></i></p>	<p><i>4</i></p>	<p><i>5</i></p> <p><i>Al and AU First</i> <i>football game</i></p>
<p><i>6</i></p>	<p><i>7</i></p> 	<p><i>8</i></p> <p><i>Demo Garden</i> <i><u>8:00 AM</u></i></p>	<p><i>9</i></p> <p><i>AMGA Fall Sem-</i> <i>inar in Clanton</i></p>	<p><i>10</i></p> <p><i>Demo Garden</i> <i><u>8:00 AM</u></i></p> <p><i><u>ACMGA Meet-</u></i> <i><u>ing 6PM</u></i></p> <p><i>1st Intern Class</i> <i>Elmore Co</i></p>	<p><i>11</i></p>	<p><i>12</i></p>
<p><i>13</i></p>	<p><i>14</i></p> <p><i>Governors</i> <i>Mansion</i> <i>workday</i></p>	<p><i>15</i></p> <p><i>Demo Garden</i> <i><u>8:00 AM</u></i></p>	<p><i>16</i></p>	<p><i>17</i></p> <p><i>Demo Garden</i> <i><u>8:00 AM</u></i></p> <p><i>Intern Class</i> <i>Elmore Co</i></p>	<p><i>18</i></p> <p><i>Fall Gardening</i> <i>Extravaganza</i> <i>Alex City</i></p> <p><i>Cake Decorating</i></p>	<p><i>19</i></p>
<p><i>20</i></p>	<p><i>21</i></p> <p><i>Governors</i> <i>Mansion</i> <i>workday</i></p>	<p><i>22</i></p> <p><i>Demo Garden</i> <i><u>8:00 AM</u></i></p>	<p><i>23</i> <i>Yom Kippur</i></p>  <p><i>Autumn Begins</i></p>	<p><i>24</i></p> <p><i>Demo Garden</i> <i><u>8:00 AM</u></i></p> <p><i>Intern Class</i> <i>Elmore Co</i></p>	<p><i>25</i></p>	<p><i>26</i></p>
<p><i>27</i></p>	<p><i>28</i></p> <p><i>Governors</i> <i>Mansion</i> <i>workday</i></p>	<p><i>29</i></p> <p><i>Demo Garden</i> <i><u>8:00 AM</u></i></p>	<p><i>30</i></p>			

# October 2015

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

				1 <i>Demo Garden 8:00 AM</i> <i>Intern Class Elmore Co</i> <i>Lunch and Learn</i>	2 <i>ACMGA Board Meeting</i>	3
4	5 <i>Governors Mansion workday</i>	6 <i>Demo Garden 8:00 AM</i>	7	8 <i>Demo Garden 8:00 AM</i> <i>Intern Class Elmore Co</i> <i>ACMGA Meet</i>	9	10
11  <i>Columbus Day</i>	12 <i>Governors Mansion workday</i> <i>Columbus Day</i>	13 <i>Demo Garden 8:00 AM</i>	14	15 <i>Demo Garden 8:00 AM</i> <i>Intern Class Elmore Co</i>	16	17
18	19 <i>Governors Mansion workday</i>	20 <i>Demo Garden 8:00 AM</i>	21	22 <i>Demo Garden 8:00 AM</i> <i>Intern Class Elmore Co</i>	23	24
25	26 <i>Governors Mansion workday</i>	27 <i>Demo Garden 8:00 AM</i>	28	29 <i>Demo Garden 8:00 AM</i> <i>Intern Class Elmore Co</i>	30	31 



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

## Home Grown Veggies this Fall

One benefit to our mild winters is our ability to grow vegetables almost year round. Not only do some vegetables do better when we are transitioning to cooler temps, but also the gardeners. Most of us are worn out by the hot summer sun, insects, diseases and probably most of all the weeds. As the temps get cooler, there will be less fungal diseases, insects and fewer weeds to battle. In addition, many cool-season vegetables, such as carrots, broc-coli, 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 ideal.

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. Some of the hardy and semi-hardy fall vegetables can stand a frost with little to no effect, but for those that are more tender, especially lettuce, using a light sheet, burlap, or a floating row cover supported by stakes to protect the plants from frost.

Planting fall vegetables directly in the soil from seed can be a challenge as our fall weather is generally hot and dry and the soils can be hard and crusty. You must keep the soils moist for good germination. Applying a light layer of mulch over the seeds after planting will help retain moisture and increase your germination rate. Otherwise I would recommend starting your seeds indoors or purchasing transplants to increase the plants survival, but either way, MULCH is always a good idea! 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 outdoors or definitely plant transplants.

Root crops such as carrots and radishes should be harvested or mulched heavily before a hard freeze. Mulched root crops can often be harvested as needed 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. The fall veggies that fall into the semi-hardy category are: Leaf Lettuces, Beets, Rutabaga, and Cauliflower. Those that are HARDY for our area include: Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Collards, Kale, Kohlrabi, Onion, Radishes, Spinach and Turnips.

## AUTAUGA COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Autauga County membership dues for 2016 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. 15, 2015.

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	\$100 (One-time fee)

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I am a dual member, County of primary membership \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to ACMGA. Mail or give to:

Deb Hill  
241 County Road 101  
Autaugaville, AL 36003



## JULY 2015 TREASURER'S REPORT

**BEGINNING BALANCE** **6,973.00**

**REVENUE**

Local and State Dues 00.00

**CHECKS / EXPENSES**

7/09/15 Jason Powell, L&L Speaker	50.00	
7/09/15 Linda Parrish, flowers		62.72
7/9/15 Linda Parrish, Pine Straw	100.00	
7/20/15 AMGA Scholarship Fund		346.34
7/20/15 Water		69.22
Total Expenses		628.28

**GRAND TOTAL** **6,344.72**

<b>Prattvillage \$275.02</b>	<b>Demo Garden \$224.34</b>
<b>-62.72</b>	
<b>-100.00</b>	
<b>Balance \$112.30</b>	

# Cake Decorating Learn to Earn Workshop ~Fun With Fondant~

Learn the basics of cake decorating with fondant just like the professionals by decorating a cake using fondant and techniques of sculpting. These are also skills that you can use to start a small business at home.



**WHAT:** "Learn to Earn" – Cake Decorating

**WHEN:** Friday, September 18, 2015

**WHERE:** Autauga County Extension Office

2226 Hwy 14 West Suite E, Autaugaville, AL

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. (16 participant limit)

**COST:** \$10.00

- Live demonstration on making your own fondant
- Tools and gadgets used to make beautiful designs
- You will get to decorate your own cake and take it with you!

**Registration is limited to 16 participants.**

**Please call the Autauga Extension Office at 334-361-7273 to register.**



The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) offers educational programs, materials and equal opportunity employment to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability.

Monday, October 19th & Tuesday, October 20th, 2015

## Pesticide Applicator training for HPC/IIHC - WDC - OTPS - AQ - D&R - and PH Categories.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System at Auburn University along with the Alabama Green Industry Training Center, and the Alabama Pesticide Safety Education Program is proud to host the **"Pesticide Applicators University"**. Over the two day period Applicators can earn points in Aquatic (**AQ**), Demonstration & Research (**D&R**), Household and Industrial Pest Control (**HPC/IIHC**), Ornamental Turf & Pest Control (**OTPS**), Public Health (**PH**), Regulatory (**REG**), and Wood Destroying Organisms (**WDO**). Contact us at (334) 844-8832 for more information.

This event will take place at the:

[Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center at Grand National](#)

Please visit the [Registration](#) page to access the link with discounted room rates through September 25th, 2015.



3700 Robert Trent Jones Trail  
Opelika, AL 36801  
334-737-2126

[www.marriottgrandnational.com](http://www.marriottgrandnational.com)

[Map of the area](#)

Follow Alabama Pesticide Safety Education Program



## What's Bugging You



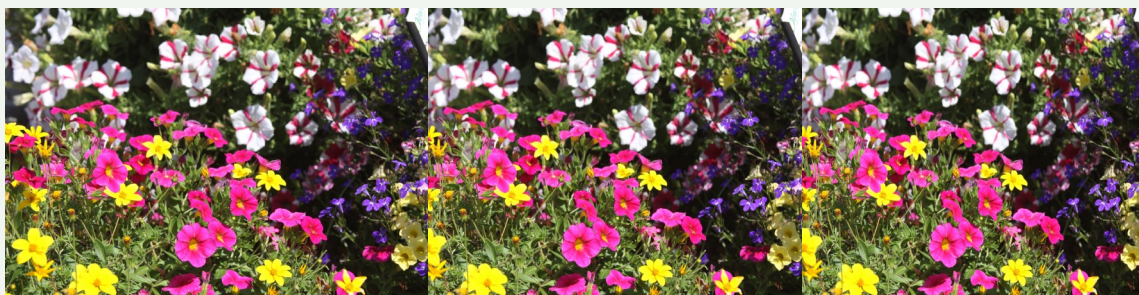
Can You Identify the above insects?

Beneficial or Destructive

These have been recently found in our area!!!!

(Answer is on Page 24)

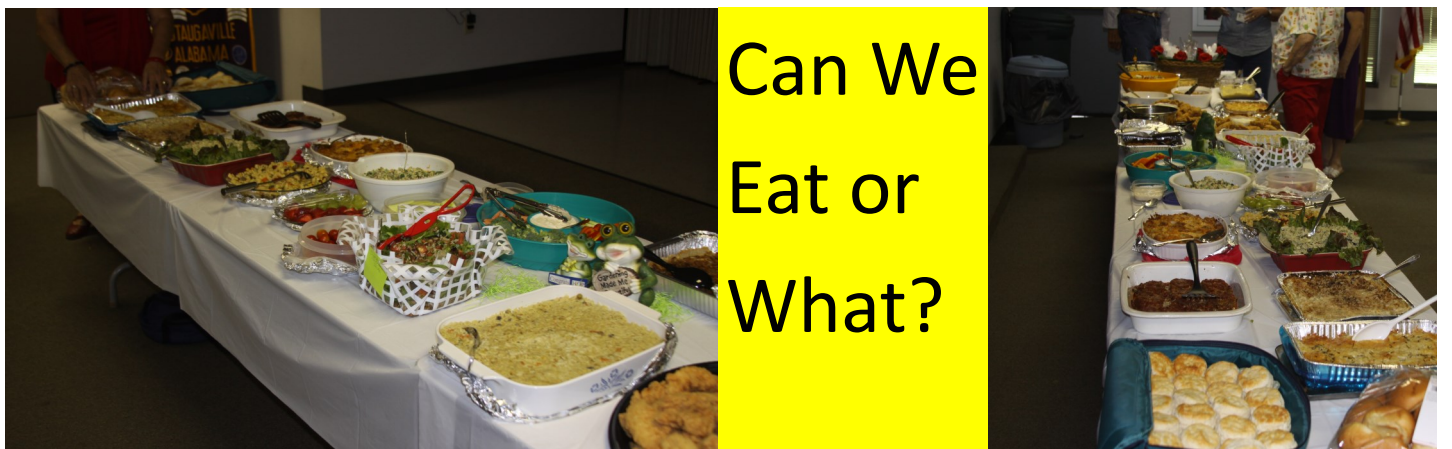
Tour of Maxwell AFB greenhouse set up for Nov 12 at 10 am. We will need names of those attending tour to give to Jane McCarthy so that they will be able to enter base.



# Intern Graduation



Congratulation to the above interns who graduated to full fledged Master Gardeners on August 18, 2015. Listed from left to right are: Front Row: Wendy O'Riley, Sophie O'Riley, Tim McCoy, Ofie McCoy, Stephanie Stephens, Angie Frith, Beatrice Hill, Bob Hill and Extension Agent, Mallory Kelley; Second Row: Dave Davis, Lee Thomas, Don Armstrong, Elaina Pyle, Bill Crum, and Lisa Carswell.



# Hummingbird Award for August



The Hummingbird Award for the month of August went to Paula Seamon. Paula has done an outstanding job in planning and carrying out all functions for our garden tours and social outings. It seems that Paula is involved in any tasks assigned to Master Gardeners. She has even been seen pushing the lawn mower at our gardens. Hats off for a job well done. Paula is pictured on the left above with our President Rose McCauley.



# 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, Brussels sprouts, and onion sets.

## 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.

Pam Olson reported that last year we donated 145 pounds of personal care and cleaning products (and most of the personal care items don't weigh very much) in addition to almost 20 cosmetic bags to be used in gift baskets for ladies, a school backpack, and a set of sheets,

### **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



# **Autauga County Master Gardeners Association**

## **JOIN US FOR LUNCH & LEARN 2015**



**THE 1<sup>ST</sup> THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH**

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

**FREE PROGRAMS**

**Christ Lutheran Church, 2175 Cobbs Ford Road, Prattville 36066**

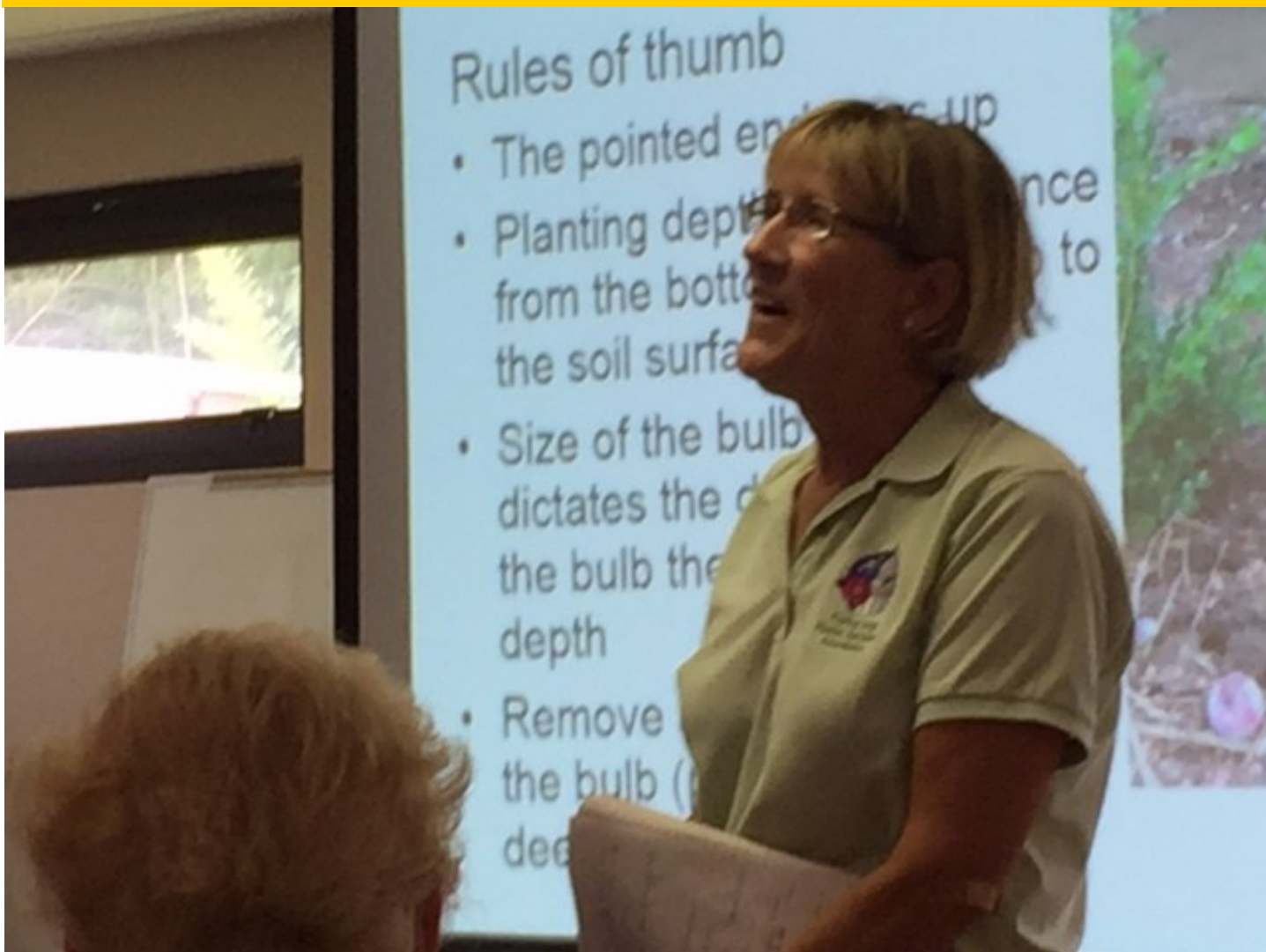
- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>FEBRUARY 5</b>  | <b>MONTHLY GARDEN TASKS AT A GLANCE</b> |
| <b>MARCH 5</b>     | <b>MULTIPLYING YOUR PLANTS</b>          |
| <b>APRIL 2</b>     | <b>BACKYARD TOMATOES</b>                |
| <b>MAY 7</b>       | <b>HYDRANGEAS</b>                       |
| <b>JUNE 4</b>      | <b>TREE ID</b>                          |
| <b>JULY 2</b>      | <b>YEAR ROUND COLOR</b>                 |
| <b>AUGUST 6</b>    | <b>BULBS</b>                            |
| <b>SEPTEMBER 3</b> | <b>GARDEN DESIGN</b>                    |
| <b>OCTOBER 1</b>   | <b>CACTI AND OTHER SUCCULENTS</b>       |
| <b>NOVEMBER 5</b>  | <b>HOLIDAY DECORATING</b>               |



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

**BRING A SACK LUNCH. DRINKS PROVIDED.**

# August Lunch and Learn



Karen Weber gave the program for the Autauga County Master Gardener's Lunch and learn program. Karen is a member of the Capital City Master Gardeners and takes care of the gardens at the Shakespeare Festival and at Grace Episcopal Church. The program she presented was on bulbs in the garden and was very informative to the 30 or so people who attended. One thing I learned of special interest was buy your bulbs early in September and buy the biggest bulbs you can find. For tulips, she places her newly bought bulbs in a refrigerator that has no fruit. Then plants them the last of December or first of January on a cold day.



# All Bugs Good and Bad

## 2015 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 6**    **Pesticide Strategy: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly**  
*Kaci Buhl*
- March 6**        **Fire Ant Management Using Baits**  
*Dr. Lawrence "Fudd" Graham*
- April 3**         **Common Termites of the United States: Biology, Behavior, and Management**  
*Dr. Robert Puckett*
- May 1**            **Beneficial Garden Helpers**  
*Dr. Kris Braman*
- June 5**          **Insect-borne Diseases Affecting People**  
*Dr. Nathan Burkett-Cadena*
- August 7**        **Management of Japanese Beetles and Other White Grubs**  
*Dr. Juang-Horng "J.C." Chong*
- September 4**   **Bees, Wasps and Hornets - They're All Different**  
*Dr. Charles Ray*
- October 2**       **Keep Ants and Cockroaches from Ruining Your Holidays**  
*Elizabeth "Wizzie" Brown*
- November 6**    **Let's Beat the Bug! New Things to Know about Bed Bugs**  
*Dr. Stephen Kells*
- December 4**    **Wildlife in the Backyard - a Double-edged Sword**  
*Dr. Scott Hygnstrom*



For more information on the series and how to connect to the webinars, visit: [extension.org/pages/72197](http://extension.org/pages/72197).



Citations for pictures: top banner: 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.

# AMGA FALL SEMINAR



2015



***“SEASON’S  
ENDING OR  
JUST  
BEGINNING”***



## **ALABAMA MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION 2015 FALL SEMINAR**

**September 9, 2015  
8:30a.m.-3:00p.m.**

**Clanton Conference  
& Performing Arts  
Center  
Jefferson State  
University Campus  
1850 Lay Dam Road**

**Registration: \$25  
Payable to  
Chilton County Master  
Gardener Association  
(CCMGA)**

**Send Registration and  
Check to:  
CCMGA  
P.O. Box 30  
Clanton, AL 35046  
Registration end date  
August 24, 2015**

**Partner hotels:**

**Holiday Inn Express  
815 Bradberry Lane,  
Clanton, AL [\(205\)-280-1880](tel:205-280-1880)  
Discounted rate \$105**

**Best Western  
801 Bradberry Lane,  
Clanton, AL  
[\(205\)280-1006](tel:205-280-1006)  
Regular rate \$85.00**

**For more information call:  
Pat Farmer--205-755-2879  
or Sondra Henley-  
205-567-3333**

### **EVENT DETAILS**

- 8:30 - 9:15 Registration**
- 9:15 - 9:30 Welcome**
- 9:30 -10:30 Bulbs, Tubers, & Corms,  
Oh My! (Jason Powell)**
- 10:30-10:45 Break**
- 10:45-11:45 Gardening Insights From  
Permaculture (Will Sheftall)**
- 11:45-12:45 Lunch (Provided)**
- 12:45- 1:45 Seed Saving & Propagation  
(Dani Carroll)**
- 1:45 - 2:00 Break**
- 2:00 - 3:00 Sex in the Garden-  
Pollination (Sallie Lee)**



\*\*\*\*\* **AMGA FALL SEMINAR** \*\*\*\*\*

**8:30-9:15 REGISTRATION**

**9:15—Welcome**

**9:30-10:30—Jason Powell**



B.S. Auburn University, Landscape Design Horticulture; M.S. Texas A&M University, Horticulture

**BULBS, TUBERS, & CORMS—OH MY!**

**10:45-11:45—William Sheftall**



Natural Resources Extension Agent IV, Leon County, FL Cooperative Extension Service

**GARDENING INSIGHTS FROM PERMACULTURE**

**Box Lunch 11:45-12:45 (Provided)**

**12:45-1:45 Dani Carroll**



Regional Extension Agent II, Home Grounds, Gardens and Home Pests, Gadsden, AL

**SEED SAVING & PROPOGATION**

**2:00-3:00 Sallie Lee**



Regional Extension Agent II, Home Grounds, Gardens and Home Pests, Gadsden, AL

**SEX IN THE GARDEN-POLLINATION**

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# AMGA FALL SEMINAR



## 2015

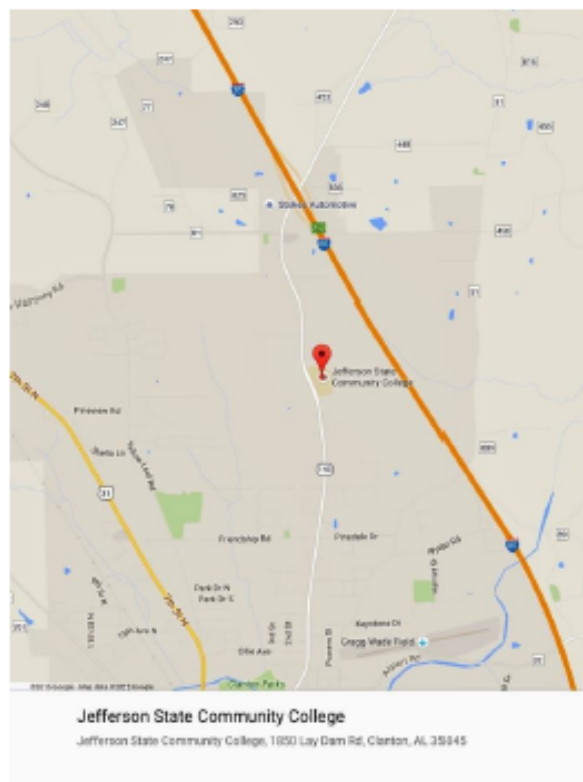


### Directions from within Alabama:

**From Birmingham and areas north: Travel I-65 South to Clanton 212 exit (PEACH TOWER EXIT), turn right towards Clanton, go approximately 1 mile, Jefferson State College is on left, parking and entrance in back.**

**From Montgomery and areas south: Travel I-65 North to Clanton 212 exit (PEACH TOWER EXIT), turn left towards Clanton, go approx.. 1 mile, Jefferson State College is on the left, parking and entrance in back.**

**From areas west or east of Clanton, follow signs to 145 north. Turn left at light to go out 145 (Lay Dam Road). Jefferson State College is approximately 2 miles from corner of Lay Dam Road (also 145 and 1<sup>st</sup> St.) and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. The Alfa Building is also at that corner. If detour is still in effect, you will go 31 N. to Ollie Avenue, turn right, at end turn left on Lay Dam Road. Jeff State approx. 1.5 miles on right.**



# Fall Gardening Extravaganza

September 18, 2015



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



- We are pleased to announce that our **'Fall Gardening Extravaganza'** will return in September! After much success last year, the Tallapoosa County Extension office and Tallapoosa County Master Gardeners will host another grand event. The 2015 event will be on **Friday, September 18th** at Central Alabama Community College in Alexander City. All details found at [www.aces.edu/Tallapoosa](http://www.aces.edu/Tallapoosa).

# What's Bugging You Answer

## Azalea Caterpillar

*Datana major* Grote and Robinson, Notodontidae, LEPIDOPTERA

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### DESCRIPTION

**Adult** - The light-brown moth has a wingspan of 45 mm.

**Larva** - The partly grown larva (caterpillar) is approximately 10 mm long and reddish to brownish black with white and yellow stripes. The mature caterpillar is about 50 mm long and black with eight near-white, longitudinal, broken stripes; the head and legs are mahogany red (Color Plate 1C).

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### BIOLOGY

**Distribution** - Azalea caterpillars are serious pests of azaleas in the Southeast: Virginia, the Carolinas, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

**Host Plants** - An important pest of azaleas, azalea caterpillars have also been reported on blueberry in Delaware, on red oak in Maryland, and occasionally on Andromeda and apple in Atlantic states.

**Damage** - Often the caterpillars defoliate much of the plant before they are detected.

**Life History** - The azalea caterpillar is gregarious, feeding in groups; all members raise head and posterior in unison when disturbed. Comparatively little is known about the biology of this insect. Apparently there is only one generation per year. Eggs are deposited by the female moth in masses of 80 to 100 on the underside of the leaf. The first-instar caterpillars feed in a cluster side by side unless disturbed. Most of the damage occurs in August and September.

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### CONTROL

Because the caterpillar is harmless to humans, it can be removed by hand. For specific chemical controls, see the current state extension service recommendations.

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# Beekeeping 101

Sponsored by Alabama Extension and East Alabama Beekeeping Association

Cost of Classes : \$50.00 (includes book)

Place: Holmestead Farm, 6582 Clay County Road 7, Talladega, AL 35160

To register, Call or email Dani Carroll at 256-458-6043 or [carrodl@aces.edu](mailto:carrodl@aces.edu)

**Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 to 3:30**

**Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 until 3:30.**

**Saturday, February 6, 2016** participants are encouraged to attend the Alabama Beekeeping Symposium in Clanton (all day). The fee for the symposium is not included in the class fee. At the symposium, those that have ordered hives and beekeeping materials will be able to pick them up without paying shipping fees.

**Saturday, February 13, 2016 from 9:00 until 3:30** - equipment assembly workshop

**A class will also be scheduled in late March / early April - package bee installation.**

# Future Events Schedule

Fall AMGA meeting in Chilton County on September 9th

Intern class begins September 10th

Fall Extravaganza in Tallapoosa County September 18

Tour of Maxwell AFB greenhouse—November 12

Beekeeping 101—Talladega, Alabama—January-February

It's that time of year again when Master Gardener dues are due. In this newsletter you will find the Membership Form. Please fill out completely and bring along with payment to the ACMGA meeting on Thursday night. Mail it in if you cannot attend. We need all dues paid by October 1. Thanks for paying attention to this matter.



Anthony Yarbrough, Editor  
Email: [ayarb@knology.net](mailto:ayarb@knology.net)  
May God Bless