



Master Gardeners of North Alabama GARDEN THYMES

Spring 2026



From the President

Greetings MGNA Family,

As the saying goes, “April showers bring May flowers”. I, like most of you, wait on the last frost date before planting vegetables and flowers; moreover, we’re expecting snow on March 16th, and our landscapes will look like an Ansel Adams photo. Please take photos and share them in our 3rd quarter newsletter.

Want to hear some great news? The 2026 AMGA Annual State Conference and Business Meeting on May 6th-8th is **Sold Out!** We have reached the maximum number of registrants (400) that we are able to accept due to fire codes at the

Westin Hotel. Save the Date for the 2027 AMGA Conference in Jefferson County, April 7-9, at Rosewood Hall in Homewood, AL!

I’m excited to attend the upcoming Annual 2026 AMGA Annual State Conference and Business Meeting. The program is full of educational opportunities on many topics of interest for Master Gardeners at all levels of knowledge and experience. The conference will provide new information and ideas that we will be excited to try in our own backyards. Most importantly, it’s the fellowship of our new and seasoned Master Gardener friends from other parts of the state that share a common interest.

For members who like to shop, you’ll have an opportunity to shop with excellent vendors, participate in the Silent Auction and hopefully win a super door prize. An absolutely “don’t miss” event is the Awards Banquet on Thursday night. In addition to a delicious menu, you will get to see and applaud deserving recipients of AMGA’s most prestigious awards.

Our biggest event of the year is our Plant Sale which is our annual fundraiser. The Plant Sale will be on April 10-11, 2026. Don’t forget about the 10-10-10 challenge. Please see page 7 for additional information.

As a friendly reminder, there won’t be a general meeting in April or May. Weather permitting, the MGNA picnic is scheduled for May 23rd from 10:30AM– 2:00PM. Location is TBD.

Happy gardening,
Acacia Moore, MGNA President

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From Our County Agent, Lilly Oaks

Spring is officially here, and the excitement is building as our garden centers begin to buzz and our own landscapes start to bloom. April is plant sale season, so be sure to volunteer for the MGNA sale and take a moment to visit other local Master Gardener associations to support their efforts and find some unique additions for your own garden. Looking ahead to May, we are thrilled to be hosting the Alabama Master Gardener Association State Conference right here in Huntsville! With 400 people already registered, it is going to be an incredible event, and I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to make this conference the success I know it will be. Additionally, don't miss the Azalea 101 workshop on May 5th at the Huntsville Botanical Garden, hosted by Alabama Extension and the Azalea Society, you can find that flyer in this month's newsletter.

As we look toward the summer months, please go ahead and mark August 21 and 22 on your calendars for the Great Southeast Pollinator Census. We had a fantastic time participating last year, and we are aiming for an even bigger turnout in 2026. To help everyone prepare, we are offering day-long Pollinator Partner trainings across the state to better equip our communities to identify and protect these vital species. These trainings will be conducted regionally, and I'm excited to be helping teach the session in Guntersville on Friday, June 12, so keep an eye out for those specific event details.

In conjunction with the 250th anniversary of America, we have a truly meaningful challenge this year: we are asking every county in Alabama to donate 250 pounds of produce between Memorial Day and Labor Day. As you harvest your vegetables this summer, please consider donating a portion to a local charity or someone in need. Be sure to report those donations on both the Grow More Give More challenge link and your service reports so we can track our progress toward this statewide goal. It is a wonderful way to celebrate our nation's milestone by giving back to our neighbors. As always, thank you for everything you do as volunteers. Whether you find a new project to join, report more hours than ever before, or decide to run for an MGNA office, your hard work is what makes this a great year to be an Extension Master Gardener.

Lilly Oaks



Charles Stone Agricultural
Center
819 Cook Avenue NW
Huntsville, AL 35801
www.aces.edu

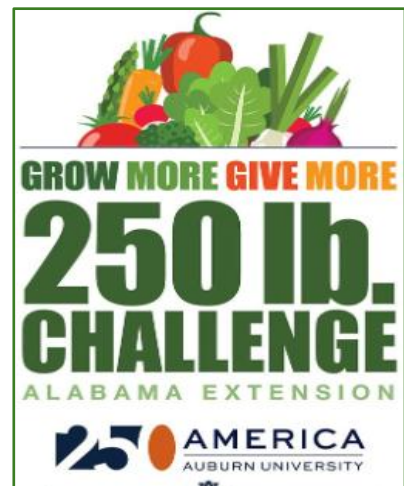
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AWARDS by Kathy Gardner

Debbie Overcash is 2025's "Friend of MGNA"



Kathy Gardner presented the award to Debbie Overcash

Congratulations to Debbie Overcash for her selection as the Friend of MGNA for 2025. The criteria for this award – to provide support and assistance to a project - is exactly what Overcash did – and then some! Since 2019, several members of MGNA have dedicated their time to ensure the blooming success of the Rotary Club of Madison's Monarch Butterfly Habitat. However, we knew that irrigation was sorely needed for the Habitat's pollinator vines, trees, perennials, and annuals to truly thrive. That's where Overcash came in. A member of the Rotary Club of Madison (which initiated the Habitat in 2019), she singlehandedly acquired irrigation for the full length of the Habitat. She procured additional perennial pollinator plants to add to the Habitat's collection. She also secured an annual Spring commitment of 65 bags of brown mulch from County Commissioner Steve Haraway. In 2025, the MGNA Board unanimously gave the garden "official" project status so that the Rotary will have enduring Master Gardener expertise at the Habitat.

If you have any questions or would like to support the Butterfly Habitat, please contact MGNA's current Project Lead, Kathy Gardner, at kgardner0321@gmail.com. Volunteers and donations of native pollinator plants are always appreciated.

A Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to Cynthia Moore.

She and her husband have been growing, housing, and maintaining shrubs and trees at their house for MGNA for over three years.



Reaching for The Stars! By Janet Boothe

Reach for The Stars is a program of tracking Master Gardener’s volunteer hours and rewarding those members for the hours they have given to the community. During the February MGNA general meeting, advanced badges and pins were announced (they will be awarded during the MG State Convention) and, Bronze, Silver and Gold star pins were awarded. 138 members turned in a total of 15,057 volunteer hours and reported about 2,224 CEU hours. Janet Boothe stated that we ranked second to Birmingham in 2025; we could be first in 2026.

Helen Carr accumulated a total of **10,331.16** volunteer hours! She earned an Amethyst star and her name was submitted to the state level to be considered for the Jean Lee Lifetime Hours Award.

Other awards were:

(100-299 hours)

Bronze Star

- Linda Berry
- Melane Elliott
- Katherine Moody
- Dawn Nelson
- Linda Parker
- Stephen Walls
- Barbara White
- Paul Wieland
- Wendy Worley

(300-499 hours)

Silver Star

- Erin Catoire
- Maria Cayse
- Ara Leigh Cripps
- Elise Fulda
- Martha Hannan
- Ruth Kempel
- Marilyn Porter
- Michael Schleider
- Paula Wheeler

(500-999 hours)

Gold Star

- Cynthia Achorn
- Julie Anderson
- Sangeetha Bathala
- Rita Icenogle
- Cynthia Moore
- Dee Scott
- Jeff Scott
- Desiree Umstaedter
- Rhonda Zook

(1000-1999 hours)

Gold Badge

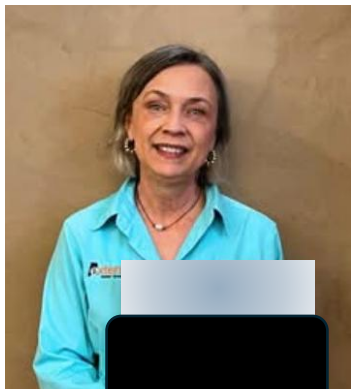
- Paula Eggert
- Kathy Gardner
- Valeta Wheeler

Platinum Badge

- Carlita Edwards
- Acacia Moore
- Sandra Pape

Report your hours here : https://www.acesagmg.site/login_1.php And as always, if you have any questions regarding the entry of your Volunteer Hours, contact Deen Rice deenr@bellsouth.net

Meetings



January Meeting

Kerry Smith spoke about the MOU and Carol Weand talked about the Conference



February Meeting

Angie Barnes presented “The Repurposed Garden “



March Meeting

Sophie Pedzich from Wheeler Wildlife Refuge talked about Cranes.

Spring at Morris Elementary By Julie Anderson

This spring, the Morris Elementary gardening program has been busy helping third grade students explore how we can grow various vegetables. Students started six different varieties of tomatoes, experimenting with both traditional starter cells and the “seed snail” method to observe germination and root development. Once the seedlings were ready, they practiced transplanting them into larger pots and took their plants home to continue growing them. The students also learned how to divide and repot basil plants, planted salad bowls with mixed lettuces, and discovered how new green onions can grow from leftover onion bottoms. They also planted snap peas in the greenhouse and later transplanted them into the outdoor beds to continue growing.



We have enjoyed support from the school’s Green Ambassador program. These student leaders have been helping the third graders with garden activities and even teaching Pre-K students how to plant seeds and onion sets, helping build a culture of gardening and stewardship across the school.

If you’re looking for a meaningful way to earn volunteer hours and inspire the next generation of gardeners, we’d love to have you be part of the Morris Elementary program. Please contact me at julie@windforge.com



Memories of Bill Fuller By Ameree Young

I was deeply saddened to hear the news about Bill Fuller’s illness, and recently, to learn of his passing. I first met Bill through my volunteering at the Huntsville Senior Center through the master gardener horticulture therapy program there. We planned and executed many different types of plant related activities with the special needs men and women. Bill had a special genuine relationship with many of the special needs adults, and really cared about them.

Bill was also very active in other ways volunteering with Morris School horticulture education program, and was an instructor on composting with the Demonstration Vegetable Garden. He was also faithful about attending meetings, and supporting the master gardener program in many other areas. He was given the Lifetime Achievement Award several years ago.

My last interaction with him was last year when he made a generous donation to the Jean Lake memorial fund at her passing. We were able to have a brick installed in memory of her contributions and leadership with the master gardener program, specifically, to horticulture therapy. In March of 2025, there was a reunion with the special needs adults at the Senior Center to honor Jean Lake and all the other volunteers, including Bill, who gave so generously of their time to the horticulture therapy program which ended in 2019 due to the pandemic. We were able to purchase and donate a corn hole board game to use on the patio for recreation.

As Seen on TV



The APT interview with Mary Lou McNabb and Elouisa Stokes, which was recorded last fall, was finally broadcast on Feb. 26 as part of a “Spotlight on Agriculture” program featuring Master Gardeners throughout the state. If you missed it, you can view it on the APT webpage.

<https://aptv.org/watch/spotlight-agriculture/901-sgkvy9/>

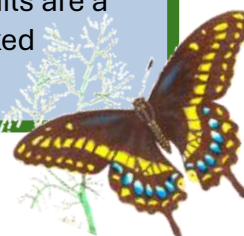
June 22-28, 2026



pollinator.org

www.pollinator.org/pollinator-week

Save the date for the 19th annual National Pollinator Week taking place June 22-28, 2026. We are so excited to unveil swallowtail butterflies as the Pollinator of the Year and featured pollinator! With approximately 30 species in the U.S. and nearly 600 species worldwide, swallowtails are a charismatic gateway bug that have sparked curiosity and inspiration for many of us.



SPRING PLANT SALE by Anita Reeves, MGNA 2026 Spring Plant Sale Coordinator

"In winter, I plot and plan. In spring, I move." — Henry Rollins

MGNA members and interns have been moving this spring! Many of you have stepped up to the "10 Challenge" by collecting 10 boxes, growing 10 plants, working at the greenhouse 10 hours, or by advertising our sale to 10 friends, businesses or other organizations. If you are reading this in early April, there is still time to help before the sale. Volunteers are needed during the sale as well. Ameree Young is organizing our volunteer hospitality. Please sign up to bring food or help out in hospitality through the SignUp Genius. Contact me if you'd like to help during the sale and haven't signed up for a volunteer position yet.

Now is the time to advertise! I have color flyers for you to post around your community. Local restaurant, gym, church, school - anywhere there is a community board or business window that posts events is a great place to post a flyer. Please also advertise by emailing friends, family, etc. or through social media. Include a link to our plant sale page on our website by copying and pasting this link: <https://mg.aces.edu/madison/spring-plant-sale/>

Each year our sale provides plants at a reasonable price to our community. We also provide science-based gardening advice at the Ask-a-Master Gardener table and throughout the Agribition Center when our MGNA members answer questions about plants and share their knowledge of those plants and how to grow them. This year we will have a table with some of our DIY Landscape team to answer questions and share information on where plants might thrive while being an eye pleaser. Anyone can bring a cup of dry soil for pH testing. There is no cost for this service. Our MGNA volunteers provide the test results and can help gardeners understand what the results mean. Our spring plant sale provides plants and so much more!

One last way you can help - shop! Buy plants at the sale when you are not volunteering. This is one of my favorite ways to help out and I bet it's one of yours too. While you're in the plant shopping mood (always, right?), head out and support our fellow North Alabama Master Gardeners and purchase some plants at their sales too.

North Alabama EMG sales:

Morgan County Master Gardeners

April 11, Saturday, 8am - 4pm, and April 12, Sunday, 1 - 4pm, Point Mallard Park, Decatur

Cullman County Master Gardeners

April 17th, Friday & April 18th, Saturday, 8:00am - 4:00pm, Cullman Fairgrounds, buildings 2 and 3.

Limestone County Master Gardeners

April 18, Saturday, 8am - 4pm, Located behind Athens Middle School

Shoals Master Gardeners

April 24, Friday 7:30-6 & April 25, 7:30-1:30, Florence Farmer's Market, 451 Fairground Rd. Florence

Marshall County Master Gardeners

April 30, Saturday, 8am - Noon, Civitan Pavilions #2 and #3 Sunset Drive, Guntersville.

Online Plant Sale By Anita Reeves

The Master Gardeners of North Alabama's Online Plant Sale continues! All proceeds support our non-profit MGNA association. Cash and check accepted. Pick up to be arranged in the Huntsville area. No plants will be shipped/mailed. Any plant in a mug has a drainage hole. To view what is currently being sold, prices and who to contact to purchase a plant visit:

<https://mg.aces.edu/madison/plant-sale-online/>



Success is Guaranteed!

Registration for the 2026 Alabama Master Gardeners Association State Conference May 6-8, 2026 is full, with 400 registrants, and a waiting list.



Congratulations Fall 2025 EMG Class!

Most interns pictured are now certified Extension Master Gardeners.

Adopt-a-Spot • Blevins Gap Land Trust Pollinator Garden

By Valeta Wheeler

Master Gardeners Adopt-A-Spot: Pollinator Garden at Blevins Gap.

Several years ago, MGNA adopted the Pollinator Garden (aka Marie's Garden) at the LandTrust's Blevins Gap site: 3470 Cecil Ashburn Dr. SE, Huntsville, AL 35802, and we've been helping the Land Trust of North Alabama make it a great spot for various pollinators to do their work on/with/for native plants. It is a great volunteer opportunity for those who want to learn more about native plants.

Registration is Required by the LandTrust, but it is OK to register on the day you are volunteering. Signing up earlier is encouraged, because if these events are canceled due to weather, the LandTrust will send a notification to registered participants to the email address they provided at sign up. Please complete a separate registration for each individual participating for each date you volunteer (each person must sign a waiver as part of the registration).

Sign up at <https://landtrustnal.org/support/volunteer/>
Look for the dates and "Garden Care: Marie's Garden"



The next volunteer opportunities are:
Monday, April 6, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Monday, April 20, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Keep an eye on the Land Trust's volunteer website site (and MGNA emails) for additional dates this spring and summer.

There should be some new plants to put into the ground and there is always weeding to do. We'll also put down pine straw and water the plants as needed. Wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes. Please bring water, basic tools, and work gloves. Extra water, work gloves and tools should be available, but it's always good to have your own.

Please send any questions to Valeta Wheeler at ValetaLynn@gmail.com



WORLD BEE DAY

MAY 20, 2026

<https://environmentalalliance.org/world-bee-day>

<https://xerces.org/>

The Demonstration Vegetable Garden (DVG) by Susan Parker, DVG Chair

March 2026. Finally, the DVG crew was able to initiate 2026 projects and start planting cool season crops.

1. Jim and Marge Mullen undertook this extensive project of laying landscape fabric and pea gravel. David Lounmala (Fall 2025) assisted with moving the pea gravel down the hill. The purpose of the project was to reduce weeding on the path and to create an aesthetically pleasing walkway to the back storage area.

2. Connie Carr coordinated leveling the steppingstones at the front entrance. Diane Rodgers and Tina Cechovic assisted. The walkway is now attractive, level and safe for the guests. The materials were recycled at no cost involved.



3. Susan Beam, Clémentine Brulin (Fall 2025) and our new garden volunteer (transplanted from New York) planted lettuce. The seeds were purchased directly from

the harvest at Monticello. The DVG is focusing on connecting our vegetable garden to American History recognizing vegetables documented by Thomas Jefferson, and from Mount Vernon's kitchen garden overseen by Martha Washington.

4. Beth Bismack, a current intern, was paired with Barbara White (Fall 2025) to plant radishes. Radishes require an optimum soil temperature of 45 to 90 degrees to germinate. On March 6, the soil temperature was 66 degrees. The modified wide row was loosened and raised slightly to allow drainage with expectations of heavy rain.



Madison Monarch Butterfly Habitat at Dublin Park By Kathy Gardner

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 25th!

The Rotary Club of Madison's Monarch Butterfly Habitat (Habitat) at Dublin Park in Madison was prepped for the winter months on October 25, 2025 with a large volunteer force comprised of members of The Rotary Club of Madison, the Madison City Council, and Master Gardeners of North Alabama. We planted, weeded, removed the plant markers (for a paint refresh), and spread 16 bags of pine straw across the entire area. The Habitat proudly boasts numerous trees, shrubs, and perennials that exceed the 3X3 rule of pollinator gardens: three different plants that bloom in spring, summer, and fall.



A Signup Genius will go out for April 25, 2026 from 9 to noon for mulching, planting, and weeding. We've selected late April in order to give everyone a break from the MGNA plant sale and their own Spring garden projects. A great big THANK YOU to the talented and dedicated group of Master Gardeners who have transformed the Habitat into a blooming oasis that is enjoyed by everyone who walks past. Children are especially thrilled to see the caterpillars of Monarch, Swallowtail, and Fritillary butterflies.



October 25 Work Crew: Madison City Council members, Madison Rotary Club members, and Extension Master Gardeners

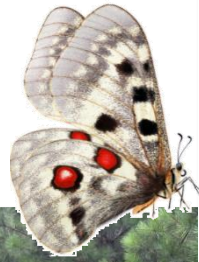




Dublin Park -
Tommy and Debbie Overcash,
Marc Jacobson, and
Gayle Stinnett



In Bloom, Summer of 2025



More Butterflies

[Growing a Butterfly Garden: Illinois Butterflies and Their Host Plants](#) (click on link to register)

April 7 at 1:30 PM FREE but registration required and includes link to recording afterwards

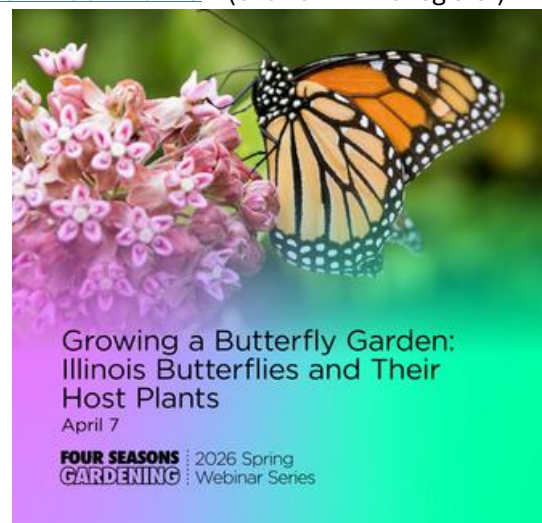
Butterflies use a variety of plants for nectar, but often their caterpillars are more picky. Learn about the benefits of using native plants to attract more butterflies to yards and which ones will give the most bang for the ecological buck.

Spring webinars from University of Illinois Extension's Four Seasons Gardening series.

Also available:

[Veggie Visions: Unveiling New Flavors in 2026](#)

May 12 at 1:30 PM



WINTER WORKSHOPS By Suzanne Kirkhuff

Our workshops at the Madison library have had record attendance this year with over 100 attendees at times. The February 10 workshop was videoed and placed on our MGNA website and the Madison Library website. Be sure and check out our upcoming workshops.

January 20 - Allyson Shabel "A BEEutiful Day in the Neighborhood"



February 3 - Bonnie Gardner "Seed Starting"



February 10 - Allyson Shabel "Vegetable Gardening Basics"



February 17- Lilly Oaks "Maintaining Your Garden"



Feb. 24 Gayle Stinnett "Growing Herbs"



Morgan County Master Gardeners 2026 Lunch & Learn

Landscaping with Native North Alabama Plants Holt Akers-Campbell

Regional Agent, Alabama Cooperative Extension Service



Wednesday, April 8th
Noon, at the Aquadome
1202 Fifth Avenue, NW

Bring your lunch or a beverage and enjoy an hour. Our seminars are free with no pre-registration and are open to all.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator, employer, and provider. If you need a reasonable accommodation or language access services, contact Dr. Brian Brown, Extension Agent at bbrown@aces.edu or the Morgan County Extension office (256) 773-2549 by two weeks prior to the program.

THE HOSTA SOCIETY OF NORTH ALABAMA'S

HOSTA AND COMPANION PLANT SALE

www.alabamahostas.com



Saturday, May 9, 2026

8:00am - 12:00pm

1022 Cook Avenue NW Huntsville AL

Madison County Farmers Market

UPCOMING MGNA WORKSHOPS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

(The educational workshops below are open to the public and there is no charge.)

April 7 *Gardening for Wildlife (Planting for Beneficial Insects and Pollinators)* by Sara Johnson – Madison Public Library, 10:30 – noon

April 29 *Plant Propagation Workshop* (originally scheduled for 17 March)
10:00 - Madison Library.

May 5 - Azaleas 101 – (not MGNA) Presented by the Azalea Society of America
9 am - 3 pm – Huntsville Botanical Garden - **\$35 including lunch.**

Registration link on p. 21

June 15 *Gardening in the Shade* by Aaron Stiles – Main Library, 10:30 – noon

July 21 *Common Butterflies and Their Host Plants in North Alabama*
by Melissa Kirkindall – Madison Library, 10:30 – noon

August 18 *Garden to Glass* by Lilly Oaks – North Huntsville Library, 10:30 - noon

August Landscaping Series – Madison Library 10:00 – 11:30

5th – *Planning Your Landscaping* by Makahla Holloway

12th – *Irrigating Your Landscape* by Brian Brown

19th – *Turfgrass and Lawn Care* by Jason Somerville



NORTH ALABAMA
NATIVE PLANT
SYMPOSIUM

ALABAMA EXTENSION

UAH Shelby Center for Science and Technology



May 30th, 2026

The event features classroom sessions with lunch on Saturday, May 30 at UAH and botanical excursions across north AL on Sunday. Registration is open now.

<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/lawn-garden/north-alabama-native-plant-symposium/>

Field Trippin'



Our field trip and garden tour committee has been planning our garden tours and field trips for 2026. Our first tour will be to **Graham Farm and Nature Center** on April 23. Be looking for more information about this tour from Shireen Fletcher.

Another place we plan to visit in May is **Hope Botanical Garden** in Leoma, Tn. Our June excursion will be to **Lavender Wynde Farm**. In August we hope to take an overnight bus trip to Auburn and to **"Petals From the Past"** in Jemison, AL. We will be planning more garden tours and trips as the year progresses.

Jim Scott's Garden will be open for touring on the following dates: April 15, 16, & 17 and May 13, 14, & 15. The time is 8:30- 5:00. The address is 136 Shadow Pt Dr. Dadeville, AL. Jim is 89 years old and says he wants to show his garden as long as he can do it. This is a rare opportunity to see a beautiful world class garden on Lake Martin. Those people with limited mobility should not take the tour. Send me an email if you are interested in going and I will provide the contact number. It is a 3 – 4 hour trip to Jim Scott's Garden from Huntsville.
Amereeyoung@comcast.net

You are invited to attend
the Herb Society meeting
featuring
**Coffee From Sweet Potatoes?
Civil War Herb and
Plant Ingenuity**

by EMG Paula Wheeler.
Thursday, April 23,
11:30 am
HBG Education Room
Linda Smith Building



**The Couch Potato is
out of the office.
It's Spring,
Go out and plant something!**





SHOALS MASTER GARDENERS
ANNUAL PLANT SALE!!

Friday, April 24, 2026 • 7:30am – 6:00pm
Saturday, April 25, 2026 • 7:30am – 1:30pm

Florence Farmer's Market
 451 Fairground Road, Florence, AL
 (Corner of Cox Creek Pkwy & Chisholm Rd.)



Cullman County Master Gardeners
Spring Sale
April 17 & 18, 2026
8:00am-4:00pm
 Cullman County Fairgrounds
 Buildings 2 and 3
 1501 Sportsman Lake Road,
 Cullman, AL 35055



Morgan County Master Gardeners Foundation
Plant Sale 2026

Saturday April 11th | 8am to 4pm
Sunday April 12th | 1pm to 4pm
 Point Mallard Park
 Decatur Alabama
 Follow the signs



ALABAMA MASTER GARDENERS
 ALABAMA EXTENSION
JACKSON COUNTY

Spring PLANT SALE

APRIL 11TH 9AM-1PM
JACKSON COUNTY SENIOR CENTER
CASH & CHECKS ONLY



Marshall County MASTER GARDENERS



PLANT SALE!
SATURDAY, MAY 2ND
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Sunset Drive Pavillion #2 and #3
 Guntersville, AL

Join us for a blooming good sale!



Limestone County Master Gardeners
 Annual Spring Plant Sale!
APRIL 18TH, 8 AM - 4 PM
 located behind Athens Middle School off of US Hwy 31

 Scan for more information 

DATES DATES DATES

Board Meetings: The Monday before the General Meeting, at 12, at the County Extension Office

MGNA General Meetings: The second Thursday of each month at location and time announced

April 1 April Fools' Day

April 1-9 -Passover

April 3 Good Friday

April 5 Easter

April 22 Earth Day

April 24 Arbor Day

May 10 Mothers' Day

May 26 Memorial Day

June 14 Flag Day

June 19 Juneteenth

June 21 Fathers' Day, Summer

April 7 Gardening for Wildlife workshop–

Madison Public Library, 10:30 – noon *see p. 14*

April 8 - Lunch & Learn Morgan County *see p. 13*

April 9 – no meeting

April 10, 8 am - 4 pm MGNA Plant Sale *see p.7*

April 11, 8 am - 2 pm MGNA Plant Sale

April 15-17 Jim Scott's Open Garden *see p. 15*

April 23 Field Trip Graham Farm *see p. 15*

April 25 Dublin Park Workday *see p. 11*

April 29 Propagation Workshop *see p. 20*

May 5 Azalea Workshop *see p. 21*

May 6-8, 8 am - 4 pm AMGA State Conference *p.8*

May 13-15 Jim Scott's Open Garden *see p. 15*

May 14 – no meeting

May 20 World Bee Day *see p. 9*

May 23, 10 am – 2 pm MGNA Picnic

June 11 - MGNA Meeting - 11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Community Fellowship Church, 7905 Logan Drive

June 15 Gardening in the Shade Workshop,

Main Library, 10:30 – noon *see p. 14*

June 21 Butterfly Workshop *see p. 14*

June 22-28 Pollinator Week *see p. 6*

AND MORE DATES



Panoply Arts Festival

April 24–26 ,Big Spring Park

May 9, 8am – noon

Hosta Sale *see p. 13*

May 28-30

Dixie Regional Hosta Conference

Embassy Suites

Registration is open now and limited to 125.

<https://alabamahostas.weebly.com/dixie-regionals.html>

May 30-31

North Alabama Native Plant Symposium

See p. 14



Workshops: *see p. 14*

July 21 Common Butterflies & Host Plants

Madison Library, 10:30-noon

August 18 Garden to Glass

North Huntsville Library, 10:30- noon

August Landscaping Series *see p. 14*

Madison Library 10:00 – 11:30

5th - Planning Your Landscaping

12th- Irrigating Your Landscape

19th- Turfgrass and Lawn Care

August 21 and 22

Great Southeast Pollinator Census

Taking place in your back yard or wherever you want to be.





MASTER GARDENERS OF NORTH ALABAMA
WORKSHOP

Transform Your Garden into a Habitat for Pollinators, Birds & Beyond

By Sara Johnson, Conservation Biologist
NORTH AMERICAN LAND TRUST

Tuesday, April 7
10:30-Noon

Madison Public Library - 142 Plaza Blvd, Madison

Free & open to the public - No preregistration required

Learn how small changes in your landscape can create a diverse
ecosystem for birds, insects, and animals in your backyard



The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator, employer, and provider. If you need a reasonable accommodation or language access services, contact Lilly Oaks at lilly.oaks@auburn.edu by March 24.

2026



Spring Plant Sale



Friday, April 10 8:00AM - 4:00PM
Saturday, April 11 8:00AM - 2:00PM

Alabama A&M Agribition Center
4925 Moores Mill Road Huntsville

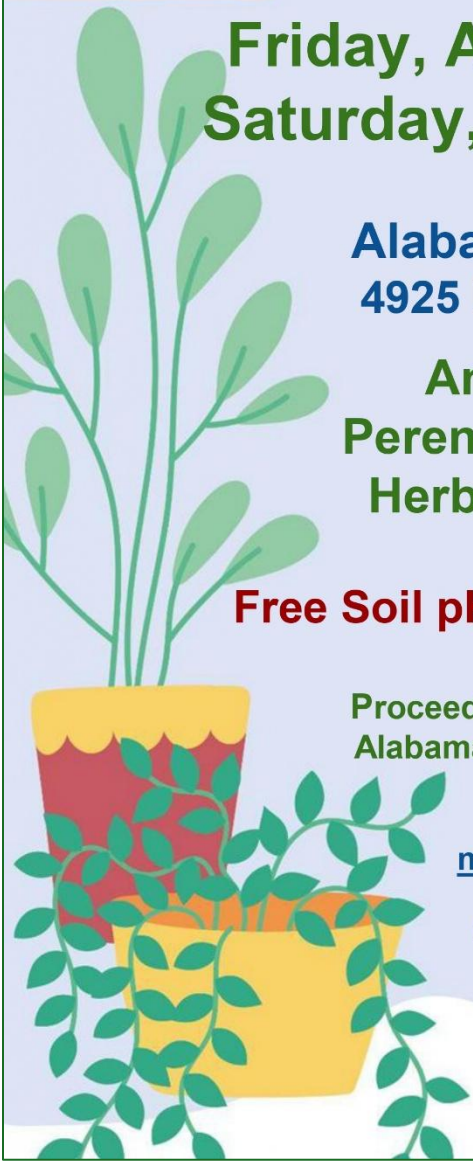
Annuals Trees & Shrubs
Perennials Natives Vegetables
Herbs Houseplants Vendors

Free Soil pH Testing Bring one cup dry soil

Proceeds support Master Gardeners of North Alabama service projects in Madison County

mg.aces.edu/madison
MGNA is a 501(c)(3)
nonprofit organization

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SHARING PLANTS BY PROPAGATION

By Cyndi Lindblom, Extension Master Gardener
MASTER GARDENERS OF NORTH ALABAMA

Rescheduled - New Date:

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

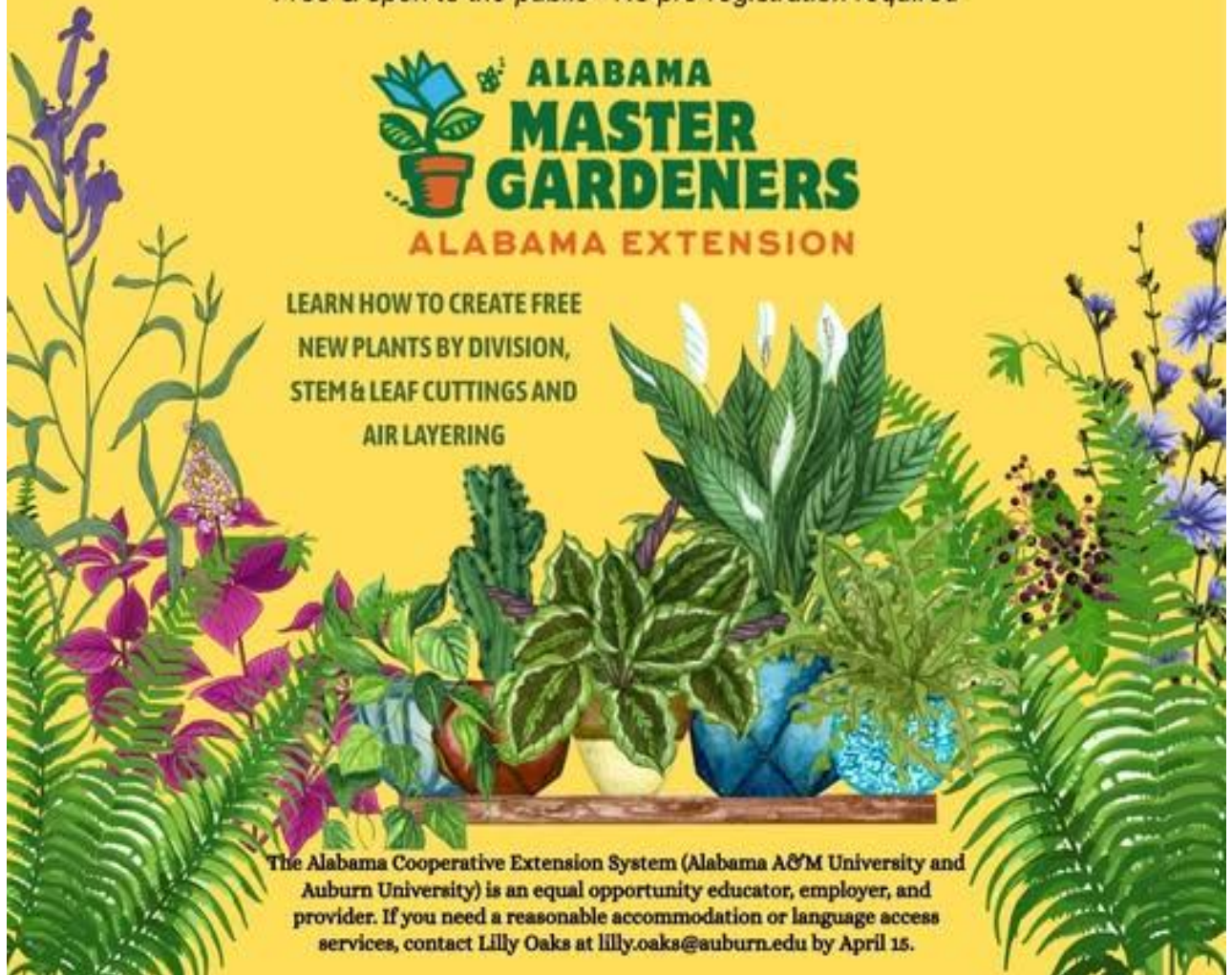
10:00-NOON

MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY - 142 PLAZA BLVD. MADISON

Free & open to the public - No pre-registration required



LEARN HOW TO CREATE FREE
NEW PLANTS BY DIVISION,
STEM & LEAF CUTTINGS AND
AIR LAYERING



The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator, employer, and provider. If you need a reasonable accommodation or language access services, contact Lilly Oaks at lilly.oaks@auburn.edu by April 15.

Azalea 101 Workshop By Soozie Pline, Alabamense Vice President

This educational event is a partnership between the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) and the Azalea Society of America (ASA). Azalea 101 Workshops across the state are the ASA Alabamense chapter projects. The Alabamense chapter received grant funding to support and conduct them, beginning with Auburn in 2024, Mobile in 2025, Robertsedale in March 2026, and Huntsville in May 2026. The featured speaker will be Robert “Buddy” Lee, the inventor of Encore® Azalea, the world's best-selling reblooming azalea. He has more than 30 years of experience in nursery management, breeding, propagation, and new plant development. Click the link to register <https://www.aces.edu/event/azalea-101/> or scan the QR code on the flyer.

<h1>AZALEA 101</h1> <p>HOSTED BY THE AZALEA SOCIETY OF AMERICA AND ALABAMA EXTENSION</p>	<p>Tuesday, May 5th, 9:00am – 3:00pm Huntsville Botanical Garden Huntsville, AL</p>
<p>PRESENTATIONS INCLUDING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Evergreen azaleasNative azaleasPollinators in the azalea gardenPropagating azaleas <p>FEATURING BUDDY LEE AND OTHER GUEST SPEAKERS</p> <p>AZALEA PLANT SALE AFTER THE WORKSHOP!</p> <p>Please contact the Madison County Extension Office at (256) 532-1578 if you have any questions.</p>	
 <p>The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator, employer, and provider. If you need a reasonable accommodation or free language access services, contact Sinead Lounmala at 256-532-1578 or scl0043@auburn.edu by 4/14/2026</p>	<p>Pre-registration required, please scan to register. Workshop is \$35 and includes lunch.</p> 

www.gardengatemagazine.com/articles/how-to/start-seeds/biodegradable-plant-pots

TRENDING NOW Biodegradable starter pots



Wood fiber pot, coir expandable pellet, toilet paper roll, peat pot, DIY newspaper pot, fabric pot, recycled paper box, honeycomb paper flat cell.

Master Gardeners of North Alabama

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Thank you to Extension Agent Lilly Oaks and all of the members who submitted articles and pictures, and to our proofreaders. We are grateful to all for your participation. We would not have a newsletter without all of your support.

As we finish one issue, we start on the next one. The Summer Thymes will be delivered July 1. You may send material to the editor any time up to June 15.

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