

The Dirt

HAPPY
2015



President's Message by Brenda Bolton

I hope this newsletter finds you all managing a moment to relax from a busy holiday season. I feel that this first President's Message should look both to the past and to the future, so if I may, let me begin with my appreciation for things past.

I can't begin 2015 without taking the time to share my thanks for all the contributions you have made to our program. Allow me to again thank all of you who helped make our Greenery Sale a success. As I write this, I await the "bottom line" from Susan, but we know we reached our goal, which was a profit of \$5,000. That should insure that we are able to carry out our educational mission this year, and I look forward to sharing those opportunities with all of you.

There are too many people to thank individually here, but you know who you are, and Peggy Wright, just in case you don't already know it, your quietly steadfast support on the Greenery Sale kept me sane. You are a rock. I also want to thank Penny for her year of service as 2014 President, and Jan Tanner and Judy Stout, both of whom agreed to serve as Vice Presidents this year. I know the three of us will have a productive year together working under Ellen's excellent guidance and with James Miles and Jim Todd as further resources. To all of you who accepted various roles for 2015 in all of the many positions required to carry out Master Gardener programs, thank you.

As an educator, I spent a career working with volunteers, and over the years I worked with some amazing people. However, I must say that in the three short years I have been in Master Gardening, I have already met volunteers whose dedication and generosity of spirit equal any I met in my 40-year working career.

I am excited to begin 2015 with Master Gardeners! We have a great list of speakers lined up for the year, and along with Lunch and Learn we will all have opportunities to expand our own knowledge and share those experiences with the public. Because we moved the Seminar to earlier in the year, we will have only two monthly meetings prior to the February 28th Seminar date. The first will be Chef Vicki Lager from "Eating Peacefully" who will share post-holiday lighter meal ideas. Vicki supported our Farm to Table last year as one of our chefs, and I look forward to her presentation in January. The Seminar will bring us Dr. William Welch and Chris Weisinger, both recognized for their publications and work in Southern heritage plants. Dr. Welch brings us his presentation on southern perennials and Chris Weisinger southern heritage bulbs. More information on the Seminar will be forthcoming.

Successful efforts are dependent upon those whose visions guide us, and we have all been fortunate to follow those Master Gardeners who have shaped our organization in such positive and productive ways. The enduring programs we take pride in and depend upon all began as someone's vision for Master Gardeners. Our group has now been around long enough to have a real history, and I hope this year to become better educated myself about that history so that we can honor our past even as we continue to move forward.

Throughout the year as I have interviewed our Master Gardeners of the Month, I have noticed the themes that emerge repeatedly. First, Master Gardeners are motivated by the things they learn in the program. Secondly, Master Gardeners almost always say that it is the interaction with other gardeners they most enjoy about the program. Thirdly, Master Gardeners all agree that there is something for everyone in the program because of the rich and wide range of high quality programs and activities in which we engage. Finally, Master Gardeners find fulfillment in the services they provide. Throughout 2014, these Master Gardeners of the Month, recognized for their service, have voiced the concepts which form the foundation of our program. I could not say it better than they have already said.

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January 2015

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Dates to remember:

- DEC. 27, 28, JAN. 3, 4- TREE RECYCLE
- JAN. 6-EXTENSION OFFICE REOPENS
- JAN. 6-BOARD MEETING
- JAN. 8-MEMBER MEETING
- JAN. 12-LUNCH AND LEARN

Mission Statement:
The Alabama Master Gardener Volunteer Program is an educational outreach program provided and administered by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

Appreciation

by Barbara McMullen

Master Gardeners and guests enjoyed delicious food and warm fellowship at the Mobile Botanical Gardens on December 7, 2014. Approximately 110 people gathered at the annual event in which special awards and recognitions were acknowledged.

We were extremely pleased Mr. Jim Todd from our own Extension Office and Mr. Andrew Saunders from the MBG took time during this busy season to join us. We hope this will be a new tradition! They were both instrumental in providing food, a lovely environment and a gorgeous facility as MGs were appreciated for their various contributions to the community throughout the year. There are too many people and too many contributions to list, but we know Master Gardeners make a tremendous difference in making our world a better place and supporting each other on countless projects.

Ellen Huckabay carried on the tradition and reputation of the "Jezebel Sauce" along with her delicious roasted pork. There was a gracious plenty of wine on the patio and the weather could not have been more perfect. Two of our newbies, Linda Abernathy and Sonja Woodruff put in extra hours, energy and creativity in enhancing and helping the evening run smoothly for all of us! We appreciate Dorothy White and the hours

she spent helping our new interns complete their certification class hours. Our new MGs will enhance the total program, and have already proven the difference they can make.

We enjoyed the fruits of the GCHS, in which many of our MGs are members, too. The Herb Garden was open, well lit and reflected the outreach, involvement and positive impact many of MGs contribute. We could see and hear the lovely fountain donated recently by Nita Crandall. She gives of her time graciously as our special honorary MG. We even used the huge coffee pot, a donation made by GCHS. It was a rare opportunity for us to serve coffee to Bob Thompson who is known for making and serving coffee to all of us at Jon Archer events. We appreciate all he does on a regular basis, all year long along with Paul Hageman the second in command in coffee detail. Joe Pippin is usually at their side tending to an ice chest. Joe has mentored a new intern, Roy Suberly, who brought ice for this event. They make occasions more enjoyable regularly.

Many of our MGs have special talents and have family members who they often pull in to help. Husbands, daughters, sons, wives, etc., should feel like auxiliary members because our projects often have effects on their time, energy, talents, money, etc., too. Our own Sybil Burnett made arrangements for an extraordinary layer cake which was custom made for this event by The Little Cake Shop, with our MG logo and

Nutcracker Gardener theme. Dr. Judy Stout's collectables on the mantle were perfect with Cindy Zan's creative greenery.



Greer Wilhelm shared MBG poinsettias and other gorgeous plants in a lovely display which included recycled, renewed stands. Her energy, creativity, and love of both MGs and MBG sparkled in the extension of the mantle. Our MGs brought diverse, delicious dishes which still make my mouth water when I think about them. The variety included Jan Ladd's crab claws. She barely had time to go back home to get them after "guarding the fort" while others went home to change and come back.

The plentiful food was delicious and proved the importance of how each of our contributions are like squares in a quilt. When the pieces are joined, the spread is exquisite, delicious, and perfect! We are blessed to be involved in an organization which gives us ongoing opportunities to learn and grow. Please thank a MG you know who has worked hard and nobody has noticed, there are many backbones and the jobs couldn't be done without them. We need to thank each other often as we enjoy positive results due to team efforts.

Newly Certified Master Gardeners with Ellen Huckabay



Sonja Woodruff



Roy Suberly



Joan McCracken

Jane Trawick and Brenda Bolton—Master Gardeners of the Year

by Alice Marty



**Jane Trawick
Master Gardener
of the Year 2014**

“We have a tie this year for Master Gardener of the year.’ Ellen announced at the Annual Awards Night presentation. The first award winner is a Master Gardener that was assumed to have won the award previously. After a little research it was discovered her name was not on the list. How could that be? You almost can’t get away from her. She is virtually at every project from start to finish. If something needs to be done

she is the first to volunteer and the last to go home.

Jane Trawick is a veteran MG from the class of 2003. Her name has been on the list of appointed chairpersons in almost every capacity. She served as president while working full time, and currently is our representative on the state MG board which involves traveling to meetings around the state.

Jane faithfully looks after our Market in the Square events

in spring and fall and has become a known feature at the market.

I personally envision Jane going to bed wearing her hat and garden gloves. That way she can get a head start on the next days volunteer activities. Her quick smile and easy laugh makes her one of the jewels in our organization.

Congratulations Jane. It’s about time!

Our second Master Gardener of the Year is virtually fearless with a microphone in her hand. How many of us wanted more time when we gave our five minute talks at class graduation.?

The Mobile County Master Gardener organization loves to have former educators enrolled in our intern classes. Their speaking experience is an immediate asset to our speakers bureau. Brenda Bolton fits that mold yet is a

special kind of volunteer. Last December Brenda presented a beautiful Lunch and Learn presentation on designer Christmas trees.

A 2012 grad, Brenda took on our important Greenery Sale fund raiser and showed record profits. She agreed to be 2nd vice president for 2014 yet will ascend to president next year due to Regina Gunn’s illness.

Perhaps her greatest asset is

her husband and Master Gardener Harold who backs her up on everything she dives into.

With a decorators eye she has worked behind the scenes helping to make so many projects especially beautiful. All 4’ 11” of her is packed with energy and ideas.

Brenda Bolton was bound to be Master Gardener of the Year. It was just a matter of when.



**Brenda Bolton
Master Gardener
of the Year 2014**

Rookie of the Year—Jan Tanner by Alice Marty



**Jan Tanner
Rookie of the Year
2014**

My attention focused on Jan Tanner at one of our board meetings last spring. Jan is a class representative for the class of 2013 and invited to sit in on the meetings. She had just volunteered to build a Farm to Table booth display at the NACAA conference being held in July at the Mobile Convention Center.

My immediate impression was either this provisional is very brave, or a little bit crazy. It has since been made clear that she is both.

Jan did a fabulous job on that display and hasn’t stopped there.

She has now taken on the monumental task of completely redesigning the DREAM (demo) garden. Her enthusiasm is contagious and her energy bounding. A natural leader.

Jan has also agreed to accept a position on our board next year.

Being chosen Master Gardener of the month in the first year of your involvement with the group is quite an

accomplishment. Evidently it was just a warm up for the title “Rookie of the Year”.



Jan Tanner and Barbara McMullen

Lunch and Learn Series

A “**Third Monday**” program, **FREE** to the public, presented by

Mobile County Master Gardeners

in conjunction with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System

(2nd) Monday, January 12, 2015 (January only)

Noon to 1PM

Bring a friend and a lunch Drinks are provided

Where: Jon Archer Center, 1070 Schillinger Road N., Mobile, AL

Presenter: Ellen Huckabay, Regional Extension Agent

Topic: Hypertufa for Beginners – Enhance your garden with Hypertufa by learning tips and techniques for making one of the most rustic, long lasting and whimsical accents.

For More information: 251-574-8445 or www.aces.edu/Mobile/mg



Ellen Huckabay



Hypertufa created by
Judy Adams

Mobile County Master Gardener Public Education Event

When: Thursday, January 8, 2015 9:30 – 11:00 am

Where: Jon Archer Center, 1070 Schillinger Road, N. Mobile

Admission: Free

Topic: “Garden to Table: Cooking Light after the Holidays”

Presenter: Chef Vicki Lager, owner of Eat Peacefully, a vegetarian personal chef service serving Mobile and the Eastern Shore of Alabama
Call: 267.879.6114 info@eatpeacefully.com



Vicki Lager

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I would hope that we become more knowledgeable as gardeners, particularly in those areas where the information base is growing, such as sustainability and how our practices today will impact life tomorrow. I hope that we will all commit to cherish our people and nurture each other in ways that insure we never lose a dedicated volunteer, for volunteerism at the end of the day is about people. My wish is that we maintain and grow the signature programs that support our mission and that through our combined efforts and support for each other, our service always fulfills and never burdens. And finally, I envision our organization as a model that epitomizes what gardening can mean for our city - education, environmental beautification, preservation and sustainability, community connectivity, personal and community health and growth. So, looking forward, thank you in advance for the many ways I know you will serve. Working together, I know we will make 2015 a banner year for Master Gardeners.

Recording Hours & Reach for the Stars

Genie Schneider, Volunteer Hours Coordinator

JUST A REMINDER, it is important for your hours to be posted on line by January 11, 2015. Your hours are needed so you may be included in the Reach for the Stars Program.

Please email or call me if you have any questions. My email is g.sbschn@gmail.com and my phone is 251 259-8150.

HELP WANTED:

**THE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE IS
LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER
TO HELP MAINTAIN OUR
DATA BASE AND E-MAIL
ACCOUNT.**

CONTACT:

**NAN COSTELLO IF YOU ARE
INTERESTED IN
VOLUNTEERING**

nbcostello@comcast.net

251 342 7575

Volunteer Opportunity—Tree Recycle

Each year the Mobile County Master Gardeners partner with Keep Mobile Beautiful to recycle discarded Christmas trees.

The drop off point for trees is the corner of Airport Blvd and University. (the old Bruno's parking lot)

Volunteers see that trees are stacked in the pile, and any metal stands are removed. Lights left on trees are gathered and recycled.

Collection days are: December 27, 28, and January 3, 4

Contact Volunteer Coordinator— Elisa Baldwin if you would like to participate. 251 342 1507

ebaldwin@jaguar1.usouthal.edu

Trees are put through a chipper and distributed to the public as mulch at the Greater Gulf Coast Fairgrounds at a later date.





Look For Us Online Facebook

[Mobile County Master Gardeners](#)

-A Public access page including upcoming events, photos, advice and chats.

[Mobile Master Gardener's Forum](#)

This forum's purpose is to provide a "secluded garden" for Master Gardeners, Extension Service folks and other horticulture/gardening contributors to share "privately" with other gardeners that have a familiar connection.....which is;

they are or have been MG students, taught or provide support to the CES Master Gardener Program or to the MMG Assoc.

This group's posts are restricted to members only (can't be seen by non-members) and it's intended purpose is to provide a comfortable place for informal chatting, sharing of pictures, asking for and providing advice, and a place to share humorous gardening anecdotes

This "group" is not intended to

compete with the official Mobile Master Gardener's website and/or the Mobile County Master Gardener's Facebook pages which are open to the general public and provides useful information concerning the Master Gardener Program, Mobile Master Gardener's Assoc. and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

Created by D.G. Ewing.
Monitored by Diane Anthony and Alice Marty. Contact one of these administrators for inclusion.

Shutterfly Mobile County Master Gardener Photo Archive.

mobilecountymastergardeners.shutterfly.com Password—Gardener (capital G)

Become a Shutterfly member to access this page. There is no charge to join. Photos from member meetings and special events are posted here. You may download photos or have prints or

booklets made and mailed to you.

Contact -Alice Marty with questions.

MCDirt@comcast.net

Note from Alice: I am behind posting photos. I hope to catch up during the holiday break.



Mobile County Master Gardener—Twitter

Twitter: [@MoCoGardeners](https://twitter.com/MoCoGardeners)

For questions regarding the Mobile County Master Gardener Twitter account. contact: Greer Wilhelm gmwilhelm@gmail.com



Awards Night 2014



Mobile County Master Gardeners

Mobile County Office
1070 Schillinger Rd. N.
Mobile AL 36608-5298
Phone: 251-574-8445
E-mail: aces.edu/Mobile/mg



Officers

President	Brenda Bolton '12
1st Vice President	Jan Tanner '13
2nd vice President	Judy Stout '05
Recording Secretary	Genie Schneider '12
Corresponding Secretary	Beth Walmsley '11
Treasurer	Susan Morrison '07

Board of Directors

Jackie Jenkins '11	2015
Joe Pippin '11	2015
Mary Ann Days '11	2016
Carol Eskridge '12	2016
Martha Rauch '12	2017
Janet Waters '01	2017
Past President Penny Claiborne	'10

Term Expires

Appointees

Newsletter Editor	Alice Marty '07
Volunteer Activity Coordinator	Elisa Baldwin '06
Volunteer Hours Coordinator	Martha Rauch '12
2014 Class Representatives	Linda Abernathy and Sonja Woodruff
ACES Advisor	Ellen Huckabay

Mission Statement:

The Alabama Master Gardener Volunteer Program is an educational outreach program provided and administered by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

Alice Marty will publish the Dirt on the 25th of each month. Articles for inclusion must be received by the 15th of the month and may be submitted to Alice Marty MCdirt@comcast.net or the Extension Office.

Issued by
Ellen Huckabay
Regional Extension Agent



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