

Garden Thyme



Monthly Newsletter of the East Central Alabama Master Gardeners Association

January, 2014

From Our President, Ann Hammond...

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope the holidays were great for everybody. Hopefully you received at least one thing you wanted. If you were like me, you received at least a catalog for this year's newest plants and seeds as well as old time favorites. I received my Gurney's catalog just a day after Christmas. What great timing with the wet weather then the cold then the wet then the cold.....

January is the time to plan. It is the time to get your thoughts together on what you will plant or do this year. With that said our first meeting will be the same – we will plan what you want to get done this year. So come with your ideas, project you would like to work on and projects you would like to continue. If there is a pace you would like to visit then share that and I will do my best to schedule it.

I want to thank everyone for thinking I can do this job another year. I really appreciate your support. I also want to give Martha a big THANKS for all she

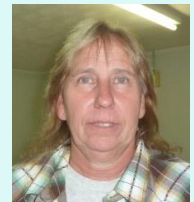
did. She really took on a job and she certainly made my job easier. Thank you Martha! Also thank you Sheila for stepping up to take Martha's job. I am confident that you will do great. We will miss you Jan thru Mar but I know you will be enjoying those kids.

Congratulations to all the interns that were certified. Welcome to the world of master gardeners. This year you do not need as many volunteer hours but you do need CEUs along with the volunteer hours. Don't panic. It's not as bad as it sounds. But don't slack on the volunteer hours – we're still gonna have fun doing hard labor!

With that said, come to the meeting and let's get planning! See you there.

"And ye shall eat old store, and bring forth the old because of the new." Leviticus 26:10.

Ann



Our January meeting is Monday, January 20th at 1:30 at Ava United Methodist Church. This is a planning meeting so bring your ideas on what topics and gardens you're interested in and we'll do our best to schedule them!

2014 Meeting Dates (tentative)

Jan 20	Apr 21	Jul 21	Oct 20
Feb 17	May 19	Aug 18	Nov 17
Mar 17	Jun 16	Sep 15	Dec No mtg

2014 ECAMGA Officers

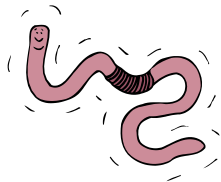
President Ann Hammonds

Vice President Vickie Stapler Treasurer Almeta Partins

Secretary Sheila Bolen Historian Syble Benefield

January is the quietest month in the garden. But, just because it's quiet doesn't mean nothing is happening. The soil, open to the sky, absorbs pure rainfall while microorganisms convert tilled-under fodder into useful nutrients for the next crop of plants. The feasting earthworms tunnel along, aerating the soil and preparing it to welcome the seeds and bare roots to come.

Rosalie Muller Wright, Sunset Magazine 1/99



Stan Roark 1/6

Tom Harris 1/23

Please remember to let us know if you, family, friends or loved ones are in need of our prayers. God is so good and He will hear our intercessions for others.

Are your volunteer hours up-to-date in the Master Gardener Service Reporting System? Please take a few minutes and enter your hours. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System needs to know what we have done as Master Gardener volunteers to provide credit for our volunteer service and to measure the program's effectiveness. Please remember that you must have 25 hours of volunteer time to be in good standing.

**Dues are due! Dues are due!
Have you paid yours?**

Membership Directory

It's time to update our ECAMGA Membership Directory. Please provide the following information to Sheila Bolen by the end of Feb; the updated directory will hopefully go out in March. Please provide the information you feel comfortable sharing with all our members.

Jack and Sheila Bolen
517 Clairmont Springs Rd
Talladega, AL 35160
256- 354-2188
sheilabolen@hotmail.com
BD: Jack 9/21
Sheila 5/24
Anniversary: 8/10

January Fun Facts and Trivia

***Leap years exempted, January always begins on the same day as October**

***In leap years, January always begins on the same day as April and July**

***The name January is derived from Janus who presided over the gate to the new year**

Word Search Game - The Garden

Q O Z D A Z M U L C H W D K C D X
W I Z M B A B E A E D A H S F D A
L R P R A K E Z G M T O K I I S E
M Y X Z P L R I N E L U D N S L P
Y G H C N E B L I E W U P H Q D O
D S V E F V E I D S D J O P C G T
S R O K X T Y T E Y I V U U V R T
T H Y K M R R R E G E T T Q E R I
V O R S D A E E W L N W A B T M N
D B E E R N S F U A O I M M V R G
M R B V A S R K L R R I L T E X I
G C B O I P U P M K L L F D J L Z
R Q U L N L N S O C C Q E E E J C
L C R G A A O T F A R G P W K E E
H O H F G N Z T H O S E E C O W S
L G S G E T T R E L L I S A S R X
W C A C O D W A T E R E N U R P T

BENCH
CLEMATIS
CLIMBER
CUTWORMS
DRAINAGE
FERTILIZE
GLOVES
GRAFT
HOE
HOLE
HOSE
MULCH
NURSERY
PLANT
POTTING
PRUNE
RAKE
SEEDLING
SHADE
SHRUBBERY
SHOVEL
TRANSPLANT
TRELLIS
TROWEL
WATER
WEEDING

All About Puzzles
puzzles.about.com

I love puzzles – word search, crossword, word jumbles – so I’ve decided to stick a puzzle page in the newsletter. I don’t know how to work them online so, like me, you’ll have to print off the page to work them. If anybody knows how I can set it up to work them online, please let me know. I’m computer literate enough to be dangerous!!!

The next Master Gardener class is scheduled to begin on February 14, 2014. There are scholarship funds available so if you know of anybody interested in walking the flowery path to becoming a Master Gardener please have them contact the Randolph County Extension Office - 256-357-2841, Clay County Extension Office - 256-354-5976 or Chambers County Extension Office - 334-864-9373.

RECYCLING UPDATE

Reduce – Reuse – Recycle

Jack and Sheila Bolen are volunteers at the Clay County Recycle Center. The Center is located behind the Farmers Market on Highway #9 midway between Ashland and Lineville. There is a part-time operator on duty from 8am – noon, Monday through Friday. The following guidelines should remind us of our responsibility to Reduce – Reuse – Recycle. We are fortunate to have a Recycling Drop-Off Center centrally located in Clay County

The following materials are accepted for recycling:

- Cardboard – corrugated boxes/packaging, pasteboard. Please, NO plastic or waxed coated containers.
- Mixed Paper – newspaper, office paper, magazines, catalogs, phone books, books, sales papers, unwanted mail. Please remove rubber bands.
- **Plastic – As of this time we are no longer accepting plastics. If this changes we will promptly update you.**
- Aluminum – empty cans, clean foil and pie plates
- Tin/steel cans – empty tin cans, lids, containers
- Used motor oil – pour into container on site – no oil filters – NO cooking oil. Used oil containers are not recyclable.

Please sort if you can and help keep the area clean. Please do not bring trash and nasty material.

Other opportunities for recycling include:

- Thrift store/charity drop boxes for clothing and other items
- Auto part stores will accept vehicle/tractor batteries
- Central Alabama Recycling (396-0355) will buy all metals, junk cars, appliances, vehicle batteries, computers
- Millerville Recycling (354-2577) as above but no computers.
- Lowes/Home Depot will recycle or re-build cordless tool batteries
- Start a compost pile for yard leaves, garden waste and kitchen vegetable waste. When composted this makes an excellent soil amendment.
- Reduce your use of stuff and energy...conserve, don't waste.
- Reuse items if you can.
- Recycle to keep these materials out of the landfill.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer your time, you may call Lynwood French at 256-354-2761.



FOLKLORE And OLD WIVES TALES

There has been interest in the old wives tales/folklore that our previous generations lived by. I still use them today so I thought I would share a few in each month's newsletter. Ann

When grass is dry at morning light look for rain before the night.

If the cat washes her face over her ear, the weather is sure to be fine and clear



The chirping of a cricket has been shown to provide a close indication of air temperature. By counting the number of cricket chirps on a 14 second period and adding 40 the total will equal the air temperature to within one degree 75% of the time.

When smoke hovers close to the ground there will be a weather change.

Thunder and lightning in January means it will be cold in February

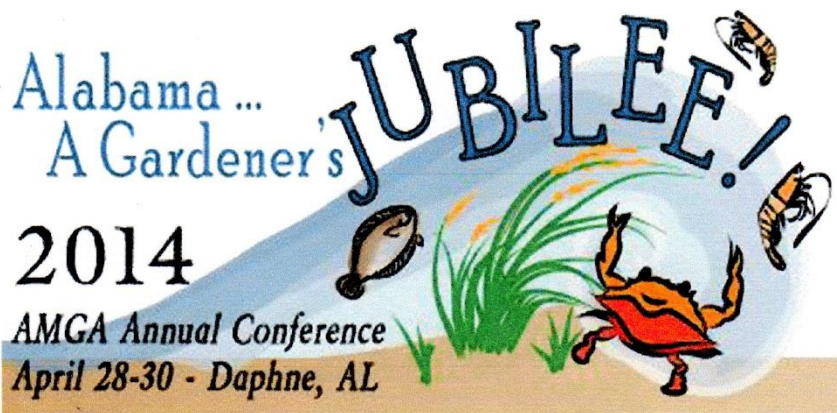


When a rooster crows at night there will be rain by morning

Think back to some of the wives tales/folklore you grew up with and share them with us! Send them to me at sheilabolen@hotmail.com

2014 Conference

By Larry Lutz



We are now about six months away from the 2014 Alabama master Gardeners Conference. We will be meeting April 28-30, 2014 at the Daphne Civic Center (DCC) in Daphne, AL. The Baldwin County Master Gardeners have been working with the DCC staff to ensure that we host the best possible conference experience. We have made arrangements for you to participate in some interesting side trips on your way to the conference on Monday April 28th. The tour schedule has been set up so you can tour both the bog and winery. Most are just a short mile or two off of I65.

Monday April 28th you will find our resident expert Fred Nation, at the Splinter Hill Pitcher Plant Bog waiting to provide a personalized tour of the Bog. Fred will lead a tour from 12:30-1:30PM and a second tour 2-3 PM. More information about the Bog can be obtained at the following link, [Alabama Splinter Hill Bog](#).

You may also want to save some time to visit the Perdido Vineyards Winery, [Perdido Vineyards & Winery](#). While there, winemaker, Jim Eddins,

will show you how the wine is made and how they make their internationally award winning vinegar. The tours are scheduled from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. and a second tour 2- 3 p.m. Jim can easily be persuaded to explain how they produce bio-fuels with a portion of the crop. Just a visit to the gift shop and tasting room is worth the trip.

We have told Dianne at Crenshaw Farms Daylily Garden in Stockton, AL to expect several master gardener sojourners to stop in on their way to the conference. [Crenshaw Farms-Daylily Garden](#).

A stop at the Baldwin County Bicentennial Park may be another interesting choice, especially for history buffs. Bicentennial Park includes a nature trail which contains flora, fauna and wetlands indigenous to Baldwin County. [Baldwin County Bicentennial Park](#).

Just remember to leave time to make it to Daphne for conference registration.

The first day of the conference will culminate with a no host barbeque at the Daphne Bayfront Park Pavilion. It is lo-

cated in beautiful, newly landscaped Bayfront Park on beautiful Mobile Bay. [Daphne Bayfront Park Pavilion](#).

There are several hotels in the area that will be conference host hotels. Favorable room rates have been negotiated with the Daphne Hampton Inn and the Marriott properties (Fairfield Inn and Courtyard) near Bass pro Shop. Each of them has a registration link on the conference web site. We have our own dedicated page on the hotel web sites which automatically provides the code for the special conference room rates. These pages provide links to other events and attractions in the area, for those coming early and or staying a few extra days. The hotel conference rates include several days before and after the conference. Please encourage your master gardener friends, planning their trip, to support the host hotels at: [Hotel Information and Registration](#).

Blakely State Park and Meaher Park will also be available for those master gardeners who will be traveling via RV. Blakely is a new modern campground designed and built to accommodate the largest recreational vehicles. Meaher has 56 new campsites with up to 50 amp electrical connections with water and sewer. Information about these sites can be obtained by clicking on [Hotel Information and Registration](#).

We are looking forward to meeting you at the conference.



By Dani Carroll

Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference Slated for February

Producers should make plans now to attend the Alabama Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference and Tradeshow. The Alabama Fruit and Vegetable Conference will be Friday, Feb. 7 at the Ham Wilson Arena and Saturday, Feb. 8 at the Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center in Opelika, Ala. Organized by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the Alabama Fruit and Vegetable Association, this conference is the premier educational conference for the state's fruit and vegetable growers.

Dr. Ayanava Majumdar, leader of Extension's Commercial Horticulture Team, says vegetable, fruit and nut production are an important part of the state's economy.

"Consumers are hearing the message that purchasing locally grown fruits and vegetables can mean better quality," says Majumdar. "As a result of the increased demand for buying local, we are seeing more people producing fruits and vegetables that can be purchased locally here in Alabama. It is perhaps the fastest growing agriculture industry in Alabama."

AFVGA President Jimmy Witt says growers with all levels of experience will find topics beneficial to their operations at the two-day event. Cost for the two-day conference is \$80 for individuals and \$250 for exhibitors. The registration fee also includes supper on Friday night. For additional information, visit the Alabama Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association website at www.afvga.aces.edu.

On Friday morning, concurrent educational sessions will be held at the Ham Wilson Arena and will cover a variety of topics including high tunnel crop production, fruit and vegetable grafting, weed control, fumigation alternatives, no-till vegetable production, marketing the farm and pest management strategies in strawberry production.

Also on Friday morning, there will be field tours looking at irrigation systems, soil moisture detectors, fire ant control, insect monitoring systems, conservation tillage and sprayer calibration. Friday registration begins at 7:30 a.m.

All conference events on Friday afternoon and Saturday will be at the Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center in Opelika. Workshop sessions on Friday include multiple tracks such as fruit and vegetable pest management updates, food safety, soil and water quality and pesticide safety. On Saturday, producers can learn more about sustainable gardening practices and citrus production.

"These workshops will be presented by Extension professionals, researchers and producers," says Witt. "Of special interest on Saturday morning will be the session track for new and beginning farmers."

A tradeshow will run concurrent to the conference with exhibitors who represent industries from across the country. Producers can also earn pesticide continuing education points by attending the conference. Registration for exhibitors and sponsors is now open. Registration for individuals will open mid-October. For additional information, contact Jackie Cooper at jjcoop61@bellsouth.net or 334-728-4117.



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All Bugs Good and Bad

2014 Webinar Series

Please join us for this webinar series for information you can use about good and bad insects. Webinars will be on the first Friday of each month at 2 p.m. Eastern.

- February 7** If Flowers are Restaurants to Bees, Then What Are Bees to Flowers?
Dr. John Skinner
- March 7** Straight Talk About Termites
Dr. Xing Ping Hu
- April 4** Get TickSmart: 10 Things to Know, 5 Things to Do
Dr. Thomas Mather
- May 2** Are Those Itsy Bitsy Spiders Good or Bad?
Dr. Nancy Hinkle
- June 6** Fire Ant Management
Elizabeth Brown
- August 1** Minimize Mosquito Problems
Molly Keck
- September 5** Kudzu Bug Takes Over the Southeastern U.S./Brown Marmorated Stinkbug—All Bad
Dr. Michael Toews/Dr. Tracy Leskey
- October 3** Alien Invasions, Zombies Under Foot, and Billions of Decapitated Fire Ants
Dr. Sanford Porter
- November 7** Where Have All the Honey Bees Gone? Hope for the Future
Dr. John Skinner



For more information on the series and how to connect to the webinars, visit: <http://www.extension.org/pages/70120>.



Alabama A&M and Auburn Universities

Brought to you by these eXtension Communities of Practice: Imported Fire Ants, Urban IPM, Bee Health, Invasive Species, & Gardens and Landscapes.

Citations for pictures: Jim Occi, BugPics, bugwood.org; Jerry A. Payne, USDA-ARS, bugwood.org; Nadeer Youssef, TN State Univ.; USDA ARS Photo Unit, USDA-ARS, bugwood.org; David Cappaert, Michigan State University, bugwood.org; Sturgis McKeever, Georgia Southern University, bugwood.org.



GARDEN FRIENDS

Q. What is it? What does it cost?

A. A group of Master Gardeners willing to work in your garden in return for your doing work in their garden. The only cost is your time and effort.

Q. What kind of work?

A. Here are some examples: prune shrubbery or fruit trees, make a garden path, build a new flower bed, propagate plants, put in bedding plants, move or install shrubs and small trees, make a compost pile, divide perennials, design and lay out a landscape, identify and tag landscape plants, build a trellis, make raised beds, install a drip irrigation system, edge beds, weed and clean up a garden.

Q. How much time is involved?

A. If your garden is one of the work sites then you will be expected to reciprocate with other Garden Friends. If your garden is not one of the work sites then you are welcome to join the work party without any commitment.

Q. What about volunteer hours?

A. This work does not count as volunteer hours since we will be doing work for other Master Gardeners.

Q. How do I join?

A. If you would like your garden to be one of the work sites, do a work order and get it to Ann Hammond at ashmmnd@gmail.com or by mail. Also contact Ann if you have any questions (256-610-1625).

SAMPLE GARDEN FRIENDS WORK ORDER

WORK ORDER: Stan Roark

TIME: 8:30 am to 12:00 noon

DATE: February 21. Make-up: February 23

LOCATION: 1024 County Road 133, Wedowee, AL.

DIRECTIONS: From US 431 turn east on Alabama Hwy 48 towards Woodland. Turn left in front of Randolph County High School onto CR 133. House is a 2-story cedar house 1 mile from Hwy. 48.

CONTACT: (256) 357-4268 or stanroark@gmail.com.

WORK TO BE

PERFORMED : Install bed edging, propagate roses, dig small Japanese maples, prepare planting holes for 6 fruit trees and amend with compost, dig planting bed for boxwoods, divide one area of variegated lirope, move 2 large stones.

TOOLS NEEDED: Gloves, digging tools.

OTHER: I will provide bottled water, coffee and cookies.

Alabama Cooperative Extension System
114 Duncan Hall
Auburn University, AL 36849
19th Annual Beekeeping Symposium
Submitted by Dani Carroll



The Alabama Cooperative Extension System will hold the 19th Annual Beekeeping Symposium on Saturday, February 1, 2014, at the Auburn University, The Raymond J. Harbert College of Business (formerly the Lowder Business Building), 405 West Magnolia Avenue, Auburn University, AL.

Dr. Jeff Harris, Extension/Research Apiculturist at Mississippi State University will speak about “The Small Hive Beetle in Mississippi” and “Queen Management & Selection for the Backyard Beekeeper”. Stephen Enloe, Extension Specialist & Associate Professor, Auburn University, will address the topic of “Invasive Plants”. Keith Fielder, County Extension Coordinator, Putnam County, Georgia, will discuss “Producing Creamed Honey” and “Developing & Using Nucleus Colonies”. Via streaming video, Barry Richards of Red River Bees in Cross Plains, Tennessee, will cover “Marketing Your Honey Crop”.

In addition, members of the Alabama Beekeepers’ Association will conduct a series of four seminars specifically for new beekeepers. Other presentations by members of this group for all beekeepers include: “Recovering and Revising Plastic Frames” and “Methods to Insure High Quality Honey for Your Customers”.

Although honey is the best know product from the bee hive, two speakers will address interesting uses for beeswax. An artistic demonstration of encaustic (beeswax) painting will be done by Cynthia Mast. Elizabeth Whitaker will talk about creative uses for beeswax cappings.

The Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries Apiary Section will be represented by Dennis Barclift, State Apiarist.

Registration is from 8:00 a.m.-8:45 a.m. and the program is from 8:45 a.m. until 3:45 p.m. Lunch will be provided for those who pre-register by the Alabama Beekeepers’ Association. There will be an open hive demonstration (weather permitting) during the lunch.

If prepaid by January 22, 2014, the registration fee for the day is \$25. After January 22 and at the door, the registration fee is \$35. For more information contact Dr. Paul L. Mask at 334-844-4450 or you can visit www.onetewbee.com to view all registration material. For online registration visit: <https://mell-base.uce.auburn.edu/CourseStatus.awp?&course=C140201>.