



Dirty Digs

December



ACMGA President Sondra Henley

2024 is almost here. I am always surprised how fast the years pass.

ACMGA increased its support of our community in 2023. We joined the Prattville Chamber of Commerce and sponsored a Christmas Tree at the Autauga Creek Christmas Tree Trail. We gave 1600+ pounds of fresh produce to AICC along with other items.

Thanks go to Linda Barry and Dian Owens for Secretary and Treasurer jobs well done!

The new Secretary, Amy Richardson, and new Treasurer, Elijah Pugh, were installed at the December Christmas Luncheon Meeting.

We had a great time at our annual Christmas luncheon. Great food and fellowship! The Year in Review Presentation was a collection of photos taken throughout the year. Thanks go to Susan Clapp and Dawn Whitehead.

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Special points of interest:

- *Prattville Report*
- *Garden Tips*
- *Mary Lou McNabb*



AMGA Website
Alabamamg.org



Autauga MG Website
www.aces.edu/autauga



Extension Website
mg.aces.edu



The 2023 Outstanding Master Gardener of the Year is Adrienne Yarbrough. Adrienne will be featured in the first quarter 2024 Dirty Digs.

Our Christmas tablescape winners were a hit and each table was recognized for color, theme, and creativity.

The Christmas Song game awarded Poinsettias for those who knew the name of the song and for the member who sang it.

Don't forget to plug in your 2023 hours in the Service Report. Autauga should always be in the top ten counties. We work too hard, not to be!

ACMGA Vice President Nancy Waggoner ACMGA Programs/Tours

At the ACMGA meeting in September, member Anthony Yarbrough brought us up to date on the Transformation Garden at Auburn University.

In September, several ACMGA members toured the Montgomery Botanical Gardens. Located in Oak Park in Montgomery, the garden is a special project of the Capital City Master Gardeners Association and worthy of a visit.

In October, Debbie Boutelier presented a program on exceptional public gardens in the south.

Betty Hall, with the Prattville Parks and Recreation department, talked about the Autauga County Bluebird Trail - its history and status. She encouraged ACMGA members to build and

While you are having a break from daily routines, and enjoying your holidays with family and friends, welcome in 2024 and commit to attending the January 10th ACMGA Membership meeting.

The January meeting will introduce the 2024 ACMGA Board, along with the remaining and new committee chairs, There will be sign up forms for all our current and new projects and the 2025 AMGA Conference committees, so bring your 2024 calendar. For the meeting, Cheri is planning a "Grits Bar" with other foods for our fellowship time on a cold January day!



install bluebird houses in their yards and to become involved in tracking bluebirds' nests in the wild.

A festive luncheon is planned for December to wrap up 2023.

In the coming year, plans are underway for guest speakers, as well as some of our own members, to present interesting programs such as Flower Arranging; Formal Vs. Informal, The Potager Garden, Herbs, Cover Crops for the Home Garden, Keeping Critters Out of Our Plants, and more.

Lots of ideas abound for trips in 2024.

Awards & Honors Adrienne Yarbrough



Please see page 16, of this newsletter for Adrienne's Hummingbird Award Recipients article.

Demonstration Garden Glenn Huovinen



2023 was a very challenging year in the Demonstration Garden with excessive heat and at times excessive rain. After the very cold temperatures in December 2022 we had to replant most of our winter crops. We thought they could handle temps down to the mid 20s.

Despite these challenges, with a dedicated crew we were able to exceed our final donation poundage of 2022. **As of December 12 2023, we donated 1,631 pounds to AICC.** We also grew 34 different types of vegetables with various varieties of tomatoes, peppers, onions, radishes, squashes and lettuces.

Our goals for 2024 include:

Planting 2 successive crops of the same types of vegetables so we get more extended production out of each vegetable.

More inter-planting of pollinator plants to attract pollinating insects and repel damaging insects that helps to eliminate the use of insecticides. Which we now use almost none.

This will also help eliminate weeds.

Continue the use of cover crops to improve the soil.

Run a series of soil tests.

We hope and pray for another successful year.



Membership Jane Boysen



The membership committee has been sending cards to all of our Master Gardeners as we have had a lot of sickness over the last few months. We certainly hope that all of our members are up and well now; ready to enjoy their holiday season.

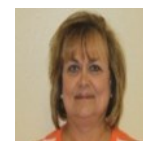
Representatives from the membership committee attended the Prattville Chamber of Commerce Annual Membership dinner this year to represent our organization as Master Gardeners in Autauga County. The Autauga County Master Gardeners also provided a gift basket of gardening goodies as a silent auction item.

As we begin our new year we have already started discussing ways that we can promote our organization within the community to bring in new members. We plan to have a display promoting membership at our Plant Sale in April 2024 and then also we want to do something fun and special in 2024 to promote membership at the booth for Prattville City Fest in May.

As always, if you know of someone interested in becoming a Master Gardener please let the membership committee know and we will send them some information. All we need is a name, phone number or email address.

We are looking forward to a great 2024!!

MG Intern Program Cheri Cook



Current intern classroom instruction programs were completed at the end of September. Intern learning continued with various field trip experiences.

On November 16th, the class visited the Chilton County Research Station followed by a visit to the plant nursery, Petals From the Past. Box lunches were enjoyed. Petals owner, Jason Powell, conducted a tour of the grounds. After the tour, interns were free to shop at the nursery.

Now that their formal education has ended, prospective ACMGA interns will be busy earning the 50 volunteer hours required for graduation in August 2024 as certified Master Gardeners.

Lunch and Learn Vicki Williamson



ACMGA hosts a monthly Lunch and Learn session on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at noon.

The Lunch and Learn session is held at Trinity Methodist Church, 610 Fairview Ave., Prattville, which provides a large meeting room and ample parking.

The Fall quarter was chaired by Lori Terrell, due to my absence from Master Gardeners while RVing! Lori did an excellent job!

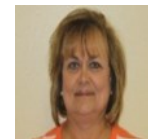
September's Program was New Bugs Buzzing presented by Dr. Meredith Shrader, AU Extension Entomologist with 28 attending.

October's program was Poisonous Plants by Brian Brown, Horticulturist, ACES with 30 in attendance.

The November program was cancelled due to a planned power outage from Alabama Power Company working around the Church.

I have rescheduled Dianna Fortner's Moonlight Garden presentation for January, 2024. We are ready for 2024 with new and interesting topics and speakers. The schedule will be available at the December Membership Meeting.

Hospitality Cheri Cook



Autauga County Master Gardeners always look forward to attending the annual Autauga County Landowners' Tour.

This year, our association members were asked to provide table decorations for the luncheon that is traditionally part of the tour.

Several members volunteered to make centerpieces for 30 tables. Black and white tablecloths with sunflower centerpieces provided an attractive pop of color.

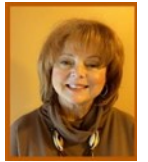
Our annual Christmas Luncheon will be held on December 13th at the Extension Office in Autaugaville.

The hospitality committee will be responsible for decorating the registration table and the food, drink, and dessert tables.

This year, members have volunteered to decorate the tables where people enjoy their lunches.

These table decorations will be judged and prizes for the best will be awarded. We hope to see you there!

Autauga Creek Christmas Tree Trail Sondra Henley



This December, ACMGA supported Prattville's Family Support Center by participating in their annual Christmas Tree Trail.

This trail decorates our city's walkway along the Autauga Creek and attracts lots of our residents and visitors to Prattville.

Our association printed, laminated, punched holes and tied ribbon on more than 1500 Poison Plant Information Cards.

These cards function as decorations on the tree, and anyone interested in taking an information card are encouraged to do so.

Master Gardeners signed up to inspect the tree and add additional cards when needed.





WE ARE PROUD TO REPORT THAT DURING 2023 WE

DONATED

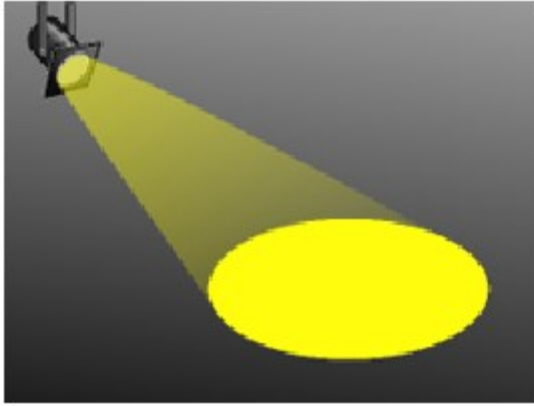
1,631 pounds

Of Fresh Produce

To

Autauga Interfaith Care Center





SPOTLIGHT

Dawn Whitehead

Name: Dawn Whitehead

Status in life: Married to David, 7 years. He works at Gunter USAF as a Test Manager. My son, Bryan, works at Gunter as a Test Engineer for DoD, USAF. My daughter, Morgan, is a loan officer with Renasant.

Education: BS Computer Information Systems attended Troy University and Alabama State.

Retired from: DoD Contractor, Gunter AFB

What led you to your career? Considered future of degree and financial provision.

What brought you to Autauga MGA or the MG Program?

I have always been interested in plants and growing things. I have some lines of plants from stock that are 40 years old! My mother raised Bromeliads in Florida and had a triple green thumb and I guess I inherited some of that.

What are your hobbies? Gardening, Traveling, Bible studies.

Favorite food: Everything! I like Mexican, Italian, Indian, Chinese and I have learned to cook most of our favorite dishes!

Favorite plant/flower: Natives

I have always wanted to visit: Israel, Italy, Spain, the rest of the US, especially the northwest.

Favorite book or author: Bible – Book of Revelations

How long have you been a resident of Autauga County? 7 years

Favorite thing you like about Autauga County? I don't have to go to Montgomery for anything!

Other comments: I have enjoyed meeting people I would never have met if I had not gone through the MG Intern Program. I like field trips and learning about places I would not have known about or visited.





'Tis the Season for Citrus

By

Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent

Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests

Late Fall to early winter is when we are harvesting citrus in Central Alabama and growing it in your own backyard has been growing in popularity the last few years. Citrus has been grown in Central and South Alabama for years. The citrus belt spans from California along the Gulf Coast to Florida (USDA Zones 8-10). With their evergreen foliage, fragrant flowers and delicious fruit, citrus can be a great addition to every garden or patio. And as an added bonus, with the exception of a few tangerine varieties, all citrus is self-fruitful meaning you can have just one plant to produce fruit.

With very few insect and diseases, the only drawback to citrus is the occasional cold winter temperatures where they will require protection. It is best to plant citrus in a large container so it can be moved indoors or just in the garage overnight during cold spells. For central Alabama, I recommend the semi-hardy to hardy varieties. Semi-hardy refers to citrus varieties that are hardy to temps in the mid to upper teens or low 20's. Satsumas or mandarins, kumquats and Meyer lemons are all considered semi-hardy in central Alabama.

The highest degree of success and greatest satisfaction in growing citrus in Alabama is often seen with satsumas. They withstand colder temperatures than the other forms of edible sweet citrus, produce more consistent crops over a longer period of time, and require less cold protection.

Satsuma is a mandarin. It has excellent cold hardiness and ripens its fruit well ahead of most freeze problems (September to November). Owari is the most popular variety and is generally available at retail outlets. Brown's Select is a very recent introduction from Louisiana that is somewhat similar to Owari in tree and fruit characteristics, but ripens its fruit at least 2 to 3 weeks earlier. Armstrong Early (also called Early Armstrong) is an old variety that has been grown for many years and is planted to a small degree. Fruit of this variety ripen extremely early (beginning in September), but the quality is not as good as Owari. When grown under warmer climatic conditions (such as Florida), fruits often retain their peak quality for approximately 2 to 4 weeks, after which they

may become puffy and rough in appearance and lose flavor and juice content. However, under the cooler climatic conditions of Central and South Alabama, fruits tend to remain in good condition on the tree, retaining their juice and flavor for 1 to 2 months after reaching full maturity.

There are a number of hardy acid-type fruits available for homeowner use. These plants make attractive ornamental specimens and provide delightful fruits as well. The kumquat tree (not the fruit) is the most cold hardy of the commonly grown acid citrus fruits (it can withstand temperatures of 15 to 17 degrees F). The kumquat is one of the most widely used citrus plants around the home; it develops into an attractive shrub-like tree that bears small orange-like fruit about 1 inch in diameter. Fruits can be eaten fresh, peel and all, or used in making jellies, marmalade, or candies. Several varieties are available, but only three are commonly propagated: Nagami, Marumi, and Meiwa. Meiwa, which produces round, sweet fruit, has become one of the most popular for home plantings.

Meyer is the most cold hardy variety of lemon. The fruit ripening period usually lasts for several months beginning in late summer. Good crops of large, practically seedless, juicy lemons are produced. Ponderosa, is another variety of lemon that is commonly grown in Florida that produces exceedingly large fruits and can also be grown as a container plant.

Limes are among the most cold-sensitive of the common acid-type citrus fruits. However, the Mexican (also called Key or West Indian) lime, famous for the Key lime pie, can be grown as a container plant when provided with inside protection during the winter.

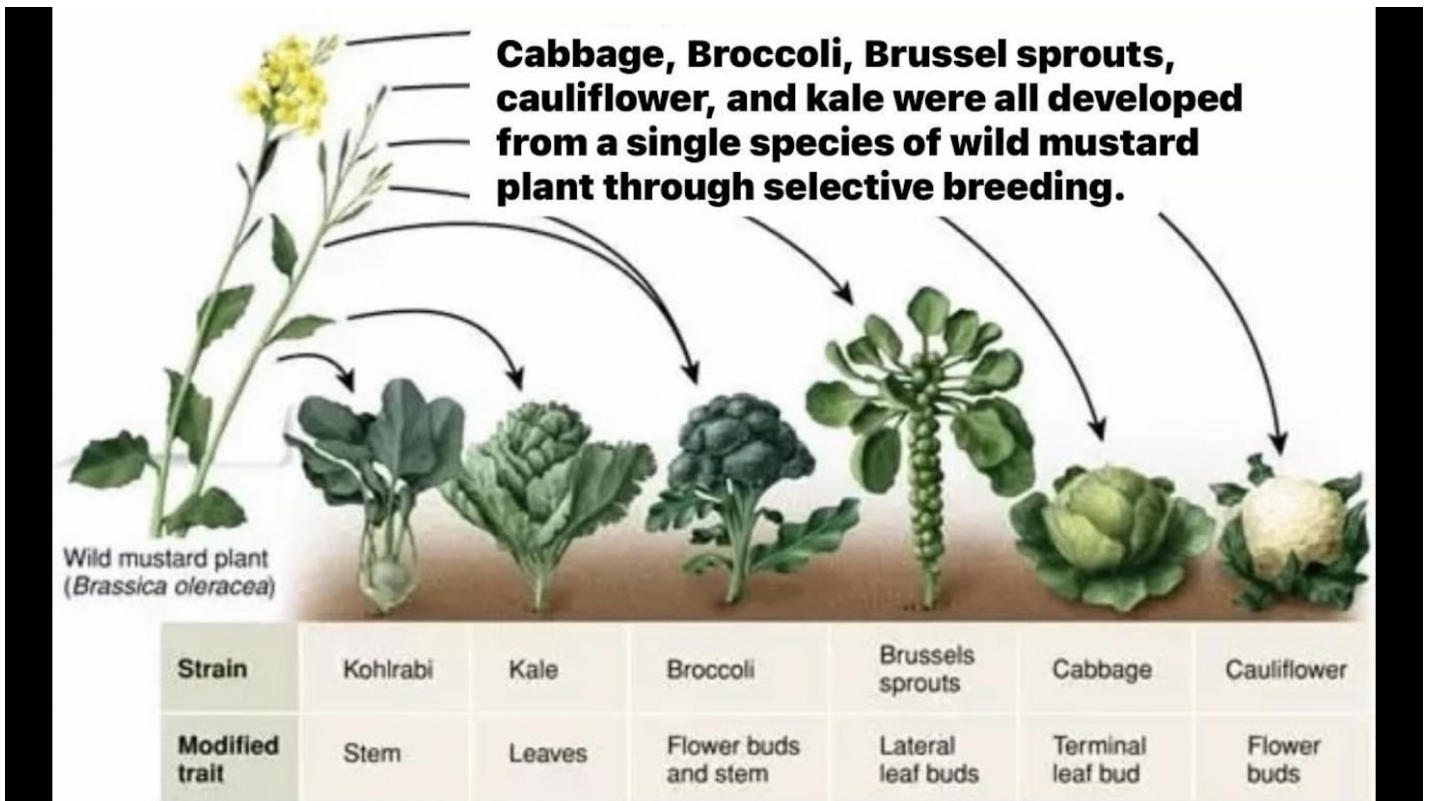
As mentioned previously, citrus fruits can be grown successfully in the home grounds with little or no control of insects and diseases. Fruits produced without pesticide sprays may be very poor in external quality as a result of damage by several mites, insects, and fungal diseases. Although they may look unattractive on the outside, external damage usually has no detrimental effect on internal fruit quality. And the appearance of the tree may suffer, but seldom will trees be critically damaged by most citrus pests.

So, if you are looking for a low maintenance, conversation piece, think about adding citrus plants to your landscape or patio. Not only will you love their incredible fragrance when in bloom, but it's so much fun to watch them grow and share with your neighbors, friends and family.

History of Brassicas

by

Glenn Huovinen



All of these vegetables were developed from *Brassica oleracea*, a native plant of coastal Europe, through selective breeding.

Specific traits were selected and those plants were crossed with the offspring. Cross breeding of the native Mustard family has been occurring for thousands of years.

The Mustard family is incredibly important worldwide for developing these important foods.

Text provided by: Curtis J. Hansen, Curator, Freeman Herbarium. Auburn University and Mallo-ry Kelly, Regional Extension Agent. Chart from Facebook post.

Winter Gardening Tips

By Sondra Henley

Please see a complete monthly guide at:

<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/fruits-lawn-garden/alabama-gardeners-calendar/>

Fruits and Nuts

January - Set out apples, peaches, pears, and grapes.

February - Start strawberry plantings.

March - Continue strawberry and grape plantings.

Shrubs

January - Plant shrubs and trees, including broadleaf, narrow leaf, and deciduous. Apply an ultrafine horticultural oil spray to all deciduous shrubs to help with control of insects and diseases. Spray when weather is on a warmer trend.

February – Spray plants with a fungicide before new growth

March - Monitor shrubs for harmful insects.

Lawns

January - Soil test and add limestone as recommended.

February – Continue with soil testing and liming if necessary.

March -Continue with soil testing and liming if necessary.

Roses

January - Plant roses

February – Continue planting roses; prune established roses early this month.

March -Watch new growth for aphids, begin a spray or dust program, begin fertilizing.

Annuals and Perennials

January - Plant hardy annuals

February – Replant hardy annuals

March – Continue planting hard annuals.

Bulbs

January - Check stored bulbs and discard rotten ones.

February – late February plant canna, amaryllis, gladiolus, and zephyrettes

March - Plant gladiolus every 2 or 3 weeks if a long blooming season is desired. Plant tuberous begonias in pots. Plant dahlias.

Miscellaneous

January – Mow and bag your lawn clippings to keep annual winter weeds from seeding. Prune winter-damaged limbs. Give house plants a bath in lukewarm water to remove dust.

February – Mow and bag your lawn clippings to keep annual winter weeds from seeding.

March – Repair lawn and garden equipment.

Vegetable Seeds

January /February - South: Plant hardy vegetables and root crops (garden peas, radishes, mustard, spinach, turnips). Start cabbage, broccoli, lettuce, and Swiss chard seeds in cold frames.

March - **Central and North:** Plant all hardy crops recommended for January and February (garden peas, leafy greens, and root crops).

Central and South: Continue planting carrots, lettuce, and radishes. Plant sweet corn and squash. South Alabama can start planting beans, melons, and southern peas in late March.

Vegetable Transplants

January - Central: Plant cabbage and cauliflower transplants. Wait until the end of January to plant Swiss chard, mustard, transplants, and onion sets.

February – South and Central: Plant asparagus, cabbage and broccoli, and certified seed potatoes for Irish and red- skinned varieties.

March - **Central and North:** Plant asparagus, onion sets, and lettuce. Plant certified seed potatoes for Irish and red- skinned varieties in early March.



Jane McCarthy receives 'Spirit of Spinners' award at annual Prattville Festival

BY

SARAH STEPHENS

ELMORE/AUTAUGA NEWS

Photos by Bob Ealum and Sarah Stephens

The two-day event drew thousands to Spinners Park in Prattville. In the closing hours of the event Sunday, club members and Prattville Mayor Bill Gillespie Jr. presented the Spirit of Spinners award to a deserving volunteer and this year that is Jane H. McCarthy, of Prattville!

“Jane McCarthy has distinguished herself as an invaluable proponent of volunteerism and public service,” Mayor Gillespie said on Sunday as he and Devenecia presented a silver engraved platter to McCarthy.

McCarthy seemed shocked when she realized she was being honored. She credited the entire Spinners organization, saying they are amazing people, and she is honored to play a part.



McCarthy was praised as being passionate about giving of herself to others without the expectation of recognition or reward. She has volunteered her knowledge, experience and skills not only to the betterment of her local communities, but the State of Alabama. This has also been extended to employees and worldwide visitors of Maxwell Air Force Base or the Gunter Annex. Through her noteworthy efforts, McCarthy has consistently demonstrated she is the embodiment of the Spirit of Spinners.

McCarthy is a Prattville resident married to retired Colonel George F. McCarthy. Their children are Christopher and Jonathon McCarthy.

She was employed by the USAF/Maxwell Air Force Base and retired in 2016. She worked as a horticulturist, landscape designer and greenhouse manager for Maxwell and Gunter until her retirement. She earned her degree in horticulture from Auburn University in August of 2000.

She has volunteered for multiple organizations including Capital City Master Gardeners Association, Autauga County Master Gardeners Association, Old Alabama Town Herb Society, Governor's Mansion Garden Group and the Prattville Cancer Clinic. She previously was part of Friends of Governor's Mansion Board and Montgomery Botanical Garden Board.

She took a hiatus from volunteer activities in May 2019 due to a breast cancer diagnosis.

Her volunteer history is impressive. According to information from Spinners:

“As a member of the Capital City Master Gardeners Association and Autauga County Master Gardeners Association, Jane's efforts were invaluable as she developed the schedule, budget and activity plans for both community and private gardens. Turning her plans into action, working with other volunteers, Jane regularly conducted garden tours, maintained Prattville Garden workdays, established budgets and fulfilled annual horticulture tasks.

“Additionally, as a volunteer working in community outreach, Jane created plans for private gardens and horticulture arrangements public community events to include schools, churches, libraries and post offices. She also provided her “green thumb” skills for local seasonal holiday outdoor decorations. Jane's contributions directly led us to the beautification of our neighborhoods and the community.”

Spinners said that not only is McCarthy an outstanding volunteer, but she is also an exemplary person who has a true passion for helping others and bringing the community together.

Congratulations to Mrs. McCarthy and the Prattville Spinners on a very successful festival.

NOTE: Article adapted from the Elmore/Autauga News. Original article can be found at:

<https://elmoreautauganews.com/2023/10/30/jane-mccarthy-named-spinner-of-the-year-at-annual-prattville-festival-sunday/>

2023 Hummingbird Award Recipients

By

Adrienne Yarbrough

The Hummingbird Award showcases the exceptional efforts of certified members of our association for work on projects within Autauga County or directly related to Autauga County Master Gardeners Association. There were ten 2023 Hummingbird Award recipients. Of those recipients, two received their first award, two received their second award, five received their third award, one received her fourth award, and one received her fifth award.

Listed below are the recipients and why they were selected for the award.

Lisa Carrick - her organizational and cake decorating skills used to develop and produce the Cake Auction at our December 2022 meeting which earned \$550.

Dian Owens - her work on designing the beautiful mugs, going the extra mile to set up and sell, her willingness to produce requested documents for the President in a timely manner and as always for her work at Prattvillage Garden.

Nancy Waggoner - her work on The Gardening Buzz for Autauga County booklet and her work on planning tours for the membership.

Debbie Boutelier - her work on The Gardening Buzz for Autauga County booklet and for her work establishing the Friends of Master Gardeners and developing, editing, and producing the Friends of Master Gardeners newsletter.

Sheila Pearson - her work during Prattville's City Fest. She encouraged people to visit the ACMGA booth, answered questions about the plants that were displayed, took donations for the plants, talked about the Master Gardener Intern class, and handed out information pertaining to the class. Her enthusiasm garnered \$138 in donations.

J.C. Scofield - her consistent attendance at the Demonstration Garden every Tuesday, her work with the pollinator garden, and care of the hummingbird feeders.

Lori Terrell - her work researching, selecting, preparing grant paperwork and timely submission of grants.

Adrienne Yarbrough - manning the Helpline when needed, providing Intern hours information to Mallory and Cheri, and always helping others.

Cindy Deane – developing and producing the poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac identification cards.

Xavier "Lew" Lewis - providing transplants from seed he started at home and soil amendments for the Demonstration Garden. He has a sweet spirit, a willingness to help others and loves to share his gardening knowledge.



Commemorative Stone Dedication

By

Lori Terrell



November 28, 2023 was a beautiful day at Prattville Garden. The Autauga County Heritage Association honored Lenore Kirkpatrick (previously a Master Gardener) along with Al and Sheila Bock (previous owners of Old Prattville.) .



Pictured Chris and Tammy Bock; Lori Bock Terrell (ACMGA member) and Richard Terrell

The ceremony took place at the entrance to the Garden which has been an ACMGA community project for almost 30 years.

The Heritage Association donated a large stone with a bronze plaque recognizing the contribution of the Bocks and Mrs. Kirkpatrick for their “preservation of the past towards the beautification of the future as represented in Old Prattvillage.”

The stone was placed to the right of the entrance to the Garden. Many friends and family of the honorees and fellow Master Gardeners were present for the unveiling and dedication of the stone.

Several speakers honored the Bocks and Lenore, recounting the many properties and projects throughout Prattville and Autauga County that were saved from demolition by their partnership. Old Prattvillage is a lasting testament to their passion for historical properties and the preservation of them.

The ACMGA has been fortunate to have the Chapel and the Garden as a place to showcase our ornamental horticultural knowledge and to use as a location to educate Prattville and the surrounding communities about ornamental and native plants. Prattvillage Garden has been the site of every ACMGA Plant Sale since 1996.

It is visited by many every week who stroll through to see what is blooming. Many family pictures have used Prattvillage Garden as their backdrop, and weddings have taken place on the Chapel steps.

Stop by to visit the garden and pause to read the plaque and reflect on the generosity of those who have made this garden and the surrounding village possible.



**1. Fundraising – Drinkware & Magnets
For Sale**

Dian Owens – (205) 572-8445 cell
dian.owens.al@gmail.com

Ceramic coffee mugs and magnets are available for sale. The ceramic mugs are available in white with 1. butterfly photos and 2. photos from Prattvillage Garden photos. 3. Photos from Prattvillage & the Demonstration Gardens. The two magnets are each available with 1. butterfly photos and 2. Prattvillage Garden photos. These items may be reviewed at most meetings or at Prattvillage Garden on Tuesday morning workdays.



ACMGA Order Form (Please PRINT)

Name: _____

Contact #: _____

Email address: _____

Items	Price	Quantity	Total	Check # or Cash
White Mug – Butterflies (15 oz)	\$20		\$	
White Mug – Prattvillage (15 oz)	\$20		\$	
White Mug – Prattvillage & Demonstration Gardens	\$20		\$	
Magnet – Prattvillage Garden	\$9		\$	
Magnet – Butterflies	\$9		\$	
Note - Mugs (dishwasher & microwave safe). Black mug no longer available.	Total		\$	

2. Fundraising – ACMGA Logo Apparel for Sale

Dian Owens – (205) 572-8445 cell

dian.owens.al@gmail.com

We have added a brighter colored ladies' tee shirt along with the current athletic gray tee. **Email, text, or call me with your order. All apparel orders are subject to the supplier's minimum piece requirements. (You will be notified if available sizes or quantities decrease or if prices increase.)**

ACMGA Order Form (Please PRINT)

Name: _____

Contact #: _____

Email address: _____

Items	Price	Quantity	Total	Check # or Cash
Heather Gray short-sleeve tee Unisex S-XL	\$22		\$	
Heather Gray short-sleeve tee Unisex 2XL	\$24		\$	
Heather Gray short-sleeve ladies relaxed tee S-XL	\$22		\$	
Heather Gray short-sleeve ladies relaxed tee 2XL	\$24		\$	
Heather Gray long-sleeve tee Unisex S-XL	\$25		\$	
Heather Gray long-sleeve tee Unisex 2XL	\$25		\$	
Heather Gray sweatshirt Unisex S-XL	\$27		\$	
Heather Gray sweatshirt Unisex 2XL	\$27		\$	
Heather Gray Full-zip Hooded Sweatshirt S-XL	\$30		\$	
Heather Gray Full-zip Hooded Sweatshirt 2XL	\$30		\$	
Polo (collar) short-sleeve men's shirt S-XL	\$26		\$	
Polo (collar) short-sleeve men's shirt 2XL	\$28		\$	
Canvas Tote with embroidered ACMGA logo	\$25		\$	
	Total		\$	

Note: The Demonstration Garden volunteer's tee is ordered at the Demonstration Garden on Tuesday mornings. The Prattville Garden volunteer's tee is ordered at Prattville Garden on Tuesday mornings. Form updated 12/15/2023.

Upcoming Birthdays



JANUARY

Rita Nichols 01/06
Alfred Booth 01/07
Glenn Huovinen 01/09
Lee Thomas 01/13
Lois Pribulick 01/19
Marjorie Hannah 01/26
Gene Stapleton 01/30
Kim Wood 01/31

FEBRUARY

Lisa Carrick 02/02
Cheryl Winter 02/08
Janice Jackson 02/11
Justin Ward 02/24
Samantha Bowen 02/25
Chuk Shirley 02/25
Dave Davies 02/28

MARCH

Amy Richardson 03/07
Pam Olson 03/15
Billie Willis 03/16
Rose McCauley 03/27
Don Armstrong 03/28



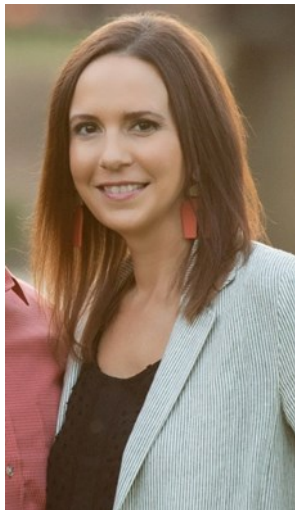
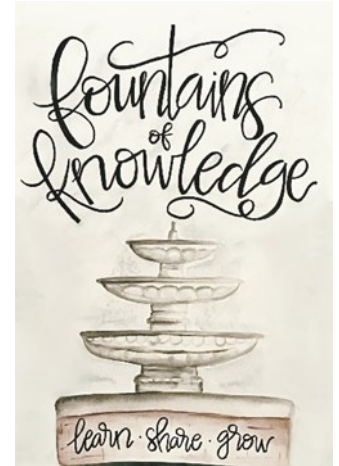
News Announcement

By

Sondra Henley

Autauga County Master Gardeners Association is pleased to announce the winner of our 2025 Alabama Master Gardener Association's Conference Logo Art Contest. The winning drawing by Jesaca Wilson depicts the theme of Fountains of Knowledge, Learn, Grow, Share.

Jesaca Wilson has been a resident of Autauga County since 2015. Originally from Pensacola, FL, she transplanted here with her husband's job. Travis and Jesaca have been married for 21 years.



Jesaca homeschools her four children, ages 8 to 20. She has been a professional photographer for the last 10 years and is currently employed as the studio manager of the P'zazz Art Studio in downtown Prattville. She teaches children and adult art classes at P'zazz.

Jesaca is a member at Glynwood Baptist Church, where she holds the position of Women's Ministry leader. She loves to serve others and strives to shine the light of Jesus in all that she does.

ACMGA is proud to host the 2025 AMGA Conference in Prattville, AL, April 3-5. First Baptist Church Prattville will be the hosting site.

Everyone is welcome to attend but registration is required after January 1, 2025.

Governor's Mansion Report

Article and Pictures by Jane McCarthy



The Governor's Mansion volunteers were very busy weeding, watering, trimming, and planting on the mansion grounds in this very dry fall.

We introduced the 2023 Master Gardener interns from Autauga and Elmore counties to the Governor's Mansion.

Standing:

Linda Cater
Robin Snyder
Consuelo Bradley
Darlene Blumentritt
Lori Terrell
Deborah Brooks

Sitting:

Lidia Mitchum
Leslie Wilkinson
Rhona Watson
David Heffelfinger
Jane McCarthy
Cheri Cook
Casie McGinn

And we did some hands-on tree work....Merry Christmas from the Monday Morning Mansion Garden Group (MMMGG).



Pictured

Jane McCarthy
Darwin Prewitt
Ann Colvin
Robin Snyder
Alicia Richardson
Amanda Borden
Kathy Quinn
Cheryl McKiearnan
Dawn Mitchell
Anne Carr
Sue Berry

Prattvillage Garden Report

Article by Jane McCarthy

Photos by Jane McCarthy and Dian Owens



Team work on the table decorations for the December ACMGA luncheon...Dian Owens and Angie Trimble.



Another team doing the funky table decorations. Lori Terrell and Debbie Boutelier.



Simple, all natural, and still elegant.



The recycled table decorations from the Christmas luncheon are now the PVG gate decorations.



An all natural holiday swag.

**Autauga County
Master Gardeners Association**

Lunch & Learn 2024

**3rd WEDNESDAY of EVERY Month
12:00-1:00 P.M.**

Trinity United Methodist Church, 610 Fairview Ave., Prattville 36066



BRING A SACK LUNCH

FREE PROGRAM

DRINKS PROVIDED

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 17 January | Moonlight Gardens
Dianna Fortner, Lee County Master Gardener |
| 21 February | Cover Crops to Improve Your Soil
Carole Boroski, Master Gardener |
| 20 March | Annual Flower Bed Success
Karen Weber, Horticulturist, CCMGA |
| 17 April | Preventing Pollution in the Waterways
Jennifer Barker, ADEM |
| 15 May | Growing Hostas
Bionca Lindsey, Advanced Master Gardener |
| 19 June | Companion Plants in your Garden
Maria Pacheco, Advanced Master Gardener |
| 17 July | Attracting & Raising Butterflies
Soyna Moore, Advanced Master Gardener |
| 21 August | Wildlife in the Garden
Dr. Wesley Anderson, AU Extension Specialist |
| 18 September | Cabbage, Lettuce, Spinach & Kale
Lucy Edwards, Horticulturist, ACES |
| 16 October | Square Foot Garden Technique
Henry Lucas, Capital City Master Gardener |
| 20 November | Christmas Wreaths & Garlands
Mallory Kelley, Horticulturist, ACES |
| 18 December | Growing and Repotting Orchids
Judy May, Elmore County Master Gardener |



**ALL ARE WELCOME! For more information, contact the
Autauga County Extension Office (334) 361-7273.**

It's time to renew your membership in the Friends of Autauga County Master Gardeners. This membership would also make a wonderful gift for family and friends.

Autauga County Master Gardeners Association (ACMGA) is seeking "Friends of Master Gardeners". These friends will have the opportunity to help financially support the work the ACMGA does for the Prattville community and Autauga County and to enjoy benefits especially designed for our friends. The ACMGA is a non-profit organization, and your donation will be fully tax deductible as allowed by law. In 2022, Autauga County Master Gardeners have given over 10,750 hours at a value of \$322,262 to our community.



Autauga County Master Gardeners Association
 139 First Street
 Prattville, AL 36067

Some of the ACMGA projects are:

Historic Prattvillage Garden. This is a privately owned garden that the ACMGA has designed, developed and maintained since 1995. The cornerstone of this garden is a circa 1840s gothic style chapel. This garden features ornamental plantings and is open to the public to enjoy. Small events and photography sessions are also held there. This allows for a small income which goes back into the garden. Some of the expenses that have to be covered are irrigation, plant additions or replacements, fertilizers, and equipment to mow and maintain the garden.

The Prattville-Autauga Demonstration Garden located beside the Prattville Library raises and donates the vegetable, fruit and herb harvests to the Autauga Interfaith Care Center Food Bank. This garden was developed in 2003 as a partnership between Master Gardeners, the City of Prattville, and AICC. The garden has been in constant production since then and provides over 1,500 pounds of fresh produce each year. Some of expenses for this garden include seedlings, seeds, compost, fertilizers and other amendments, mulch, and irrigation equipment.

Other: **Horticulture education programs** in various locations, working with the schools to provide horticulture activities for students, participating in many environmental and nature programs for youth and adults, answering gardening questions, providing consults for homeowners, and many other horticulture-related activities.

\$25.00 Individual Friends of Master Gardeners will receive:

- Early admission into plant sales
- 10% off Garden Glimpses Tour Tickets
- Name listed on Donor Boards at events & in the digital newsletter
- Quarterly digital newsletters that provide seasonal gardening articles
- Invitation to all ACMGA events and workshops

\$50.00 Business Friends of Master Gardeners will receive:

- Early admission into plant sales
- 10% off Garden Glimpses Tour Tickets
- Business Name listed on Donor Boards at events & Business Card size ad in the digital newsletter
- Quarterly digital newsletters that provide seasonal gardening articles
- Invitation to all ACMGA events and workshops

This is an annual donation and can be made with check or cash. Donation is due in January of each year.

Contact name: _____

Contact Number: _____

Best time to call: _____

Email address: _____

For more information, call Debbie Boutelier @ 334-365-7806

Editors Corner

John Carrick



I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all the great articles and wonderful pictures that have been submitted for publication in the 2023 Dirty Digs Newsletter.

If you have never submitted an article, I would like to encourage you to consider submitting an article for Dirty Digs. Articles can be as simple as some pictures of your garden and some comments. If you would like to write an article, but are not sure how to get started, please feel free to reach out to me.

I hope each of you have a wonderful Christmas season and wishing you a blessed and successful 2024.

“She shall bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:21

Please email any web site related items to:

web@autaugamastergardeners.org

If you have any articles, pictures, etc., to be included in the Dirty Digs newsletter, please email them to: **dd@autaugamastergardeners.org**

Newsletter feedback and suggestions are always welcome.

May God continue to Bless each and every one of you.

Johnny



Autauga County Master Gardeners Association

Autauga County Extension Office

2226 AL-14 W, Suite E
Autaugaville, AL 36003

Phone: 334-361-7273



Autauga County Master Gardener Volunteers are...

Motivated – to share their knowledge and expertise.

Accessible – to other Master Gardeners, horticulture and Extension professionals, and the public.

Service-oriented – to enhance their communities and the environment.

Trained – by Cooperative Extension in current horticultural practices.

Excited – about meeting other people who enjoy gardening.

Research ambassadors – who provide cutting-edge horticultural information to consumers.

Next Issue March 31st
Please submit articles, no later than March 15

Prattvillage Garden
139 1st Street, Prattville, AL 36067

Images courtesy of Wikimedia Commons
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/>

You can reserve the garden for an event—contact Dian Owens

Honor Bricks:
<https://donationbricks.com/acmga>



AMGA Event Page:
<https://mg.aces.edu/autauga/events-calendar>

