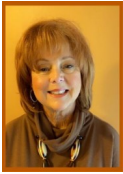




# Dirty Digs

September



**ACMGA President  
Sondra Henley**

Fall is in the air! My favorite time of the year, my favorite colors and lots of reasons to celebrate life!

ACMGA members and family members have had quite a lot of deaths recently. As the holiday season approaches, please remember them with cards and prayers.

Let's remember that Fall is the best time to plant trees, shrubs and cool weather vegetables.

With cooler nights and warm days, your cool weather vegetables will love these conditions.

We started ASK A MG last spring in April, May and June. We took the summer off and started back this September.

My hope and goal for this Saturday project was to help ACMGs have additional opportunities for Saturday hours.

### Inside this issue:

<i>Presidents Message</i>	1
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<i>Albert Striplin</i>	5
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### Special points of interest:

- Gardening Tips
- CACMGA Logo Items
- ACMGA Membership Renewal



AMGA Website  
[Alabamamg.org](http://Alabamamg.org)



Autauga MG Website  
[www.aces.edu/autauga](http://www.aces.edu/autauga)



Extension Website  
[mg.aces.edu](http://mg.aces.edu)



The current Intern Class has really jumped on this project. There are still some dates available for the September and October Saturday schedule.

Some dates have 2 Interns working with a certified MG. They are handing out Helpline information cards and engaging shoppers to talk about their landscape concerns.

So far this year, we have had approximately 140 contacts and 9 Intern Class prospects.

This has been a great experience!

ACMGA will be participating in the Family Life Center's Christmas Tree Trail again. A committee is being formed to design the Information Ornament Cards, October 1 at my house. If you are interested in helping, contact me.

Send Project and Committee Budget requests to Elijah Pugh before November 26.

Please put "Budget" in the subject line. The December date for creating the 2025 budget is TBA.

Conference workers will be required to wear a gray tee and their green aprons.

See the Logo Items Order Form for an ACMGA gray Tee shirt, green apron and other logo gift ideas.

The ACMGA Nominating Committee is working hard to find the right members to step up to two very important positions. I hear they may have found just the right ones, but we will let them announce the candidates.

Two December parties ago, we had a great Cake Auction, last year we had Tablescape and now we are at 2024.

What are your ideas for a year end party?

Let me know!

Sondra

**ACMGA Vice President  
Nancy Waggoner  
ACMGA Programs/Tours**



We are fortunate to have access to interesting and informative speakers who are willing to share their knowledge with us.

At our July membership meeting, Dr. Wesley Anderson, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, explained ways in which we can attempt to keep wildlife from damaging our home gardens.

In September, Advanced Central Alabama Master Gardener Rhona Watson gave an outstanding lecture on seed starting and plant propagation.

In October, we look forward to our own Advanced Master Gardener Debbie Boutelier speaking about the use of herbs in landscaping.

In November, Nate Taylor, Arborist and owner of Taylor Tree Services, will talk about tree trimming for enhanced tree appearance and health.

We're on the road again! On Friday, October 4th, we are carpooling to Opelika to have lunch at Botanic; a restaurant/garden center that will be worth the visit.

The shops of Botanic sell plants, gardening accessories, and hand-crafted gift items. Fingers crossed for great weather.

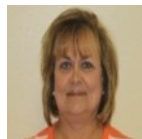
Members are encouraged to submit ideas for membership meeting speakers and field trips for 2025.

Send your requests for trips and topics to me via email or text and I will submit them to our next Vice-President.

Nancy

## Cheri Cook

### Hospitality Chair



Traditionally, in August, we have a pot-luck luncheon for our interns who are graduating to full membership status! Members bring a great variety of lunch nibbles for the occasion.

We honored graduates Michael Camire and Darlene Blumentritt.

Graduates Tom Miller and Deborah Brooks were not able to attend that day, but we welcome them as new members as well.

Thank you to all members who consistently volunteer to bring delicious snacks for all to enjoy at our membership meetings!

Cheri

## Demonstration Garden Glenn Huovinen



Despite the weather this year we have been very productive at the Demo Garden.

As of Sept.1, we have donated 18 different varieties, for a total of 741 pounds of produce to AICC. That includes 54 pounds of Okra. Okra loves the hot weather.

We have a great dedicated crew and we invite other members to join us each Tuesday morning.

Come when you can, between 7:00 and 9:30.

We have a great time.



## Lunch and Learn Vicki Williamson



ACMGA hosts Lunch and Learn the 3rd Wednesday at 12 noon. The location is Trinity Prattville Church (formerly known as Trinity United Methodist Church), 610 Fairview Ave. Prattville, AL.

Bring a sack lunch. Water is provided.

The 3rd Quarter, 2024 opened with our own Soyna Moore, Master Gardener, presenting Attracting and Raising Butterflies, which is her passion. Thank you to Bionca Lindsey for hosting this month.

We had several homeschool families attending. Great topic for the kiddos!!

In August, Dr. Wesley Anderson, Wildlife Specialist, ACES presented Wildlife in Your Garden. Always an interesting topic because of the love/hate relationship we have with wildlife!

In September, Lucy Edwards, Horticulturist, ACES will present Cabbage, Lettuce, Spinach and Kale, a topic just in time for Fall vegetable gardens

Each month we average 30-40 attendees and several first-time visitors.

A Resource Education table with information regarding Master Gardener Classes, articles relating to the current topics and soil testing kits are provided. Several members shared their plants.



Photos by Susan Clapp

## Albert Carleton Striplin



September 5, 1953—August 27, 2024



Albert Carleton Striplin, 70, of Prattville, Alabama passed away peacefully at his home on August 27, 2024. From his birth on September 5, 1953, Mr. Striplin has been a lifelong resident of Prattville. Albert spent his life serving the community of Prattville through church and civic groups. He was elected to the Prattville City Council in 2011 and before his death was serving his third term. He graduated from Autauga County High School in 1971, earned a B.S. in Finance from the University of Alabama, and attended LSU School of Banking. He retired from the Bank of Prattville after more than 35 years as Director and President, and President of Key Finance Co., Inc. for 30 years, before its closing in 2015. An active member of Prattville First Methodist Church, he served in the choir and as a pianist for the Fellowship Sunday School Class. He was also an active serving member of Eagle Scout (Troop #25) and Master Gardener with more than 8,000 volunteer hours. Mr. Striplin served the community through the following organizations: Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee, Autauga Area Community Foundation, Central Alabama Community Foundation, Leadership Autauga County, Leadership Alabama, Prattville Kiwanis Club, Prattville YMCA, and Historic Prattville Redevelopment Authority. His legacy of community service with the utmost integrity and fairness to all is an inspiration to his family and friends.

Obituary published on Legacy.com by Prattville Memorial Chapel & Memory Gardens on Aug. 30, 2024.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/albert-striplin-obituary?id=56183886>

# Gardening Tips

By Sondra Henley

See a complete list for each and other months from Alabama Gardener's Calendar at [www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu).

## October

- Plant new trees and shrubs in the landscape.
- Start mulching all shrubs that do not have a mulch.
- Continue insect and disease control practices on roses.
- Clean up flower beds immediately after first killing frost. Plant half-hardy annuals, such as snapdragons.
- Plant tulip, hyacinth, daffodil, crocus, Dutch iris, anemone, and ranunculus. Watch planting depth.
- Dig caladiums, clean and store in a warm place.
- Spray with oils before freezing weather to kill scale, mites, etc.
- Central and South: Continue planting winter-hardy crops such as beets, carrots, collards, kale, parsley, and spinach.
- Whole state: Continue planting winter-hardy transplants.

## November

- Start mulching strawberries, blackberries, and grapes.
- Plant shrubs, trees, and vines.
- Perform a soil test to determine if lime is recommended and apply anytime this fall to your lawn.
- Get rose plantings underway.
- Plant hardy annuals such as larkspur, poppies, pansies, bugloss, candytuft, and ornamental cabbage and kale.
- Plant sweet peas into the ground.

- Continue spring bulb planting. Use cold frames for tender, cool-season vegetables such as broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, Swiss chard, lettuce, mustard, onions, radishes, and turnips.

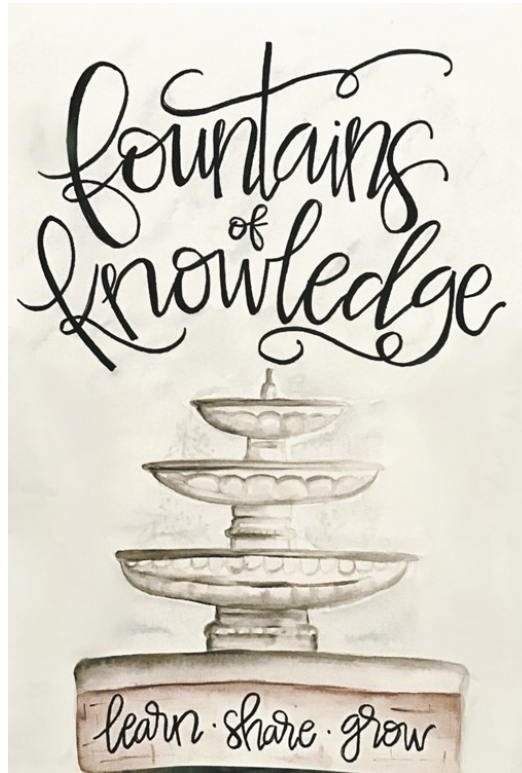
## December

- Put dormant oil sprays for scale on fruit trees.
- Planting trees and shrubs is still the main activity but delay in case of freezing weather.
- Get your soil tested and be prepared for spring gardening.
- Dig out wild garlic, chickweed, *Poa annua*, dandelion, and other winter weeds before they flower. You can even mow and bag your lawn clippings to help eradicate these winter weeds.
- Plant hardy annual seed and perennials without delay.
- Continue spring bulb planting.

"Love the trees until their leaves fall off, then encourage them to try again next year." — Chad Sugg



Picture Kaity Theriault, Creative Commons Attribution 3.0



Join Us  
in  
Prattville, Alabama  
for the  
2025 AMGA Conference & Business Meeting  
April 3 – 5, 2025  
First Baptist Church Prattville  
Hosted by  
Autauga County Master Gardeners Association

For more details:

<https://autaugamastergardeners.org/amga2025conference/>



## Norris Eugene Stapleton



January 30, 1938—September 20, 2024



STAPLETON, Norris Eugene, 86, a resident of Prattville, AL, unexpectedly passed away at his home on Saturday, September 21, 2024. Known to everyone as "Gene", he loved traveling, especially to Alaska. Despite having physical disabilities due to having polio as a child, Gene was very active in the community. He was a master gardener and volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. He always had a story to share, loved reading, never met a stranger and was generous to his family and community.

Graveside services will be held on Monday, September 23, 2024 at 2:00 pm at Pine Level Cemetery with Pastor Phillip Rayburn officiating and Prattville Memorial directing. Mr. Stapleton is preceded in death by his parents, Boyd and Gladys Stapleton; grandson, Matthew Whitt. He is survived by his loving wife of 44 years, Betty Chandler Stapleton; three daughters, Sherryl Whitt, Gina Stapleton and Laura Parks (Russell); one son, Michael Boothe (Rita); four grandchildren, Chase Siler (Stephanie), Samantha Siler, Riley Boothe (Brandon Wilson) and Adam Boothe (Katerina Kimberlin); one great-grandchild, Phoenix Siler; two sisters, Judy Crownover and Peggy Stapleton-Cooper; extended family and friends. Pallbearers will be Adam Boothe, Brandon Wilson, Tom Harbst, Michael Boothe, John Miele and Russell Parks.

Obituary published on Legacy.com by Prattville Memorial Chapel & Memory Gardens on Sep. 25, 2024.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/norris-stapleton-obituary?id=56383617>

# ACMGA Intern Class

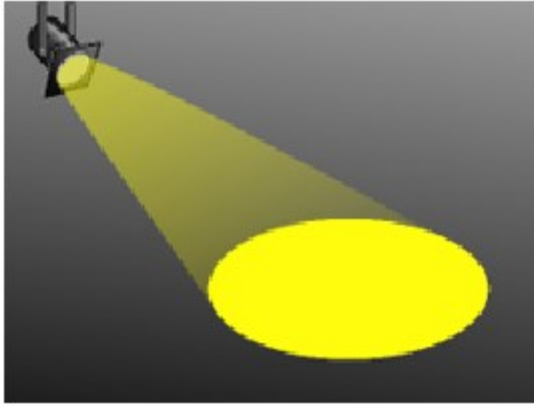
Bionca Lindsey

Autauga County Master Gardeners Association is hosting a new Intern Class!

Do you remember walking in a room, getting a very thick book, and sitting next to people you do not know? Let us go a little further, what about providing your first soil test, learning about Botany, or seeing how your trash can be turned into treasure? Currently, 17 individuals are going through this process, and as new interns, they are experiencing information overload. Out of the 17 students, seven students reside in our county of Autauga. Their first day was August 8, 2024, and by the time you read this article they will be finished with all their inside classroom coursework. Next, they will be visiting outside locations learning more about diverse gardens, touring local sites, and participating in a plant dig where they will get to take plants home. Their last day of group class will be on November 7, 2024. Thereafter, they will be on their own working to amass 50 volunteer service hours in Horticulture. Darlene and I would like to thank all the members who have stepped up to be mentors, visited with the interns during their class lunch, and those who have cooked or donated food items.



L to R row one: Paige Dodd, Harriet Hobbs, Karen Montgomery, Nancy Strong, Marilyn Greer, Sheryl Mims, Stephanie Starr, Row two: Tanis Thomas, Jessica Herold, Randolph Henderson, Carrington Meade, Beth Deaton, Wesley Reynolds, Row three: Bob Shields, Rosemary Blackmon, TerrieMac Laren, Debra Atwell, and ACES agent Mallory Kelley.



## SPOTLIGHT

Charles Edgar  
French (Charlie)



ACMGA says goodbye to the French's as they move to Baldwin County. They have both been great assets to ACMGA and we will miss them and their involvement.

Give them a call when you are down their way, they would love to hear from you!

Status in life: Happily Married 31 years

Education: BS from Auburn University

Career/Retired from: Owner French's Tractor Parts and Equipment Inc,

What led you to your career? Love of farming

What brought you to Autauga MGA or the MG Program? My interest in gardening and enjoyment of other people with the same interest.

What are your hobbies? Sailing, gardening and beekeeping

Favorite food: Vegetables and fresh fruit

Favorite plant/flower: American beauty berry / confederate rose

I have always wanted to visit: Anywhere over the horizon

Favorite book or author: The Bible and William Shakespeare

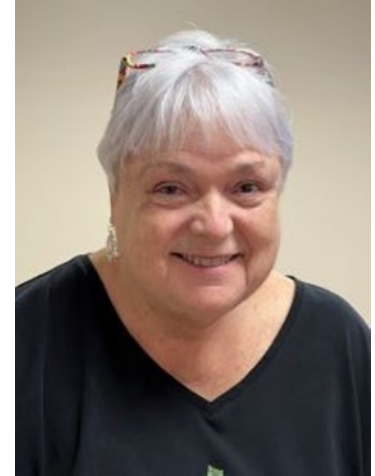
How long have you been a resident of Autauga County? 26 years

Favorite thing you like about Autauga County? The people

Other comments and ACMGA member involvement:

I am really going to miss my Tuesday morning at Prattville Garden.

# Martha Atahla Wade French (Marty)



Status in life: Married 31 years

Education: BS Family and Child Development from Auburn and MBA from UAB

Career/Retired from: Retired from Regions Bank as a programmer in Executive reporting

What led you to your career? I liked using a software I learned in graduate school, Statistical Analysis System (SAS) and was able to find employment in 3 different companies using it.

What brought you to Autauga MGA or the MG Program? Charlie and I moved to Prattville in 1998, My mother had moved from Birmingham to be near my brother's family then he moved to Texas for work. We bought his house. When Charlie retired, he started the Master Gardener program. When I retired in 2017, I started the program as well.

What are your hobbies? We both were sailors until I became so arthritic that it was not fun. We still have a senior membership at Birmingham Sailing Club on Lake Logan Martin. I also enjoy sewing when I can. Of course, cooking.

Favorite food: Ice Cream

Favorite plant/flower: white Crape Myrtles and Mr. Lincoln Rose

What country have I always wanted to visit: Scotland

Favorite book or author: To Kill a Mockingbird

How long have you been a resident of Autauga County? Since August 1998

Favorite thing you like about Autauga County? The outside pool classes and the creek.

# ACMGA New Web Site

by

John Carrick

The new ACMGA web site is now live. To view the ACMGA web site, in your browser, you can navigate to the web address:

<https://autaugamastergardeners.org>

This new site gives us much more control over the ACMGA web site look and feel. Additionally, we have access to much more functionality to meet the needs of the ACMGA.

Specifically, we can now:

- Create specific email accounts to support various ACMGA activities
  - Email account traffic can be forwarded to your own personal email account
- Create Forms
  - A specific form, tailored to your needs, can be created for any ACMGA activity
  - Members of the public can communicate directly with committees via these forms
- Accept online payments\*
- Create event registration
- Provide other functionality, as need

\*NOTE: Some Square account maintenance is needed.

ACMGA Member only access is planned, as part of the next update to the ACMGA web site.

Please take some time to take a look at the new ACMGA web site.

Please send any feedback/suggestions to: [web@autaugamastergardeners.org](mailto:web@autaugamastergardeners.org)

# ACMGA Logo Items

## Fundraising – Drinkware & Magnets for sale

Dian Owens – (205) 572-8445 cell

[dian.owens.al@gmail.com](mailto: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



### 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 Garden (15 oz)	\$20		\$	
White Mug – Prattvillage & Demonstration Gardens	\$20		\$	
Magnet – Prattvillage Garden	\$9		\$	
Magnet – Butterflies	\$9		\$	
	<b>Total</b>		\$	

**Note:** Mugs (dishwasher & microwave safe). The black mugs are no longer ordered due to supplier issues.

# ACMGA Logo Items

## Fundraising – Logo Apparel for Sale

Dian Owens – (205) 572-8445 cell

[dian.owens.al@gmail.com](mailto:dian.owens.al@gmail.com)

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.)

The Conference Committee voted for all 2025 Conference volunteers to wear their gray tees with their aprons for easy identification of ACMGA volunteers.

### ACMGA Order Form (Please PRINT)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** The Demonstration Garden volunteer’s tee is ordered at the Demonstration Garden on Tuesday mornings.

The Prattvillage Garden volunteer’s tee is ordered at Prattvillage Garden on Tuesday mornings. All tees are subject to supplier’s minimum order requirements and color availability.

Items	Price	Quantity	Total	Check # or Cash
Green ACMGA server style apron one size fits most	\$25		\$	
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		\$	
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$</b>	

# Autauga County Master Gardeners Association

## 2025 Membership Renewal Form

Annual County membership dues for 2025 are \$15. State dues are \$10 (optional). State dues entitle you to State Membership, receipt of the **Pathways Newsletter**, and eligibility to receive State awards, such as Reach for the Stars. Complete this form and return it to the Treasurer no later than OCT 15<sup>th</sup> 2024

### I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDAY \_\_\_\_\_  
month/day

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here if your information in the 2023-2024 ACMGA Membership Directory is correct.  
**Only new members and corrected information should be entered in this section below:**

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Give email address if you wish to receive info via email)

COUNTY OF TRAINING \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR OF GRADUATION \_\_\_\_\_

### II. SELECT TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

	Local Dues	State Dues
_____ Active Member Local & State (Includes graduating interns)	\$15	\$10 (optional)
_____ Active Member Local Only (Includes graduating interns)	\$15	\$0
_____ Active Member w/ current State Lifetime	\$15	\$0
_____ Active member w/ new State Lifetime	\$15	\$150 (one-time fee)
_____ I am a dual member. County of primary membership _____		

### III. **Make your check payable to ACMGA.**

Mail or give to Treasurer:

ACMGA c/o Elijah Pugh  
 139 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
 Prattville, AL 36067-3923

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Check or Cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt # \_\_\_\_\_



## Upcoming Birthdays

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

### **NOVEMBER**

Glenda Armstrong 11/01

Valera Brown 11/08

Darrue Sharpe 11/10

Katherine Chapman 11/10

Dale Huff 11/10

Deborah Boutelier 11/14

Jane McCarthy 11/17

Sondra Henley 11/19

June Booth 11/21

Shannon Mayes 11/27



### **OCTOBER**

James Hussey 10/03

Tim Freeland 10/05

Chuk Shirley 10/11

Dawn Whitehead 10/14

Linda McCullough 10/20

Pam Hattermer 10/21

### **DECEMBER**

Linda Blackwell 12/01

Jackie Raines 12/03

Soyna Moore 12/03

Sheila Pearson 12/07

Paula Seamon 12/12

Jonna Turberville 12/16

Catherine Brooks 12/22

Cheri Cook 12/25

Mallory Kelley 12/30

# Editors Corner

John Carrick



It is hard to believe that we are entering the home stretch for 2024. Now, with summer officially ended, most gardeners are working on their fall vegetable gardens and prepping for next year.

This quarter we received sad news of the passing of Albert Striplin and Gene Stapleton. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

The new ACMGA web site went live. Please take a look at:

**<https://autaugamastergardeners.org>**

Please email any web site feedback/related items to: **[web@autaugamastergardeners.org](mailto:web@autaugamastergardeners.org)**

If you have any articles, pictures, etc., to be included in the Dirty Digs newsletter, please email them to: **[dd@autaugamastergardeners.com](mailto:dd@autaugamastergardeners.com)**

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 December 31st**  
Please submit articles, no later than December 15

Prattville 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 Party in the District

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



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

