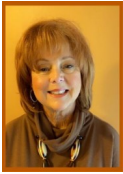




# Dirty Digs

June



**ACMGA President  
Sondra Henley**

Where do I start? We had a great 2024 AMGA Conference in Daphne. There were 26 ACMGA members that attended. Our 2025 Table was visited by many of the attendees where they participated in a drawing for the tabletop hummingbird fountain.

Cheri Cook, Lanell Tatum and I encouraged everyone to come to Prattville next year! (Insider information: there will be a second tabletop hummingbird fountain in the Silent Auction room!)

As soon as we returned to Prattville, we went right into the preparations for the Annual Plant Sale. And what a success it was because of all the preparations that had gone into it.

Our membership worked hard at plant digs, potting, labeling, being encouraging and knowledgeable as we met the community that day.

We had a record number of participants as the line

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### Special points of interest:

- Friends of the Forest
- Culinary Adventure
- ACMGA Conference



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)



extended back towards First Street.

The new owners of Prattvillage, Danny and Tyler Strock are remodeling the chapel to give it historic accuracy. The wooden steps have been replaced with cement and faced with stone.

A reservation company has taken over scheduling the venues held in the garden.

The Prattvillage team will continue to work on Tuesday mornings maintaining the garden.

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

On Thursday, June 13th, ACMGA members Bionca Lindsey, Jane Boysen, Nancy Waggoner, Soyna Moore, Intern Michael Camire, and his wife Sally, enjoyed an outstanding field trip to Aldridge Gardens in Hoover, Alabama.

The trip was inspired by *Gardens of the South* presented by Debbie Boutelier to our membership last year. We had arranged ahead for volunteer Jefferson County Advanced Master Gardener, David Doggett, to take us on a wonderful and informative tour of the garden.

The weather was gorgeous, and it was quite comfortable in the forest setting.

Aldridge Gardens is a stunning 30-acre garden of soaring hardwood trees anchored by an astonishing variety of hydrangeas, blooming in hues of whites, pinks, and

Summer is upon us or almost and it is already HOT outside. Remember you need water too as well as your plants. Keep hydrated and cool, take a break in the shade.

Moisture crystals, polymers and diapers are great to put in your soil or in the bottom of a pot or basket. They hold water and help to keep you from having to water as often.

Happy Gardening!

Sondra



blues in many flower sizes and shapes. Japanese maples, and now -resting azaleas, also enjoy understory locations.

David led us along winding pathways, around a gorgeous 5-acre lake, and past rushing waterfalls, stopping to explain the provenance of many of these plants.

In early June, the star performers are still hydrangeas: natives to Alabama and Japan and their cultivars. David informed us that Alabama is ground zero for the discovery of new types of hydrangeas!

At the end of the tour, several of us visited the gift shop and purchased plants. It was then time for lunch, so we all stopped at Bertolone's Restaurant in Calera on the way home.

## Aldridge Gardens Outing in Hoover Nancy Waggoner



ACMGA members enjoy a fine lunch after our tour of Aldridge Gardens.



Stunning varieties of Hydrangeas are found in Aldridge Gardens.

## Demonstration Garden Glenn Huovinen



Second quarter in the Demo Garden found us planting our summer veggies.

As of June 1 we donated 238 pounds of fresh produce to AICC YTD.

We planted a 3 Sisters Garden in one of the raised beds and put up a laminated information sheet with a QR code explaining what a 3 Sisters Garden is. We harvested all of our bulb onions and started pulling potatoes.

We have a great Demo Garden Crew and invite others to join us on Tuesday mornings. Also, if you have excess from your garden bring it and we will take it to AICC.



## 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.

The 2nd quarter opened with a different but interesting topic: Preventing Pollution in the Waterways. Presented by Jennifer Barker/Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM).

Jennifer provided a teaching model of farm, industry and urban settings to illustrate how water runoff from various entities can cause pollution and how to pre-



In May, Bionca Lindsey, Advanced Master Gardener, shared her passion for Hostas. Her enthusiasm and extensive knowledge on this shade loving perennial was very entertaining.

In June, Maria Pacheco, Horticulturist/Landscape Manager from Lanark will present Companion Plants in your Garden. We look forward to her presentation.

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.

Picture on the left: Jennifer Barker, ADEM

Preventing Pollution in the Waterways

Photograph by Susan Clapp

## ACMGA Membership Committee Outreach Sondra Henley



Since March of 2023, the membership committee has sent 26 Get Well and Sympathy cards to members of our ACMGA family.

Showing support and offering comfort to members in time of need is one of the most

important activities of the membership committee.

If you know of member in need, please contact Jane Boysen or Shannon Mayes.

## Advisory Council Ange Trimble

Advisory Council Meeting Held on 5/7/2024 at Petals from the Past in Jemison

Vice President Debbie Boutelier noted that Baldwin County Master Gardeners are working on the statistics from the conference held in Daphne and will present them at the next board meeting.

Discussed AMGA upcoming conference dates:

2025 - Will be held in Autauga County April 3 - April 5, 2025. Theme will be "Fountains of Knowledge" and will be held at First Baptist Church of Prattville. Sondra Henley noted there were blue conference reminders for distribution with a Fountain charm available on the table for anyone interested.

2026 - Will be held in Madison County (Huntsville) May 6 - May 8, 2026. Theme will be "Gardening To the Moon and Back".

Working on getting speakers and already have some commitments.

Registration for the Fall Intern Class will be open 6/1/2024 - 6/30/2024. August 8, 2024, will be 1st day of classes.

There will be statewide 2024 intern graduation held in Auburn on December 16, 2024.

Editor's note: Please see page 10 of this newsletter for the flyer.

2024 AMGA Fall Seminar will be held at Auburn University at the Nursing School Building on October 10, 2024. Registration opens August 1, 2024, see summer issue of AMGA Pathways for info.

Autauga County tied for most representatives present at meeting and won \$20.00 cash.

It was noted that badges can be damaged if they come in contact with hair spray, perfume, and other chemicals.

## 2025 Conference Report

Sondra Henley  
Conference Chair



A report was given to the AMGA Board on June 4th.

The vertical banner and the conference T-shirt were displayed.

Save the Date cards were available. These cards with the fountain charm will be available at the next Advisory Council meeting.

Everyone enjoyed the tour of the First Baptist Church facilities.

All speakers have been scheduled and contracted. Rose McCauley, Speaker Chair, will now take over assigning hosts.

A comprehensive area hotel list was created, and a block of reserved rooms is being worked on.

Our donations form is available for our membership to begin asking the community for their help in making the 2025 Conference successful.

The conference packet will be sent to possible sponsors.

We already have a \$1,000.00 donation from the Autauga County Commission.

The 2025 Conference Steering Committee had a brief discussion on past conferences and identified items we want to avoid and other items to include or expound on.

Workshop information has been completed and Tours are being finalized.

The Registration Committee has previewed the PlanetReg YouTube tutorial and is working on the form.

Editors note: "PlanetReg is a registration service provider for event organizers."

See: <https://www.planetreg.com/about.asp>

Silent Auction items have started coming in. Amy Richardson and Soyna Moore are working on the storing these items until the conference.

A membership roster was created to assign committee members to "preconference" and "during the conference" duties.

Because of upcoming outpatient procedures, it was decided that I as chair needed to appoint another Co-Chair who has conference experience.

Rose McCauley agreed to take on that role.

## 2024 AMGA Conference Attendees Sondra Henley



Attendees to the 2024 AMGA Conference were left to right -

Back row: Anthony Yarbrough, Adrienne Yarbrough, Elijah Pugh, Don Armstrong, Vicki Williamson, Tom Miller.

Second row: Ange Trimble, Nancy Waggoner, Rose McCauley, Shannon Mayes, Dian Owens  
Lori Terrell, First row: Glenda Armstrong, Debbie Boutelier, Cheri Cook, Lanell Tatum, Bionca Lindsey, Jane Boysen, Soyna Moore, Kathy Brooks

Seated by sign, Sondra Henley and Linda Barry



## Cheri Cook

**Hospitality Chair**  
**Intern Coordinator**  
**City Fest Coordinator**



### Hospitality

Autauga County Master Gardener Association hosted the Alabama Master Gardener Association meeting held in Prattville on June 4th at the Prattville First Baptist Church, location of the AMGA annual conference in 2025. Autauga County Board members were asked to provide food and drinks for the occasion. Tables were set up and the food was displayed attractively.

We continue to provide food and drinks for our monthly membership meeting. A big thank you is extended to the members who volunteer each month to help provide a variety of items.

### Interns 2023-2024

The current intern class is preparing to qualify for graduation. Several candidates have completed their required hours of service while others are finishing up by working the Helpline.

Graduation will be held Tuesday, August 20th at 10:00 a.m. It will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Bridge Street in Wetumpka. All members are invited and asked to bring a covered dish.

Registration for the 2024-2025 class is June 1st-June 30th. This class will be held in Autauga County.

### City Fest

City Fest was once again a great success. The Setup Committee of Patrick Cook, Cheri Cook, and Amy Richardson, started at 6:30 a.m. Saturday, May 11th. Other volunteers needed were asked to sign up in 2-hour slots to be available throughout the day to answer questions community members might have. Information handouts were distributed, and free plants were given out; when the plants were offered, a donation was requested. This year, a total of \$168 in donations was received. Job well done! The Membership Committee of Jane Boysen and Shannon Mayes attended to raise interest in membership and answer questions. At 4:00 p.m. the Take-Down committee of Patrick Cook, Cheri Cook, Kim Woods, and Jane Boysen had the tents, tables and chairs loaded and taken to be stored.

# CAMGA/ACMGA

## Intern Class Graduation Luncheon

Tuesday August 20, 2024

10 AM

First Presbyterian Church Wetumpka

Fellowship Hall

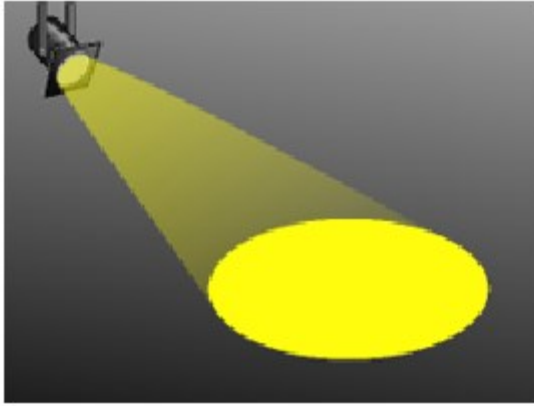
100 West Bridge Street, Wetumpka

(Parking available on both sides of the building)



Please join us to celebrate the graduation of our 2024 class of Master Gardener Interns. All CAMGA and ACMGA members are encouraged to come and RSVP their intent to attend, as well as all interns and their invited guests. We will have a very short membership meeting followed by the graduation event. A pot luck lunch provided by members will follow. CAMGA will provide barbecued pork back ribs and chicken tenders and we ask that members sign up to provide side dishes, salads, breads, drinks and desserts. You will receive an email that includes an app for signing up for attendance and also food items or you can contact Robin Snyder directly at [jmsrgs@gmail.com](mailto:jmsrgs@gmail.com)





## SPOTLIGHT

### Jane Boysen



Status in life: Married for 39 years, spouse's name John, 2 children son, Jonathan Daughter-in-law April who live in Savannah, Ga and another son, Taylor who lives in Nashville, TN.

Education: Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Auburn University 1981, Master Gardener Certification 2021

Career/Retired from: Retired CEO from Credit Union

What led you to your career? Love of helping people and wanting to serve the underserved.

What brought you to the MG Program: On my retirement bucket list and I have always had a love for flowers and growing vegetables.

What are your hobbies? Reading, gardening, playing the piano, cooking, entertaining, and being with family.

Favorite food: Lemon pie

Favorite plant/flower: Calla Lilly and Yellow Rose

I have always wanted to visit: Ireland.

Favorite book or author: Andy Andrews and THE BIBLE

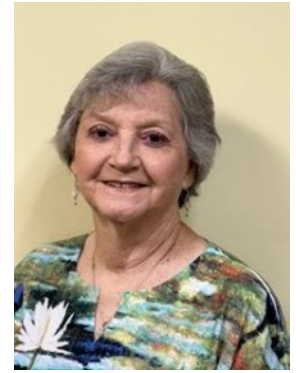
How long have you been a resident of Autauga County? 22 years

Favorite thing you like about Autauga County? Friendly people

Other comments: We moved to Autauga County in 2002 from Montgomery and have never regretted a moment of the move. We found good friends and neighbors and a community that welcomed us as their own.

Jane brings her extensive finance background to her role as the 2025 AMGA Conference Co-Chair where she has created a comprehensive conference budget and handles the finance aspects of the conference. Jane is also the ACMGA's Membership Chair where she works with Shannon Mayes to recruit, retain and nurture ACMGA's membership

# Rose McCauley



Status in life: Widow but was married for 52 years, 3 children and 8 wonderful grandchildren

Education: Business school and some college

Career/Retired from: Retired from Alfa Insurance as an Executive Assistant

What led you to your career? Needed a job

What brought you to Autauga MGA or the MG Program. A dear friend, Mark Carmichael, was a master gardener and encouraged to take the class. My grandfather was a farmer and we used to help him when he planted his crops.

What are your hobbies? Reading, quilting, gardening and enjoying my grandchildren.

Favorite food: Chocolate

Favorite plant/flower: Square blossom primrose – the bees seem to wallow in the blossoms to get all the pollen.

I have always wanted to visit: Ireland

Favorite book or author: Jean Auel and Ferrol Sams

How long have you been a resident of Autauga County? All my life except for the 8 years I spent in Alaska after I was married.

Favorite thing you like about Autauga County? I like where I live, my house is in the country but just outside the city limits. When we lived in Alaska, my aunt asked if we were interested in buying the 5 acres she inherited when my grandfather died. We bought it not knowing if we would move back to Alabama. But we did move back and along the way bought an additional 15 acres from other relatives.

Additional comments: I thought it would be nice to list how involved Rose has been in county and state levels. She is knowledgeable and thinks outside the box when having discussions.

She has committed to the 2025 AMGA Conference by stepping up to be a Co-Chair along with Jane Boysen.

Thank you for your service to ACMGA Rose!

ACMGA Secretary – 2012 – 2013

Demo Garden Chair or Co-Chair – 2011 -2024

ACMGA President – 2014 – 2016

AMGA Secretary – 2017 – 2019

# PLANTING A COVER CROP

by

Glenn Huovinen

This year we planted Crimson Clover as a cover crop at the Demonstration Garden. MSU.EDU has great information as to why this is important and what the process accomplishes for your garden and on the farm.



**Nitrogen Source**-Crimson Clover is a Legume that adds nitrogen to the soil.

**Soil Builder/Erosion Preventer**-The roots keep the soil in place and breaks up compacted soil.

**Inter-Row Ground Cover**-Covers the ground to block weed seeds from germinating.

**Quick Establishment**-Germinates easily just by casting the seeds on the surface of the ground.

**Great Pollinator Plant**-For beneficial insects i.e. Bees and cover for beneficial predators.

**Chop and Drop**-Before it finishes blooming, chop it down and leave it in place to decompose and add organic matter to the soil.

**IT IS WORTH YOUR TIME TO INCLUDE A COVER CROP SUCH AS CRIMSON CLOVER IN YOUR GARDEN AND RAISED BEDS.**



# FUN AT AN AMGA CONFERENCE EXCURSION THE GRAHAM CREEK NATURE PRESERVE

22 APRIL 2024

By

Don Armstrong

On this wonderful, and well guided, tour we got to see a lot of different types of pitcher plants. We loaded onto two trailers for a short ride out to a big field of pitcher plants. Here we disembarked and went for a walk on a mowed path across the field. Our guides talked about the plants we saw, including a lot of plants that were not pitcher plants. The tour was really about seeing these native plants. Here is what I learned from one of their signs:

“The common pitcher plant, *Sarracenia Purpurea*, is carnivorous. They are adapted to digest meat in the form of insects. By doing this they are able to live in areas with nutrient poor soil such as around swamps and bogs.

It is like a kiss of death. Sweet nectar-secreting glands lure insects to the smooth surface just below the plant’s lips causing the prey to slip deep into the plant’s interior. This is where it gets hairy. The insect is kept from crawling out of the plant by downward point stiff hairs lining the plants inside. As the prey depletes its energy in the struggle to get out, it eventually tires and drowns in the liquid puddle at the bottom of the plant. The end of the insect is the beginning for the plant. Once in the liquid puddle containing strong enzymes, the insect is dissolved, turning it into life giving nutrients for this most unique plant.”



## The End Result of the Process

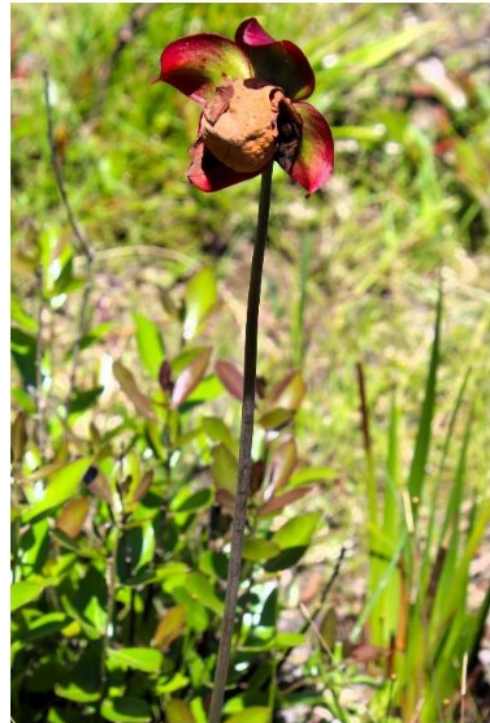
Here is a short Pitcher Plant Photo Story for you to enjoy. Due to word limitations on Dirty Dig articles, I will not be able to include a short write up on each Pitcher Plant seen



Ground Hugging Red Plant  
Spoonleaf Sundew  
*Drosera Intermedia*



**The Face of My Bloom is too  
Pretty to Look Up – Rose Pitcher Plant**



**My Face is So Lovely I  
Love Looking at the Sun – White Top**





Bug ^

Not all Pitcher Plants have Bright Colors – Rose Pitcher Plant  
The Bright White Color, Lower Left, is Earth from Crayfish  
The Middle Plant has a Bug Going Down  
The Little Hairs are Visible on All Three Plant



My Mouth is Open and Ready for a “Visitor” to Drop in – Hybrid Purple and White Pitcher Plant  
Note the Texture of the Back Plant Center and Back Right



Beetle ^

Tall, Dark, and Handsome and We Survive in a Grassland – White Top Pitcher Plant  
Note the Beetle on the Edge of the Front Pitcher Plant. Is It Tonight’s Dinner?



These Lovely Ladies are Almost Hidden in the Grassland  
White Top Sedge – *Rhynchospora colorata*



One Last Pitcher Plant to View – A Ground Hugger – Rose Pitcher Plant

I hope you have enjoyed this Pitcher Plant Photo Show. Don

We Autauga County Master Gardeners must do all we can to be sure each of our 2025 AMGA Conference Tours are as informative, exciting, and fun as this bog tour was at the 2024 AMGA Conference.

# Starting a Fall Garden Chart

by

Glenn Huovinen

Here is a handy chart telling you where and when to start your fall garden.

<b>When to Start Fall Vegetable Seeds Calculator</b>			
Enter Your Fall First Frost Date:			
11/6/2023			
	<b>Start Seeds Indoors</b>	<b>Direct Sow</b>	<b>Transplant</b>
<b>Beets</b>		8/28/2023	
<b>Broccoli</b>	7/19/2023		8/18/2023
<b>Brussel Sprouts</b>	6/9/2023		7/9/2023
<b>Cabbage</b>	7/11/2023		8/8/2023
<b>Carrots</b>		8/12/2023	
<b>Cauliflower</b>	7/19/2023		8/18/2023
<b>Celery</b>	6/19/2023		7/17/2023
<b>Chard</b>		9/2/2023	
<b>Collards</b>	7/12/2023		8/11/2023
<b>Fennel</b>		7/22/2023	
<b>Greens</b>		8/30/2023	
<b>Kale</b>		8/13/2023	
<b>Kohlrabi</b>		9/7/2023	
<b>Leek</b>	6/14/2023		7/19/2023
<b>Lettuce</b>		8/28/2023	
<b>Onions</b>		8/18/2023	
<b>Peas</b>		7/26/2023	
<b>Radish</b>		9/27/2023	
<b>Spinach</b>		9/10/2023	
<b>Turnips</b>		9/7/2023	

# FUN AT FRIENDS OF THE FOREST THIS YEAR

Article Prepared by Don Armstrong with Help from Darrue Sharpe

The ACES Autauga County Office and the Autauga Forestry and Wildlife Stewardship Council held their annual Friends of the Forest event for over 460 fifth-grade students.

This educational event was held on 1-2 May 2024 at the farm of Ryan and Heather Conner on Autauga County Road 79.

This informative day could not have been held without the support of the Autauga Master Gardeners who led six groups of students to six learning stations throughout each day. The support of the Master Gardeners was vital to the success of this event. At each station the students learned new things about forestry methods, natural resources, and wildlife in Alabama's forests. The Master Gardeners who escorted the students listened to each presentation and learned, too. The six stations are:

Flag a Tree

Oh Deer

All Things Need Space

Right Tree – Right Place

Water Cycle

No Body Lives Here

These are the wonderful Master Gardeners who gave up their time to work these two days:

Don Armstrong

Sonya Moore

Bionca Lindsey

Darrue Sharpe

Rose McCauley

Sam Bowen

This outstanding event also could not have taken place without the hard work of the Alabama Forestry Commission's dedicated Foresters and Rangers from Autauga, Chilton, and Montgomery Counties. They set up the tents, tables, chairs, and loaded coolers with iced water bottles. They made sure the water and snacks were at each station every day.

When the event was over they worked diligently to take down everything and pack it away for next year.

The following Forestry people assisted at the Friends of the Forest:

- \* Brain Smith – Chilton County – Work Unit Manger
- \* Jonathan Sheppard – Autauga County – Ranger
- \* Brett Boyd – Autauga County – Ranger
- \* Logan Hicks – Autauga County – Forester
- \* Carson Riley – Chilton County – Ranger
- \* Cadric Laird – Chilton County – Ranger
- \* Walter Nolan – Montgomery County – Forestry Specialist
- \* Charles Stuart – Montgomery County – Forester
- \* Ray Metzler – T & E Species Specialist

The Autauga Extension office was responsible for making sure the schools were registered for this event. They also kept track of the number of students, teachers, aides, nurses, and bus drivers who attended. Extension also ensured all volunteers had fresh donuts each morning as well as Subway lunches each day. The food was paid for by the Forestry Council

This is our happy group at the end of the second day, 2 May.



Back Row L-R: Brigetta Gilles, Brett Boyd, Cadric Laird, Carson Riley, Walter Nolan, Logan Hicks, Ryan Conner, Charles Stuart, Don Armstrong, Jonathan Sheppard.

Front Row L-R: Darrue Sharpe, Bionca Lindsey, Sonya Moore, Heather Conner, Kim Johnson, Natalie Northcutt, and Sam Bowen.

Please mark your calendars for May 2025 and join us for more fun filled days at Friends of the Forest as we again teach fifth-grade students about life in a forest.

# ACMGA Plant Sale Report

by

Bionca Lindsey

Wow! You knocked this year's plant sale out the box!! You donated over 2,600 items and that does not include the Village Store items where you displayed your crafting, woodworking, painting, ceramic, sewing, trash to treasure, and other skills.

Remember our contest for the person who donated the most plants? Well, the winner was from one of our digs, Janice Thayer, who donated 295 potted plants.

Now, let us go back to all of you: on both intake days, you showed up bright eyed and bushy tailed and did whatever we asked. You received, counted, captured, labelled, inspected, identified, priced, bagged, and placed so many plants, bulbs, trees, shrubs, and other items in preparation for our big day.

On the plant sale day, you elevated your efforts up to an even higher level by showing up early and you jumped in wherever needed. You set up tables, our information booth, our cashier area, the Village Store, and then you reaffirmed expectations for each role and lastly but most importantly, you interacted with our customers as they waited in the extraordinarily lengthy line.

Our customers/community in turn did a great job of showing love for us as the first person was in line at 7am and then the others started trickling in but I do not think that we could have anticipated the line we had 30 minutes prior to opening that stretched back to the lawyer's office and then some.

Your customer service skills shined as you walked, talked, educated, and wrote tickets for over 600 customers. Normally, we reduce prices during the last hour to encourage more buying and to exhaust our inventory, but this year we did not have too. We priced items low, and they kept shopping!

Overall, we made over \$8,000 and Soyna and I cannot thank you enough for supporting us. Your energy kept Soyna and me going, and we hope we did the same for you. Our goal was to make this experience one you would cherish for plant sales to come.

Thank you again!

Bionca

# ACMGA Plant Sale Pictures

by

Samantha Bowen



Sondra Henley answers questions at the ACMGA information booth



Amaryllis plants waiting for a new home





Eager visitors waiting to enter the Prattville Garden to purchase plants



Jane McCarthy, Dian Owens, Bionca Lindsey, and ACMGA volunteers preparing for visitors



Collection of herbs are ready for purchase at the plant sale



A big thank you to the plant sale volunteers

# Ask a MG

written by

Sondra Henley



Most Saturdays ACMGA members have manned the “ASK A MG” table at Home Depot. The weather has been beautiful and the temperatures pleasant.

We have answered gardening questions, handed out various Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) publications, encouraged and promoted the MG Class (registration is June 1-30 and class starts in August). We also provided the Helpline number to everyone that came to talk with us.

Contacts are usually 10-20 people each Saturday. A great many people don't know what their county tax dollars pay for as we

explain they have already paid for publications and most of the services.

Home Depot has been very gracious to us and provided the space we need. Home Depot sends some of their customers to us as well as some of their workers. June is our last spring month; we will start again in September – October 2024.




Don't forget to let me know which Saturday you can work, 10-12.

# Three Sisters Garden


by

Glenn Huovinen

**WANT TO GROW A  
THREE SISTERS GARDEN?  
SCAN THE QR CODE**



**CORN**      **POLE BEANS**      **SUMMER  
SQUASH**



Article at: <https://www.nativeseeds.org/blogs/blog-news/how-to-grow-a-three-sisters-garden>

# A WALK IN THE WOODS

## A FUNGUS AMOUNG US!!!

by

Don Armstrong

A walk in the woods does not always have to result in seeing Bambi, flowers in bloom, or the tree leaves changing. Sometimes it is good to see nature at work converting organic matter to soil. Here are some photos taken in the woods at the Armstrong home.



Sometimes, when you walk, you have a friend going with you who needs a photo taken, too. This is Miss Hook. She had to lay down next to the big mushroom growing under the Cast Iron Plant to have her photo taken.



These two fungi are growing on one of the roots of our biggest tree, Papa Oak. This is a good indication the tree may have a problem. A year later Papa Oak had to be removed – but first we got an opinion from Auburn. These two fungi are each over a foot across. Each one looks like a Southern ladies' bouffant hairdo!



These cute little white mushrooms are less than ½ inch across. They made quite a family group Their “cousins” are just to their left in this photo



The fan shapes of these fungi, which are growing out of logs being used to mark the pathway in our garden, have very interesting shapes and colors.



Sometimes the mushroom buttons are so good looking you need to get down low to get a good view of them. I wonder if these are edible!?!?



Color can be found in a lot of the fungi. These miniature fungi are less than 1" across. Their red color was a nice contrast to the green fungi growing behind them.



Sometimes a whole family comes to visit in the garden. This family is at the base of a dead tree that was left in the garden for the woodpeckers and other critters to enjoy. These look like peanut butter cookies.



The views that can be found under the skirts of the fungi are just amazing. Of course, you really have to get down low to see these views. But, the preacher likes it when you are on your knees, even in the woods.

So, the next time you are walking in the woods, be sure to look at the little guys who are working so hard in the woods to convert organic matter to soil. Of course, you do not want to pick them and eat them unless you are truly an expert in this field.





# PVG Report

By

Jane McCarthy and Dian Owens

All blooming in the garden now...



Oakleaf Hydrangea

*Hydrangea quercifolia*

Black Tumeric

*Curcuma caesia*



Glorious Lily

*Gloriosa superba*



'Layers of Gold' Daylily

*Hemerocallis* 'Layers of Gold'



Stokes Aster with several pollinators

*Stokesia laevis*

Daylily

*Hemerocallis sp.*



# Shonda Wright

## **Autauga County Master Gardeners on a Culinary Adventure**

How often do you get the chance to represent different cultures in one space? Well, Autauga County Master Gardeners, Shirley Finch, and Vicki Freeman participated in Senior Battle Chef Program held at William Howard Smith Agricultural Building in Autaugaville, Alabama, where students endured through eight sessions of showcasing their culinary skills.

Family Cook Productions curriculum involves students working in teams to “battle” their peers as they prepare delicious, multi-ethnic meals using fresh, healthful ingredients and sophisticated culinary techniques. The dishes that were prepared originated from Brazil, Mexico, Asia, Italy, Saudi Arabia, and the United States. Preparing these dishes was no problem because some of our culinary students have visited Mexico, Italy, and Louisiana.

Learning palate development, knife skills, nutrition education, food safety, and recipe modifications were intricate parts of the Senior Battle Chef Program. Celebrity Judges were invited to taste these delectable dishes, such as representatives from Farm Services Agency, Austin Industries, Autauga County Extension Office, Autauga County Probate Office, and Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Senior Battle Chefs prepared healthy snack bags for Autaugaville Senior Center to bring about a healthier community. The graduates earned their Chef hats and Certificates of Completion. Senior Battle Chef Graduates are: Valedictorian Chef Carolyn Gray, Salutatorian Chef Shirley Finch, Chef Sondra Henley, Chef Amy Richardson, Chef Cherie Cook, Chef Vicki Freeman, Chef Marjorie Hannah, Chef Angie Trimble.

Through students’ participation in the Senior Battle Chef Program, the Autauga County Master Gardeners joined a growing legion of professionals in the education, food, nutrition, and public health communities who are committed to teaching the next generation about food and healthy eating. Given these goals, team involvement is essential. These students formed a deeper bond with each other. Food brings about happiness, culinary skills, but most important food brings people together.

# Senior Battle Chef Graduates



First row left to right: Sondra Henley, Cheri Cook, Vicki Freeman, Amy Richardson, Margie Hannah

Second Row: Darrue Sharp, ACES Coordinator and Judge, Ange Trimble, Shirley French, Carolyn Gray and Shonda Wright

Photograph taken by Kimberly Johnson.

# Upcoming Birthdays



## JULY

Angie Nabors 07/02  
Beverly Coutts 07/06  
Anthony Yarbrough 07/07  
Elissa Davis 07/08  
John Carrick 07/10  
Diane Wonderly 07/11  
Carolyn Gray 07/13  
Adrienne Yarbrough 7/18  
Judy Preston 07/21  
Cindy Salyer 07/21

## AUGUST

Bionca Lindsey 08/02  
Margaret C. Smitherman 8/04  
George Walthall 08/06  
Robin Snyder 08/09  
Jane Boysen 08/12  
Linda Moscetti 08/25  
Sue Brasel 08/25

## SEPTEMBER



Vicki Williamson 09/03  
Albert Striplin 09/05  
Glenda Harris 09/14  
Lori Terrell 09/20  
Bettye Hyde 09/23  
Cindy Deane 09/26

## Editors Corner

John Carrick



In June, I got a stark reminder of how fleeting life is, when I received the sad news that long-time Master Gardener Don Armstrong had passed away. This news came as quite a shock to me as Don had submitted three articles for publication in this edition of the Dirty Digs Newsletter. Don and I had been exchanging emails up until the day before his passing.

Please pray for Don, so that his soul might find eternal rest with our Heavenly Father.

Please keep Don's family, and especially his wife Glenda in your prayers.



Please email any web site 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 September 30th**  
Please submit articles, no later than September 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>

