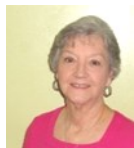




Dirty Digs

March



**ACMGA President
Rose McCauley**

Autauga County Master Gardeners has been a very busy association working on hosting the 2025 AMGA Conference. We have scheduled great speakers, planned workshops and tours as well as delicious meals. Months of planning and work has gone into this conference and I thank each and every one of you for all your contributions to make this a great event.

Once the conference is over, we will be concentrating our efforts on our annual plant sale on April

26th. The plant sale has always been our largest fundraiser and with everyone's help we can make it happen again this year.

Also, the Friends of the Forest program is scheduled for April 29th, April 30th and May 1st. This program gives all fifth-grade students in Autauga County the opportunity to learn about wildlife and forestry. ACMGA works alongside Autauga County Forestry and Wildlife Stewardship Council and Kacey Powell with 4-H.

Inside this issue:

<i>Presidents Message</i>	1
<i>Chairmen Reports</i>	2
<i>Cogongrass</i>	4
<i>Conference Article</i>	9
<i>Conference Schedule</i>	10
<i>Lunch and Learn</i>	14
<i>Spring Planting</i>	16
<i>Mystery Seeds</i>	20
<i>Harriett Hobbs</i>	23
<i>Jackie Raines</i>	24
<i>Birthdays</i>	25
<i>PVG</i>	26

Special points of interest:

- *Spring Planting*
- *Conference*
- *Prattville Garden*



AMGA Website
Alabamamg.org



Autauga MG Website
autaugamastergardeners.org



Extension Website
mg.aces.edu



When I first started participating in Friends of the Forest, we only had a one-day session. Now that we have more schools involved, we have had to extend the program to three days. Friends of the Forest needs volunteers to help move the children from one station to another.

Several of our Advanced Master Gardeners have also been busy making presentations to groups across the state. Paula Seamon and I presented Backyard Composting and Vermicomposting to AUM's Olli group and the Capital City MGA interns. I also presented Vermicomposting to Shelby County MGA.

Bionca Lindsey presented Succession Planting at Autauga Lunch & Learn; Edible Aquifer at Prattville Water Festival and Let's Learn About Hostas to Blount County MGA.

Rose

Demonstration Garden Glenn Huovinen



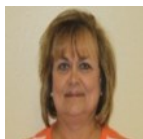
Despite the weather we are still having a productive first quarter of 2025. We have donated 80 pounds of fresh produce to AICC. We still have a few Fall and Winter veggies to harvest.

We have begun improving the soil by planting Crimson Clover. Loosening the soil with our new Broad Fork.

Soil in one of the beds has been dug out to reveal clay in the bottom. Gypsum has been added to help break up the clay.

Soil will be put back in with compost and worm castings added.

Cheri Cook Hospitality Chair



To kick off the New Year, we had a festive Grits Bar at our January meeting. ACMGA provided the grits ACMGA members brought a variety of toppings as well as fruit and pastries to go alongside. With everyone contributing, it was a smash hit!

Cheri Cook, Hospitality Chairman.

Cheri





Demonstration Garden First Quarter AICC Donations



80 Pounds of Fresh Produce Donated to AICC

We have early veggies planted, Texas Sweet Onions, 3 varieties of Potatoes, and Lettuce.

Weeds were pretty bad this winter so we laid down clear plastic to solarize the weeds.

Several Interns have helped on a regular basis, Yeah! Plus we invite all members to join us when you can. We have a great time and we all learn from each other.

COME JOIN US!

Glenn



Vegetable images released into Public domain via Commons WikiMedia

Cogongrass

Noxious Invasive Weed

Nancy Loewenstein, Christopher Evans, and Chuck Barger

Adapted From

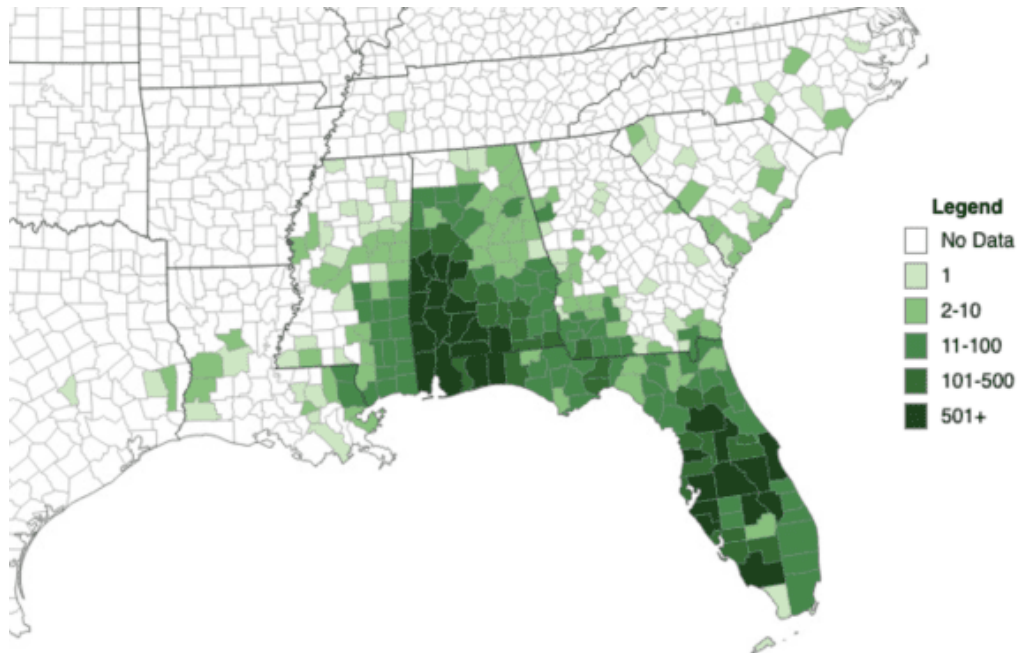
<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/forestry-wildlife/field-guide-to-the-identification-of-cogongrass-with-comparisons-to-other-look-a-like-species/>



Introduction

Cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*) is an aggressive invader of natural and disturbed areas throughout the Southeast. It is also classified as a federal noxious weed. Cogongrass disrupts ecosystem functions, reduces wildlife habitat, decreases tree seedling growth and establishment success, and alters fire regimes and intensity. Recognizing the presence of cogongrass is necessary before beginning any land management activities. While other species may look similar, cogongrass has a unique combination of characteristics that make field identification possible.

Known distribution of cogongrass in the United States



Identification

Preferred Habitat

Cogongrass grows best in full sunlight to partial shade and can be found across a wide range of habitats, including roadsides, rights-of-way, open forests, new forest plantations, old fields, and pastures. It occasionally occurs in landscape plantings and lawns. It does not do well in continually wet sites or in areas with frequent tillage.

Definitions

- **Collar region.** Junction of the leaf blade and the leaf sheath
- **Ligule.** Within the leaf collar region, small membranous projection at the base of a leaf blade
- **Leaf sheath.** The lower portion of the leaf that encloses the stem
- **Flower/seed head.** The entire group of flowers or seeds attached to a flower stalk
- **Rhizome.** The underground stem that often roots at the nodes, typically thicker and more fleshy than roots

Key Identification Features of Cogongrass



Leaves

- Typically 2 to 3 feet, but can reach 5 to 6 feet long
- 0.5 to 1 inch wide
- Margins finely serrate (sandpapery)
- Whitish, prominent midrib, may be off center
- Some leaves very erect; others may droop or lie flat
- Often light yellowish-green in color
- Winter thatch remains standing, often reddish tan

Whole Plant

- Densely growing patches
- Averaging 2 to 3 feet tall, but can reach 4 to 6 feet
- Plants turn brown in winter after hard frosts or freezes
- New infestations often in circular patch

Whole Plant



Stems/Plant Base

- No apparent stem
- Leaves appear to arise directly from or close to the ground
- Overlapping sheaths give a rounded appearance to the plant base
- Not a bunch grass, instead the plants are more spread out
- Often some thatch around the base



Leaf Collar/Ligule

- Leaf collar region is often hairy Ligule is a thin-fringed membrane
- Leaf sheaths overlap, giving the stem a round appearance
- Leaf sheath may have purplish tinge, but typically green



Reporting

Report new infestations of cogongrass to www.eddmaps.org

Complete original article can be read at:

<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/forestry-wildlife/field-guide-to-the-identification-of-cogongrass-with-comparisons-to-other-look-a-like-species/>

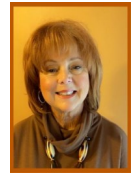
Reporting applications and more information:

<https://www.alcogongrass.com/what-is-cogongrass/>



Conference Article

By
Sondra Henley



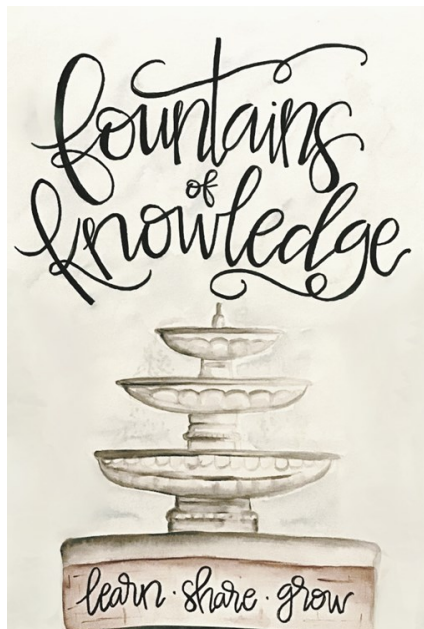
I find myself torn between the fact that we haven't had the conference yet and the reality that it will be over by the time this is published.

I want to take this opportunity to say “Thank You” for all your time, effort, and energy. I could never achieve what a team can accomplish together.

When we first started planning in 2023, I shared this quote: “Every job is a self-portrait of the person who does it! Autograph your work with excellence!” Time and again, I have seen you excel through your thoughts, planning, and the final results. You are truly amazing!

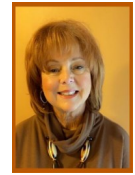
My hope is that the attendees will arrive and return home safely. I wish for them to leave feeling glad they attended, enjoying the multitude of workshops and tours, and learning from our speakers.

You have been pushed beyond your comfort zone, which can be challenging, but you have excelled in the process.



Pre- Conference and Conference Schedule

By
Sondra Henley



Upcoming meetings:

- Monday, March 31 - Extension Office - Put name tags and meal tickets in conference badges
- Tuesday, April 1 -2 - Finish Name Badges / Fill Goody Bags
- Wednesday, April 2 - Load Goody Bags in cars unless finished 4/1. Silent Auction Items loaded from the storage unit

Thursday, April 3 schedule

Parking: Committees that need to unload will do so in the designated unloading area and then park where Conference Workers parking is designated on Fourth Street. No parking in the Methodist or Episcopal Church parking areas. All parking has signage.

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 7:00 | Goody Bags delivered / vendors and workshop leaders unload
Registration area set up Goody Bag Table, T-shirt Table,
Help Table, Hospitality Table

All MG – Bring wagons/carts to help unload vendor vehicles
and take to the vendor's assigned room |
| 7:45 – 12:30 | English as a Second Language (ESL), Moms Day Out (MDO),
and Kindergarten drop off.

There is no entry in the Fellowship Hall/Hallway and no
parking in the Fourth Street parking areas closet to the wor-
ship center. |
| 9:00 | Registration Opening Time |

10:00 to 11:30	Workshops /Tours
12:00 – 5:30	Vendors Open
12:00 – 3:15	Silent Auction open
1:00	Hospitality can get into the Fellowship Hall to set up
1:00 to 2:30	Workshops / Tours
2:00 -2:30	Moms Day Out pickup Fellowship Hall – No entry in Fellowship Hall
3:15	Silent Auction closes
3:15	Auditorium - Welcome – Debbie Boutelier – announcement about badges, Meet and Greet and bathroom facilities.
3:30-4:30	Hostess: Rose McCauley introduces: <i>Joe Lamp'l Presentation-<u>The Ecological Gardening Blueprint: 10 Essential Steps That Matter Most (CEU 2)</u></i>
5:30	Vendors closed
5:00 – 6:30	Meet and Greet at Prattville- <i>Celebrating 30 years as a Public Garden-Designed and Maintained by Autauga County Master Gardeners</i>

Conference access to the church will end at 6:00 p.m.

Friday, April 4, 2025 Schedule

No childcare at the church – Fellowship Hall is open

8:00 a.m.	Registration/Vendors/Silent Auction open
8:50	Silent Auction closes
9:00	Conference Opens – Master of Ceremonies- Jim Donovan (FBC member) Welcomes everyone and gives a short rendition of today's schedule. Announcements: - Door Prizes are only given on Friday. - During each break, a slide will announce the door prize winners. Go to Room 101 and 103.

- Silent Auction will take the last bids by 3:30 today.
- Pledge of Allegiance – Jim Donovan
- Welcome from City:
- Welcome from FBC - Ron Johnson
- Music – Jamie Baker

9:30-10:30	Host: _____ introduces Wesley Anderson, PhD Presentation - <u><i>Bluebirds and their Habitat</i></u> (CEU 1
9:30-11:00	Break / Vendors/Silent Auction
11:00 – 12:00	Hostess: _____ introduces Betsy Smith – <u><i>Open the Gift of Herbs with Kids</i></u> (CEU 1)
12:00	Lunch instructions – Lori Terrell Luncheon Prayer – Jim Donovan
12:00-1:15	Lunch/Vendors/Silent Auction
1:30 – 3:00	Auditorium: AMGA Business Meeting
3:00 -3:30	Break/Vendors/Silent Auction
3:30	Silent Auction closes
3:30-4:30	Hostess: Debbie Boutelier Introduces Jason Reeves - <u><i>Friends in the Shade: Keeping Your Hosta Company</i></u>
4:30	Instructions for dinner – Jane Boysen Instructions for Silent Auction – Amy Richardson Dinner Prayer – Jim Donovan
4:30-5:00	Break -Vendors
5:00-6:15	Dinner
6:20 – 7:00	Auditorium - Awards and Officer Installation

7:00 Vendors close
7:00 – 8:00 Host: _____ introduces
Grover Plunkett – Agribusiness /Regenerative Farming (CEU
1)

**Conference Access to the building will end at 8:30
(some vendors may choose to pack and leave that evening)**

Saturday, April 5, 2025

8:30 a.m. Opening remarks – Sondra Henley / Debbie Boutelier
Huntsville Video
9:00 – 10:00 Hostess: Debbie Boutelier Introduces
Jason Reeves – *The Making of a Garden*
10:00 - 10:30 **Break &/or Pre-pay for Silent Auctions**
10:30-11:30 Hostess: _____ introduces
Leadership Speaker- Laura Thompson Perry, PhD *Using*
Generational Differences to Your Advantage
Adjourn

Time to be out of the building 2:30 p.m.

First Aid Room: _____

Procedure for medical attention:

**Call 911, and contact Glenda Harris 334-391-6979 and
Sondra Henley 205-567-3333**

**Provide the patient's location (1st or 2nd floor, nearest
room number, etc.).**

**Autauga County
Master Gardeners Association**

Lunch & Learn 2025

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

Trinity Prattville Church, 610 Fairview Ave., Prattville 36066



BRING A SACK LUNCH

FREE PROGRAM

DRINKS PROVIDED

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 15 January | Seed Starting for Your Summer Veg
Mallory Kelley, Horticulturist, ACES |
| 19 February | Garden Tools & Maintenance
Mike Forster, Capital City Master Gardener |
| 19 March | Hydrangeas in the Southern Garden
David Doggett, Advanced Master Gardener |
| 16 April | African Violets
Susan O'Conner, Advanced Master Gardener |
| 21 May | Planting for Butterflies
Jane Mobley, Advanced Master Gardener |
| 18 June | Landscaping with Herbs
Debbie Boutelier, Advanced Master Gardener |
| 16 July | Daylilies for Your Garden
Terese Goodson, Capital City Master Gardener |
| 20 August | Muscadine Season is Here!
David Lawrence, Commercial Horticulturist, ACES |
| 17 September | Techniques for Growing Sprouts & Microgreens
Janell Diggs, Advanced Master Gardener |
| 15 October | Zone Maps: New, Old & Untrue?
Hayes Jackson, Horticulturist, ACES |
| 19 November | Holiday Decorating with Nature
Jane McCarthy, Horticulturist & Master Gardener |
| 17 December | Plants off the Beaten Path
Robin Snyder, Central Alabama Master Gardener |



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

Diane Booth Wonderly

January 29, 2025



Diane Wonderly of Deatsville, passed away, on January 29, 2025.

She is survived by: her children, Jill Wonderly McCord of Prattville, AL, Ann Wonderly Cothron of Dickson, TN and John H. Wonderly, Jr. (Jack) of Nashville, TN; her grandchildren, Paige A. McCord of Millbrook, AL and Reed G. McCord of Millbrook, AL; and her siblings, Harvey M. Booth II (Happy) of Ocean View, DE and Jill LaPenta of Kennett Square, PA.



Get Ready for Spring Plantings

Rudy Pacumbaba

<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/lawn-garden-urban/get-ready-for-spring-plantings/>

Spring is the perfect time to plan your garden and landscape.

In Northern Alabama, this period begins in January and continues to the first week of April. As a person's location shifts to the southern part of the state, the period is earlier by two to three weeks.



Northern Alabama is considered a transition zone and usually experiences a late frost that may come as late as the first week of April. For this reason, Extension professionals always caution against planting tender plants before the late frost. However, as more consistent warmer weather approaches here is a checklist of things you can do to make seasonal planting a success.

Soil Test

If you haven't conducted a soil test in two to three years, consider doing so. Contact your local county Extension office for details, instructions, and free tests kits.

Lawn Care

- Clear leaves and debris that may have accumulated over the fall and winter months. Use the debris as a foundation for a compost pile.
- The application of a lawn preemergent will greatly reduce weed problems during the growing season. Don't waste an application of any fertilizer on your lawn until temperatures start warming up and green growth is observed.
- Survey and address any troubled or damaged areas of grass. Consider reseeding or resodding and prepare the area accordingly.

Trees and Shrubs

- Prune dead, diseased, or damaged branches.
- Remove crossing branches and structurally weak branches (narrow crotch angles).
- Remove any suckers and water sprouts.
- Cut back branches that are encroaching on walkways.
- If it blooms before May 1, prune after flowering but no later than early July for blooms on 'old' wood.
- If it blooms after May 1, prune before new growth begins in the spring (blooms on 'new' wood).
- Trim overgrown evergreens back to a branch whose direction you wish to encourage.
- Trim shrubs to maintain preferred size.
- Replenish and redistribute mulch around trees and shrubs. Do not mound mulch directly around the base of trees.

Perennials & Ornamental Grasses

- Divide and replant any perennials that show slow or stunted growth.
- When replanting perennials inspect for healthy roots and crowns. Place them in a hole at least two times larger than the plant root ball. Backfill with native soil. Soil can be amended with organic material and slow-release fertilizer.
- Clear any extra mulch and debris covering perennials to allow for increased exposure to sunlight and increasing temperatures.
- Cut back ornamental grasses to six to twelve inches from the ground.

Beds & Border

- Clear out any remaining plant debris in the beds.
- Remove old mulch and inspect the fabric barrier. If you have not used a weed barrier or an irrigation system under the mulch, now is the time to install a fabric weed barrier or landscape fabric and irrigations lines and emitters. This will help deter weeds and help with moisture management.
- Inspect and repair any hardscape borders and redefine bed edges if necessary.
- Inspect and replace any irrigation lines and emitters.

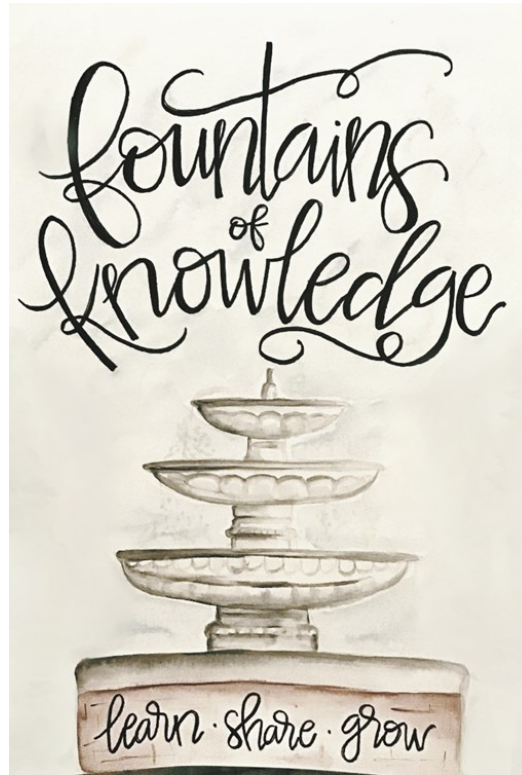
- Replace old mulch. At least three inches in depth is recommended to be effective for weed and moisture management.
- Prepare annual beds, revitalize area and soil by breaking up large clods, adding additional organic material and slow-release fertilizer, and tilling to a depth of six to eight inches.

Garden Beds

- Clear out any plant debris from fall/winter crops. Use the disease-free debris to replenish your compost pile.
- If used, remove, and inspect the plastic culture barrier. Replace if necessary, usually every two to three years.
- Inspect and replace drip lines, irrigation lines, and emitters.
- Inspect and repair raised bed structures and trellises.
- Plan garden layout to determine if the irrigation system requires redistribution.
- Replenish raised bed garden soil, preferably every two years. This can be done by adding additional organic amendments with new garden soil.
- In-ground garden soils, amend based upon soil test recommendations. Conduct a soil test every two to three years.

Composting

- Use the disease-free debris and leaves from beds, and gardens to replenish your compost pile. Do not use grass clippings from treated lawns. Instead, consider using a mulching lawnmower to replenish your lawn during the growing season.
- Compost that is ready can be used to prepare and replenish flower and garden beds. Compost is ready when it has a uniform dark brown to black appearance with no recognizable pieces of material. This assures that all material has been successfully broken down.
- Kitchen scraps can be used. Do not use any meat, dairy products, or vegetable oils in the compost pile.
- Try and maintain an internal pile temperature of 135-145° F. This will ensure beneficial microbes will thrive and decompose the composted materials.
- Turning the compost pile every two to three days will also help with the decomposition process



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/>

Mystery Seed Packages Appearing Once Again in Alabama

Justin Miller

<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/farming/mystery-seed-packages-appearing-once-again-in-alabama/>

Similar to the reports in 2020, mystery seed packages have once again found their way into some Alabama mailboxes. These seeds could cause great harm to the state's environment through the potential spreading of diseases and invasive species.

According to the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, it is illegal to import or export agricultural products that do not have the proper authorization or are in violation of regulations. Known as agricultural smuggling, these packages are often disguised as shipments of items like jewelry and greeting cards to avoid inspection.



"We urge all residents to be on the lookout for similar packages," said Alabama Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries

Rick Pate. "These seeds may be invasive to Alabama plants or be harmful to livestock. Our staff is working diligently to keep Alabama's citizens and agriculture safe."

It is imperative for recipients of unsolicited seeds to not plant the seeds and not open sealed packages. Alabama Cooperative Extension System county offices statewide will serve as drop-off locations for unsolicited seed packages. Extension staff will coordinate proper pickup and disposal with the ADAI.

Threat of Invasive Species

David Russell, an assistant Extension professor who specializes in invasive-plant management, said these seeds could be plant species that would be invasive to Alabama.

“Alabama’s climate is suitable for a wide range of plant species to establish and grow,” Russell said. “Seed from unsolicited sources like this should never be planted, because some could have invasive potential like cogongrass, kudzu or Chinese privet that aggressively spread.”

Invasive species, both flora and fauna, can threaten the environment in several ways. These include things like hybridization with native species, altering ecological processes and reducing productivity of forests, rangeland and cropland.

Once established, invasive species cost a great deal of time and money to manage and control. They can also reduce native biodiversity and wildlife habitats, limit land access for recreation and cause harm to humans and livestock.

Threat of Pathogens and Insects

In addition to the invasive species risk, Kassie Conner, an Alabama Extension plant pathologist, said these packages could also harbor harmful diseases and other plant pathogens

“Plant pathogens, including fungi, bacteria, viruses and nematodes, can be transmitted through seed,” Conner said. “They can be inside the seed, on the outside of the seed or be present in the seed lot without obvious damage.”

By planting these seeds, people could unintentionally introduce a plant disease to their garden. Depending on the pathogen and the plant species, Conner said one infected seed planted in an otherwise healthy garden can cause complete yield loss.

“Once introduced, diseases are difficult to control,” Conner said. “Many can survive anywhere from one to more than 10 years in the environment. Some can survive for longer than that.”

These seed packets also bring the potential risk of introducing invasive insects to Alabama’s environment.

“These seed packets may contain invasive insect eggs or larva that have been feeding upon the seeds during transport,” said Meredith Shrader, an Extension entomologist.

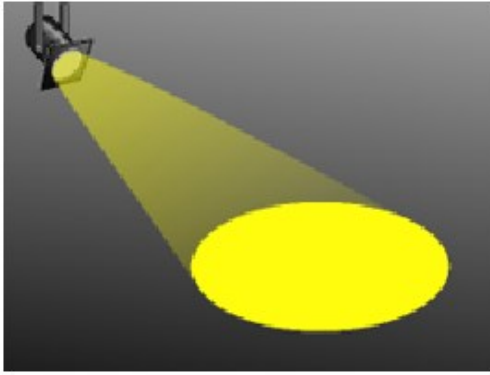
“We do not want to inadvertently introduce new potential pest species into the U.S. by opening these packets. Please keep the seed packets sealed and report them properly.”

More Information

For more information, read the ADAI press release at www.agi.alabama.gov or contact your county’s Extension office. Contact information is available at www.aces.edu.



A package of seeds disguised as a shipment of greeting cards.



SPOTLIGHT

Harriett Hobbs



Name: Harriett Hobbs

Status in life: Married to Andy and I have a daughter named Park.

Education: Graduated from Baptist Radiology in 2000 and specialized in CT I completed my career with AL Health Department (disease control, TB) in 2016.

Career/Retired from: Health Field

What led you to your career? I was always interested in Science and Art ,so Radiology fit both those interests.

What brought you to Autauga MGA or the MG Program? When my daughter attended college, my time was free enough to join MG. I have always loved soil and flowers

What are your hobbies? Any kind of art, reading, and working in my flowerbeds

Favorite food: Seafood

Favorite plant/flower: Black Eye Susan Vine

I have always wanted to visit: Fiji

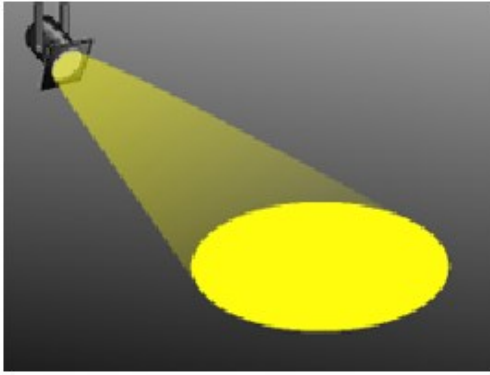
Favorite book or author: The Silence of Bonaventure Arrow by Rita Leganski

How long have you been a resident of Autauga County? All my life

Favorite thing you like about Autauga County? I love that I make connections every day with people that know my family in one way or another.

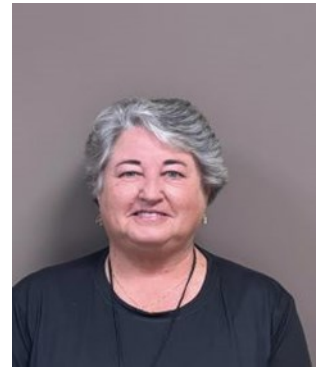
Other comments: I am so happy to be an intern in Autauga County! I truly feel as if I have found my people!

Harriett has accepted the non-voting ACMGA Board position of Intern Representative. She brings a fresh perspective to assist the Board. Previous Intern Representatives include Darlene Blumentritt and Samantha Bowen.



SPOTLIGHT

Jackie Raines



Status in life: I am married to my high school sweetheart, Larry Raines. We have three children, Wes Raines (deceased), Wil Raines and Marijac Hunt. We have four grandchildren. Austin (14) and Barrett(11)Hunt, Laney Raines(14)and River Raines(8).

Education: I am a graduate of Billingsley High School. I got my B.S. from the University of Montevallo and my Master's from Troy University, Montgomery.

Career/Retired from: I retired after more than 40 + years of teaching elementary school. We spent 5 years in McDonough, Georgia, then returned to Prattville so we could raise our children near family and grandparents.

What led you to your career? I have always loved children, and teaching was a natural fit

What brought you to Autauga MGA or the MG Program: I have always loved flowers and plants just like my mother. I started attending Lunch and Learn. I loved it, and after I attended one of Soyna Moore's session on butterflies I was hooked. My niece Angie Nabors talked me into joining. I do love all of the activities.

What are your hobbies? Besides gardening, I love quilting, embroidery, and craft projects. I also enjoy saving butterflies and baking.

Favorite food: I love almost all food. I guess if I had to choose a favorite, it would be steak, pizza, or Key Lime pie.

Favorite plant/flower: I love all flowers, but I am especially in love with daffodils. I have many varieties in my yard. I don't think you can ever have too many daffodils.

I have always wanted to visit. I love to travel. I had the good fortune to travel a lot with my husband on many of his business trips. I have always wanted to go to Alaska.

Favorite book or author: I love to read. I am always reading books. I have read all the books by Dorothea Benton, Frank and Anne Rivers Siddon. I love reading Elin Hilderbrand and Karen White. But I will have to say, Laura Ingalls Wilder is my favorite author. One of the highlights of our Mansfield, Missouri trip was seeing her home.

How long have you been a resident of Autauga County? I was born and raised in Billingsley; Alabama located in northern Autauga County.

Favorite thing you like about Autauga County? I love Autauga County, I love the farms, the river and creeks it has to offer. It is a great place to raise a family. I attend First Baptist Church in Prattville. We enjoy our church and participating in many of the activities it offers, especially those for senior adults.

Other comments: I love being in the Master Gardener program. There is so much to learn and I have made a lot of great friends.

Jackie accepted the Lunch and Learn Chair position for 2025. She has helped Vicki Williamson in the past and Vicki is on hand to assist when needed. Jackie has not sat still since she joined ACMGA. We are fortunate to have such an asset.

Upcoming Birthdays



APRIL

Kathy Quinn 04/06
Lanell Tatum 04/25

JUNE

Kim Huggins 06/04
Nancy Waggoner 06/05
Karen Powell 06/08
Michael Camire 06/10
Thomas Miller 06/18
Paula Wyatt 06/20
Patrick Cook 06/20
Cathy Hartman 06/22
Dian Owens 06/23
Linda Edwards 06/23

MAY

Elijah Pugh 05/04
Kathy Williams 05/06
Carol Pearson 05/07
Anne Carr 05/11
Susan Clapp 05/14
Xavier "Lew" Lewis 05/14
Glenn Nichols 05/14
Linda Barry 05/19
JC Schofield 05/21
Ange Trimble 05/23
Ed Clapp 05/24



Please let us know if we missed your birthday



Prattvillage Garden

Jane McCarthy, Chair

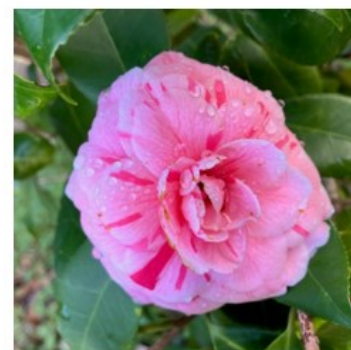


The Prattvillage Garden Master Gardener volunteers worked through the cold in January/February and welcomed the warmer mornings beginning mid-February. We are determined to have the garden ready for our guests at the 2025 AMGA Conference Meet 'n Greet on April 3 and annual Plant Sale on April 26! Here are our main activities:

- Herb Garden (HG) edge renovation project continues...1 side left to do
- HG Peggy Martin rose moved to the fence (so she can climb) at SW corner of the classroom bed
- Old crepe myrtle trellis replaced with new crepe myrtle trellis
- All roses pruned and fertilized
- Classroom bed expanded...centipede sod removed, and pine straw applied
- Sod pieces were then moved to the turf's bare spots and are watered regularly
- The owner is on the lookout for the path stone for the expanded bed...or we'll buy stone from Russell Do It
- Three new Honor Bricks were installed
- We did our happy dance when the pollinators and Bluebirds returned to Prattvillage Garden!



Narcissus and chapel



Camellia Japonica 'Betty Sheffield'



Hellebore



Bee on Narcissus

(First 2 photos by Jane McCarthy & last 2 photos by Dian Owens.)

Editors Corner

John Carrick



Spring is finally here with flowers blooming, trees greening up, and warmer and longer days.

Spring brings two important events:

AMGA Conference—April 3-5

ACMGA Plant Sale—April 26 (8:00 to 12:00 at Prattvillage Garden)

ACMGA members have been working long and hard to prepare for the AMGA Conference. I have no doubt that all the members hard work will result in a highly successful conference.

Close on the heels of the Conference is the Plant Sale.

Thank you to everyone working the Conference and Plant Sale. I hope everyone can take a bit of a rest after Conference and Plant Sale activities and have a wonderful Spring!

Please email any web site feedback/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.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 June 30th
Please submit articles, no later than June 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>

