

In The Loop

by Theresa Davidson

Reach for the Stars:

Don't forget to report your hours! Let's move Mobile County up in the state ranking!

Total Hours by County - 2025

Sorted by Vol Hours

Sort By: **Vol Hours** Ed Hours

(* Vol Hours includes travel hours)

	County	Num Vols	Vol Hours	Ed Hours	Contacts
1	Baldwin	99	5598.02	690.35	9865
2	MG of N Alabama (Madison Co area)	97	4488.09	554.99	6832
3	Jefferson	131	4328.94	694.87	12274
4	Wiregrass	52	2704.95	164.58	6560
5	Autauga	57	2541.10	315.00	5491
6	Mobile	70	2477.64	376.43	405763

REMEMBER, you can find the "volunteer category" on the Sign Up Sheets, on the Service Page under the heading VOLUNTEER, and in In the Loop:

Sign Up Sheet:

What: **Earth Day:**
Master Gardeners & Mobile Urban Growers *Shared* Tent!

Where: Chickasabogue Park
760 Aldock Rd.
Eight Mile, AL 36613
www.mobilecountyal.gov/parks/chickasabogue-park
or just Google Chickasabogue Park

When: Saturday, April 26: 2 shifts---10:00 -noon, noon-2:00

Contact: Carol Dorsey, 251-209-3483, bcdorsey63@gmail.com

Hours: **Community Partner Events /Community Partner Event/ Mobile County**

NAME		PHONE/EMAIL
April 26		
10:00-Noon	Noon- 2:00	
1. Maxon Platt		
2. Cindy Engley		
3. Barbara Bono		
4. Paula Reena		
5. HERESA		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

Service Page under the heading VOLUNTEER:

[HOME](#) [STRATEGIC PLAN](#) [DIRECTORY](#) [CALENDAR](#) [MG LIBRARY](#) [HELPLINE CALENDAR](#) [HOURS](#) **[VOLUNTEER](#)** [MY PAGE](#)



Volunteer Opportunities

This page pulls together

- Upcoming Calendar events (fixed dates) that offer volunteer ops
- To be listed here, events must have vol slots assigned. See Calendar page for all events.
- 'Bulletin Board' or on-going volunteer ops (no specific date)
- On-going vol ops are essentially 'Help Requests'

See notes in the footer that explain posting and using and managing this 'bulletin board'.

Calendar Events

Market in the Park

Sat - May 24, 2025

Market in the Park Cathedral Square, Downtown Mobile Man the Master Gardener Tent Shifts: 7:30 am-10:00 am/10:00 am-Noon Contact: Bob Howard, 251-423-2605, rhoward51@gmail.com Create & Share Info with Public/Helpline, Ask-an-EMG Garden Consult

In the Loop:



Saturdays through June 28

2 Shifts: 7:30 am-10:00 am/10:00 am-Noon

Contact: Bob Howard, 251-423-2605, rhoward51@gmail.com

Create & Share Info. w/Public/ Helpline, Ask-an-EMG, Garden Consult

Hour Requirements to remain a Master Gardener in good standing:

25 Volunteer Hours and 10 CEU's each calendar year

CEU's may be easier than you think to acquire:

*For each General Meeting that you attend, you may claim the speaker's presentation time, usually an hour.

*Attend First Fridays at the Mobile Botanical Gardens and claim the speaker's time.

*Watch videos from universities that produce research based information (AU, MS, LSU, UF, etc.)

*Attend MG field trips and state conferences

Jack's Office Hours:

Jack's Office Hours

Jack has established fixed office hours for discussion of Master Gardener organizational business. Beginning January 14 and continuing every other week (**next--June 3 and June 17**) at 1:00 pm-2:30 pm, Jack will be available in person or Zoom (<https://auburn.zoom.us/j/87976040231>) for **15 minute** time slots.

Jack LeCroy, jml0003@auburn.edu, 251-574-8445



Upcoming Meetings:



June Board Meeting

Currently scheduled for **Wednesday, June 4, 10:00 am**
LOCATION: Hopefully, Jon Archer. Watch for email updates!

Bob Howard, 251-423-2605, rwhoward51@gmail.com
EMG Program Support/Local MGA or AMGA Admin



June General Meeting

Wednesday, June 11??????????????
TO BE DETERMINED--WATCH FOR EMAIL UPDATES
Hopefully, Jon Archer

Bob Howard, 251-423-2605, rwhoward51@gmail.com
EMG Program Support/Local MGA or AMGA Meeting

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

Be a Mentor! for the fall Master Gardener Class

Before volunteering, ensure the following:

- You are a certified and active Master Gardener. This includes having signed your MOU, logged volunteer hours for this year, and paid your annual dues.
- You are proficient in handling the **HELPLINE** and confident in guiding interns through its use. As a mentor, you'll need to accompany your intern during their first two helpline shifts.
- You are comfortable assisting interns with **logging their hours** and navigating the service report system.

Contact Jackie **now**; the mentor training class is Tuesday, June 3 at 1 pm.

Jackie Jenkins, 251-422-6675, jjackiejenkins108@gmail.com



Saturdays through June 28

2 Shifts: 7:30 am-10:00 am/10:00 am-Noon

Contact: Bob Howard, 251-423-2605, rhoward51@gmail.com

Create & Share Info. w/Public/Helpine, Ask-an-EMG, Garden Consult

Coming May 15, 16, and 17!!

Mobile County Master Gardeners' Tour of Gardens

Save the Dates!!

Jane Finley, 251-605-0625, janehfinley@bellsouth.net

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities:

Three NEW ongoing opportunities:



Wilmer Hall Children's Home

(a non-profit faith-based organization that has been serving young people in need in Mobile, Alabama since 1864)

3811 Old Shell Rd Mobile, AL 36608

Help maintain raised beds.

Volunteer opportunities available 7 days a week.

Jan Wood, 251-402-4666, drjwood@aol.com

Food Plants/Garden/Wilmer Hall



Connie Hudson Mobile Regional Senior Community Center

3201 Hillcrest Road, Mobile, AL 36695

Educate and provide an easily accessible garden for Seniors.

Dr. Dana Nettles, 251-583-9460, dananettles1@gmail.com

Food Plants/Garden/Connie Hudson Senior Center



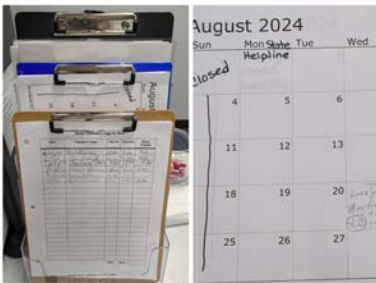
Seth's Shovels

Help plant and maintain flower beds, assisting/learning with Seth Allen, MBG Director of Horticulture Grounds of Mobile Botanical Gardens

Usually Thursday mornings, 8:30 am

Karen Ruckart, 251-377-2312, kzruckart@gmail.com

Ornamental Plants/Garden/Mobile Botanical



Mobile County Master Gardener Helpline

Monday-Friday

2 shifts: 8:30 am-12:00 pm & 12:00 pm- 3:00 pm

To sign up, please use the **blue** MG Helpline Clipboard, located in the MG Helpline area of the Mobile County Extension Office

Cindy Findlay, 251-786-4245, cndyfindly@att.net

Diane Anthony 251.574.8445 jda0002@aces.edu

Create & Share Info w/Public/Helpline



Prepare Snacks for MG General Meetings:

Jon Archer Center

Lydia Criswell, 251.610.5543, criswells2@mchsi.com

EMG Program Support/Local MGA or AMGA Meeting

(Add your round trip drive time to the meeting time. If you bring snacks, you have become a volunteer for that meeting.)



Mobile Japanese Garden

700 Forest Hill Drive

Volunteer your MG skills any morning/afternoon.

Text Don to coordinate!

Don Fry, 251.422.8466, don.fry@comcast.net, mobilejapanesegarden.com

Ornamental Plants/Garden



Community Gardens:

Mobile Urban Growers (MUG):

mobileurbangrowers.org

Search Facebook: "Mobile Urban Growers" and Community Gardens

Pat Hall, 251-654-3935, phallphd@bellsouth.net

mobileurbangrowers@gmail.com



****Work in the Vegetable Garden at Central Presbyterian** 1260 Dauphin St. Mobile 36604 2nd & 4th SATURDAYS: 9:00a-11:00a (Winter Hours)
****Work in the Vegetable Garden at Taylor Park**, 1050 Baltimore Street 36605 1st & 3rd SATURDAYS, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM (Winter Hours)
****Gardening with Children at Taylor Park**, THURSDAYS to coincide with the school calendar, 3:30 pm – 4:15 pm

Food Plants/Garden

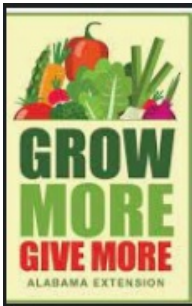


Mobile Medical Museum

Robert Thrower Medicinal Garden
Curating and maintaining everchanging collection + gardening with Full Life Ahead, serving adults with intellectual disabilities, usually on Wednesdays
1664 Springhill Avenue
Carol Dorsey, 251.209.3483, bcdorsey63@gmail.com

Food Plants/Therapeutic Horticulture

Grow More Give More



Statewide Master Gardeners initiative to encourage food gardening and sharing produce
2 Ambassadors needed: attend meetings, target areas for grant development/grant funds fulfillment

Chair Needed

Food Plants/Garden



Speakers Bureau

*Alice Marty, 251-709-1125, amarty@comcast.net
*Barbara Boone, 251-680-8263, boonebama@live.com
Create & Share Info w/ Public/ Creating Educ. Materials

(Speakers are needed. Please contact Alice or Barbara, if you'd like to volunteer.)



Office Manager/Phone Lines/MG Helpline

Cindy Findlay, 251.786.4245, cndyfindly@att.net



DREAM GARDEN: Join a Garden Room (See below)

Jon Archer Center
Marsha Stolz, 251.689.5993, marshastolz@msn.com
Contact Marsha or a Garden Leader to volunteer and work as needed.

Ornamental Plants/Garden

OR

Food Plants/Garden

The Gardens:

Grandma's Pass Along Garden

Catherine Moates, 251.366.6163, memo366@att.net

Catherine Moates, 251.555.5100, memmo000@att.net
Olivia Reinhaus, 251.458.7383, omcvea@gmail.com

Native Garden

Steve Sisk, 251-633-6996, s_sisk@bellsouth.com

Shade Garden

Bob Howard, 251.423.3108, rhoward51@gmail.com

Vegetable Garden

Marsha Stolz, 251.689.5993, marshastolz@msn.com
Mary Ann Days, 251.391.5806, masdays@comcast.net

Herb Garden

Mary Ann Days, 251.391.5806, masdays@comcast.net

Cottage Garden & Formal Garden

Glenda Eady, 251.342.4248, jerryeady2@comcast.net

Building Garden

Marsha Stolz, 251.689.5993, marshastolz@msn.com

CEU's

CEU Opportunities:

- *For each General Meeting that you attend, you may claim the speaker's presentation time, usually an hour.***
- *Attend First Fridays at the Mobile Botanical Gardens and claim the speaker's time.***
- *Watch videos from universities that produce research based information (AU, MS, LSU, UF, etc.)***
- *Attend MG field trips and state conferences***



June General Meeting

9:30 Social Time, 10:00 Meeting

TBA

Hopefully Jon Archer

Bob Howard, 251-423-2605, rhoward51@gmail.com

CEU for speaker's presentation, usually an hour



First Friday at MBG

???

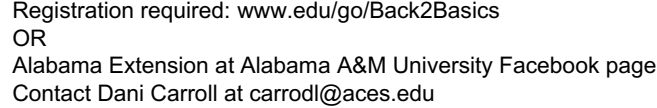
CEU for presentation

Alabama Extension Urban Green: Back 2 Basics Gardening Series

2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 1:00 pm

June 11--I Want it and I Want it NOW! Practicing Patience in the Landscape
June 25--What is my Climate Zone?





CEU

Registration link: <https://auburn.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAkce2vpz8sGNx-jzzXDI81i5QdFzn2SX36#/registration>

Alabama Smart Yard Webinar Recordings:

Previous webinars are available to rewatch on the Alabama Extension@ Alabama A&M University Facebook Page/Back to Basics Playlist

You may like these organizations:



Gulf Coast Herb Society

Mobile Botanical Gardens 4th Tues. of the month, (except July and Nov.), 5:30 pm

NEXT MEETING: June 24

Beth Poates, 251.342.6508, poates57@hotmail.com

CEU for presentation



Azalea City Bonsai Society

Charles Woods Japanese Gardens

First Tuesday of the Month (**June 3**)
6:30 pm

CEU for presentation



K Sawada Camellia Club

Most meetings at Mobile Botanical Gardens
1st Sunday of month: Nov-March, 2:00 pm
Kenny Helton, 251.459.5555, kehelton@comcast.net

CEU for presentation



Camellia Club of Mobile

Jon Archer Center
2nd Sun of the month: Sept. 2024- April 2025, 2:00 pm
mobilecamellia.org, Camellia Club of Mobile FB Group

CEU for presentation

Clarke Root Gardens
-2,000 Waterfront Camellias in Mobile, AL-



Becky Root
Owner/Camellia Enthusiast

251.753.0348
byroot@yahoo.com

Learn more about Clarke Root Gardens:
<https://mobilebaymag.com/rooted-in-tradition/>

RSVP for free tours on most Sundays
in January, February & March at 2pm



Mark your calendars for these SPECIAL EVENTS:

Mobile Botanical Gardens:



WHEN: Saturday, July 12th
10 - 11:30 AM

WHERE: Botanical Center Gift Shop at MBG

Have you ever wondered exactly what steps it takes to get the honey from the flower to the hive and then to you?

Please join us for a honey harvesting workshop!

In this class we will guide you through the processes the bees use to collect and convert flower nectar into honey, how they store it, the various ways it's retrieved and extracted by humans and what all we can do with it after that.

We will discuss safe harvesting practices, how to know when to take it and how much to leave with them, equipment needed, and honey and wax uses, and how to store it for potentially forever. Participants will trim, spin and bottle their own honey to take home!

Instructor: Veronica Culberson - Honey of the Hill & MBG Member

\$40 for Not-Yet Members

\$30 for Members (*difference refunded after purchase*)

Class size is limited to 20 - Don't miss out, register today!

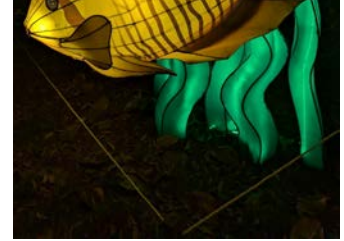
Bellingrath Gardens:



Experience the Enchantment of the inaugural **Gulf Coast Chinese Lantern Festival at Bellingrath Gardens & Home** From April 17 to June 15, 2025, visitors can immerse themselves in an unforgettable display of art, culture, and illumination. This must-see event will light up the night with spectacular handcrafted lanterns, interactive experiences, and family-friendly entertainment.

Kathy and I (and Rick and Gary) enjoyed a wonderful evening at Bellingrath! **Ends soon- June 15!**





AMGA State Conference May 2026: Huntsville, AL

GARDENING TO THE MOON AND BACK
Limestone • Madison • Morgan

Creating Biodiversity Through Creative Gardening Concepts

SAVE THE DATE
AMGA State Conference 2026
May 6-8, 2026 ★ Huntsville

Conference Objective:
To provide new ideas garnered from tours, workshops, and speakers to enhance outreach activities throughout the state

Conference Location & Hotels:
Conference: The Westin Huntsville at Bridge Street Town Centre
Hotels: The Westin and Elements at Bridge Street Town Centre
Shop Eat Stay Play

Nine Informative & Inspirational Speakers
Including Dr. Doug Tallamy and Melinda Myers

Tours
Including Huntsville Botanical Garden, US Space & Rocket Center, and HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology

AMGA Business Meeting
Hosted by the Extension Master Gardener Associations of Limestone, Madison & Morgan Counties

It's gonna be great!! Start saving now!

For Your Information:

MOBILE BOTANICAL GARDENS *Come Here To Grow!*



Theresa's top reasons to join the Gardens:

1. **DISCOUNTS** on events, classes, plants, and the Gift Shop!
2. First Friday Lectures--**free** (Senior rate is \$45 per year. Senior nonmembers pay the daily admission rate of \$8 (senior rate) to attend the First Friday lectures. Join and save \$\$\$! (And, get all the benefits of membership.)
3. The **BEST** weekly newsletter-know **EVERYTHING** that's happening at the Gardens
4. Access to the Gate Code to visit the Gardens *before* and *after* regular hours
5. Reciprocal special admission at 360+ gardens in the US. I've used it in Huntsville, Atlanta and New York City -quite a savings

5. Reciprocal special admission at 500+ gardens in the US- I've used it in Huntsville, Atlanta and, New York City -quite a savings.

When you shop The Gift Shop at MBG, look for the work of two of our Master Gardeners: *Susan Hilton, Potter, and Sharon Claseman, Jewelry Designer.*



VOLUNTEERS AT WORK:

Earth Day, Chicksabogue Park, April 26



Karen Ruckart



Barbara Boone, Marion Platt, Karen Ruckart, Cindy Findlay, Theresa Davidson



Barbara, Cindy, Theresa, Carol Dorsey (Co-hair)





Pat Hall, Co-Chair



Carol



This tent!!!! We're not rocket scientists; we're gardeners!



It was a hot, sunny day at the Park; the splash pad was tempting. Visit the beautifully renovated Park.



Karen's task: Engage the kids-Plant a green bean seed in a to-go cup and then watch it grow.



Somebody said Theresa doesn't meet a stranger.

At MBG's Greenhouse





Kelsey Flach pots an iris division.



Pat Gropp and Mary Ann Tomberlin divide Giant Walking Iris, while Janine Brunet "Keeper of the Labels", assures the plants are labeled correctly.



Turtles are always dropping by.

Until next month, happy gardening!



Mobile County Master Gardeners | 1070 Schillinger Rd. N. | Mobile, AL 36608 US

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