

The Dirt | February, 2024

Mobile County Master Gardeners

The President's Message

by Carol Williams

HAPPY NEW YEAR
2024!

MCMG
Officers

December kindly kept its temperatures reasonable, with little threat to the life and health of our citrus trees or tender plants. I even had new monarch caterpillars munching on December milkweed and maturing! But January is trying to make up for it! I do hope that you have been able to secure your vulnerable plants against the cold! I used heat lights, freezing water on fruit trees, frost cloth, laying potted plants on the warm ground in the tractor shed then covering them, and parking two plants just inside my front door. It appears they've all survived so far. Do whatever it takes to save them as replacing them is a lot harder and more expensive.

This year's Alabama Master Gardeners' Conference will be across Mobile Bay in Daphne April 22 - 24, 2024 at 9:00 AM each day in the Daphne Civic Center on Highway 98! The link to register is [2024 AMGA Conference Registration](#). I hope that we can all attend!

Now it's time to take a break and study the new way to enter our volunteer hours at:

<https://www.aces.edu/go/ShortServiceReportVideo>. Kerry Smith, Extension's Master Gardener state leader, has simplified the categories and made it easier to enter and track volunteer hours. After viewing the video (and reading the rest of *The Dirt*) navigate to our MG volunteer page to enter your 2024 hours, including the time you spent watching the video and reading *The Dirt*! (CEU).

We have a very busy schedule this spring. February's General Meeting is on Valentine's Day which is also Ash Wednesday this year. Remember to bring your Valentine-themed or any other treats to add to Lydia's treat tables on February 14. **James Miles**, locally retired Extension agent, will be our speaker, offering ideas for improving and keeping a green thumb as we age.

Following our February guest speaker, **Emily Arellano** will review with us the changes in entering hours so please bring your questions. I want to thank Emily for all the hours she has spent pulling together the information that we need. She is also working on nominations for Alabama Master Gardener Association awards so please send Emily any names, including your own, that you believe may qualify. (A complete description of AMGA awards is available at [AMGA Awards And Criteria \(alabamamga.org\)](#)). Nominations are due in Montgomery by January 31.

Meanwhile, led by VP **Bob Howard**, MCMGs are organizing our Second Annual Spring Festival on March 23. Kyle

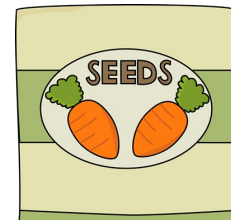
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Owsley from the Auburn Horticulture Extension Research Station spoke to us in January and left with the seeds to plant for sales at our Spring Festival. They will plant the seeds in little germination plugs and after a couple weeks, plant the plugs with their tiny green plants into the pots that will carry them through our sale. We will need help with that transplanting and labeling, and later transporting all the 3,000 or so plants to the Archer Center on Thursday, March 21. In the meantime, Bob and the committee chairs will need your help in organizing the vendors, food trucks, plant tables, speakers, speakers' hospitality, advertising and promotion, parking lot map, docents for the DREAM garden, and many other parts of sharing the education and practice of container gardening in the Mobile area. It is such fun work. Please sign up on our Volunteer Page or by contacting Bob Howard soon!



At our March 13 general meeting, recently retired meteorologist, **Dr. Alan Sealls**, will talk of Weatherthings, the name of his website as well as one of three books he just published. View his books on Amazon using the **QR code below at bottom**, and he will be available to autograph purchases for you during his visit.

We need helpline volunteers on Mondays. Please log on the service report to sign up. There is only an AM slot online, but you can come in the afternoon as well. No update on phones not working but voicemails are still working on the computer. Contact Diane Anthony to sign up for working Tuesday through Thursday answering questions by visitors or people calling the office those days. They count in our Helpline system, too.

Please contact Bob Howard if you would like to take on scheduling MG volunteers for Market in the Park at Cathedral Square this spring. It's a great way to invite people to sign up for our next MCMG intern class. Also, volunteers will find wonderful fresh food and flowers for sale every Saturday!

Your efforts brought in about \$11,000 in sales of greenery for our Annual Greenery Sale despite horrible weather one weekend and road closures the next weekend! Expenses (including our gift to Mobile Botanical Gardens) will have to be subtracted from this income, but the rest will be in our educational fund for Auburn Ag student scholarships. Plans are to limit sales to online and only one weekend for in-person sales at MBG this December.

All the 2023 Intern class has certified! This is an outstanding class with three volunteers already accumulating over 100 hours! Three interns from class of 2022 have also certified: **Kathy Walker, Brenda Duncan, and Becky Sheffield**. Congratulations to all for their diligence and generous donation of their time to our community!

Other MGs have been seen working with **Carol Dorsey** at the Africatown Heritage House Museum and Gardens, Strickland

Youth Center, Gardening in Wellness program with United Health Care, and Beehive Methodist Church's Community Garden. Please feel free to send in reports and pictures of any volunteering that you are doing in our community to Barbara Boone <boonebama@live.com>.

Remember our Wednesday, February 14 General Meeting! Bring \$5 to get 6 raffle tickets and support MCMG!!

See you soon!

Carol Williams, President
251-367-0473



~~~~~Carol's Corner~~~~~

**Riddle:**

Answer to January Garden Riddle: Watermelon! (**Debra Morrow** guessed correctly first!)

**February Garden Riddle:**

I am delicate and bright, a symbol of the spring,  
My petals are a vision, a sight for birds to sing.  
Often seen in gardens, or wild by a stream,  
In shades of pink or white, I am a gardener's dream.

**Gardener's Valentine Greeting:** "Aloe you vera much."

**Gardle** (think word scramble where gardening terms are unscrambled)

ymnacodr  
egrayhnad  
enlianper  
stimealc

Happy New Year! See you soon!  
Carol

*Please send your answer to readingweeder72@hotmail.com*  
All Photo sources: Mobile County Master Gardeners.

**Chronicles**  
by Nina Ward

Happy New Year Master Gardeners! After a successful Pinecone Party and Annual Greenery Sale, we move to a new year with events and opportunities for all Master



Gardeners to participate!

Our annual Greenery Sale is our biggest fund raiser during the year. I would like to touch on some of the many ways a Master Gardener can volunteer for the Greenery Sale during the year to make another successful event. Master Gardeners can participate in the “behind the scenes” activities of the sale. Although the majority of work is done immediately after Thanksgiving, there are things you can do to participate prior to the event. During the year you can start scouting for items we need for the sale. BOLO for pinecones, fresh greenery for cuttings in arrangements/swags, dried okra pods/dried flower seeds on plants and anything you see that might be attractive in our arrangements. Start looking now as you travel around the Mobile area. Be sure to get permission to cut/pick up something on personal property! So, start “scouting” now and make a mental note of it. We have many MGs that make use of their creativity and talents in making our beautiful arrangements and bows. We are always looking for new ideas to add to our Greenery Sale! If creating arrangements, etc. isn't your thing, please consider other options available during our Greenery work week! We offer FREE bow making and arrangement design classes to our Intern class and ANYONE (MGs) who is interested in participating! Our volunteers provide FREE Lunches for our workers! There are so many steps prior to actually making arrangements. Processing greenery and pinecones, etc. must be done. All these steps are vital in making our Greenery Sale successful! Master Gardeners have such great camaraderie with each other! Oh, did I mention the hours worked go towards your annual hours? So, kudos to the Greenery Sale Committee!

We had a great monthly general meeting January 10 with **Kyle Owsley** as speaker, giving an update on the plants that will be grown at the research center for the Spring Festival. Following the general meeting, **Paul Ezelle** presented the beginning series of assistance in public speaking for the Speaker Bureau.

**Paula Reeves** was announced as the much deserved Master Gardener of the Month for January. Congratulations, Paula!

Live like someone left the gate open!



## Want to Attract Cardinals in the Winter to Your Backyard?

A cardinal pair is one of the best feathered friend watching scenes to behold. Watching a cardinal pair is a stress reducer to me. Some birds like cardinals, *Cardinalis cardinalis*, mate for life because it alleviates the necessity of annual courtship, building another nest, and territorial activity. Despite the benefits of a life-long partnership, it's easy for us humans to imagine the birds in a romantic relationship. Not so much, but it is nice to imagine, though. The male with his bright plumage and the lesser plumaged female foraging together is a partnership, one we want to see in our backyards and bird feeders.

Keep in mind that songbirds like cardinals, besides being fun to watch, are important to us as gardeners. They help control weeds when scratching on the ground for seeds, help pollinate even though they don't siphon nectar, and importantly help control plant pests.

Having established their importance, we need to attract the birds to our backyards. How do we do that? Cardinals are attracted to bright colors as in yard art, but mainly by providing the essentials to their lives: food, water, and shelter.

- Provide sunflower and safflower seeds which have a high fat content. as well as fiber and carbs\*\*
- Fill water bath.
- Make sure there is foliage or shrubbery nearby for shelter.

\*\*Seeds with hot sauce will prevent squirrels from plundering bird feeders, as squirrels are sensitive to the sauce's heat while birds are not.

So, in addition to spending quality time observing our feathered friends, keep in mind that by providing life's essentials, birds like cardinals also are beneficial to our gardens.

By Dirt Diva

Sources:  
Simple Garden Life podcast  
aces.edu 0554\_FeedingBirds071420L-A

## Needed for Dream Garden Native Plants

Master Gardeners! Please note that the Dream Garden needs someone to head the Native Plant section of the Dream Garden. Native plants and shrubs are a hot topic these days, and if you have an interest in this important part of the Dream Garden, please notify Marsha Stolz. 251.689.5993 marshastolz@msn.com.

## You are getting sleepy, very sleepy...

It is reported that certain plants will promote better sleep because they can promote positive emotion and reduce stress. If you, reader, have any experience with better sleep in the presence of any of the following plants, please let the editor know. Privacy will be respected if requested.

Jasmine  
Aloe vera  
Snake plant  
Lavender  
Peace lily  
Pothos  
Gardenia  
Chamomile  
Rosemary

Source: HB, December 2023

## SAVE THE DATES!

**SPRING FESTIVAL MARCH 23, 2024**

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Mobile County Master Gardener Association. Inc. invites you to SPRING FESTIVAL and Vegetable Plant Sale Saturday, March 23, 2024 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM At Mobile County Extension, Jon Archer Center 1070 Schillinger Rd N, Mobile, AL 36608 ❖ Thousands of container compatible vegetable plants will be for sale, including tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, eggplants, and peppers. ❖ What else will be available? Gardening demonstrations, vendors, food, and tours of the Dream Garden. Bring your wagon and join us – ADMISSION IS FREE For vendor

information, send an email describing what you would like to sell to:

**Bob Howard, MCMGA, at [rhoward51@gmail.com](mailto:rhoward51@gmail.com), or to Diane Anthony, ACES at [jda002@aces.com](mailto:jda002@aces.com) as soon as possible.**

MCMG President **Carol Williams** reports that we have received information that we can participate in this year's Festival of Flowers at Cathedral Square. More details be forthcoming after the Board of Director's meeting on February 7 or contact Carol.

[readingweeder72@hotmail.com](mailto:readingweeder72@hotmail.com)



## Master Gardener of the Month

by Bob Howard

The Master Gardener of the Month for December was awarded to **Paula Reeves**.

Paula was a member of the Master Gardener Class of 2016, and she loves growing her own vegetables. Another gardening focus for our Master Gardener of the month is propagation – “I love taking a cutting from a plant I like and turning it into six plants.” As with many Master Gardeners, Paula is fascinated by pollinators and has added more plants to her pollinator garden each year.

What really singled Paula out over the Fall, however, was the many hours of work, dedication, and leadership that she brought to the 2023 Greenery Sale. In addition to her gardening interests stated above, Paula is a master Designer of cut arrangements and decorations. She is also adaptable and handles stress well. Faced with the threat of severe weather, this year's sale morphed from a 1 weekend sprint into a two weekend marathon. A new online order system and a new process for pick-up were added to the sale which will have an impact on how the Greenery Sale is conducted in the future. Facing all of these challenges, Paula led the Greenery team to a very successful sale for 2023 and a promising outlook for 2024 Sale.

Congratulations to Paula Reeves, our December Master Gardener of the Month.

## Master Gardeners Working to Improve Lives

Master Gardeners from classes 2022 and 2023 continue working to improve and enrich lives at the Mulherin Home. Mulherin Home, a facility for residents with congenital disabilities, is fortunate to have MGs who are working to enhance the landscape and provide seasonal decor. Please note the following MGs: **Paul Barnes, Paul Ezelle, Sharon Claseman, Carolyn Rooks, Earl Gochey, Carol Mackie, Lisa Davis, Patti Hicks, Mary An Tomberlin, and Kathy Deckbar.**



Shovels in hand at Mulherin

2022 and 2023 MGs



## Improving Lives Continues at Community Gardens, Grow More Give More, and Local Youth Center

### Africatown Heritage House

Community Gardens led by **Carol Dorsey** and Africatown Heritage House member and Master Gardener, **Dr. Theodore Atkinson**, and Master Gardener, **Paul Barnes**, met at the Heritage House Museum and grounds November 13, 2023 to evaluate the landscape and provide a few recommendations for local leaders and site developer, Roald Hazelhoff of Birmingham Southern's Southern Environmental Center. The Heritage House Museum is a local high-profile venue, eliciting discussion and planning centered around a bioswale rain garden, a medicinal garden, irrigation recommendations, relevant plants, STEM education, engaging students at Mobile Training School, and how Master Gardeners can continue contribution moving forward. Photo upper center.

### Strickland Youth Center

In December 2023, the Strickland Youth Center courtyard was the site for weeding and general tidying up by Master Gardeners **Carol Dorsey**, **Paul Barnes**, **Carolyn Davidson**, and **Rynn Toifel**. Continued maintenance is needed for this venue, as it has high visibility for staff members and provides an outlet for residents in the system.

### Community Gardens at Beehive Methodist

This location was the site for cleanup and harvest by Master Gardeners **Paul Barnes**, **Todd Golomb**, **Margaret Henderson**, **Debra Morrow**, and **Alissa Gochey**. Paul continues to work on rain water capture to use in the garden. Some sweet

Updates provided by Carol Dorsey



## A History of That Morning Cup of Coffee

A few decades ago, most small Alabama towns had at least one small grocery store, so these towns were not in what is defined today as a "food desert."

However, the larger chain stores of the day like A & P were a drive away. Once inside the A & P, the first thing detected was the aroma of freshly ground coffee beans from the Eight o' Clock Coffee brand. Coffee was an adult only beverage in my house, one that was not to be consumed until older, or, according to my elders, my growth would be stunted. That coffee bean smell was intoxicating, and I swore that when I got old enough, I would drink coffee as much and as often as I wanted. Fast forward decades, I remain true to my word: every day is a coffee day! I don't need cream, sugar or "fu-fu" flavors, just a plain, mellow brew. Now, it's time to spill the beans!

Apparently coffee consumption is a subject of much research today. One day medical science says too much caffeine consumption is bad, but the next day caffeine is ok if consumed in moderate amounts, so I'm going with the moderate guys.

Long before I had to have my morning fix, legend says that an Ethiopian goat herder noticed his goats became very frisky, hopping all over the field after foraging on berries from a certain bush. Following his flock's lead, the goat herder made an infusion from the berries and noticed how alert it made him. Soon, with the help of monks in a local monastery, this drink spread throughout the Arabian Peninsula.

Coffee cultivation and trade began in Arabia, in particular, Yemen, and by the 15th and 16th century, in Persia, Egypt, Syria, and Turkey. Annual pilgrimages to Mecca by large numbers of people helped spread this beverage.

By the 17th century, coffee consumption advanced to Europe and became a popular drink. Travel to America brought the beverage to this side of the Atlantic where it enjoyed popularity, even though tea was still the most consumed beverage. Of course, taxation was an issue of the day, but that's a topic for another essay.

Coffee beans are the seeds of a fruit called a coffee cherry. Red coffee cherries each contain two seeds and grow on trees or shrubs, belonging to the plant genus *Coffea*. There are two types of coffee species, *arabica* and *rustica*. *C. arabica* originated in Ethiopia, producing a mild, flavorful brew. However, this species is expensive to grow because it needs shade, humidity, and steady temperatures between 60-75 degrees F. *C. robusta* growth requirements are not as strict as *C. arabica* with a wider temperature range, 65-97 degrees F and the ability to withstand harsher weather conditions with frequent rainfall and sun. This accounts for the numerous coffee plantations in Brazil, Central America, and Hawaii, although 55 countries produce the beans globally.

Coffee facts:

- Coffee beans are actually fruit.
- Bees love coffee.
- Hawaii is not the only state in the U.S. that produces coffee, as coffee is also grown in Puerto Rico and California.
- Beethoven enjoyed a cup, but each cup had to be made with exactly



60 beans.

- Decaf coffee is made when a solvent is added to soaked beans to remove most caffeine.
- The world's most expensive coffee comes from animal poop at about \$1,500/lb. True statement! Civets (similar to weasels) and elephants are fed coffee cherries which pass through their digestive systems. Then the "end product" is collected, washed, and sold to eager coffee lovers. Hmm...I think I will stick to the brand that is "Good to the last drop!"

Compiled by Dirt Diva

Update: A previous "History of..." spoke to the history of potatoes. Since that was written, the USDA is considering moving the starchy vegetable category to the grains and rice category.

Sources:

Nat'l Coffee Association, 2018

Eating to Extinction, Dan Saldino, 2022

[www.ncusa.org/about-coffee/history-of-coffee](http://www.ncusa.org/about-coffee/history-of-coffee)

## Popular Houseplants

Soon our gardening focus will be outside with flowers and vegetables. In the meantime, let's enjoy our houseplants. A recent survey amongst gardeners in the South indicated the most popular houseplants. Do you agree?

Alabama-ponytail palm  
Arkansas-peace lily  
Florida-bromeliads  
Georgia-English ivy  
Louisiana-bromeliads  
Mississippi-peace lily  
North Carolina-English ivy  
South Carolina-aloe  
Tennessee-Lucky bamboo  
Texas-aloe  
Virginia-aloe

Source: HGTV, Jan., 2024



### Golden Trowel Awardees

December 10, 2023 was the date of the annual Master Gardener banquet held at the Jon Archer Center. This year **Jack LeCroy** crafted original awards with a literal trowel painted gold. Pictured to the left are **awardees: Cindy Findlay, Earl Gochey, Rookie of the Year, Carol Dorsey, Shirley Reynolds, Marsha Stolz, Carolyn Rooks, and Barbara Boone, Master Gardener of the Year.** (Not pictured in this photo is **Lydia Criswell.**) In addition to the Golden Trowel awards, 2022 intern **Brenda Duncan** received her certification. 100% of 2023 attendees received their certifications: **Alissa Gochey, Carolyn Davidson, Chester Vrocher, Debra Morrow, Gudrun Russell, Jan Wood, Khanh Nguyen, Kristen Coats, Margaret Henderson, Mary Catherine Faralli, Neil Milligan, Paul Barnes, Rynn Toifel, Theodore Atkinson, and Todd**

**Golomb.** Not pictured are **Carol Williams** and **Harry Surline**, new and outgoing MCMG presidents, respectively.

**Congratulations to all!**

## **Brrr! It's Cold Outside!**

### **How to Care for Trees and Shrubs After a Winter Storm**

How fortunate we are in the South to typically forego blizzard weather like folks "way up Nawth." But when cold weather does arrive, our plant babies suffer. The following bullets are followup tips and reminders for trees and shrubs after freezing temps descend upon us.

- Be mindful of limb removal if power lines are involved.
- Don't be too hasty in total removal of a tree or shrub even if they look worse for wear or even dead. Remember the roots may still be viable and may recover come warmer weather. Some shrubs are remarkably resilient, so remember patience is key.
- If damage is minor, prune the limbs and branches. Review pruning techniques demonstrated by our extension agents, Jack, Jacob, and Joel.
- If the tree or shrub prove to be no longer viable, this might be the opportunity to provide shelter for wildlife during a cold spell, turning a loss into a win.

Source: BH&G Dec., 2023



#### **Fruit o' the Month: Satsumas**

Backyard citrus varieties have been gaining popularity recently, and satsumas fit the bill because they can take a little weather downside in lower Alabama. Not too frigid, but limited lower temps, especially if the weather aberration does not coincide with bud setting.

According to **Jacob Kelley**, satsumas are a good back yard home citrus choice because of the tolerance of infrequent cold spells. He recommends Omari and Brown's Select as satsuma choices, Omari being better quality.

Source: [aces.edu/resources/citrus](https://aces.edu/resources/citrus)

## *Bugs n' Hisses*

### **Citrus Pathogens**

On the Gulf Coast we are fortunate to be able to grow citrus, especially satsumas, but other citrus varieties as well. Despite our luck in being able to grow citrus, we must remain mindful of citrus pathogens. Five pests have been identified that threaten the citrus industry in general, and that would include back yard orchards as well. Those five are as follows:

1. Citrus greening (HLB)

2. Asian citrus psyllid (ACP)
3. Citrus canker (CC)
4. Citrus black spot (CBS)
5. Sweet orange scab (SOS)

Currently all of Alabama is under ACP quarantine and Mobile and Baldwin Counties are under HLB and SOS quarantine, while Baldwin County is also under CC quarantine.

The diseases listed above (bacterial or fungal) are spread by wind and rain, irrigation, flooding, and human intervention. Human intervention is the one factor that can be controlled which is done by carefully preventing transportation of infected material from one location to the next. That means checking plant material certification upon purchase.

If the home citrus grower suspects one of the above pathogens, the recommended follow up is to contact Extension as soon as possible for identification and potential pesticide application. Keep in mind, however, that the recommendation may be to destroy the plant to prevent further spread of disease.

Compiled by Dirt Diva

Source: [aces.edu/resources/Citrus pest ID and Management](https://aces.edu/resources/Citrus_pest_ID_and_Management), Neil Kelly, et al, 2018



## Staying Green

Leafy greens, that is. Fall is a prime green leafy vegetable growing season, but current weather is still excellent for growing cabbage, spinach, turnips, collards, chard, and kale.

- These vegetables fit into our New Year's resolutions to improve our overall health and well-being. Incorporating these veggies into our diets provide vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants.
- Vibrant greens are associated with a sense of renewal and new beginnings.
- Various cultures such as ours equate greens with luck and financial security. No way do we want to tempt fate and miss out on luck for 2024!

Compiled by Dirt Diva

Source: BH & G, Dec 2023.



## From the Greenhouse: The Hoedown

### It's Hammer Time!

Editor's Note: It may seem like the ole hammer is a boring and humdrum tool, however, think about how many jobs can't be done without a hammer. Hammers deserve an honored place in tool chests.

Let's count the ways a hammer can be used in our landscapes:

- Building raised beds.
- Assembling window boxes.
- Assembling bottle trees.
- Building or repairing fences.
- In a pinch squash a bug!

Types of hammers for specific jobs:

- Claw-drive nails or prying, splitting wood.
- Ball peen-shape metals.
- Mallets-shape metals without leaving an impact mark.
- Sledge-break up stone or other hard surfaces.

**Needed: high quality photos for the website.  
Please forward pretty flower or shrub pics to  
Mary Townsley: town8296@bellsouth.net**

Note: Gardle scramble results: mulch, mistletoe, seedling, potassium

## In The Loop

by Theresa Davidson

### Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:



#### February Board of Directors Meeting

Jon Archer Center

Wednesday, February 7, 10:00 am

Carol Williams, 251.367.0473

readingweeder72@hotmail.com

*EMG Program Support/Local MGA or AMGA Admin*



#### February General Meeting

Jon Archer Center

February 14, 9:30 am Social time, 10:00 am Meeting

Carol Williams, 251.367.0473

readingweeder72@hotmail.com

*EMG Program Support/Local MGA or AMGA Meeting*



#### First Friday at the Gardens

Jon Carfagno, Executive Director, Mobile Museum of Art  
"What's New at MMoA"

February 2, 2024 10:30 am

Larkins Classroom

*(No CEU's this time)*

#### TRAINING for "Soil Test Day

Jon Archer

Friday, February 9 OR Monday, February 12



9:30 am - 10:30 am  
 Jack Lecroy, 251.574.8445  
**CEU**

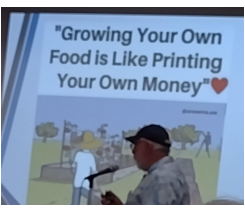


**Dream Garden: Plant Potatoes & Place Pine Straw**

Jon Archer /Dream Garden  
 Friday, February 16, 9:00 am  
**BRING GLOVES**  
 Marsha Stoltz 251-633-9350 marshastoltz@msn.com  
*Growing Food Plants/Garden*



**Attend/Volunteer "Soil Test Day"**  
 Jon Archer Parking Lot  
 Tuesday, February 20, 9:00 am -12:00 pm  
 Jack LeCroy, 251.574.8445  
**CEU for attendee**  
**Volunteer = Other Extension Activities/Support Other Extension Activity**



**SPRING FESTIVAL and Vegetable Plant Sale**  
 Jon Archer Center  
 Saturday, March 23, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
 Bob Howard, 251.423.3108, rhoward51@gmail.com  
*Growing Food Plants/Host Educational Event*

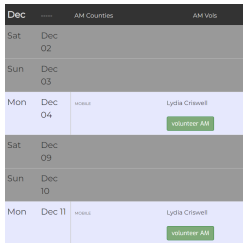
**Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities:**



**Monthly Garden Zoom Class**  
 Jack LeCroy  
 3rd Thursday of the month, 6-7 pm, November 16  
 Diane Anthony, jda0002@aces.edu, 251.574.8445 or  
 www.aces.edu/go/gardenzoom to register  
**CEU**



**Master Gardener Helpline Tuesday - Friday.**  
 Please call Diane Anthony to schedule these shifts.  
 Morning shift 8:30 - 12:00  
 Afternoon shift 12:00 - 3:30



| Day | Date   | Event         |
|-----|--------|---------------|
| Sat | Dec 02 |               |
| Sun | Dec 03 |               |
| Mon | Dec 04 | Volunteer All |
| Sat | Dec 09 |               |
| Sun | Dec 10 |               |
| Mon | Dec 11 | Volunteer All |

### Master Gardener Statewide Helpline Mondays

Please commit to Mondays on the Statewide Helpline.

Sign up online under '**Helpline Calendar**'.

Morning Shift: 8:30 -12:00

Afternoon Shift - 12:00- 3:30.

Cindy Findlay, 251.786.4245, cndyfindly@att.net

*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.)*



### Orchid Society Meeting

Mobile Japanese Garden meeting room, 700 Forest Hill  
4th Sunday of the month (except June & Dec), 2:00

**NEXT MEETING: January 28**

Lynn Coleman, 251.622.3939, lynncolman411@gmail

**CEU for the presentation**

## Upcoming Show and Sale!!

We Invite You to Join Us  
for the  
**MOBILE AREA ORCHID SOCIETY'S  
45TH ANNUAL  
ORCHID SHOW & SALE**  
February 23 - 25, 2024

Hosted by  




| Friday              | Saturday                           | Sunday             |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Exhibit Set Up 8 AM | AOS Judging 8 AM                   | Show Open 9 AM     |
| Orchid Sales 10 AM  | Orchid Sales 9 AM                  | Orchid Sales 10 AM |
| Close 5 PM          | Exhibit Viewing Noon<br>Close 5 PM | Close 3 PM         |

For More Information  
info@maos.com (754) 200-1008



### Gulf Coast Herb Society

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

**NEXT MEETING: February 27**

Beth Poates, 251.342.6508, poates57@hotmail.com

**CEU for presentation**



Jon Archer Center  
2nd Sun of the month: Sept. 2023- April 2024, 2:00 pm  
**NEXT MEETING: February 11**  
mobilecamellia.org, Camellia Club of Mobile FB Group  
**CEU for presentation**

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**K Sawada Camellia Club**  
Most meetings at Mobile Botanical Gardens  
1st Sunday of month: Nov. 5, 2023- March 2024, 2:00 pm  
**NEXT MEETING: February 4**  
Kenny Helton, 251.459.5555, kehelton@comcast.net  
**CEU for presentation**

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**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  
**Growing Ornamental Plants/Garden**

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**Community Gardens:**  
Grow More Give More with Mobile Urban Growers:  
mobileurbangrowers.org  
Community gardens in Midtown, Downtown, + other neighborhoods, school sites. Search FB "Mobile Urban Growers" and Community Gardens  
Carol Dorsey, 251.209.3483, bcdorsey63@gmail.com  
mobileurbangrowers@gmail.com  
**Growing Food Plants/Garden**

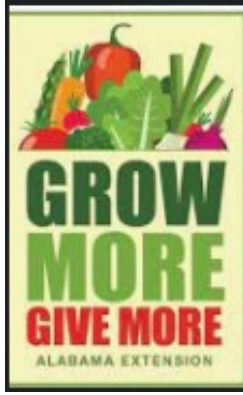
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**Mobile Medical Museum**  
Robert Thrower Medicinal Garden  
Curating and maintaining everchanging collection + gardening with Full Life Ahead, serving adults with intellectual disabilities, usually on Wednesdays  
1664 Springhill Avenue  
Carol Dorsey, 251.209.3483, bcdorsey63@gmail.com  
**Growing Food Plants/Therapeutic Horticulture**

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**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  
Carol Dorsey, 251.209.3483, bcdorsey63@gmail.com  
**Growing Food Plants/Garden**



**Speakers Bureau**

Paul Ezelle, 251.402.1798, paulezelle@gmail.com

**Create & Share Info w/ Public/ Creating Educ. Materials**

See the below table for a list of upcoming Bureau opportunities and the speaker for each. **Speakers are needed!** If no speaker is listed, please contact Paul if you'd like to volunteer.

|          |             |                          |                               |               |
|----------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| 2/9/24   | 10:30A-12 P | MPL West Regional        | Down & Dirty (Know Your Soil) |               |
| 2/20/24  | 12-1P       | DePaul Center Providence | General Gardening Basics      |               |
| 3/8/24   | 10:30A-12P  | MPL West Regional        | Insect Management             |               |
| 4/12/24  | 10:30A-12P. | MPL West Regional        | Plant Diseases                |               |
| 4/27/24  | 10-11A.     | MPL West Regional.       | Grocery Store Botany (Kids)   | Karen Ruckart |
| 5/10/24  | 10:30A-12P. | MPL West Regional.       | Weed Management               |               |
| 5/14/24. | 10:30A-12P. | MPL West Regional.       | Container Gardens (Teens)     |               |



Paul is conducting classes after each monthly general meeting to help people become better public speakers or **JUST** become a speaker. **This is not a commitment to speak!** Please join us and develop your speaking skills!



**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.

**Growing Ornamental Plants/Garden OR  
Growing Food Plants/Garden**

## The Gardens:

### Grandma's Pass Along Garden

Catherine Moates, 251.366.6163, memo366@att.ne  
Olivia Reinhaus, 251.458.7383, omcvea@gmail.com

### Native Garden

Open

### Shade Garden

Bob Howard, 251.423.3108, rwhoward51@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

## Did You Know?

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





## Mark your calendars for these SPECIAL EVENTS:

### Backyard Basics



#### January 27th, 2024 Agenda

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:30-10:00 am     | Check-in                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 10:00-11:00 am    | How to select trees for your backyard? Important considerations for appropriate tree selection. (Dr. Georgios Arseniou, Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist, Auburn University & ACES) |
| 11:00 am-12:00 pm | Who's tree is it and what can I do to it? The basics of Tree Law. (Mr. Joel Potter, Urban Regional Extension Agent, ACES)                                                                     |
| 12:00-12:30 pm    | Lunch                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 12:35-01:35 pm    | Creating a backyard habitat for enhancing biodiversity. (Mr. William Rowe, Regional Extension Agent, ACES)                                                                                    |
| 01:35-01:45 pm    | Break                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 01:45-02:45 pm    | Managing nuisance backyard wildlife. (Dr. Wesley Anderson, Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist, Auburn University & ACES)                                                              |

### Semmes Camellia Festival



## 2024 Alabama Master Gardeners Association State Conference



Welcome to the **2024 Alabama Master Gardeners Association State Conference**, hosted by the **Baldwin County Master Gardeners**. We are thrilled to invite you to join us for our annual gathering of gardeners, educators, and enthusiasts from across the state. This year's conference theme is "Paradise Found," We can't wait to explore the many ways we can cultivate our own little corners of paradise.

The conference will be held on **April 22nd – 24th, 2024**, at the **Daphne Civic Center** located in beautiful **Daphne, Alabama**. Over the course of

three days, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of workshops, lectures, and networking events, all focused on gardening, sustainability, and environmental stewardship.

We believe that gardening is more than just a hobby – it's a way of life. By bringing together the brightest minds in gardening and horticulture, we hope to inspire and empower our attendees to create their own little pieces of paradise- a community garden, a backyard oasis, or a thriving urban farm.

So join us in Daphne, Alabama, as we explore the many ways we can cultivate paradise in our lives and communities. We can't wait to see you there!

**To Register:** On-line registration is preferred. To register and pay on-line by credit card, click on link:

<http://c.planetreg.com/AMGA2024CONF>

NOTE: A personal PayPal account is NOT required to register on-line. PayPal is the credit card processing service and will accept VISA and MasterCard.

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## Marion Drummond Lecture Series at MBG

**What:** A lecture series honoring Marion Drummond (former Director of MBG) and Celebrating the 50th Anniversary year of Mobile Botanical Gardens

**Cost:** \$35 per event (MBG Members receive discount) or

**Season Tickets:** \$150 for the series include preferred seating and invitation to Coffee & Pastries with the Presenter.

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**Mary Palmer Dargan, Landscape Architect**  
**Couture Garden Design – May Your Landscape Fit Your Lifestyle Like A Glove**

**Saturday, February 17, 2024**

9:00am – 2:00pm

*Shape your landscape to fit your lifestyle like a tailor creates a custom design for your wardrobe. The day includes seminar, lunch, and a fun after-lunch interactive adventure in design!*

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**Kathryn Aalto, New York Times Bestselling Author**

The Natural World of Winnie-The-Pooh: A Walk Through The Forest That Inspired The 100-Acre Wood and Writing Wild: Women Poets, Ramblers, and Mavericks Who Shape How We See the Natural World

**Thursday, March 21, 2024**

9:00am – 3:00pm

Morning and afternoon book presentations with lunch included. Kathryn is an American landscape designer, historian, writer, and lecturer living in Exeter, England.

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**Carol Reese, Horticulturist and nationally-known speaker** Native Plants: Facts, Fabrications and Foibles

**Saturday, May 4, 2024**

9:00am – 3:00pm

Carol's program celebrates the many native and non-native plants that provide great beauty, durability and excellent nutrition for our beloved wildlife. The day includes the morning seminar, lunch, and a an after-lunch interactive session: Why Did My Plant Die??

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**Marianne Willburn, opinion columnist for the American Horticultural Society's The American Gardener**

Keep Calm and Garden On: Gardening in the Midst of Climate Change

**Saturday, June 22, 2024**

9:00am – 2:00pm

How can we best adapt to what is, right now, and make our gardens more resilient throughout the seasons? The day includes seminar and lunch.

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### Mission Statement

The Alabama Master Gardener Volunteer Program is an educational outreach program provided and administered by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A & M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity and employer. [www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu)





Mobile County Master Gardeners | 1070 Schillinger Rd. N., Mobile, AL 36608 251.574.8445

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