

# The Dirt | July, 2023

Mobile County Master Gardeners

## *The President's Message* by Harry Surline

There will be no General Meeting in July. Our next meeting is August 2, first Wednesday of the month. We change the meeting date from first Thursday of month to first Wednesday because the Intern Classes meet every Thursday starting in August.

**Dr. Gary Bachman**, keynote speaker at our Spring Festival, and a retired Mississippi State University Extension Horticulture professor, urban farmer, homesteader, and author has agreed to join us for our general meeting on August 2, so that all members will be able to enjoy his knowledge of gardening. He will be preparing us for fall gardening! Mark this date on your calendar. Let's all come to the meeting to give Dr. Bachman a warm MCMG welcome.

**Jackie Jenkins** held a training session for this year's intern mentors. She has gathered a large group of motivated volunteers to help the interns. The meeting was very informative and good preparation for both the new and more experienced mentors. The hours requirements hours for interns have been revised. Interns will still be required to have 50 volunteer hours in several categories. One change is the Interns must attend 2 hours of Board of Directors meetings. This is a great change as it will give the Interns insight into how the Mobile County Master Gardeners function as an organization.

Several mentors asked if they could also attend the Board of Directors meetings. The answer is YES. Because we often have 20 to 30 officers, directors and Chairs attending the Board Meetings, I would like to ask those members who want to attend to let me know 4 or 5 days before the meeting. I want to make sure you will have a chair. The small conference room is full when about 30 people attend, so we need to plan ahead.

**The Board of Directors meetings** are held on the first Tuesday of each month. This is a change in meeting dates made to be able to share a full month's financial reports with the Board.

**Dwarf Vegetables.** If you have photos of the plants you purchased at the Spring Festival Plant sale, please send them to Barbara Boone ([boonebama@live.com](mailto:boonebama@live.com)) as she is planning to showcase the vegetables in *The Dirt*. These photos may also be used in advertising our next Spring Festival plant sale. So, it is important to send in the photos. A few photos are showcased below:



### MCMG Officers

President Harry Surline  
251.605.4667  
[h.surline@gmail.com](mailto:h.surline@gmail.com)

Vice President Carol Williams  
251.367.0473  
[readingweeder72@hotmail.com](mailto:readingweeder72@hotmail.com)

Rec Secretary Karen Ruckart  
251.377.2312  
[kzruckart@gmail.com](mailto:kzruckart@gmail.com)

Corr Secretary Brenda Howard  
251.423.3108  
[ekks89tl@gmail.com](mailto:ekks89tl@gmail.com)

Treasurer Jane Finley  
251.605.0625  
[janehfinley@bellsouth.net](mailto:janehfinley@bellsouth.net)



Continued...



~~~~~Harry's Corner~~~~~

I did not get an answer to “Why is the A like a flower?” this month. If you answered and I overlooked your answer, please let me know. The answer is: Because A is followed by B(ees).

**Joke**

What’s Irish and comes out in the spring?  
Paddy O’ Furniture

**Gardening Question**

What kind of bean never grows in a garden?

Send your answer to the gardening question to [h.surline@gmail.com](mailto:h.surline@gmail.com).  
All Photo sources: Mobile County Master Gardeners.

**Editor's Note:** Yes, it's still relatively early in the year, however the Greenery Sale is the major fund raiser for MCMGs, so early attention to detail is important. **Emily Arellano** and **Paula Reeves** are heading up the sale this year. Updates for upcoming Greenery Sale planning will be made periodically in *The Dirt*.

**NEWS FROM THE HOLIDAY GREENERY SALE TEAM**

No new updates for sale planning to date except to ask for spray paint cans as indicated in the photo below. Also bamboo skewers needed. **DONATIONS GLADLY ACCEPTED!** Please choose the exact brand and color paint cans as shown. Purchase now ensures availability, possible sale prices, and the color

needed, as closer to the holidays availability and prices are subject to change.



## History of Victory Gardens by Dirt Diva

July 4th is a holiday that pays homage to celebrating our nation's independence. With that in mind, let's reminisce on historical efforts made during both world wars to provide enough produce for citizens here and soldiers abroad on all sides of the Atlantic and Pacific.

Commercial crops were diverted overseas to the troops, so posters touting Victory Gardens with captions such as "Food Will Win the War" or "Dig on for Victory" appeared frequently in civic organizations to encourage anyone with access to any size parcel of land, flower box, roof top, or anywhere else soil existed to grow produce. School age children were encouraged to do the same, prompting their parents to start planting. Not only was food shortage averted, morale was raised because citizens felt they were contributing to the war effort.

Gardens were populated with many of the same vegetables we would typically cultivate today, with the exception that many of the hybrids we grow currently were not yet available. In total, millions of gardens of various sizes existed producing millions of pounds of food.

Today we don't call produce that is donated to food banks or shelters as produce grown from a Victory Garden, but there is a certain similarity, providing food to those who have little and need much.

**Happy Independence Day!**

Sources: The History Channel, 2018  
U.S. National Archives and Records Administration



## Chronicles by Barbara Boone

Hello, fellow Master Gardeners! I hope your vegetable and flower gardens are flourishing, despite the insects that have arrived, munching away in their own vegetarian bistro. That and the upcoming heat will certainly challenge us as gardeners. By the way, would an insect describe the garden veggie experience as fine dining or a rustic dining experience?

On May 27, **Bill Fink** presented a lively talk on his gardening successes and failures at the Ben May library. He reported about 30 attendees who enthusiastically received his information. Luckily Master Gardeners heard the same presentation June 1 at the monthly MG meeting at Jon Archer. **Annette Grow** presented "Front Porches and Beyond" to about 20 attendees at the same location on June 17. Her topic focused on the ease of growing in containers on front porches and front yards.

At the monthly meeting **Earl Gochey** presented a committee summary of the Impact 100 recommendation made to date. Further follow up still to come.

**Jack LeCroy** emailed us for our ideas as goals to be implemented by MCMGs. A meeting is scheduled for July 25 for further discussion of goals submitted. Please update your calendars.

June 13 **Jackie Jenkins** facilitated mentor training for the upcoming MG class which begins August 10. Plans are in progress for an intern and mentor brunch August 3 so that interns and their respective mentors can meet face to face. Stay tuned for brunch follow up as well as information and opportunities to assist with classes such as snacks, handouts, etc.

The Extension sponsored online gardening sessions have been extremely helpful. July 15 **Jack LeCroy** presented via Zoom "Low Maintenance Landscaping." The next sessions are scheduled for July 20 and August 17, "Planning for the Fall Vegetable Garden" and "Fruit Trees for South Alabama," respectively.

### SCHEDULE ALERT!!!

Please add to your calendar the next MG General Meeting on August 2. **Gary Bachman** will be the special guest speaker that day. Gary Bachman is a retired horticulturalist and author from the Mississippi State University horticulture department. He presented on Southern Gardening YouTube and uses the Earthbox Container system in his own backyard. Gary is also a regular participant to the In the Garden

With Ron Wilson podcast as a southern gardener contributor. Think nano gardening as demonstrated at this year's Spring Festival.

No general MG meeting in July. In the meantime, stay cool and hydrated and remember, plant with love, and harvest with wonder and joy.  
/bb

## Master Gardener of the Month by Carol Williams

**Shirley Reynolds** is Master Gardener of the Month. Entering the intern class of 2022, Shirley set her goals high and completed all the hours and tasks required to certify by the Awards Banquet in December!

Shirley came to us no stranger to work as she was a pediatric nurse for 18 years and then became director of an Early Head Start program in cooperation with Auburn University here in Mobile. As she often visited the Jon Archer Center to conduct school business, she became interested in ACES and our Master Gardener volunteer organization. She has always loved flowers and plants and has collected many both in her house and her yard. Adding the education and volunteer opportunities of MCMG has increased her enthusiasm for growing things. Shirley says that her favorite volunteer work is at the Mobile Botanical Gardens. She worked with the Fall and Spring Sales and especially enjoyed working with Judy Stout and the Veggie Kids.

Both Shirley and her husband, Walter, are retired. They enjoy their blended family including their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Congratulations, Shirley, for your achievement of MG of the Month!



Master  
Gardener  
of the  
Month:

Shirley  
Reynolds



From the Greenhouse:

Gardening ABCs  
by Dirt Diva

**Editor's Note:** This month FTG focuses on gardening terms, hence ABCs, but not necessarily in the sing song A-B-C order. So, the next time you encounter the following terms, you will be aware of their meanings. Read on:

**Brix-**

Brix is an indices measurement of the sugar (sucrose) content in a plant's leaves and is a predictor of a plant's



ability to ward off 4 different groups of insect pests: grasshopper, chewing, sucking, and aphid. A reading of 12 or above as measured by a refractometer is considered to be a good reading. Brix values are commonly used in the citrus and grape growing industries but also used across the plant world. See top photo with the refractometer device.

**Cloche-**

A cloche is a cover (usually glass or plastic and usually bell-shaped) for plants to protect them from cold temperatures. See photo #2.



**Goth Gardens-**

Most people associate Goth with a culture that finds beauty in things dark, somber, and mysterious. You might visualize young people wearing black clothing and heavily blackened eyes and lips. Now mentally and visually make the transition to the garden where gardeners are growing very dark almost black or dark purple plants. Certain annuals, perennials, and shrubs fit the Gothic themed description well with either dark foliage or flowers such as Heuchera, and petunia varieties. Note that the extreme opposite of the Goth Garden is the Moon Garden with all white plants. See photo #3.



**Tuteur-**

A tuteur is a tall, usually four-sided structure with a wide base and a pointed top that supports climbing or tall plants. These structures are also called obelisks. See bottom photo.

Source: Photos B. Boone  
National Garden Bureau webinar 2023

*In the Loop*  
by Theresa Davidson

| Event<br>(Category) | Date/Time | Contact(s) |
|---------------------|-----------|------------|
|---------------------|-----------|------------|

No Meeting in July!!

MCMG August Meeting: Dr. Gary Bachman, our keynote speaker for the Spring Festival, returns! (CEU for speaker, usually 1 hour; .5 hour for MGA meeting)

NOTICE!! Meetings change to Wednesdays in August and run through November! Wednesday, August 2, 10:00 am, Social time: 9:30 am

President: Harry Surline, 251.605.4667  
h.surline@gmail.com

August Board of Directors Meeting (MGA Administration)

Tuesday, August 1, 10:00 am

President: Harry Surline, 251.605.4667  
h.surline@gmail.com

Mobile Botanical Gardens Plant Sales on the Plaza (Community Special Project)

Assist with Plant Sales on the Plaza-outside the Gift Shop Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10:00-12:00 & 12:00-2:00

Theresa Davidson, MBG Volunteer Coordinator, 251.510.4961, theresadavidson80@gmail.com

Leadership Training: A statewide initiative for any MG interested in leadership roles

Ben May Main Library 701 Government Street Monday & Tuesday August 7 & 8

Jack LeCroy, 251.574.8445, jml0003@auburn.edu

First Friday at the Gardens: Jack LeCroy-Happy Houseplants (CEU's)

Mobile Botanical Gardens July 7, 10:30-12:00

To register: email-acashin@mbgardens.org

First Friday at the Gardens: Jack LeCroy-Planning the Fall Garden (CEU's)

Mobile Botanical Gardens August 4, 10:30-12:00

To register: email-acashin@mbgardens.org

Assist during the MG Master Gardener Class (Manage/Teach/Assist Intern Class)

Thursdays, August 10-November 16 Prepare snacks, interact with class members, set up and take down tables: 2-3 times during the duration of the class

Dorothy White 251.895.3710 haroldanddorothy@bellsouth

Prepare Snacks for the MG General Meetings (MGA/AMGA Administration)

Bring a snack to the monthly meeting

Lydia Criswell, 251.610.5543 criswells2@mchsi.com

Monthly Garden Zoom Class (CEU)

Diane Anthony, jda0002@aces.edu, 251.574.8445

16th Annual Go Run 5K, 1 Mile Fun Run, benefitting Mitchell Cancer Center Gynecological Research

Saturday, September 16, 8:00 am- 11:00 am Need 3 Volunteers to man a booth and distribute MG info, handouts, and seed giveaways THEME: Gardening- More than a Hobby

Barbara Boone, 251.680.8263, boonebama@live.com

|                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Orchid Society Meeting<br/>New attendees welcome! Info available on FB: Mobile Area Orchid Society (CEU for the presentation)</p>                                                                | <p>4th Sunday every month (except June &amp; December), 2:00 PM, 1260 Dauphin St.</p>                        | <p>Lynn Coleman<br/>251.622.3939,<br/>lynncolman411@gmail.com</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p>Gulf Coast Herb Society (CEU for (Presentation)</p>                                                                                                                                              | <p>4th Tuesday every month, except July and November; 5:30 pm; Mobile Botanical Gardens Botanical Center</p> | <p>Beth Poates,<br/>251.342.6508,<br/>poates57@hotmail.com</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p>Mobile Japanese Garden Planning and Touring, 700 Forest Hill Drive, Beautify this community and educational garden and help teach college students Community Gardening (Community Landscape)</p> | <p>Weekly: Mondays and Fridays, and As Needed</p>                                                            | <p>Don Fry 251.422.8466<br/>don.fry@comcast.net<br/>YouTube tour:<br/><a href="https://bit.ly/3bhyKWA">https://bit.ly/3bhyKWA</a><br/>Website:<br/><a href="https://mobilejapanesegarden.com">https://mobilejapanesegarden.com</a> Facebook:<br/><a href="https://facebook.com/mobilejapanesegarden">https://facebook.com/mobilejapanesegarden</a><br/>Twitter:<br/><a href="https://mobile.twitter.com/mobjapangarden">https://mobile.twitter.com/mobjapangarden</a></p> |
| <p>DREAM GARDEN: Join a Garden Room (Education/Demonstration)</p>                                                                                                                                   | <p>Contact a Garden Leader or Marsha Stolz to join a team. Volunteer and work as needed.</p>                 | <p>Marsha Stolz<br/>251.689.5993<br/>marshastolz@msn.com</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <p>Grandma's Pass Along Garden (Education/Demonstration)</p>                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                              | <p>Catherine Moates<br/>251.366.6163<br/>memo366@att.net &amp; Olivia Reinhaus<br/>251.458.7383<br/>omcvea@gmail.com</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p>Native Garden (Education/Demonstration)</p>                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                              | <p>Melissa Nichols<br/>251.680.7779<br/>indigigardener@gmail.com</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <p>Shade Garden (Education/Demonstration)</p>                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                              | <p>Bob Howard 251.423-3108<br/>rhoward51@gmail.com</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <p>Vegetable Garden (Education/Demonstration)</p>                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                              | <p>"Marsha Stolz<br/>251.689.5993<br/>marshastolz@msn.com &amp; Mary Ann Days<br/>251.391.5806<br/>masdays@comcast.net"</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <p>Herb Garden (Education/Demonstration)</p>                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                              | <p>Mary Ann Days<br/>J251.391.5806masdays@comcast.net</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |



Cottage Garden &  
Formal Garden  
(Education/Demonstration)

Glenda Eady  
251.342.4248  
jerryeady2@comcast.net

Building Garden

Marsha Stolz  
251.689.5993  
marshastolz@msn.com

Community Gardens

Carol Dorsey  
251.209.3483  
bcdorsey63@gmail.com

Mobile Medical  
Museum: Robert  
Thrower Medicinal  
Garden

Carol Dorsey  
251.209.3483  
bcdorsey63@gmail.com

Grow More Give More

Ambassadors Needed!

Carol Dorsey  
251.209.3483  
bcdorsey63@gmail.com

Therapeutic Horticulture

Carol Dorsey  
251.209.3483  
bcdorsey63@gmail.com

Classroom in the Forest  
(youth programs)

Mary Jo Broussard  
251.574.8445  
mjb0054@auburn.edu

Speakers Bureau  
(program or workshop  
for public)

Paul Ezelle  
251.402.1798  
paulezelle@gmail.com

Office Manager/Phone  
Lines

Cindy Findlay  
251.786.4245  
cndyfindly@att.net

Updates on the  
Volunteer tab or  
Calendar tab at Master  
Gardener Service  
Report Login  
(acesagmg.site)



## Connections

In addition to the events and activities highlighted **In the Loop**, occasionally there are requests made to which Master Gardeners and interns can additionally respond.

Please note the following:

- Need items for raffles. Contact Jackie Jenkins-251.422.6675  
jjackiejenkins108@gmail.com
- Donated coffee mugs for Cuppa Cheer for the 2023 Greenery Sale. Contact  
Peggy Wright-251.679.2985 (c) 251.463.4230pwright2273@comcast.
- Need snacks at monthly MG meetings. Lydia Criswell 251.610.5543

### 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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