



## MOBILE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

# The Dirt

## President's Message by Julie Conrey

A warm welcome to members of the 2022 Mobile County Master Gardener class! We hope you are settling in nicely and enjoying the camaraderie and unique learning opportunities this class provides. Word is that a 'special guest' snuck into the classroom on August 11. (see page 7) Although I'm sure the experience was a little unsettling for many, it's thankfully uncommon. I understand the intruder was apprehended and re-settled to an area that is more to its liking, so all turned out well.

Plans are underway for our 30th-anniversary celebration. Its set to take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, September 23, in Bernheim Hall at the Ben May Library in downtown Mobile. Hopefully, you have received your invitation to the celebration via email. Certified MGs may purchase commemorative anniversary t-shirts for \$15. Also, we're asking everyone who plans to attend to RSVP so we can plan food for the event. MG Cindy Findlay is taking care of t-shirt orders and RSVPs. She can be reached at 251-786-4245, or [cindyfindly1@comcast.net](mailto:cindyfindly1@comcast.net). We are looking for six MGs to participate in the Stump the Master Gardener Contest that will take place during the celebration. It's a fun way to review the information you already know and help all of us learn. All of us will cheer you on so please don't be shy about volunteering!

VP Harry Surline is busy planning the MG Fall Bus Trip. Our annual bus trip has been on hiatus the last two years due to Covid, but it is on the schedule this year! During a typical year, MGs take a nice bus trip to an out-of-town horticulture entity and a nursery. Bus tickets are typically inexpensive and include lunch. The bus trip is a great way to spend time together and get to know one another. Please monitor your MG email for destination and ticket information.

Dream Garden Chair Marsha Stolz needs three volunteers to take care of the Native Garden. Due to ongoing health issues, longtime Native Garden Chair Elise Williams is unable to volunteer right now.

If you would like to learn about native plants and get in our beautiful DREAM Garden, please reach out to Marsha Stolz at 251-689-5993, or [marshastolz@msn.com](mailto:marshastolz@msn.com).

### Inside this issue

Chronicles.....	2
MGOM.....	3
30th Anniversary Party .....	4
September Member Meeting.....	5
2023 Dues.....	6
Points of Interest.....	7
In the Loop.....	8-9



Cont. on page 2



## Chronicles by Barbara Boone

The summer months are waning, and we know this because children are climbing into school-bound buses. While youngsters were plying parents for the coolest backpack, we forgot to send the weatherman the change in season memo because it is still hot and still raining. For us gardeners this means checking the temperature routinely, listening for thunder, and dodging rainstorms so we can start the next seasonal garden. July was an off month for MCMG in general, so we had additional garden propagation time and time to ramp up for the fall.

July 7 brought Beau Brodbeck to JAC to speak about Hurricane Resilient Trees to about 30 attendees. His presentation focused on the following key points: challenges to urban forests, why trees fail during storms, factors that contribute to tree resilience, and how to plan and design landscapes for storms in general and wind specifically.

On July 13, 4-H leader Adeline Quintana, in cooperation with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Mobile, local bankers, and MG members, learned about housing expenses, childcare, insurance, automobile purchases, etc., through a program called "Your Money, Your Life." Forty teen attendees left with a new sense of life skills beyond the scope of the latest video game or Tik Tok post.

The Public Information committee held its monthly meeting on July 26 via Zoom. Carol Dorsey updated the group reporting on a grant from AARP for sidewalks to be built at the Mobile Medical Museum, allowing for more inclusive visits to the museum. Carol also reported on the Taylor Park summer program which focused on conflict

resolution for school-aged attendees.

The August MCMG meeting was held on August 3 at JAC where the latest Master Gardener of the Month, Mary Townsley (Class 2021), was announced. Congratulations to Mary!

Topping off the August meeting was an excellent Camellia presentation from Forrest Latta. Camellias are an important horticultural asset in Mobile, both historically and economically, due to several early key growers. K. Sawada, Robert Rubal, and Bobby Green, all introducing specimens to Mobile which originated in China and Japan, migrated to Europe, and then to the U.S. for us to enjoy.

Jackie Jenkins, coordinator of new MG mentors and mentees, sent out new intern assignments and plans for the Intern Brunch held on August 4 at JAC. Her team decorated for the brunch, and according to many interns, was enjoyed by all. Jack LeCroy moderated the event, providing an overview to the new interns of upcoming class requirements which started on August 11.

Plans for the upcoming greenery sale fundraiser are still ongoing. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements for bow-making, the Pinecone Party, and the greenery sale. Don't forget the Dream Garden (on Thursdays now). Lots of opportunities for volunteer hours for all!

Have a great month! As always, plant with love, harvest with joy!

Barbara

## President's Message *Continued from page 1*

From festivals, to Market in the Park, to a seminar at Zimlich's Patio and Garden, plus a presentation at MBG specifically designed for MGs just prior to its Fall Plant Sale, lots of volunteer opportunities and learning experiences await Mobile County Master Gardeners this fall. Please check your emails, grab a friend and help educate Mobile County residents on sound, research-based, gardening practices.

Atta boys this month go out to our Extension Agent Jack Lecroy and Extension Secretary Diane Anthony. Thank you to both for always looking out for MGs and helping whenever, and wherever they are able. We are all so thankful and blessed that you are on staff at the ACES Extension Office in Mobile.

Take good care,

Julie



## MGOM Mary Townsley August 2022 by Harry Surline

Our Master Gardener of the Month is Mary Townsley, a member of the Class of 2021. Mary has always liked gardening and Judy Stout had talked with her about Master Gardeners when they were at the University of South Alabama.

Mary wanted to learn about gardening and how to do it better. She found that learning something new opens doors to new things to learn. She enjoys the interaction with the community, both Master Gardeners and the people she meets during volunteer activities. Mary finds the Master Gardeners have a diverse range of interests and enjoys the interchange with people and learning from them. Mary's skills with a computer have gotten her involved in writing instructions and helping others learn how to use the systems used by MGs and interns. She is currently helping write instructions for Canvas which is a programs interns will use for lessons and tests. She has also written instructions for interns on how to sign-in to record hours. She currently works with the Public Information Committee and plans to continue in the future



Mary Townsley MGOM  
August 2022

Since becoming an intern and Master Gardener she does more reading on plants and bugs. She is currently researching agave and succulents. Hopefully she will make a presentation to us in the future on succulents. When she is not doing research, she is baking bread or biscotti. Mary likes weeding her garden. She finds it calming and allows her to think without interruption.

If you want to know about Antarctica or the Caribbean, ask Mary as she had taken cruises to those places. She now wants to see more of the Arctic, including Greenland and Iceland. She is a world traveler.

Mary, congratulations on being our Master Gardener of Month for August .



Jack talks ~~dirt~~ soil to the  
Master Gardener Interns.



You are invited to:

# Mobile County Master Gardeners 30th

## Anniversary Party

Friday, September 23, 2022

10:00 to 1:00

Bernheim Hall, Ben May Library

701 Government St., Mobile AL (Scott St. entrance)

*Speakers*

*Refreshments - Light hors d'oeuvres*

*Stump the Master Gardener Contest, Mobile vs. Baldwin!*

RSVP by September 7, to:

Cindy Findlay, text 251-786-4245 or e-mail

[cndyfndly1@comcast.net](mailto:cndyfndly1@comcast.net)



We have postponed our September 7, meeting and tour of Cornerstone Gardens due to expected bad weather. It will be rescheduled in February 2023.

---

## SEPTEMBER MEMBER MEETING

**Wednesday September 7, 2022**

**9:30 Social - 10:00 Meeting**

**Jon Archer Center**

**1070 Schillinger Rd. N. Mobile AL**

**Speaker: Surprise!**

**Information: 251-574-8445**

---



## The Tea Maze Trail

*a whimsical and fun journey for children*

***Completion: October 14, 2022***



story of the *Camellia sinensis* tea plant will be told through interpretive but whimsical elements in and around the Tea Maze Trail.

The trail connects the Tea Maze to Magnolia Hill and features a variety of path materials and details designed to engage children and their families in a sensory journey. The interior of our hillside maze will feature a Little Free Library and child-size seating (for future *Story Times in the Maze* beginning this fall). The trail that leads from the Maze towards Magnolia Hill will have a small bridge (worthy of a troll below) and a 20' diameter wooden version of the maze will allow kids to see & experience the design that they navigated in the real tea maze. And, of course, the

**We will need volunteers to assist us beginning the last week of August.**

## 2023 Mobile County Master Gardener Dues by Bob Howard

MCMGA started accepting 2023 membership dues as of August 1<sup>st</sup>. To date, 6 members have already submitted their dues and several more have requested delivery information – so we are off to a good start. The annual dues are still only \$25.00 – the first \$10 of that amount goes to the Alabama Master Gardener Association, and the remaining \$15.00 goes to our local organization

You can get a jumpstart on supporting our local organization by paying your dues early –

1. Pay in person during a regular monthly meeting; or
2. Send a check for your dues by U S Mail to

Bob Howard

4209 Woodcliff Dr. S

Mobile, AL 36693; or

3. **This year you can also pay online!** If you want to take advantage of this easy way to pay, just

Go to <https://www.mobilecountymastergardeners.org/>

Pull down the “More” menu on the right-hand end of the toolbar (it’s right before the Facebook Logo)

Click on “MG-ONLY Membership Dues”

Enter your information and make the payment

Please send me an email at [rwhoward51@gmail.com](mailto:rwhoward51@gmail.com) to let me know you paid online – it just lets me know when I need to get to work, but you will have done your part. Be sure to let me know if you have any changes to your contact information – address, phone number, email, etc.

If you choose to pay in person or by mail, your check should be made payable to

**Mobile County Master Gardener Association** or just, **MCMGA**.

If you pay more than the stated dues amount, just make a note in the bottom left corner of the check regarding your gift.

***Be sure to include your current address, phone, and email information.***

Name

---

Address

---

Phone

---

E-mail

---

D/O/B – for *Emeritus* designation

---

Master Gardeners who are at least 80 years old by Dec. 31, 2022, may request “*Emeritus*” status – if you have not already done so in a previous year. This exempts you from paying local dues, (\$5) but if you wish to continue being a member of the State Association, please include your birth date with the information requested above and send it to me. You can do so via email if you wish at [www.rwhoward51@gmail.com](mailto:www.rwhoward51@gmail.com) or call or text me at 251-423-2605 (be sure to include your name if you text.).

Bob Howard, Membership Chairman



## Points of Interest

### Mobile County Master Gardener

30th Anniversary Celebration

September 23, 2022

Commemorative T-Shirt

Order Online

[www.mobilecountymastergardeners.org](http://www.mobilecountymastergardeners.org)

Click on MORE then SHOP

Certified Mobile County Master Gardeners only

\$15

Order deadline: September 7, 2022



Something new at the 2022 Greenery Sale for that last minute gift that says "Happy Holidays." Contact Brenda Howard to give him a name. Winner receives a free arrangement.

[eeeks89tl@gmail.com](mailto:eeeks89tl@gmail.com) 251-423-3108

## Welcome Class of 2022

This baby brown snake was found in the middle of the auditorium floor at the start of the first week of the 2022 Mobile County Master Gardener class. Possibly arriving in one of the many plant gifts the students mentors had provided, it created quite a stir.

Don Fry helped identify and relocate it to the forest behind the Mobile Japanese Garden.

A Brown Snake, one of the 37 species of non-venomous snakes in Alabama. *Storeria dekayi*, commonly known as De Kay's brown snake, De Kay's snake, and simply the brown snake (along with many others), is a small non-venomous species of snake in the family Colubridae. The species is native to North America and Central America.



## In the Loop by Carol Williams

Date	Description	Contact
Wednesday, September 7 10:00 AM	<b>MCMG Monthly Meeting</b>  Tour of Cornerstone Gardens <b>1066 Government Street, Mobile</b> Designer, Host & Guide: Vaughan Drinkard, JD, MCMG	Julie Conrey 314.799.8500 julieconrey@gmail.com Confirm with Julie by September 6.  CEUs
<b>MCMG Helpline</b>  Thurs. Sept. 29, Fri. Sept. 30	<b>Volunteers Needed to Work from Home</b>  Two MCMGs are needed each day to reply to email messages from the public asking for gardening information.	Jack LeCroy JML0003@aces.edu Sign up on our <b>Volunteer Page</b> . <a href="#">Master Gardener Service Report Login (acesagmg.site)</a>
8:00-5:00  Saturday September 17 10:00 AM	<b>Gardening for Health Booth</b>  University of South Alabama, SGA Pavilion Volunteer in Info Booth after the race	Barbara Boone 251-680-8263 boonebama@live.com (Municipal Event)
Friday September 23 10:00:00 AM-1:00 PM	<b>30th Anniversary of MCMG Celebration</b>  Ben May Library 701 Government St., Mobile 36602	<b>Food and Beverages served.</b> <b>Stump the Master Gardener competition.</b>  Julie Conrey 314.799.8500 julieconrey@gmail.com
Wednesday, October 5 9:30 AM	<b>MCMG Monthly Meeting@Jon Archer Center</b>  <b>Social Time</b>  <b>Business Meeting</b>	<b>President:</b> Julie Conrey 314.799.8500 juliecon-
10:00 AM	<b>Guest Speaker: Emily Dent, Horticulture Teacher at Mary G. Montgomery HS, Semmes, AL</b>	<b>V. Pres.</b> Harry Surline 251.605.4667
10:30 AM	<b>Topic: Horticulture Education at MGM</b>	<b>Treas.</b> Linda Kloter 251.209.6425 lkloter5@gmail.com  CEUs
Tuesday, October 11 10:00am	<b>Fall Flower and Container Workshop</b>  Zimlich's Garden and Patio Center 2650 Dauphin Street	Julie Conrey 314.799.8500 julieconrey@gmail.com Designers Molly Dickinson and Sherry Melton Free except cost of your own choice of blooms and soil  CEUs
<b>Saturdays</b> October 15, 22, 29 November 5, 12, 19 7:30 AM-Noon	<b>Market in the Park</b>  Place: Cathedral Square 300 Conti Street, Mobile, AL 36602  Share gardening information with the Public	Bob Howard 251.459.0730 rwhoward51@gmail.com (Choose a two-hour shift or all morning.)  Community Event
Friday, October 21- Saturday, October 22	<b>Gulf Coast Camellia Society Conference</b>  Mobile Botanical Garden & Bellingrath Gardens Volunteers Needed	<a href="#">Kenneth Helton 251.459.5555 kehelton@comcast.net</a>  Community Special Project



## In the Loop by Carol Williams *continued from page 6*

Date	Description	Contact
<b>Mondays, Thursdays, Saturdays</b>	<b>Japanese Garden of Mobile Planning and Touring</b> Place: 700 Forest Hill Drive, Mobile Beautifying this community educational garden.	Don Fry 251.422.8466 don.fry@comcast.net YouTube tour: <a href="https://bit.ly/3bhyKWA">https://bit.ly/3bhyKWA</a> Website: <a href="https://mobilejapanesegarden.com/">https://mobilejapanesegarden.com/</a>
	<b>Mondays and Thursdays 12:30-3:30 pm</b> <b>Saturdays: Help teach students Community Gardening</b>	Facebook: <a href="https://facebook.com/">https://facebook.com/</a> Twitter: <a href="https://mobile.twitter.com/mobjapangarden">https://mobile.twitter.com/mobjapangarden</a>
	<b>Community Gardens &amp; Horticulture Therapy Out In The Garden</b> <b>Classroom in the Forest</b> <b>Speakers Bureau</b>	Carol Dorsey 251.209.3483 bcdorsey63@gmail.com Brenda Bolton 251.476.1068 brendabolton310@gmail.com Mary Jo Broussard 251.574.8445 mjb0054@auburn.edu Julie Conrey 314.799.8500 julieconrey@gmail.com
<b>Contact a Garden Leader</b>	<b>DREAM GARDEN</b> <i>Join a Garden Room</i>	<a href="mailto:MarshaStolz@msn.com">Marsha Stolz 251.689.5993 marshastolz@msn.com</a>
<b>or Marsha Stolz to join a</b>	1. Grandma's Pass Along Garden	Catherine Moates 251.366.6163 memo366@att.net &
	2. Native Garden ( <a href="#">Three volunteers needed ASAP</a> )	Olivia Reinhaus 251.458.7383 omcvea@gmail.com
	3. Shade Garden	<a href="mailto:MarshaStolz@msn.com">Marsha Stolz 251.689.5993 marshastolz@msn.com</a>
	4. Vegetable Garden	<a href="mailto:BobHoward51@gmail.com">Bob Howard 251.423-3108 rhoward51@gmail.com</a>
	5. Herb Garden	Marsha Stolz 251.689.5993 marshastolz@msn.com Mary Ann Days 251.391.5806 <a href="mailto:masdays@comcast.net">masdays@comcast.net</a>
	6. Cottage Garden & Formal Garden	Jackie Jenkins 251.422.6675 jjackiejenkins108@gmail.com &
	7. Building Garden	Mary Ann Days 251.391.5806 <a href="mailto:masdays@comcast.net">masdays@comcast.net</a> <a href="mailto:GlendaEady2@comcast.net">Glenda Eady 251.342.4248 jerryeady2@comcast.net</a>
<b>Updates on the Volunteer tab or Calendar tab at</b>		<a href="mailto:MarshaStolz@msn.com">Marsha Stolz 251.689.5993 marshastolz@msn.com</a>
<b><a href="#">Master Gardener Service Report Login</a></b>		

# MOBILE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Mobile County Office  
1070 Schillinger Rd. N.  
Mobile AL 36608-5298



## Officers

President	Julie Conrey '19
1st Vice President	Harry Surline '18
Recording Secretary	Emily Arellano '18
Corresponding Secretary	Brenda Howard '19
Treasurer	Linda Kloter '15
Past President	Elise Williams '15

## Board of Directors

	Term Expires
Carol Dorsey '16	2022
Ken Helton '18	2022
Ellen Kilough '17	2023
Lynda Williams '16	2023
Glenda Eady '09	2024
Jackie Jenkins '11	2024

## Appointees

Newsletter Editor	Alice Marty '07
Volunteer Activity Coordinator	Carol Williams '16
Volunteer Hours Coordinator	Emily Arellano '18
2021 Class Representative	Mary Townsley, Cele Cameron
ACES Advisor	Jack LeCroy

## Mission Statement:

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

Alice Marty will publish The Dirt on the 25th of each month. Articles for inclusion must be received by the 15th of the month and may be submitted to Alice Marty MCdirt@comcast.net or the Extension Office.



The Alabama Cooperative Extension System  
(Alabama A&M University and Auburn University)  
is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

[www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu)