

MOBILE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

The Dirt

July 2022

President's Message by Julie Conrey

As I sit typing this message, the expected high temperature tomorrow in Mobile is 101 degrees! I trust everyone is staying hydrated and out of the most intense heat of the day. It may be time to try one of Debbie Boutelier's herbal beverages to beat the heat! Her recipe booklet of tasty herbal concoctions was emailed to all MGs after the Alabama State Master Gardener Conference in early May. If you make one or more of them, please let me know!

Please remember that we do not have a July general meeting. July is a month for rest and relaxation, and I hope all MGs take every opportunity to recharge their batteries for a busy fall!

Following are a few items/events to keep in mind:

Due to the 2022 Master Gardener Class beginning on Thursdays, our Mobile County Master Gardener general meetings will be on Wednesdays beginning in August. VP Harry Surline has great presentations lined up for us.

Dr. Beau Brodbeck will be speaking to MGs about Hurricane Resilient Trees on Thursday, July 7, at 11 a.m. in the large auditorium at the JAC. If you volunteer in any community event where you are speaking to Mobilians, or volunteering for MBG plant sales, I strongly encourage you to attend his presentation. It is free and open to the public. What is planted, and where it is planted, matters a great deal when you live in a hurricane zone, as we all do. Dr. Brodbeck's presentation will last about 45 minutes, with questions afterwards. Please bring your lunch and join other MGs after the talk.

Forrest Latta will be our guest speaker on Wednesday, August 3. Mr. Latta is a corporate defense lawyer with over 30 years of experience helping clients defend their products, their services, and their brand in our courts. He is also a camellia expert, and will be speaking about his efforts to promote camellias as the State Flower of Alabama. Social hour begins at 9:30 a.m.

(Continued on page 6)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Chronicles	2
MGOM	3
Garden Calendar July	4-5
In the Loop	7
4th of July Lily	9
MBG Events	10
Hurricane Resilient Trees	11
Lowe's Seed Donation	12
Flowerwood Photos	13



www.Mobilecountymastergardeners.org



Home Garden Questions?

We've got answers!
Call the Master Gardener Helpline
1-877-252-GROW (4769)
toll free



Hello, fellow MCMGs! Every “chronicler” needs a break now and then. Such is the case of Emily Arellano, the mistress of Chronicles, who has other MG responsibilities to include the upcoming MG intern class. As a 2021 MG class attendee and recent certified MG, I can only guess the amount of input needed for the 2022 class. So, let me introduce myself as the Chronicles sous chef or the stand-in actor in the wings filling in for the Broadway star as needed.

On those hot days when working outside is too daunting, a cool option is to join in the Alabama Garden Chat, a free webinar that discusses gardens and lawncare. This webinar occurs Wednesdays at 2:00 pm. Join as follows: www.aces.edu/go/asywebinars.

Leslie Maycock hosted “Out in the Garden” at her home on May 17. Leslie is a MG who moved to Mobile from South Carolina, and was in the 2021 class. She has a lovely garden to show off her hard work.

MG field trips are fun and educational. MGs had the opportunity to carpool to Navarre, FL on May 19 to visit Connie’s Garden. Connie showcased her burgeoning market flower garden located in her backyard and demonstrated the techniques she has learned since she became a grower supplying flowers to local florists.

Julie Conrey appeared on Fox10 to promote becoming a Master Gardener. She made a solid impact on the public because JAC received calls during her presentation.

Another MG field trip was held on June 2 at industry leader Flowerwood Nursery in Loxley, AL. If you travel south on Highway 59, Flowerwood is visible right off the interstate. What is not visible is the entirety of 1,000 acres Flowerwood covers in Loxley, parts of Florida, and Louisiana. Employing over 600 employees, \$100 million in annual sales provides a huge economic impact on the local economy according to CEO Ellis Ollinger. Riding in air-conditioned vans, MGs learned that Flowerwood not only propagates plants for sale throughout key markets in the South, but also produces Encore azaleas, has its own trucking company, and recently implemented direct plant sales. *(Photos on page 13)*

Prior to the tour of Flowerwood, the Master Gardener of the Month was announced. Congratulations to Cindy Findlay!

The Speaker’s Bureau recently had a meeting to encourage MGs to become available for those in the community who want gardening information either through Zoom or in person. Jack Lecroy recently sent out a link to access Power-Points in the system to be used. To access: <https://www.acesagmg.site/> then click on MG library and then click on the MG catalog button located on page right.

Congratulations to recent newly certified MGs: **Bill Fink, Marion Platt, Roman Balaban, and Jes Gearing.**

The Greenery Sales committee held a meeting May 23 to discuss the Greenery Sales for 2022. Dates and times for all activities and information related to this project will be forthcoming as November and December approach.

Please note the volunteer opportunities available to MCMGs. Market in the Park is held on Thursdays and Saturdays. Mobile Botanical Garden is another volunteer opportunity. Contact information for both is listed under Volunteer on the Extension website.

By now you are experiencing full on hot weather, which according to the calendar, is still supposed to be Spring with moderate temps, but we already have temps in the 90s. Rain in your neighborhood does not mean everyone’s rain gauge registers the same amount, but as you know when it rains in Mobile, it RAINS! Predicted storms this season range from 14 to 21 named storms of which 6 to 10 could become hurricanes with winds from 74 to 111 mph or higher. **Spoiler alert:** with this in mind, please mark on your calendar the upcoming class on July 7 at 11:00 AM at JAC on hurricane resilient trees. This sounds like timely information.

Please enjoy your summer! As always, plant with love...harvest with joy.

Barbara

Master Gardener of the Month - Cindy Finlay - May 2022

3

by Harry Surline

Our Master Gardener of the Month Cindy Findlay is a member of the class of 2021. Cindy is a retired Operating Room Nurse. She worked with Vickie Tindle and Sharon Chambliss who introduced her to Master Gardeners. Cindy is a long time native of South Alabama who was born at Providence Hospital, grew up in Fairhope, and returned to Mobile.

She didn't know what to expect by becoming a Master Gardener. Her initial expectations were to be able to grow house plants and flowers. She said she has exceeded her expectations as she now has a gorgeous yard and plants blooming everywhere. She was involved with the Taylor Park project as an intern and found the interns developed a camaraderie among themselves which has continued as they become Master Gardeners. She has found that she has learned a lot more by volunteering .



Cindy Findlay with Chloe and Melody

Cindy said she has learned much more than she had expected and is excited about the prospect of learning more as she participates in future Master Gardener functions. Cindy likes to work in the Dream Garden and is currently looking forward to being involved in the Pinecone Party. She is excited about being a mentor for this year's intern class

Cindy has what she calls the "Findlay Farm", three cats, a doodle dog named Chloe and her buddy Melody. Her cats are excellent mole catchers and are forever bringing them to her door. She likes to relax in the sun by her pool and likes to read. She was planning to go to Italy just before Covid-19 shut down travel, so she is looking forward to making the trip when it is safe again.

Cindy, congratulations on being Mobile County Master Gardener of the Month.



Alabama Gardener's Calendar – July

Fruits and Nuts

- Protect figs and other ripening fruit from birds.

Shrubs

- Continue to root shrub cuttings until late in the month and mulch to keep soil moist. Remove faded blooms promptly from crape myrtle and other summer-blooming plants.

Lawns

- Apply 1 pound nitrogen per 1,000 square feet to all warm-season lawn types: bermudagrass, centipede grass, St. Augustine grass, and zoysia grass.
- Mow often (5 to 10 days) to remove just 1/3 the grass height at each mowing. Water lawns as needed (grayish color or curling leaf blades).

Roses

- Keep roses healthy and actively growing.
 - Apply fertilizer.
- Wash off foliage to prevent burning if any fertilizer falls on plants.

Annuals and Perennials

- Water as needed to keep plants active. Deadhead or cut back for later summer blooms.

Bulbs

- Plant iris and spider lilies late this month.

Miscellaneous

- Keeping flowers, shrubs, trees, and lawns healthy is the major task this month.
- Observe closely for insects and diseases. Water as plants indicate need.

(Continued on page 5)

Alabama Gardener's Calendar – July

(Continued from page 4)

Vegetable Seeds

- **Whole state:** Plant pumpkins for fall harvest. Continue plantings of beans, southern peas, squash, and cucumber.
- **North:** Plant cabbage, carrots, and cauliflower. Wait until late July to plant beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, collards, and kohlrabi, or start them in flats for transplant later.
- **South and Central:** Start seeds in flats for August and September transplants, including beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, radishes, and spinach.

Vegetable Transplants

- **Whole state:** Plant a second season of tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant for fall harvest.
- North:** Plant certified seed potatoes for Irish and red-skinned varieties in late July.

Questions?

Call the Master Gardener Helpline at (877) 252-4769. A Master Gardener Extension volunteer is waiting to answer your call.



Kerry Smith, *Extension Associate, Horticulture*, **Frances Sledge**, *Horticulture Intern Auburn University*. Originally prepared by **Dave Williams**, *former Extension Horticulturist*, and **Ron Shumack**, *former Extension Horticulturist*.

For more information, contact your county Extension office. Visit www.aces.edu/directory.

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New May 2020, ANR-2619

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www.aces.edu

President's Message *(Continued from page 1)*

As usual, we will have a raffle, Master Gardener merchandise will be sold and Harry will present Master Gardener of the Month for July and August. We can't wait to be together again!

We are opening the Dues Portal on the Mobile County Master Gardener website in August. You will be able to go on our website in August and pay 2023 dues of \$25. Every year dues collection lasts about six months or so. Let's really try to wrap up our dues collection by the end of 2022.

Please keep in mind that if you can donate extra money to offset the dues of a financially challenged Master Gardener, we welcome your contribution. These extra funds are kept separate and will help a few MGs in need. If you are financially unable to pay your 2023 dues, please contact Bob Howard at 251-423-2605. You can also email him at rwhoward51@gmail.com. All conversations are confidential.

The average cost of a gallon of midgrade gasoline in Mobile is \$4.57. At the last Board of Directors meeting, we discussed how to avoid having multiple meetings per week at the JAC. Our suggestions are to stack meetings at times when most MGs will be at the JAC, such as monthly meeting days. Please remember that although it may be a little loud, groups can always meet on the stage if necessary. Hosting ZOOM meetings is a viable option too. To organize a ZOOM meeting, please reach out to Jack LeCroy about a week before you need a ZOOM link. Another possible alternative is to meet somewhere in the middle of where your committee members live. Please keep these ideas in mind as we head into the busy fall season.

On Wednesday, September 7, Mobile County Master Gardeners are invited to meet at Cornerstone Gardens, 1066 Government Street. Master Gardener Vaughan Drinkard, JD, will speak to us about how the garden is designed and will walk us through this peaceful paradise located on the edge of Downtown Mobile. If you are attending, please RSVP to Julie Conrey so Vaughan will know how many chairs to have on hand. Please RSVP no later than Tuesday, September 6 to either julieconrey@gmail.com, or text or email me at 314-799-8500.

Our 30th anniversary celebration is scheduled to take place at 10 a.m., on Friday, September 23, at the Ben May Library. Bonnie Plants has donated \$400 to help offset costs, and I am working with a beverage provider. We're still planning to have a 'Stump the Master Gardener Contest.' Please stay tuned to your emails for upcoming information and check the volunteer opportunities page if you'd like to help plan the event.

Here we grow again! In August we welcome another MG Intern Class to our family! Right now, it looks as though we'll have somewhere between 25-30 individuals in this year's class! Woo Hoo! Please put your beautiful smiles on display and please make sure to wear your nametags when you're at the JAC.

The South Alabama Land Trust has contacted MCMG about participating in its Natural Habitat Certification program. More information will be forthcoming.

Atta boys/girls this month go out to all MGs who do everything including, but not limited to, posting on our FB page and website, writing for Lagniappe, watering, weeding, responding to helpline questions, working and speaking at our community events, and waiting for cooler weather! Your time, talents and expertise are so greatly appreciated as we educate Mobilians about sound, research-based gardening practices. You all are AWESOME!!

Take good care,

Julie Conrey

In the Loop by Carol Williams

Date	Description	Contact
	(NO MONTHLY MEETING IN JULY) (Next general meeting WEDNESDAY, August 3 @JAC)	President: Julie Conrey 314.799.8500 j julieconrey@gmail.com
		V. Pres. Harry Surline 251.605.4667 h.surline@gmail.com
		Treas. Linda Kloter 251.209.6425 lkloter5@gmail.com
Thursday	Preparing for Hurricane Season	Public is invited!!
July 7	Hurricane Resilient Trees	Julie Conrey 314.799.8500 julieconrey@gmail.com
11:00 AM	Beau Brodbeck, Ph.D.	Bring a lunch!!
	Jon Archer Center	CEUs
MCMG Helpline	Volunteers Needed to Work from Home	Jack LeCroy JML0003@aces.edu
July 21 or July 22	Two MCMGs are needed each day to reply to email messages from the public asking for gardening information.	Sign up on our Volunteer Page. Click Help Line tab.
8:00-5:00		(MG Help Line)
Saturdays	Market in the Park Saturdays	Bob Howard 251.459.0730 rhoward51@gmail.com
July 2-July 9	Place: Cathedral Square	flexible 2-hour shifts each Saturday to share gardening info and recruit MCMG interns.
7:30 AM-12:00 Noon	300 Conti Street, Mobile, AL 36602	(Municipal Event)
Saturday	Gardening for Health Booth	Barbara Boone 251-680-8263 boonebama@live.com
September 17	University of South Alabama, SGA Pavilion	(Municipal Event)
10:00 AM	Volunteer in Info Booth after the race	
Friday	30th Anniversary of MCMG Celebration	Food and Beverages served.
September 30	Ben May Library	Stump the Master Gardener competition.
10:00 AM	701 Government St., Mobile 36602	Julie Conrey 314.799.8500 julieconrey@gmail.com
Mondays, Thursdays, Saturdays	Japanese Garden of Mobile Planning and Touring	Don Fry 251.422.8466 don.fry@comcast.net
	Place: 700 Forest Hill Drive, Mobile	YouTube tour: https://bit.ly/3bhyKWA
	Beautifying this community educational garden.	Website: https://mobilejapanesegarden.com/
	Mondays and Thursdays 12:30-3:30 pm	Facebook: https://facebook.com/mobilejapanesegarden
	Saturdays: Help teach students	
	Community Gardening	Twitter: https://mobile.twitter.com/mobjapangarden

In the Loop by Carol Williams *continued from page 7*

Date	Description	Contact
	Community Gardens & Horticulture Therapy	Carol Dorsey 251.209.3483 bcdorsey63@gmail.com
	Out In The Garden	Brenda Bolton 251.476.1068 brendabolton310@gmail.com
	Classroom in the Forest	Mary Jo Broussard 251.574.8445 mjb0054@auburn.edu
	Speakers Bureau	Julie Conrey 314.799.8500 julieconrey@gmail.com
Contact a Garden Leader or Marsha Stolz to join a team.	DREAM GARDEN Join a Garden Room	Marsha Stolz 251.689.5993 marshastolz@msn.com
	1. Grandma's Pass Along Garden	Catherine Moates 251.366.6163 memo366@att.net &
		Olivia Reinhaus 251.458.7383 omcvea@gmail.com
	2. Native Garden	Elise Williams 251.751.9996 fitnesswithelise@gmail.com
	3. Shade Garden	Bob Howard 251.423-3108 rhoward51@gmail.com
	4. Vegetable Garden	Marsha Stolz 251.689.5993 marshastolz@msn.com &
		Mary Ann Days 251.391.5806 masdays@comcast.net
	5. Herb Garden	Jackie Jenkins 251.422.6675 jjackiejenkins108@gmail.com &
		Mary Ann Days 251.391.5806 masdays@comcast.net
	6. Cottage Garden & Formal Garden	Glenda Eady 251.342.4248 jerryeady2@comcast.net
	7. Building Garden	Marsha Stolz 251.689.5993 marshastolz@msn.com
Pictures & Descriptions of	For use on our MCMG website and in	Send to: Mary Townsley town8296@bellsouth.net
Volunteers at Work	VOL OPPS, an ACES email bulletin of MGs at work	or text to 251.421.7408
	Click once. ACES page opens. Slide cursor to the bottom.	
	Click Vol Opps to subscribe.	
For Further Updates check out	Volunteer Opportunities by clicking the Volunteer tab at	Home Page (auburn.edu) our Hours reporting page.

4th of July Lily by Alice Marty



Nurseries Carolinia, Inc.



Fourth of July Lilium speciosa. This rare gem of a plant was introduced by Green's Nursery of Fairhope, AL. It seems to be an anomaly for this far south. This is a heat tolerant form of the exotic and showy Rubrum lily. It is an incredible perennial even for the Gulf Coast. It is summer blooming, enduring the heat and humidity. It produces stalks of extraordinary flowers and is very dependable each summer. The bulbs multiply even with sixty inches of rainfall a year, but it does appreciate good drainage. Photos were taken July 11 in North Carolina. Zones 6-9

MBG YOGA STRETCH

Monday and Thursday
4:00pm

Come join us!

L-R MG Judy Weaver,
Mary Helen Harper,
MG Alice Marty,
Aden Warner,
MG and instructor,
Elise Williams

<https://mbgrebloomshop.com/>



Friday July 1st
First Friday Fun Day
Begonia Presentation - 10:30
Hogtown BBQ - 11:00-12:30
Cammie's Old Dutch sundaes - 11:30-1:00

Come join us on Friday, July 1st for a great presentation by Melissa Roombos on begonias AND enjoy some BBQ and fixins from Eric Cantin and Hogtown BBQ. We'll also have Cammie's Old Dutch ice cream sundaes inside the Botanical Center!



Melissa's Bye-gonia's
 with
 Melissa Roombos
 FREE presentation to MBG
 Members



Hogtown BBQ
 serving up pulled pork,
 brisket, baked beans
 and cole slaw - \$15/box
 dinner and includes
 choice of tea

"BBQ has been a family tradition for us. I grew up spending hours in the kitchen learning how to make sauce. So when I went to culinary school, a BBQ joint was always the end goal. After 7 years of being a sous chef it's time to get the show on the road. Hogtown BBQ is a nod to our family history of cooking over an open fire and we are bringing that history to you." – Eric Cantin, owner



Cammie's Old Dutch
Sundaes - \$2.50 ea
 Rich vanilla ice cream
 with your choice of
 fudge or caramel
 sauce, whip cream,
 sprinkles or nuts, and a
 cherry on top.



MOBILE Botanical Gardens

Hurricane Resilient Trees

11 a.m. Thursday, July 7,

Jon Archer Center

1070 Schillinger Rd. N.

Mobile AL 36608-598

Beau Broderick PhD.

Extension Specialist in Community Forestry
and Arboriculture

Dr. Broderick's talk includes how and why trees fail during a storm, and trees to plant along the Gulf Coast that are more hurricane resilient than others.

This is a timely and relevant topic as the Hurricane Season runs now through November 1, and forecasters are predicting a more active than normal season.

This presentation is free and open to the public, but you need to make reservations to attend by calling Diane at 251-574-8445.



CoolCips.com

Seeds Contribution from Lowe's, Tillman's Corner, Alabama

Recipients of Distribution by Judy Stout

An excess of inventory of vegetable, herb and flower seeds scheduled for destruction were donated by Lowe's, Tillman's Corner, Alabama, to Mobile County Master Gardeners on June 9, 2022. Mobile Master Gardeners Barbara Burdine and Judy Stout gathered and stored the seeds for later distribution. On June 17, 2022, seeds were sorted by type at the John Archer auditorium of the Alabama Cooperative Extension Services. Local not-for-profits involved in gardening education, training and demonstration were invited to assist in sorting and were then invited to select seeds appropriate to their individual missions and audiences. Seeds were donated to the following entities for use in their specific programs, as noted. Remaining seeds will be distributed free through public events, Mobile county FFA 5th grades and area plant sales.

Recipients and Their Gardening programs.

Mobile County Master Gardeners

1. "Markets in the Square" events (downtown Mobile, Semmes, etc.) - Bob Howard
2. Master Gardeners DREAM Garden demonstration, John Archer (over 500 pounds of fresh produce donated annually to Mission of Hope) - Marsha Stolz and Mary Ann Days
3. MG Tent - Dauphin Island, Mobile Botanical Gardens Plant Sales, Festival of Flowers, etc. - various MGs.
4. Dauphin Island Elementary School teaching garden.
5. MG annual certification training.

Alabama Cooperative Extension Services, Mobile

1. Homeowner training workshops
2. 4-H
3. FFA

Mobile Urban Growers

1. Strickland Youth Center therapy garden - Carol Dorsey
2. Community Gardens - Pat Hall
3. Full Life Ahead (disabled adults gardening therapy, Mobile Medical Museum) - Carol Dorsey.
4. Taylor Park after school and summer youth programs.



Flowerwood



CEO Ellis Ollinger with Flowerwood
employee Susan Dupree



MOBILE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

Mobile County Office
1070 Schillinger Rd. N.
Mobile AL 36608-598



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.



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