

Wiregrass Walk-About

Hello fellow gardeners!

Wow—this year is half over and look at what we have accomplished! We had a successful plant sale, a wonderful conference, new demo vegetable garden at DABG and we are teaching young ones about gardening. We have also brought in more gardeners through the master gardener class. Some of us still help with Harvest for Health. Some do garden/yard consults. Some gardeners worked the daylily conference. We also have Lunch and Learn at the library. We are all busy bees! Our work is never done!



So during the month of July we get a break from a monthly meeting! My hope is everyone checks around your yard for plants that need to be divided. Our shrub and grasses need replenishing for the fall plant sale. Any perennial, small trees or ground covers would also be welcomed. If you can help out with plants please let the plant parents know so they get an idea of what you have for them. We need these plants now so they will be established by the fall plant sale date of October 8th.

Have you been out to Aunt Katie's Community Garden? Our Master Gardeners are working along with Michael Jackson teaching children about gardening. We meet on Wednesdays at 10am. Come out and support of our program there—you will be amazed! People across the state raved about this garden during our conference.

We are also starting a Junior Master Gardener class at the Dothan Area Botanical Gardens. The class is set and teachers have been assigned; however, we still need assistants. Please consider being an assistant—give Helen-Sue a call and she will put you in touch with the teachers.

I am very proud of our association. We come together when there is a need. Please share your love of gardening with those around you. You never know whose life you will influence.

Take a moment to consider getting more involved in our association. There are plant parents who need assistants and we really need someone to be our secretary. If you would like to commit to one of these positions, let me know.

Please get those Conference hours to me ASAP! Most of you have sent them in but there are a few I haven't heard from yet. This is very important for our association. The money we get from the AMGA Conference is based on the amount of hours we worked. So send me your hours and include your travel time.

Lastly, I hope and pray our association continues to grow and prosper. Thank you all for your volunteer time. Please keep those members who are sick in your prayers. Call on members you haven't seen in a while. Let them know they are missed.

Life is a garden, dig it!

Devonne

INSIDE . . .

- ◆ Garden Checklist
- ◆ WMGA Directory Updated
- ◆ No meeting in July
- ◆ Freezing Fresh Herbs
- ◆ There's a Day for That
- ◆ You Know You're a MG When

Summer GARDEN CHECKLIST



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.

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.

BULBS

- ✓ Iris and spider lilies may be planted late this month.

MISCELLANEOUS

- ✓ Keeping flowers, shrubs, trees, and lawns healthy is the major task this month.
- ✓ This demands close observation for insects and diseases.
- ✓ Water.

VEGETABLE SEED

- ✓ Plant beans, field peas, rutabagas, squash, New Zealand spinach, and Irish potatoes.
- ✓ Plant cabbage, collards, broccoli, cauliflower Brussels sprouts, and celery for the fall crop.

VEGETABLE PLANTS

- ✓ Plant tomatoes in central and north Alabama.

LAWNS

- ✓ Watch for diseases.
- ✓ Mow regularly.
- ✓ Water as needed.

AUGUST

FRUITS AND NUTS

- ✓ Cut out old blackberry canes after fruiting and then fertilize and cultivate for replacement canes.
- ✓ Remember to order new catalogs for fruit selection.

SHRUBS

- ✓ Layer branches of hydrangea.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS

- ✓ Water as needed. Plant perennials and biennials.

ROSES

- ✓ Keep roses healthy and actively growing.
- ✓ Hybrid teas and floribundas may need slight pruning to prevent scraggly appearance.

BULBS

- ✓ Divide old iris plantings and add new ones.

MISCELLANEOUS

- ✓ Keeping flowers, shrubs, trees, and lawns healthy is the major task during this month.
- ✓ This means close observation for insects and diseases.
- ✓ Water.

VEGETABLE SEED

- ✓ Plant turnips, rutabagas, beans, and peas in south Alabama

VEGETABLE PLANTS

- ✓ Plant cabbage, collards, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, and celery

LAWNS

- ✓ Watch for diseases.
- ✓ Mow regularly
- ✓ Water as needed.



There's a Month for That . . .

Do you sometimes think there must a day or month for EVERYTHING? Well, you might be right.

As we kick of July, be sure to celebrate the following during the month of July:

- ❖ National Anti-Boredom Month
- ❖ National Blueberry Month
- ❖ National Hot Dog Month
- ❖ National Ice Cream Month
- ❖ National Cell Phone Courtesy Month
- ❖ Unlucky Month for Weddings

There may be some who will dispute the last one *Unlucky Month for weddings,*” however, I’m thankful to President Reagan who in 1984 designated July as *National Ice Cream* month

Looking further, I discovered some very interesting national “days” that fall in July. There isn’t enough room in our newsletter to list them all, but here are some I found very interesting—what’s your favorite?

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| July 2 I Forgot Day | July 17 Ice Cream Day |
| July 3 Compliment Your Mirror Day | Yellow Pig Day |
| Stay out of the Sun Day | July 22 Hammock Day |
| July 4 Sidewalk Egg Frying Day | Rat Catcher’s Day |
| July 7 Chocolate Day | July 24 Parent’s Day |
| July 11.... Cheer Up the Lonely Day | July 26 ... All or Nothing Day |
| July 12.... Different Colored Eyes Day | July 30 Father-in-Law day |
| July 14.... Pandemonium Day | July 31 Mutt’s Day |
| National Nude Day | |

Check out these websites if you want to find out about the origin of these days as well as many, many other days designated as special days of the month.

<http://holidayinsights.com/moreholidays/july.htm>

<http://www.nationaldaycalendar.com/july-overview/>

And, of course, don’t forget...July 4th—Independence Day!

You Know You’re A Master Gardener When:

- 10.....You rejoice in rain...even after 10 straight days of it.
- 9You have pride in how bad your hands look.
- 8You have a decorative compost container on your kitchen counter.
- 7You can give away plants easily, but compost is another thing.
- 6Soil test results actually mean something.
- 5IPM rules!
- 4You’d rather go to a nursery to shop than a clothes store.
- 3You look for gardens open to the public whenever you go on vacation.
- 2Your non-gardening spouse is actually getting involved with your garden endeavors...digging ponds, building bird houses, watering, pruning, turning compost piles, planting.

And you definitely know your a Master Gardener when...

- 1You are surrounded by terrific people who share your passion!

Mark Your Calendar . . .



- July 4..... Independence Day—celebrate the birth of our nation
- July 5..... Wiregrass Rose Society, 6:00 pm @ First Nazarene Church
Southeast Alabama Camellia Society @ First United Methodist Church
- July 9..... Wiregrass Daylily Society meets @ First Christian Church, Noon
- July 10 Heritage Forum @ Landmark Park, 3 pm
- July 14 *Music By Moonlight* featuring Troy Dothan Community Band,
Landmark Park, 7:30 pm FREE
- July 19 NO WMGA monthly meeting this month

October 8, 2016..... WMGA's Fall Plant Sale

*Do you have an event you'd like added to our monthly calendar?
If so, send it to Jane Klosky (jane.klosky@icloud.com)*

A Few of the Happenings at Landmark Park

Music by Moonlight

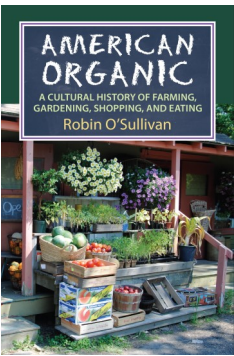
July 14

Last concert in the series—bring your picnic supper and lawn chairs and enjoy Landmark's final concert of the series on the gazebo lawn. The Troy Dothan Community Band will present a great evening of music *under the stars* beginning at 7:30 pm.



Heritage Forum

Robin O'Sullivan, author of *American Organic: A Cultural History of Farming, Gardening, Shopping, and Eating*, will present this year's first Landmark Park Heritage Forum at 3 pm on July 10, 2016. Her topic is *Organic Observations: A History of Humus, Homesteads, Health Nuts, and Haute Cuisine*. She will examine historical intersections between organic farmers and gardeners, consumers, government regulations, topographies of food shopping, grassroots groups, and mega-industries involved in the organic food movement. She will discuss how organic production and consumption are entrenched in the lives of all Americans, whether or not they grow or eat organic food.



The Heritage Forum series cover many topics of regional, state, and national history and heritage. Each Forum takes place in the Administration Building at Landmark Park on Sundays in July, 3-4 pm with refreshments following. Forums are free with paid park admission or membership.

Blue Star Museum

Landmark will offer free admission to active-duty military personnel and their families *from Memorial Day through Labor Day* as part of the nationwide Blue Star Museums Initiative. It provides free admission to active-duty military identification holders and up to five immediate family members. Landmark Park's participation in the Blue Star Museums Initiative is made possible locally through the support of the Army Aviation Center Federal Credit Union.



No Potato Famine Here

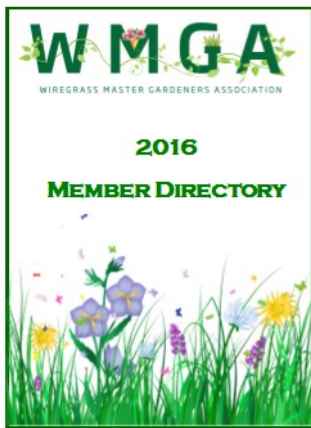
We had a great potato harvest this year! Dean Rominger helped dig up the potatoes grown in our vegetable demo garden at DABG. Thanks Dean for your help!

Janice will be at the DABG Veggie Demo Beds on Tuesday and Friday mornings (around 8:30-ish) for about one hour. Please come out and help Janice—many hands make light work



Updated Directory

The 2016 WMGA member directory is ready! Recently, Devonne emailed these to our members.



Please remember that this information is for your use as a WMGA member and not to be distributed or shared without the individual's approval.



No July Meeting

It's a great time to check around your yard for plants that need to be divided. Our shrub and grasses need replenishing for the fall plant sale. Any perennial, small trees or ground covers would also be welcomed.

If you can help out with plants please let the plant parents know so they get an idea of what you have for them. We need these plants now so they will be established by the fall plant sale date of October 8th.

Do You Love the Taste of Fresh Herbs?

Especially when they come straight from the garden. When summer is over you can enjoy your freshly grown herbs throughout the entire year. It's easy. Just follow these steps to learn how to preserve fresh herbs by freezing them into ice cubes.

- ◆ Cut your favorite herbs .
- ◆ Wash your herbs and then chop them to the size you prefer.
- ◆ Take your chopped herbs and fill up an empty ice cube tray.
- ◆ Don't fill them up all the way with your herbs - leave a little room at the top for the water.
- ◆ Fill with water, leaving a little room for the ice to expand.
- ◆ Freeze for a few hours and pop each herb cube out and store in a freezer bag.

When you are cooking your favorite dish this winter, simply take out a cube of frozen herbs and add it to your favorite sauce! In addition to freezing fresh herbs, you can also dry your herbs and store them in small glass containers.

2015 WMGA Board of Directors

OFFICERS:

President: Devonne Ellis..... 205-739-9865 devoellis@msn.com
Vice President Marti Renojo 334-671-0096 martirenojo@earthlink.net
Secretary POSITION IS VACANT
Treasurer:..... Connie Ford 334-406-9559 srvtpc@gmail.com

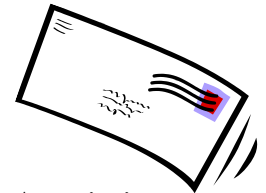
BOARD MEMBERS:

Board Member at Large: Anita Gibson 334-792-5063 agibson5141@gmail.com
Membership Chair: Tom Boyle 334-794-2094 BoyleT@graceba.net
Ways & Means Chair: Helen-Sue Kemp 334-671-9879 hsdekemp1@juno.com
Communications Chair Cheryl Hatcher 334-798-1034 jhatcher@graceba.net
Programs Chair Janice Egolf 334-714-1785 pamckees@aol.com
Projects Co-Chairs Faye Carnley 803-270-8757 fmcarnley@gmail.com
..... Lisa Enfinger 334-792-8018 theenfingers@graceba.net
Immediate Past President Beth Arnold 334-692-3172 beth.arnold80@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor/Webmaster Jane Klosky..... 804-514-9498 jane.klosky@icloud.com
2016 Conference Chair Devonne Ellis..... 334-899-2050 devoellis@msn.com

Plant Parent Directory

Annuals: Devonne Ellis 334-899-2050
Bulbs: Judy Clardy 334-797-9580
Perennials: Cheryl Hatcher..... 334-798-1034
..... Faye Carnley 803-270-8757
GrCovers/Vines/Grasses: Anita Gibson... 334-712-4370
Herbs: Linda Westphal 334-299-0388
House Plants/Tropicals:
..... Connie Ford 334-406-9559
..... Barbara Knight..... 334-350-4376
Shrubs: Phyllis Poole 334-793-3628
Trees/Succulents: Ralph Byram 334-618-6691
Vegetables: Helen-Sue Kemp..... 334-671-9879

Our Mailing Address:



Wiregrass Master Gardeners Association
P.O. Box 9376
Dothan, AL 36304

ACES

Lucy Edwards

Home Grounds Regional Agent
Dale County Extension
Office: (334) 774- 2329
Mobile: (334) 329-1672



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www.wiregrassmga.org



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