

Dear Gardening Friends,

Our 2019 Master Gardener Class starts up January 23rd. I am excited to welcome our new interns, and I know I can count on each of you to make them feel welcomed and valued. As you know, the participation of our interns is critical for the continued growth of our organization.

I saw this ancient Chinese proverb on a poster at Panda Express: "Make happy those who are near and those who are far will come." And I thought...maybe this can apply to our member meetings. Attendance at the meetings seems to be dwindling. So - I need your input!! Please let me or a Board member know what brings you (who are near) to our meetings, and how can we entice "those who are far" and not attending meetings to come and join us. What is missing from our meetings? How would you like to see the meetings changed to make them more valuable/relevant?

One suggestion I'd like to make is that you who regularly come to meetings make at least one phone call to someone you haven't seen in a while. Maybe they just need a reminder...or a little encouragement....or maybe they'd appreciate a ride to the meeting?

Our next WMGA Meeting is January 15 - at 6:00 p.m. - at the Highland Park United Methodist Church.

I want to make 2019 a year of growth and a year of more participation by our members - not just at meetings, but in the various projects in which we are involved.

"May your coming year be filled with magic and dreams and good madness. I hope you read some fine books and kiss someone who thinks you're wonderful, and don't forget to make some art - write or draw or build or sing or live as only you can. And I hope, somewhere in the next year, you surprise yourself." Neil Gaiman

And don't forget to make some art with your gardening. Happy planning and planting for the Spring! Remember to be kind to everyone, including yourself.

Jan



INSIDE . . .

- ◆ Membership Dues
- ◆ Master Gardener Training Course
- ◆ 2019 Lunch and Learn
- ◆ Seed Swap
- ◆ Chill Hour Quiz
- ◆ Work Day



- Jan 15 Lunch and Learn, Honey Bees, Library 12 pm
- Jan 15 WMGA Meeting, Highland Park, 6 pm
- Jan 19 Hummingbird Workshop, Landmark Park 10 am
- Jan 21 Greenhouse Work Days, DABG 8 am
- Jan 23 MG Class begins, Extension Office
- Jan 26 Seed Swap, Landmark Park 1-3 pm
- Feb 5 Pruning Work Shop, Extension Office, Tentative
- Feb 19..... Lunch and Learn, Yard Art, Library 12 pm

Do you have an event you'd like added to our monthly calendar? If so, send it to Chuck McManus (William.mcmanus34@gmail.com)

Chill Hour Quiz

Question: Why is it important cold weather keeps fruit trees dormant?

Answer: When trees are dormant, cold damage is less of a threat.

Question: At what temperature do fruit trees accumulate chill hours?

Answer: Trees accumulate chill hours between 32° and 45° F.

Question: How many chill hours are considered best for fruit trees in Alabama?

Answer: 1,000 chill hours.

Credit for information: State's Fruit Growers Understand Managing Cold Weather January 17, 2018 Alabama Extension.



Membership Dues

It's time to renew your WMGA membership. The WMGA membership dues for 2019 remain the same as last year – \$20.00. \$10 covers local dues and \$10 for state dues. Dues were due by **December 1, 2018**.

Dues for any member who has AMGA Life Membership remains at \$10.00 for WMGA dues and were due December 1st also.

Dues for any member who has WMGA Life Membership remains at \$10.00 for AMGA membership, if desired and were due December 1st also.

Checks would be preferable as it is a record for you and WMGA; however, we will be happy to take cash as well.

Questions? Contact **Tom Boyle**, Membership Chair @ BoyleT@graceba.net. Please mail your dues to: WMGA, PO Box 9376, Dothan, AL 36304 or give them to Cathy Bruce, WMGA Treasurer.



Winter GARDEN CHECKLIST



January

FRUITS AND NUTS

- ✓ Set out apples, peaches, pears, and grapes.
- ✓ Start grafting pecans. Prune dormant trees.

SHRUBS

- ✓ Plant shrubs and trees, including broadleaf, narrowleaf, and deciduous.
- ✓ Graft camellias in south Alabama.
- ✓ Spray all deciduous shrubbery with a dormant spray to control diseases and insects.
- ✓ Spray when weather is on warming trend.

ROSES

- ✓ Visit nurseries and garden centers to select varieties.
- ✓ Start planting.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS

- ✓ Plant hardy annuals.

BULBS

- ✓ Late plantings of Dutch bulbs will flower if planted now.
- ✓ Lilies of all types, except Madonna, may be planted.
- ✓ Check stored bulbs and discard rotten ones.
- ✓ Make indoor plantings of amaryllis, callas, and gloxinias.

MISCELLANEOUS

- ✓ Prune winter-damaged limbs.
- ✓ Give houseplants a bath in lukewarm water to remove dust.
- ✓ To keep poinsettias that have finished flowering, turn pots on their sides and let them dry completely.
 - ✓ Cut them back lightly.
 - ✓ Keep in a temperature of 55 to 60 degrees.

VEGETABLE SEED

- ✓ Plant hardy vegetables, root crops, roots, and tubers in southern-most areas.
- ✓ Plant lettuce, cabbage, and broccoli in cold frames.

LAWNS

- ✓ Soil test before setting up fertilizing program.

February

FRUITS AND NUTS

- ✓ Planting season continues for dormant trees.
- ✓ Fertilize fruit trees.
- ✓ Apply half of the fertilizer recommended for grapes now; apply the other half soon after fruit sets.
- ✓ Continue dormant pruning and grafting.
- ✓ Start strawberry plantings.

SHRUBS

- ✓ Planting season continues.
- ✓ Visit camellia shows to learn of hardy varieties in your area.
- ✓ Graft camellias in central and south Alabama.
- ✓ Spray all shrubs with a fungicide before new growth starts.
- ✓ Don't prune early-blooming species because flower buds will be removed.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS

- ✓ Replant early plantings of hardy annuals.
- ✓ Prepare beds for summer annuals.

ROSES

- ✓ Prune hybrid tea roses in south Alabama; delay pruning for a few weeks in north Alabama
- ✓ Continue planting.

BULBS

- ✓ Plant cannas, amaryllis, gladiolus, and zephyranthes in south Alabama.

MISCELLANEOUS

- ✓ Houseplants are beginning to show signs of activity.
- ✓ Fertilize with liquid or soluble fertilizer according to manufacturer's directions.
- ✓ Remember Valentine's Day. Why not send roses or a potted plant?

VEGETABLE SEED

- ✓ Add tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, cauliflower, and Brussels sprouts to cold frames.
- ✓ Plant cabbage, onions, lettuce, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts.

2019 Wiregrass Master Gardeners: Lunch & Learn

January 15th – Honey Bees

February 19th – Yard Art: How to Plant a Chair and More

March 5th – Vegetable Gardening with Ease

April 2nd – All About Blueberries

May 7th – Creating the Perfect Lawn

June 4th – Hostas

September 3rd – Tips for Designing Your Landscape

October 1st – What's Bugging You?

November 12th – Growing Fall Bulbs & Making Grapevine Wreaths

Dothan Downtown Library | 12-1pm | All Are Welcome



Lunch 'n Learn—Honey Bees

Don't miss our first Lunch 'n Learn program of the new year. This program will be on Honey Bees and presented by Phillip Carter. Grab a friend and bag lunch and meet us at the Houston-Love Memorial Library @ 12 noon January 15th. Drinks are provided.

Seed Swap

On Saturday January 26, from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. the Wiregrass Master Gardeners will host a Seed Swap in the Ag Building at Landmark Park. Similar to a potluck dinner, gardeners are encouraged to bring samples of their favorite heirloom seeds to exchange with others. Admission is free with paid gate fee (\$4 for adults, \$3 for kids and free for members). A small portion of seeds distributed will be placed in our Seed Bank for future generations.



Work Day January 7th 2019



WMGA Contacts



2019 WMGA Board of Directors

Officers:

President:.....Jan Shirley334-790-2778 Janiceshirley48@gmail.com
Vice President.....Linda Isley.....334-655-3123 Lpisley1@gmail.com
Secretary.....Lisa Lopez334-718-1921 gogetemtyger@gmail.com
Treasurer:Cathy Bruce334-793-6737 cathybruce@gmail.com

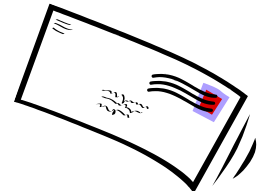
Board Members:

Board Member at Large:Judy Clardy334-797-9580 jclardy822@aol.com
Membership Chair:.....Tom Boyle334-794-2094 BoyleT@graceba.net
Ways & Means Chair:Jan Shirley334-790-2778 Janiceshirley48@gmail.com
Communications ChairChuck McManus334-714-2759
.....William.mcmanus34@gmail.com
Programs Co-Chairs.....Phyllis Poole334-790-7685 Pgp1111@aol.com
.....Linda Isley334 -655-3123 Lpisley1@gmail.com
Projects ChairFaye Carnley803-270-8757 fmcarnley@gmail.com
Immediate Past PresidentDevonne Ellis205-739-9865 devoellis@msn.com

Plant Parent Directory

Annuals: Devonne Ellis.....205-739-9865
.....Lisa Lopez334-718-1921
Bulbs: Judy Clardy334-797-9580
.....Jan Shirley334-790-2778
Perennials: Cheryl Hatcher.....334-798-1034
.....Faye Carnley803-270-8757
GrCovers/Vines/Grasses: Barbara Jowers334-618-6657
Herbs: Linda Westphal334-299-0388
.....Linda Isley334-655-3123
House Plants/Tropicals/Succulents:
.....Connie Ford334-406-9559
.....Barbara Knight334-446-8846
Shrubs: Phyllis Poole.....334-790-7685
Trees: Ken Gabelman334-803-7800
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
lee0003@auburn.edu



<https://www.facebook.com/#!/WiregrassMGA>

Visit our website @

www.wiregrassmga.org