

Dear Fellow Master Gardeners,

As I sit here writing this, it's so lovely outside...not too warm....perfect weather to be out in the garden, pruning, raking, anticipating spring! I can hardly wait to see what my garden will look like! As some of you know, it's a new garden, and I've been planting daylilies and iris here, hydrangeas, camellias and azaleas there...anything I think I can't kill everywhere! It's fun and exciting.

Also exciting is the upcoming AMGA State Conference in Clanton on May 8, 9, 10! The theme for this conference, which is co-hosted by Chilton, Shelby, and Autauga County MGAs, is Party in the Garden. Visit AMGA's website, alabamamg.org for more information. This will be my first time at a State Conference and I hear it is a great learning opportunity and a chance to meet other Master Gardeners from all over Alabama, but also a LOT of fun!

Our projects for 2019 were approved at the January meeting. We would love to have you pick one...or two...or three projects on which to lend a hand. There are opportunities for everyone to join in and be a much needed active part of WMGA. Many hands make for lighter work. This was clearly demonstrated at our February 4 workday at DABG. We had 14 MGs and 8 Interns moving everything away from the Greenhouse so that it can be pressure washed, picking up limbs and branches, raking up piles of leaves, and generally cleaning up the Nursery and Greenhouse areas! In less than 4 hours we accomplished so much and made great headway in getting ready for the April 12-13 Spring Plant Sale! It was awesome and fun!! We understand time and physical constraints can prevent some of us from participating to the level we wish we could. However, take a look at the projects and see if you can find something you would love to help with. Ask the Board or any of the Plant Parents how you can be of assistance. The projects include:

- ◆ Landmark Park: Lot of opportunities from maintaining the Kitchen Garden, assisting with teaching children and adults about gardening; pruning; working in several gardens around the park. Provide support to the Park's Heritage Day, Spring Farm Day, Harvest Hey Days, and Cane Grinding and Fall Farm Days.
- ◆ ACES Office at Extension: Clean and maintain flower bed in front of the building.
- ◆ Aunt Katie's Community Garden: June and July - teaching about gardening to Boys and Girls Club and Girls Inc.
- ◆ DABG: Work in the Nursery, demo gardens, in the Greenhouse (seeding, propagation); decorate demo gardens for Gardens Aglow.
- ◆ DABG Daylily, Rose, and Herb Gardens: maintenance.
- ◆ Grammy's Jams and Jellies: helping to sell at the plant sales.
- ◆ Highland Park UMC: planting and maintaining flower bed, including watering throughout the year.
- ◆ Master Gardener Lunch and Learn Program at the Dothan Library: help with set up, welcome, etc.
- ◆ And let's not forget the Help Line at the Extension Office!!

We also had a good Board of Directors meeting this week. Watch for some exciting new fund raising events!

"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just on the body, but the soul."

Alfred Austin

See you Tuesday, February 19 at 6:00 pm for our WMGA monthly meeting!

Be kind to everyone, especially yourself.

Jan

INSIDE . . .

- ◆ Membership Dues
- ◆ 2019 Lunch and Learn
- ◆ AMGA Conference
- ◆ Pruning Workshop
- ◆ Harvey Cotten
- ◆ Plant Sale



- Feb 26 Harvery Cotten, DABG 6:30 pm
- Feb 28 Truth Behind GMO, Extension Office 6 pm
- Mar 1 All Bugs Good and Bad, Extension Office 1 pm
- Mar 4 Greenhouse Work Day, DABG 8 am
- Mar 5 Lunch and Learn, Veg Gardening with Ease, Library 12 pm
- Mar 5 6 7..... Living History, Landmark Park
- Mar 19 WMGA Meeting, Highland Park, 6 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)*

Harvey Cotten



DABG is excited to announce that Harvey Cotten, well-known garden writer, designer, and consultant, is returning to Dothan to speak to area gardeners. His talks are always informative and interesting and we are grateful to Wells Fargo Bank for sponsoring his visit.

Harvey retired in 2014 after 22 years with the Huntsville Botanical Garden, most recently as vice president and chief horticulturist. He continues to present workshops for the Botanical Garden Master Gardener Associations, Garden Clubs and other botanical gardens and arboret while lecturing across the southeast on various garden topics. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Ornamental Horticulture from Mississippi State University.

The program will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the admission is \$20. Call the DABG office at 793-3224 for more information.

2019 ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE

“Chilton County Master Gardener Association, along with Autauga and Shelby County MG Associations, has the honor of hosting the 2019 Alabama Master Gardener Association Conference. The

Conference is being held at Clanton Performing Arts Center in Clanton, AL on May 8, 9, and 10. The public is welcome and registration is now open. There is a great lineup of speakers and activities! One of our most noted speakers is Joe Lamp'l, Executive Producer and Host of the PBS series “Growing a Greener World”, previous host of DIY’s “Fresh from the Garden”, and on-air contributor to The Today Show, Good Morning America, and the Weather Channel. And he is just one of the great speakers we have lined up! So please join us here in the Peach Capital of Alabama for our 2019 Conference and see what Chilton County has to offer!



Sign up at <http://alabamamg.org/2018-amga-fall-seminar-my-sanctuary-garden/>

Winter GARDEN CHECKLIST



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.

March

FRUITS AND NUTS

- ✓ Continue strawberry and grape plantings.
- ✓ Bud apples and peaches.
- ✓ Apply half of the fertilizer recommended for grapes now; apply the other half soon after fruit sets.
- ✓ Start planting blackberries. Remember, if weather conditions prevent prompt planting, heel the plants in by placing the root system in a trench and covering the soil.

SHRUBS

- ✓ Fertilize shrubs (except azaleas and camellias) according to a soil test.
- ✓ Late plantings may be made, particularly if they are container-grown.
- ✓ Watch shrubs for harmful insects.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS

- ✓ Tender annuals may be planted in south Alabama.
- ✓ Check garden centers for bedding plants.

ROSES

- ✓ Watch new growth for aphids.
- ✓ Begin a spray or dust program.
- ✓ Begin fertilizing.

BULBS

- ✓ Plant gladiolus every 2 or 3 weeks if a long blooming season is desired.
- ✓ Plant tuberous begonias in pots. Plant dahlias.

MISCELLANEOUS

- ✓ Check and repair sprayers, dusters, and lawn mowers.
- ✓ Control lawn weeds with chemicals.
- ✓ Delay pruning of fruiting shrubs such as cotoneasters, pyracanthas, and hollies until after flowering.

VEGETABLE SEED

- ✓ Plant hardy crops recommended for January and February.
- ✓ After danger of frost is past, plant tender vegetables.
- ✓ Plant cabbage, onions, lettuce, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts in north Alabama; plant tomatoes and peppers in lower south Alabama.

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

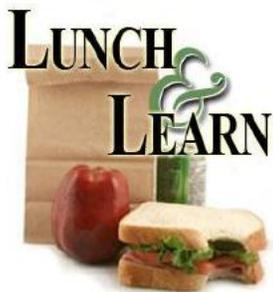
June 4th – Hostas

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—Vegetable Gardening with Ease

Don't miss our Lunch 'n Learn program for March. This program will be on Vegetable Gardening with Ease. Grab a friend and bag lunch and meet us at the Houston-Love Memorial Library @ 12 noon March 5th. Drinks are provided.

Does anyone have a dig needing to be done?

Does anyone have plants they would like to donate for the plant sale that need to be dug up? We are always looking for plants to add and can schedule a dig at your house. Please contact Helen-Sue or Jan Shirley.



Pruning Workshop Landmark Park

February 16th 2019



23rd

Plant Sale

Mark Your Calendar!



Wiregrass Master Gardeners
Present Our Annual Spring Plant Sale



Friday, April 12th, 9 am–5 pm

Saturday, April 13th, 8 am–12 pm

Dothan Area Botanical Gardens
5130 Headland Avenue—Dothan, AL

Are you ready to start planning your garden? Soon it will be time to start your spring planting. We have a wide variety of plants that have been grown by Wiregrass Master Gardeners from seeds (or cuttings) to healthy plants.

Make plans now to check out the many plants we have available for sale.

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| ✿ Perennials | ✿ Ground Covers |
| ✿ Houseplants | ✿ Grasses |
| ✿ Shrubs | ✿ Vines |
| ✿ Trees | ✿ Vegetables |
| ✿ Bulbs | ✿ Annuals |
| ✿ Hanging Baskets | ✿ Herbs |



Cash, check or credit cards accepted

Spring Farm Day Landmark Park 10 am-4 pm March 16th

On March 16th turn back the clock 100 years and experience living history demonstrations of blacksmithing, plowing with mules, basket weaving, quilting and other traditional springtime farm activities. Entertainment will include traditional music. Spring Farm Day is an official AL200 Event, celebrating Alabama's Bicentennial.



Judy Needs Jars!

Judy could use some more pint and half pint jars to use for Jellies if anyone can donate some. Please contact her if you have any extra jars.



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 Boyle.....334-794-2094 BoyleT@graceba.net
Ways & Means Chair:Jan Shirley334-790-2778 Janiceshirley48@gmail.com
Communications ChairChuck McManus334-714-2759
.....William.mcmanus34@gmail.com
Programs Chair.....Phyllis Poole334-790-7685 Pgp1111@aol.com
Lunch and LearnLinda Isley.....334 -655-3123 Lpisley1@gmail.com
Projects ChairFaye Carnley803-270-8757 fmcarnley@gmail.com
Immediate Past PresidentDevonne Ellis.....205-739-9865 devoellis@msn.com

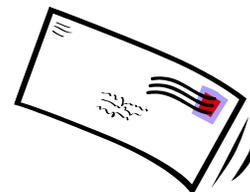
Plant Parent Directory

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 Jowers.....334-618-6657
Herbs: Linda Westphal334-299-0388
Linda Isley334-655-3123
House Plants/Tropicals/Succulents:
Connie Ford334-406-9559
Barbara Knight334-446-8846
Shrubs: Phyllis Poole334-790-7685
Trees: Ken Gabelman334-803-7800
Vegetables: Helen-Sue Kemp.....334-671-9879

Visit our website @

www.wiregrassmga.org

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>