

Dear Fellow Master Gardeners,

First, and most importantly, we pray that our fellow Alabamians in Lee County receive the strength and help they need to recover from the recent devastating tornados. Our hearts are with you.

We had several very good events since the last newsletter:

The pruning workshop organized by Tom Boyle at Landmark Park was a great success! The roses, Confederate Rose, hydrangeas, pomegranate, beauty berry, as well as the fig and pear trees and grape vine arbor around the Waddell Farmhouse were cut back and cleaned up. The roses especially received a face-lift: bricks which had settled into the earth around each rose bush were uncovered and realigned. On your next visit to the Park, make sure to see for yourself how lovely everything looks.

This time of the year offers many opportunities to accumulate your hours and to experience hands-on learning:

Landmark Park's Living History Program with Kids in the Garden on March 5th and 7th continues to provide invaluable lessons for school-age children. And it is fun for us as well! I encourage you to participate when you can. Maintenance of the Kitchen Garden is ongoing, and only takes a couple hours a week to keep it looking good. We are also looking forward to Saturday, March 16 - Spring Farm Day! Contact Tom Boyle if you'd like to help.

Our Plant Parents are in full swing, getting ready for the Spring Plant Sale. Our Spring and Fall Plant Sales help to fund our philanthropic goals, providing over \$6500 annually to Aunt Katie's Garden, Landmark Park, Vaughn-Blumberg, DABG, and Auburn University.

Our last two workdays have helped bring the Nursery closer to where it needs to be for the Spring Plant Sale (April 12-13). Thank you to all who have come out to help! The bulb and ground covers/vines areas look so much better! We will have another work day on Monday, March 18 with a focus on cleaning the Demo beds. With enough help we can also start organizing the Nursery area where the veggies, herbs and annuals are on display for the sale as well as return the pots to the revamped pot racks. **Our last official workday before the Plant Sale is Monday, April 1st!**

We've also had two Lunch and Learns! Both the Yard Art and the Vegetable Gardening sessions had great participation and were a lot of fun. **Be sure to attend the April 2nd discussion on Blueberries!!**

The ACES session on GMO Fact or Fiction provided, for me at least, a great deal of information to think about and research! I thought I knew something about GMOs...but I had no idea!!

Don't forget to register for the AMGA "Party in the Garden" Conference in Clanton May 8, 9, and 10! The program promises to be full of educational opportunities on a variety of topics of interest. I'm excited to meet other Master Gardeners from around the state, and to come home with new information and ideas to share with you, and to try in my own backyard.

Gardening is the art that uses flowers and plants as paint, and the soil and sky as canvas. Elizabeth Murray

**See you Tuesday, March 19 at 6:00 pm for our WMGA monthly meeting!
Remember: It's our Annual Awards Dinner!**

Be kind to everyone, especially yourself.

Jan

INSIDE . . .

- ◆ 2019 Lunch and Learn
- ◆ AMGA Conference
- ◆ Plant Sale
- ◆ Help Needed
- ◆ Judy needs Jars



- Apr 1 Greenhouse Work Day, DABG 8 am
- Apr 2 Lunch and Learn, All About Blueberries, Library 12 pm
- Apr 5 All Bugs Good and Bad, Extension Office 1 pm
- Apr 10 Graduation Master Gardener Class, Extension Office
- Apr 12-13 Plant Sale, Greenhouse DABG
- Apr 16 WMGA Meeting, Highland Park, 6 pm
- Apr 27 Tree ID Workshop, Landmark Park, TBA

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

Help Needed at Plant Sale!!!!

Canteen Manager

- Set up canteen area
- Check supplies needed during the plant sales (paper goods, plastic ware, cups, water, etc.)
- Prep Coffee
- Arrange food
- Pickup Friday Lunch
- Clean-up

Habitat Homeowner Contact

- Email Habitat for names
- Prep materials
- Find 3-4 Master Gardeners to guide homeowners

Contact Helen-Sue Kemp if you can help!

hsdekemp1@juno.com or text 334-435-0083



Judy Needs Jars!

Judy Clardy could use some more pint and half pint jars to use for Jellies if anyone can donate some. Please contact her 334-797-9580 if you have any extra jars.

Winter GARDEN CHECKLIST



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.

April

FRUITS AND NUTS

- ✓ Season for strawberry planting continues.
- ✓ Start spray program for all fruits.
- ✓ Apply half of the fertilizer recommended for grapes now; apply the other half soon after fruit sets.
- ✓ Plant raspberries and blackberries and continue budding apples and peaches.

SHRUBS

- ✓ Prune spring flowering shrubs after flowering
- ✓ Fertilize azaleas and camellias.
- ✓ When new growth is half completed, spray all shrubs with a fungicide.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS

- ✓ Plant early started annuals or bedding plants from nurseries or garden centers.
- ✓ Divide mums or root cuttings. Dig and divide dahlias

ROSES

- ✓ Watch for insects and diseases.
- ✓ Keep old flower heads removed.
- ✓ Plant container-grown plants from nurseries or garden centers.

BULBS

- ✓ Plant gladiolus, fancy-leaved caladiums, milk and wine lilies, and ginger and gloriosa lilies.
- ✓ Feed bearded iris with superphosphate and spray for borers.
- ✓ Avoid cutting foliage of narcissus or other bulbs until it has turned brown naturally.

MISCELLANEOUS

- ✓ Spray camellias, hollies, etc., for scale insects.
- ✓ Carefully water new plantings of shrubs and trees.
- ✓ Pinching out tips of new shoots promotes more compact shrubs.

VEGETABLE SEED

- ✓ Plant tender vegetables such as beans, corn, squash, melons, and cucumbers.
- ✓ Plant heat-loving vegetables in lower south Alabama.
- ✓ Plant tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, sweet potatoes, and parsley.

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

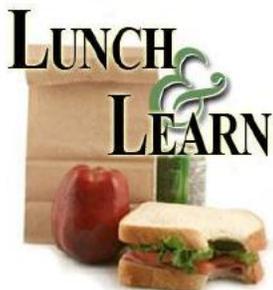
June 4th – Hostas

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—All About Blueberries

Don't miss our Lunch 'n Learn program for April. This program will be Blueberries and will be presented by Lucy Edwards! Grab a friend and bag lunch and meet us at the Houston-Love Memorial Library @ 12 noon April 2nd. 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.



Can you identify this plant?

Can you identify the plant in the picture on the left? If so, what is growing in the middle of the picture on the right? For the answer ask Chuck at the monthly meeting or read next month's newsletter.



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/>



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.

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



Cash, check or credit cards accepted

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 cathycbuce@gmail.com

Board Members:

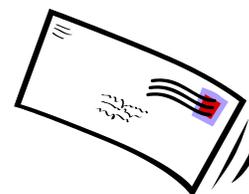
Board Member at Large:Judy Clardy334-797-9580 jclardy822@aol.com
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Lunch and LearnLinda Isley.....334 -655-3123 Lpisley1@gmail.com
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Immediate Past PresidentDevonne Ellis.....205-739-9865 devoellis@msn.com

Plant Parent Directory

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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:
Barbara Knight334-446-8846
Shrubs: Phyllis Poole334-790-7685
Trees: Ken Gabelman334-803-7800
Vegetables: Helen-Sue Kemp.....334-671-9879
Charon Hodges.....334-714-6251

Our Mailing Address:

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ACES



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Landmark Park Coordinator

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Visit our website @

www.wiregrassmga.org



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