

Dear Gardening Friends,

By the time you receive this edition of *The Garden Plot*, Thanksgiving will be about two weeks away! It is hard for me to realize that I've been in this position of President for nearly a year. Time flies when we're having fun!!

It is also time to look ahead to recognizing those in our organization who go above and beyond in their dedication to helping make our organization outstanding. Some of the awards are based on volunteer hours (Reach for the Stars, Intern of the Year, Sandy Dent Lifetime Hours, Top Hours of the Year). But there are other awards for which each of you, as a WMGA member in good standing, can nominate someone:

**WMGA Master Gardener of the Year Award**

*(Leader of local project; attends local/state meetings; officer in local/state associations; teaches)*

**Mary Lou McNabb Alabama Master Gardener of the Year**

*(State Award)*

**Outstanding Service and Dedication Award**

*(typically given to a non-MG)*

**Christie Thomley Award**

*(MG who has worked and taught in seeding/propagation)*

**Nancy Dean Plant Sale Award**

*(A MG or non-MG who provides outstanding service & leadership to ensure success of plant sales)*

**Certificate of Appreciation**

*(typically given to a non-MG supportive of WMGA projects)*

A full description and list of requirements can be found on our WMGA website (which is in the process of being updated) or <http://wiregrassmga.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/WMGA-awards.pdf> Please pass along your suggestions by December 15th to our Vice President Linda Isley, who is the Chair of our Awards Committee.

Tis the season to count our Blessings. Mine are so many...a loving, understanding husband; family close by (especially a sister whose wise counsel is always appreciated); a whole new group of wonderful friends who are passionate about gardening and teaching; good health...and the list goes on. Be sure to count your Blessings!

***See you Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm for our WMGA monthly meeting.  
This is our Thanksgiving meeting!***

***Fun program: We can all share our unique plants, special ideas, tools and tips***

Happy Thanksgiving!

Jan

## INSIDE . . .

- ◆ Trees and Shrubs
- ◆ 2020 Dues
- ◆ Master Gardener Course
- ◆ Living History



- Nov 29 ..... Gardens Aglow Fridays in Dec until the 20th, DABG 5-8 pm
- Dec 1 ..... Decorating Workshop, Landmark Park 1 pm
- Dec 2 ..... Greenhouse Workday, DABG, 8:30 am
- Dec 5 ..... All Bugs Good and Bad: Red-cockaded Woodpecker, 1 pm
- Dec 17 ..... Monthly Meeting, DABG Holiday Meeting 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)*

## Decorating Workshop

Spread some holiday cheer at Landmark Park at the Holiday Decorating Workshop on December 1 at 1 p.m. Create wreaths, garlands and swags out of natural materials and decorate Landmark Park for Victorian Christmas and make some decorations to take home! Refreshments will be provided. Registration required. This event is supported by the Wiregrass Master Gardeners. Admission is free. Guests are encouraged to bring gloves and wire pliers. Register at this link:

<https://www.landmarkparkdothan.com/park-events/decorating-workshop/>



## Gardens Aglow

Gardens Aglow is a walking tour to see the Dothan Area Botanical Gardens lit up for Christmas! The dates will be the four Friday nights between Thanksgiving and Christmas (**Nov. 29, Dec 6, 13 and 20**) and the Friday night after Christmas, December 27. Strollers, wagons and wheel chairs are welcome but bicycles, skateboards and roller skates are not permitted. The times are 5-8 p.m. each night.



# Fall

# GARDEN CHECKLIST



## November

### FRUITS AND NUTS

- ✓ Select sites for plantings.
- ✓ Start mulching strawberries, blackberries, and grapes.

### SHRUBS

- ✓ Plant shrubs, trees, and vines.

### ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS

- ✓ Plant hardy annuals such as larkspur, poppies, pansies, anchusa, and candytuft.
- ✓ Get sweet peas into the ground.

### ROSES

- ✓ Get rose planting underway.
- ✓ Use a soil test as a basis for fertilization.
- ✓ Look for new varieties.

### BULBS

- ✓ Continue spring bulb planting.
- ✓ Put lilies of the valley in a shady place.

### MISCELLANEOUS

- ✓ Plant screen plantings for privacy on the patio.

### VEGETABLES

- ✓ Plant cabbage and lettuce in the cold frame.

### LAWNS

- ✓ Have you thought about having a green lawn this winter? It's time to overseed.
- ✓ Use proper herbicide to kill germinating winter weeds.

## December

### FRUITS AND NUTS

- ✓ Plant young pecan and other deciduous fruit trees and grapes.
- ✓ Select budwood.
- ✓ Start dormant pruning of established fruits.
- ✓ Protect all young trees from rabbit damage by placing wire around the base of the tree.
- ✓ Put on dormant oil sprays for scale.

### SHRUBS

- ✓ Planting is still the main activity but delay in case of freezing weather.

### ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS

- ✓ Plant hardy annual seed without delay. Have you tried violas?

### BULBS

- ✓ Continue spring bulb planting.

### MISCELLANEOUS

- ✓ Shrubs, trees, and indoor plants make excellent gifts.

### ROSES

- ✓ Add plants to rose garden.
- ✓ Mulch all plantings.

## Reach for the Stars awards program

Here is the break out of the Reach for the Stars awards program which is based on the number of volunteer hours posted on line since first becoming an Intern in the Master Gardener program:



First is the stars that you attach to the name badge received upon successful completion of the Master Gardener Course and becoming a member of the Master Gardeners.

### STARS:

**Bronze Star** - Upon completion of 100 Volunteer hours

**Silver Star** - Upon completion of 300 Volunteer hours

**Gold Star** - Upon completion of 500 Volunteer Hours

**BADGES:** Replaces the badge received upon successful completion of the Master Gardener Course

**Gold Badge** - Upon completing and posting between 1,000 and 1,999 Volunteer Hours

**Platinum Badge** - Upon completing and posting between 2,000 and 2999 Volunteer Hours

### ADVANCED STARS:

**Ruby**-between 4,000 and 5999 Volunteer Hours

**Emerald**-between 6,000 and 9,999 Volunteer Hours

**Diamond**-between 8,000 and 9,999 Volunteer Hours

**LIFETIME BADGE:** 10,000 + Volunteer Hours (Includes Lifetime membership to AMGA)

**Note:** Gold and Platinum Badges and Advanced Stars are presented at the Annual State Conference. There are new “Stars” for those MGs that have posted over 10,000 volunteer hours

## 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 must be paid by December 1, 2019 so that WMGA can meet the AMGA due date of January 1, 2020.

Dues for any member who has AMGA Life Memberships remains at \$10.00 for WMGA dues and due and payable by December 1<sup>st</sup> also.

Dues for any member that has WMGA Life Membership remains at \$10.00 for AMGA membership, if desired and due and payable by December 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## Living History Program Landmark Park



## AMGA Conference 2020 Mobile, Alabama

The conference will be held at the Riverview Plaza Hotel from March 30-April 1. More to follow.

## Gardening Tips and Ideas for November Meeting



Do you have a unique plant, gardening tip, tool or idea that you would like to share with your fellow master gardeners? In lieu of a formal program, we're having a gardening "Show and Tell" at the November WMGA meeting. So give it some forethought. And please limit your presentation or discussion to a few minutes so that everyone has an opportunity to share their ideas. There will be a drawing for a door prize for those participating.



## Trees and Shrubs: Hot Items

As we begin to “grow” our network of plant propagators, here are just a few trees and shrubs that are among those most sought-after at the plant sales:

Trees	Shrubs
Baldcypress ( <i>Taxodium distichum</i> )	Althea, Rose-of-Sharon ( <i>Hibiscus syriacus</i> )
Eastern Red Cedar ( <i>Juniperus virginiana</i> )	Bottlebrush ( <i>Callistemon citrinus</i> )
Eastern Redbud ( <i>Cercis canadensis</i> )	Cassia ( <i>Cassia bicapsularis</i> )
Fig ( <i>Ficus carica</i> )	Chinese Fringe Shrub ( <i>Loropetalum chinensis</i> )
Flowering Dogwood ( <i>Cornus florida</i> )	Chinese Snowball Viburnum ( <i>Viburnum macrocephalum</i> )
Grancy Graybeard, Fringetree ( <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> )	English Dogwood, Mock Orange ( <i>Philadelphus coronarius</i> )
Japanese Maple ( <i>Acer palmatum</i> )	Florida Anise ( <i>Illicium floridanum</i> )
Nuttall Oak ( <i>Quercus nuttallii</i> )	French Hydrangea ( <i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i> )
Pawpaw ( <i>Asimina triloba</i> )	Gardenia ( <i>Gardenia jasminoides</i> )
Red Maple ( <i>Acer rubrum</i> )	Hollies ( <i>Ilex spp.</i> )
River Birch ( <i>Betula nigra</i> )	Japanese Camellia ( <i>Camellia japonica</i> )
Silver Maple ( <i>Acer saccharinum</i> )	Native Azaleas ( <i>Rhododendron spp.</i> )
Smoketree ( <i>Cotinus coggygria</i> )	Oakleaf Hydrangea ( <i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i> )
Southern Magnolia ( <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> )	Rhododendrons ( <i>Rhododendrons spp.</i> )
Sugarberry, Hackberry ( <i>Celtis laevigata</i> )	Roses (especially old roses) ( <i>Rosa spp.</i> )
Sycamore ( <i>Platanus occidentalis</i> )	Sasanqua Camellia ( <i>Camellia sasanqua</i> )
Tulip Poplar, Yellow Poplar ( <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> )	Spirea ( <i>Spiraea spp.</i> )
Vitex, Chaste Tree ( <i>Vitex agnus-castus</i> )	Tea Olive ( <i>Osmanthus fragrans</i> )

Of course, there are many more plants that we can use. In the coming months, we will provide specific propagation information on some of the trees and shrubs that you can grow at home in support of our plant sales. Happy propagating!



# HOUSTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER COURSE

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!**

**January 15th thru April 8th  
EACH Wednesday  
8:30 - 12:30 PM**

Master Gardener Volunteer Training will be held at the Houston County Extension Office taught by Auburn University and Extension Specialist, Regional Extension Agents, and Certified Master Gardeners.

Subject matter will include plant nutrition, plant id, turfgrass, landscape management, landscape design, entomology, plant diseases, vegetable gardening, home fruit production, and more. Fifty hours of volunteer service is required to become a Certified Master Gardener.

Cost of the course is \$150 if application is postmarked by December 31st.

Beginning January 1, 2020 the course fee is \$175.

\*Wiregrass Master Gardener's Association will provide partial sponsorships for first 15 applicants\*

## **Houston County Extension Office**

**Please call the Extension office for more information or an application form.**

**The deadline for application is January 10th, 2020.**

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator and employer. Everyone is welcome!  
Please let us know if you have accessibility needs. © 2019 by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. All rights reserved.

# WMGA Contacts



## 2019 WMGA Board of Directors

### Officers:

President:.....Jan Shirley .....334-790-2778 ..... Janiceshirley48@gmail.com  
Vice President.....Linda Isley.....334-655-3123 ..... Lpisley1@gmail.com  
Secretary.....Cathy Hinesley .....334-714-0775 ..... cbhinesley@gmail.com  
Treasurer: .....Cathy Bruce .....334-793-6737 ..... cathycbuce@gmail.com

### Board Members:

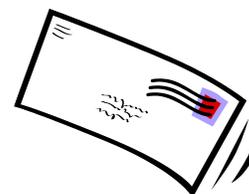
Board Member at Large: .....Judy Clardy .....334-797-9580 ..... jclardy822@aol.com  
Membership Chair:.....Tom Boyle.....334-794-2094 ..... BoyleT@graceba.net  
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Projects Chair .....Faye Carnley .....803-270-8757 ..... fmcarnley@gmail.com  
Immediate Past President .....Devonne Ellis.....205-739-9865 ..... devoellis@msn.com

## Plant Parent Directory

**Annuals:** Devonne Ellis.....205-739-9865  
**Bulbs:** Judy Clardy .....334-797-9580  
Jan Shirley .....334-790-2778  
**Perennials:** Cheryl Hatcher.....334-798-1034  
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**GrCovers/Vines/Grasses:** Barbara Jowers.....334-618-6657  
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**House Plants/Tropicals/Succulents:**  
Barbara Knight .....334-446-8846  
**Shrubs:** Phyllis Poole .....334-790-7685  
**Trees:** Don Lassiter ..... 334-701-5408  
**Vegetables:** Helen-Sue Kemp.....334-671-9879  
Charon Hodges.....334-714-6251

## Our Mailing Address:

Wiregrass Master Gardeners  
Association  
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## ACES



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## Landmark Park Coordinator

Tom Boyle  
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Visit our website @

[www.wiregrassmga.org](http://www.wiregrassmga.org)



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

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