



# GARDEN THYMES

Master Gardeners of North Alabama, Inc.

## The Hosta Sale

Sat. May 19, 9 AM - 2 PM

Rare, New, and Tried & True

Free Educational Programs

10 am – Just Starting – Tips on Buying Hosta  
12 pm – Growing Happy Hosta from the Ground Up  
Grisham Picnic Pavilion, Huntsville Botanical Garden  
4747 Bob Wallace Av., Huntsville, AL 35805  
Garden admission not required, Free parking (blue lot)  
Handicap accessible

2018 Hosta Sale

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2018 - Quarter 2

## News

### HBG Spring Plant Sale

By Carolyn Wade (W '12)

**H**untsville Botanical Garden's Spring plant sale is rapidly approaching. The veggie tent has about 8,000 plants being delivered on Tuesday morning, 10 April.

Once again this year, we will have informational signs posted about all the varieties and the cost will remain at \$2 per plant. Volunteers will help unload, price and arrange plants on Tuesday morning, and work the veggie tent assisting customers on Wednesday evening's Night of a Thousand Flowers, and Thursday through Sunday for the sale. Sunday afternoon, help will be needed to take down and clean up our area.

If you would like to help, please reply to the Sign Up Genius email that was sent out or click on the Sign Up Genius icon on our website, [mginfo.org](http://mginfo.org). What a great way to earn hours and have fun.

### Like! Us on Facebook

You don't have to be a member of Facebook to view the public MGNA Facebook page. But if you are a member, remember to Like Us, and share the articles that interest you!

[www.Facebook.com/MGofNA](http://www.Facebook.com/MGofNA)

## Reaching for The Stars!

By Sandra Pape (W '07)

Photos courtesy of Alice Brigman (W '07)

**C**ONGRATULATIONS to all those who earned Stars or Advanced Badges or Pins, and to Melissa Kirkindall for winning the Jean Lee award for her >6,000 lifetime hours, and Joan Jones for accruing the most 2017 hours.

**Reach for The Stars** is a program of tracking Master Gardener's volunteer hours and rewarding those members for the hours they have given to the community. During the February MGNA general meeting, advanced badges and pins were announced (they will be awarded during the MG State Convention) and, Bronze, Silver and Gold star pins were awarded.



**J**oan Jones earned the honor of **Top Hours of the year** by posting 1122.5 volunteer hours for 2017!



**M**elissa Kirkindall was honored with the **MGNA Jean Lee Lifetime Hours Award** with a total of 6871.8 volunteer hours since becoming a Master Gardener in 1998! Melissa was submitted to the state level to vie for the AMGA Jean Lee Lifetime Hours award.

Other awards were announced for:

**Awards** [continued on page 7](#)

## MGNA Plant Sale: Heirloom Tomato and Pepper Plants Needed

By Helen Carr (W '98)

**T**he MGNA Plant Sale needs members and interns to donate assorted pepper and heirloom tomato plants. They can be either determinate or indeterminate but please make sure they are without disease. Last year Perennial Arugula

**Tomato Plants** [continued on page 3](#)

# From The President

**W**ell, we had a great start to the new year. We made some new friends at First Stop. This organization is devoted to getting the homeless, in Huntsville, help.

We are teaching the staff to garden and, in turn, they are teaching their clients. Our hope is one day they will be able to take this knowledge and find employment.

In the meantime, the produce will be used for their meals and sold at farmer's markets for much needed funds. They are also growing flowers to be sold to help defray their expenses.

Soon the weather will allow us to get out there and enjoy our gardens. Sue Khoury will be heading up our Habitat for Humanity effort. She and Anna Bright are designing sustainable landscapes that will be low maintenance.

Elouisa Stokes has put together a dilly of a handbook this year. It has all the information you need!

In 2018, please join a project or committee. There are many projects to choose from and we have several more we are hoping to make official MGNA projects. All of our projects will be in full swing soon.



HAPPY SPRING!

*Ann Tippie (W'12)*  
*MGNA President*



# GARDEN THYMES

VOL. XXVIII, ISSUE 2

**Editor-in-Chief**

Acacia Moore (F '12)

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Sue Khoury (W '13)

Ann Tippie (W '12)

Carolyn Wade (W '12)

The *Garden Thymes* newsletter is published quarterly: January/February/March, April/May/June, July/August/September and October/November/December. Editorial deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

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The Alabama Master Gardener program is conducted at the county level by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES).

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[newsletter@mginfo.org](mailto:newsletter@mginfo.org).



**Bluebirds**  
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## Tomato Plants [continued from page 1](#)

was a favorite. So if you have some to share, please pot it up. Pots are available on the porch of Melissa Kirkindall. Mark your calendars for May 12th and let either Max Campbell or Helen Carr know if you will be donating these vegetable plants. Thank you!



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**Max Campbell (W '03)**  
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## Master Gardener March Workshop

By Helen Carr (W '98)

Certified Square Foot Gardening Instructor, Mike Harrison's "Square Foot Gardening" presentation at the Agribition Center was such a success that all seats were filled and no one went away disappointed. It's no wonder that for the 2016-17 school year he was voted the Middle School Volunteer of the Year. He volunteers at the Hampton Cove Middle School teaching students how to grow their own crops in a S.F. garden in the school's greenhouse and in their Outdoor Classroom.

He uses Mel Bartholomew's simple, unique method which is more efficient, saves time, uses 80% less space, 90% less water, and 95% less seeds than a regular garden as well as no need for fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides. There is no wasteful thinning of your plants, no need to purchase hand tools or heavy tillers. You harvest 5 times more in the same space. There is no mulch, wood chips or soil conditioners recommended. He pulls out occasional weeds easily with his hand and waters at the plant base. He renews his bed only every 5 years by adding new compost.

His S.F. beds can be built almost anywhere there is 6-8 hours of sun-on soil, grass or cement! To build a bed -1). Build a box with treated lumber, 4'x4' to allow 6" of soil, put down a Weed Barrier cloth, add 6" of his mix: 1/3 part vermiculite, 1/3 part peat and 1/3 of 5 different composts (chicken, turkey or cow manure, vegetable or mushroom compost or worm castings). Horse manure is too low in nutrients for this. Divide the 4'x4' into 16 sections with blind sections, yard sticks, bamboo or 1/2" wooden sticks or pipes. Rope or string will cut the plants in a wind. For each section or square plant 1 large plant (tomato), 4 medium (lettuce) plants, 9 small (beans) plants or 16 extra small (carrots).

Maybe all of us will learn something if we try this. Mike was not even a Master Gardener student!

(The complete book by Mel Bartholomew is titled "All New Square Foot Gardening".)



**Helen Carr (W '98)**  
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## Give A Hand Winner

By Kathy Gardner (W '17)



**February:**

Rosie Rymut won the February Give A Hand because she does an excellent job as workshop chairman. She also won the door prize.

## 50/50 Winner



**February:**

David Grey won the 50/50 award.



# 2017 Galaxy of Lights Fun Facts!

By Annette Alexander, HSVBG Director  
of Development

From everyone at the Garden, we send a heartfelt thank you for making this year's Galaxy of Lights another record-breaking success.

Due to the generous support of our community, Galaxy of Lights continues to be a perennial favorite of the Tennessee Valley.

## Happy 2018!

...35,454 walkers  
...23,455 cars  
...2,072 canine friends  
...2,100 runners  
...262 bike riders for Bike the Lights  
...11,775 cups of hot chocolate served  
...99,500 cookies served  
...1,300 volunteers  
...A marriage proposal in the Icicle  
Forrest

## MGNA Open House

By Ann Tippie (W '12)

Please join us for the MGNA Open House on Saturday, April 28th from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Madison County Cooperative Extension Office located at 819 Cook Avenue, Huntsville, AL 35801.

The Open House is for all Master Gardeners and Interns, including the current class. Each committee or project chair will have displays depicting what they do. The tri-fold will be on display. Each committee will have signup materials available at their tables. Refreshments will be available.

If you have any questions, contact Ann Tippie at [tippieam@gmail.com](mailto:tippieam@gmail.com).

## Morris Elementary Updates

By Carolyn Wade (W '12)

We are still meeting with Morris 5th graders on Tuesdays from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cool season plants have been planted – potatoes, peas, lettuce, carrots, onions and spinach, in their square foot gardens. During the COOLER days, we meet in the classroom. Sessions this winter have included the principle of light, edible plant parts, butterflies, edible seeds, plants of Costa Rico and many more. We have learned about new fruits and vegetables, from celery to pears. Did you know there are more than 5000 varieties of pears in the world? We know now, thanks to a 5th grader's research. The children even made deviled eggs in class one day, which seemed to be a big hit.

The Outdoor Classroom in the Courtyard is coming along. The water feature was installed the week of Spring Break. On Friday, 30 March, we had a workday to finish up the courtyard garden area, installed an arbor, and completed the sensory, butterfly and bird gardens.

The greenhouse frame and foundation are up. Thanks to the Helping Hands and Leadership groups. We had a large pavilion installed the last of March.

In conjunction with the Education Department at the HBG and Iberian Bank, we received a grant to take the 5th grade class to the HBG plant sale on Thursday, 12 April. Each child was given a \$2 coupon to buy a 'food' producing plant to take home and a \$2 coupon for plants for the gardens at Morris. Due to unforeseen circumstances, only our 5th grade class was able to go to the plant sale. Our 28 5th graders selected and purchased (with our help) the plants for the other two 5th grade classes as well as their own. We took ALL of the plants back to Morris, where ALL of the 5th grade students re-potted a vegetable plant to take home and planted a flowering plant at the school. We had volunteers to accompany the children (one adult per every 2 children) to shop.



Carolyn Wade (W'12)  
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# Master Gardener Profile

*"Although I am an introvert, I like to talk to people." - Nareatha Studdard*

By Acacia Moore (F'12)

Nareatha Studdard was born in Detroit, Michigan on January 10. Both of her parents, who were Detroit Public School teachers, were raised in Alabama. Her father taught drafting and woodshop. Her mother taught art. Every summer, they would leave Michigan and head south where Nareatha would visit her grandparents and other relatives. There she would watch her grandparents tend to their gardens and chickens. Once she witnessed her grandmother wringing the neck of a chicken. The chicken along with some of the vegetables growing in her grandparents garden became their dinner for the night.

As an undergraduate, Nareatha attended Alabama A&M University where she earned a B.S. in Marketing. After graduation, the U.S. Department of the Army (Army Material Command) hired her in logistics management. Initially, she was sent to Texarkana, Texas for training and then permanently to New Jersey at the Communications and Electronics Command (CECOM). At the time she had no objections moving to New Jersey. Nareatha was young and wanted to see the world. After a while, she was ready to leave for a warmer climate and cheaper cost of living. Besides, her personality was not suited to the military or government work.

While employed at CECOM, she earned a M.A. in Education with a concentration in Psychology from Se-

ton Hall University. She was invited to join the Ph.D. program in Counseling Psychology but declined. Her intuition told her counseling wasn't in her nature. She enjoyed psychology but missed business. She resigned after nine years with the government to pursue graduate education full-time.



**Nareatha Studdard (W '15)**

Her interests took her to Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, where she earned an M.B.A. and Ph.D. in Organizational Management. There she focused on researching entrepreneurial firms. With the help of her advisor, she did cross-cultural research for her dissertation and got to study and collect data in Helsinki, Finland. Upon graduation, she took a job as an Assistant Professor of Management at Arkansas State University. She published and presented articles domestically and internationally in the area of entrepreneurship. She taught different management and entrepreneurship courses and helped students write business plans.

She stayed five years in Jonesboro, Arkansas but desired moving to a larger city and closer to her mother who now lived in Birmingham, Alabama. She returned to her alma mater, Alabama A&M University as an Associate Professor of Management. Yet, after six years they let her go.

Her husband, Bill Stevenson, is a rocket scientist. It's a cooler job title than chemist. They have a six-year-old daughter, a cat named Harry, and a dog named Rudy.

Nareatha loves gardening because she loves to cook. She owns over 200 cookbooks. She learned to garden from her mother and through her own experimentations. Food tastes extraordinary when using fresh vegetables, fruits and herbs. Moreover, fresh flowers in the home create an inviting atmosphere.

In New Jersey, She lived in a town house with a large front porch. There she would grow tomatoes, lettuce, cucumbers, peppers, strawberries, various herbs, and zucchini all in various sized pots. Often she would let plants grow wild. She wanted to understand how plants grow and transform. Jungle is how her neighbors would describe her garden. Now, she dreams of living in an English garden, instead she lives in the woods.

**Nareatha Studdard** [continued on page 6](#)

## Give A Hand Winner

By Alice Brigman (W '07)



### March:

Cookie Kruvand won the March Give A Hand because she used her amazing computer skills to make the Speakers Bureau contact info list look good.

## Door Prize Winner



### March:

Connie Carr won the March door prize.

## 50/50 Winner



### March:

Pam Price won the 50/50 drawing.

## Nareatha Studdard [continued from page 5](#)

In Arkansas, Nareatha learned about the Master Gardner Program from the wife of a professor. She thought it would be fun to do after she retired. There's little free time as a college professor. However, once Alabama A&M University released her, she was free to take the course. She thought why should she wait until retirement, life is short. She was in the winter of 2015 class and graduated the following year.

She hasn't had any formal positions in MGNA. She samples various activities. She worked at Dots Greenhouse but gave it up to play Pickelball. She worked in the Demonstration Vegetable Garden, which she enjoyed since her gardening interests focus on eating what she grow. She has assisted with gardening at Montessori School of Huntsville where her daughter attends. Her most consistent activity is writing for the newsletter. She like to write as you can tell from this long dossier. Whenever she attends an event, she writes an article.

Last year, her volunteering decreased because her mother died. She had to handle her mother's estate. Her maternal aunt, her mother's younger sister, died two weeks before her mother did. Three months before her aunt died, her father-in-law died and seven weeks before he died, her mother-in-law died. Grief steals your energy. She wanted to rest so she did. Slowly, she is awakening to life again.

Due to Nareatha's entrepreneurial interests, she sold sweet potato bread at the local farmer's market. Nareatha's grandmother once shared with her that when her grandmother's sister, Rebecca, was teaching her to play the piano, her sister Rebecca died and her grandmother gave up playing the piano after her sister died. Nareatha understands now why she gave it up. Her desire to sell sweet potato bread left her with her mother's passing. Presently, she teaches part-time at the University of Alabama-Huntsville in the management area. She is also working on another entrepreneurial pursuit.

She likes to travel but it comes in spurts. She don't have a favorite place. There is something new and exciting about every place she visits. She has been to Europe (the Netherlands; England; Paris, France; Madrid, Spain; Helsinki, Finland; Estonia), China (Beijing and Shanghai), Mexico and Canada. She has seen about half of the United States.

She is interested in learning and exploring new things. She decided to learn how to play the piano over a year ago. She took up sewing and quilting a few years back. She likes to swim, read, meditate, do yoga. She likes long walks because it helps her to think. She likes art and historical museums. Anything more you want to know just talk to her. She says "Although I am an introvert, I like to talk to people." One of her co-writers once said to her, "You have a wicked sense of humor and a hell of an imagination." He's British, which accounts for him using the word wicked.





**Gold Badge Recipients:** Herschel McFarlan, Karen Reed and Rose Rymut. Karen Reed not in the picture



**Platinum Badge Recipients:** Allyson Hofer (Davis), Sue Khoury, Suzanne Kirkhuff, Lynn Myers and Ann Tippie. Lynn Myers not in the picture.



**Ruby Pin Recipients:** Betsy Fletcher and Joseph Jones. Betsy Fletcher not in the picture.



**Emerald Star Recipients:** Josie Asquith, Janet Boothe and Mary Howe. Josie Asquith and Janet Boothe not in the picture.



**Bronze Star Recipients:** Herman Beach, Connie Carr, Shih-Hung Chou, Shirleen Fletcher, Cathy Gamble, Jane Jones, Karon McGill, Walter Meyer and Brady Queen-Peden. Herman Beach, Shih-Hung Chou, Cathy Gamble and Walter Meyer not in the picture.



**Silver Star Recipients:** Patty Cowart, Marsha Harris, Jennifer Johnson, Susan Meyer, Acacia Moore, Judith Rushton, Kenneth Tippie, John Whitt, Jessica Wood and Ameree Young. In photo - Jennifer Johnson (L) and Acacia Moore (R ).



**Gold Star Recipients:** Catherine Brickey, Deborah Bonkoski, Cynthia Lindblom, Jean (Shelly) Miller, Pam Price, Deen Rice and Wendell Uptagraft. Jean (Shelly) Miller and Pam Price not in the picture.

# Facebook: Building a Following – Part I

By Sue Khoury (W'13)

So what's it like to manage our public Facebook page? If you're younger than 50, you probably think it's really simple and not at all time-consuming. If you're over 50 you may be wondering what a Facebook is!

First, for the uninitiated, here's an idea of how social media sites like Facebook work. Do you remember the 1970s shampoo television commercial, where the key concept was viral marketing? The phrase in the commercial claimed, "You tell two friends, and they'll tell two friends, and they'll tell two friends, and so on, and so on..." while a single image of a model multiplied exponentially on-screen.



**Figures 1 and 2: "...and they'll tell two friends, and so on, and so on, and so on..."**

That was a very clear example of viral marketing, and whether we are talking about shampoo, automobiles, candy bars or web sites, viral marketing still works. Nowadays, though, it's called social media. This concept works very well for commercial enterprises and non-profits. You need only a few outstanding posts (articles) and your followers will click on icons that indicate they Like, Love, or feel some other way about them. In the best of all possible scenarios, they Like, comment on, and then Share a post! Then all of their followers will see it. And so on, and so on...

So how do we find the articles that will engage and grow our social media presence? Ah, there's the rub! It takes a great deal of research. Anything written about gardening, nature, the environment, etc. that we want to include on our page must come from a reputable source, preferably one that either conducts or quotes scientific research to back up the data or claims in the article. We can't post old wives' tales, unproven theories (unless we know and add a caveat to explain that research is underway), or anything that might be construed as being controversial (e.g., many climate change articles that aren't backed up by hard science.) I spend roughly 10 hours per week reading and adjudicating articles, videos, blogs, and journals. I learn a great deal, but it's a daunting task.

What happens next? I developed an Excel workbook that I use to document what I've posted, when I posted it, and its source. It includes a worksheet full of "ideas" – posts I've found that would be better highlighted during a future season. That brings us to requirement #2: all posts must be timely. People who are planning their spring gar-

**Facebook [continued on page 9](#)**



dens don't care about making Christmas wreaths using local evergreens. Someone looking for crepe myrtle pruning tips needs to see them in February – and needs a caution in late fall, when landscape contractors are looking for easy off-season business! So my Ideas worksheet lists the same 3 things – the What, How, and Where – but it also specifies the season, month, and time of the month to add the article, as well as any comments I think we should make when it posts. At any given time I have ~200 catalogued Idea posts in the workbook.

What other worksheets are in the workbook? There's a tab for every month. Each tab contains columns for the date, time of day, source, post title, and the source of the article. See below for an example. And that brings us to requirement #3: post a minimum of three times per day! Why? Facebook has numerous algorithms it uses to determine what users see in their "newsfeed" and which newsfeed items to prioritize. One critical algorithm involves how active is a business page's article (i.e., how many people has it "reached," which they calculate by counting Likes, Comments, and Shares.) We have a much greater chance of gaining attention and subsequently being prioritized (by Facebook) if we post often. Also, people may not be available to see posts during all hours of the day; they may only see early morning or late-day articles. I post 3X daily and more often if we have "breaking news:" articles that just landed on my desk and should be added ASAP. These are often local items such as MGNA community activities, educational opportunities, or ACES announcements. So figure roughly 90 posts per month. In general, I've scheduled them 2 months in advance, but that also means I have to reshuffle them whenever there's "breaking news."

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Date	Time	Source	Title	URL
2	4/1/2018	7:00 AM	dailyprogress.com	Growing Bonsai for Beginners	<a href="http://www.dailyprogress.com/lifestyles/gardening-growing-bonsai-trees-offers-rewarding-challenges">http://www.dailyprogress.com/lifestyles/gardening-growing-bonsai-trees-offers-rewarding-challenges</a>
3		1:00 PM	hgtv.com	20 Evergreen Shrubs for Non-Stop Color	<a href="http://www.hgtv.com/outdoors/flowers-and-plants/evergreen-shrubs-bring-non-stop-color-pictures?n">http://www.hgtv.com/outdoors/flowers-and-plants/evergreen-shrubs-bring-non-stop-color-pictures?n</a>
4		7:00 PM	Garden n Country FB page	Slideshow of gardens	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/mygardencountry/videos/577883105907258/">https://www.facebook.com/mygardencountry/videos/577883105907258/</a>
5	4/2/2018	7:00 AM	Home Depot Garden Club	Stop Crabgrass Now Before It Takes Over Your Lawn	<a href="http://gardenclub.homedepot.com/stop-crabgrass/?segment=GC_M-SOUTH_zone4&amp;ind=1">http://gardenclub.homedepot.com/stop-crabgrass/?segment=GC_M-SOUTH_zone4&amp;ind=1</a>
6		1:00 PM	Horticulture Magazine	Propagate Tender Perennials With This Trick	<a href="http://www.hortmag.com/weekly-tips/propagation/propagate-tender-perennials-with-this-trick?utm">http://www.hortmag.com/weekly-tips/propagation/propagate-tender-perennials-with-this-trick?utm</a>
7		7:00 PM	botanydepot.com	Manual of the 50 Most Common Plant Families in Temper	<a href="https://botanydepot.com/2018/01/28/50tempmanual/">https://botanydepot.com/2018/01/28/50tempmanual/</a>
8	4/3/2018	7:00 AM	indefenseofplants.com	Fish: The Unsung Heroes of Seed Dispersal	<a href="http://www.indefenseofplants.com/blog/2018/1/30/fish-the-unsung-heroes-of-tropical-seed-dispersal">http://www.indefenseofplants.com/blog/2018/1/30/fish-the-unsung-heroes-of-tropical-seed-dispersal</a>
9		1:00 PM	grobigred.com	How Do Insects Survive Winter	<a href="https://grobigred.com/2018/01/31/how-do-insects-survive-winter/">https://grobigred.com/2018/01/31/how-do-insects-survive-winter/</a>
10		7:00 PM	gardeningknowhow.com	Planting Mint as Groundcover	<a href="https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/edible/herbs/mint/planting-mint-for-groundcover.htm">https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/edible/herbs/mint/planting-mint-for-groundcover.htm</a>
11	4/4/2018	7:00 AM	gardeningchannel.com	Worm Composting Made Simple	<a href="https://www.gardeningchannel.com/worm-composting-made-simple/">https://www.gardeningchannel.com/worm-composting-made-simple/</a>
12		1:00 PM	American Nurseryman	Guide to Carex pennsylvanica (Pennsylvania sedge)	<a href="https://www.amerinnursery.com/growing/carex-pennsylvanica/">https://www.amerinnursery.com/growing/carex-pennsylvanica/</a>
13		7:00 PM	gardenclub.homedepot.com	DIY Concrete Birdbath	<a href="http://gardenclub.homedepot.com/water-birds-diy-concrete-birdbath/?segment=GC_M-SOUTH_zone4&amp;">http://gardenclub.homedepot.com/water-birds-diy-concrete-birdbath/?segment=GC_M-SOUTH_zone4&amp;</a>
14	4/5/2018	7:00 AM	al.com - Garden Talk	Suggestions for a living hedge	<a href="http://www.al.com/living/index.ssf/2017/04/suggestions_for_a_living_hedge.html">http://www.al.com/living/index.ssf/2017/04/suggestions_for_a_living_hedge.html</a>
15		1:00 PM	Southern Meadows FB Page	Why Joe-pye weed?	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/southernmeadowsga/videos/1018522391521866/">https://www.facebook.com/southernmeadowsga/videos/1018522391521866/</a>
16		7:00 PM	gardendesign.com	THE BEST FLOWERING TREES FOR RESIDENTIAL GARDENS	<a href="https://www.gardendesign.com/trees/flowering.html#white?utm_source=article-newsletter&amp;utm_me">https://www.gardendesign.com/trees/flowering.html#white?utm_source=article-newsletter&amp;utm_me</a>
17	4/6/2018	7:00 AM	rodalorganicle.com	6 Ways to Grow a Garden if You Don't Have a Yard	<a href="https://www.rodalorganicle.com/garden/urban-gardening?platform=hootsuite">https://www.rodalorganicle.com/garden/urban-gardening?platform=hootsuite</a>
18		1:00 PM	botanicalinterests.com	Climates and Your Garden	<a href="https://www.botanicalinterests.com/articles/view/109/Climates-and-Your-Garden?utm_source=Weekh">https://www.botanicalinterests.com/articles/view/109/Climates-and-Your-Garden?utm_source=Weekh</a>
19		7:00 PM	azfremseed.org	Germination Troubleshooting Guide	<a href="http://exfromseed.org/articles/HGSA-October_germination.pdf">http://exfromseed.org/articles/HGSA-October_germination.pdf</a>
20	4/7/2018	7:00 AM	gardenersworld.com	Blight-Resistant Tomatoes	<a href="http://www.gardenersworld.com/plants/plant-inspiration/blight-resistant-tomato-varieties/">http://www.gardenersworld.com/plants/plant-inspiration/blight-resistant-tomato-varieties/</a>
21		1:00 PM	thespruce.com	All About Growing Passionflower	<a href="https://www.thespruce.com/passion-flowers-1403114">https://www.thespruce.com/passion-flowers-1403114</a>
22		7:00 PM	Youshouldgrow.com	Ideas for Making Garden Markers	<a href="https://youshouldgrow.com/garden-markers/">https://youshouldgrow.com/garden-markers/</a>
23	4/8/2018	7:00 AM	American Nurseryman	Im pact of Temperature on Herbicide Activity	<a href="https://www.amerinnursery.com/pest-management/impact-temperature-herbicide-activity/">https://www.amerinnursery.com/pest-management/impact-temperature-herbicide-activity/</a>
24		1:00 PM	Horticulture Magazine	Eriogonum Shrub Shines Both Spring and Fall	<a href="http://www.hortmag.com/plants/plants-we-love/erigonum-shrub-shines-both-spring-and-fall">http://www.hortmag.com/plants/plants-we-love/erigonum-shrub-shines-both-spring-and-fall</a>

**Figure 3: Monthly Worksheet Example**

Tune in next quarter for Part II of this series. I'll explain how I find and follow sources, what types of content get the most attention, and what our growing social media presence means to MGNA!



**Sue Khoury (W '13)**

# Creating Gardens for Kids

By Carolyn Wade (W '12)

The Food Bank of North Alabama is interested in having Master Gardeners help with a new summer program: Creating Gardens for Kids with the North AL Food Bank. Their goal is to help kids create gardens for healthy eating.

There are 2 day cares involved in the pilot program this year. One is across from Huntsville Botanical Garden on Bob Wallace and one is next to the Food Bank on Clinton and 8th Ave.

They are looking for Master Gardeners who are willing to advise them about growing vegetable gardens to get kids interested, possibly an hour or two every couple of weeks.

Not sure about doing it on your own, grab a buddy and both of you volunteer.

Please let me know if you are interested.



Carolyn Wade (W '12)  
[cbwade9@gmail.com](mailto:cbwade9@gmail.com)

## No Process Pickles Recipe

1 cup water	1 cup white vinegar
2 teaspoons salt	1 tablespoon sugar
Handful of fresh dill	Whole peppercorns
Red radishes, sliced thin	Peeled garlic cloves
Cucumbers sliced medium or cut into quarters	

Fill your container with cucumber and radish slices. Add the dill, peppercorns and garlic.

Mix the water, vinegar, salt and sugar together and stir.

Pour the water/vinegar mixture over the pickles.

Seal the container tightly and place in the refrigerator.

The pickles will be ready for eating the next morning and can last up to a month in the refrigerator.

After one month, please discard for safety's sake.

The longer the cucumbers pickle, the softer they will become.

Recipe by Carolyn Wade (W '12)

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## *DVG Updates*

By Carolyn Wade (W '12)

Spring planting is underway at the Demonstration Vegetable Garden. Our peas, potatoes and lettuce may be a little waterlogged but we are hoping with some warm sunny weather they will recover and produce a bumper crop. Right now, we are working on Tuesday mornings starting about 8:30 a.m. or 9:00 a.m. We are getting the beds ready, adding some amendments, tilling in the clover and weeding.

There is always something to do and we welcome all members and Interns who are interested in learning more about the Demonstration Vegetable Garden. Starting in early April we will transition to Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings starting about 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, 19 May, we will have our annual Master Gardener Day at the DVG from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We will have tours for visitors, pH testing, and refreshments. Watch for the SUG email soon to sign up.



# The Purple Haze of Spring - Three purple flowering weeds:

## Henbit

*Lamium amplexicaule*

## Purple Dead Nettle

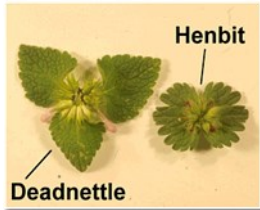
*Lamium purpureum*

## Ground Ivy(Creeping Charlie)

*Glechoma hederacea*

Article and photos by Cookie Kruvand (W '99)

**H**ave you noticed the lovely purple haze covering many lawns and fields in the spring? It can be one or a mix of these common wild flowers that have become lawn weeds. All are in the mint family so they all have the characteristic square stems and purplish tubular flowers with lips, and all are imported from Europe. There are differences, however.



*Amplexicaule* means “clasping” and describes how the henbit’s middle and upper leaves grab the stem with no stalk. The dead nettle, *L. purpureum*, doesn’t do that. Its leaves all have stalks although some are very short. *Purpureum* refers to the purplish or reddish tint of the upper leaves. Dead nettle refers to the similarity of the leaves to stinging nettle, but these do not sting – they are ‘dead’. Both have flower clusters at the top of each stem. Henbit’s leaves are all roundish while dead nettles are pointed and a little bigger. Both have scalloped edges.

A third look-alike is Creeping Charlie, also called Ground Ivy, *Glechoma hederacea*. Like Henbit, Charlie has round scalloped leaves, but they do not clasp the stem. The flowers are not so concentrated at the top, and they are a bit bluer. Henbit leaves are hairy; Charlie has smooth leaves.



*Lamium purpureum*  
Purple Dead Nettle

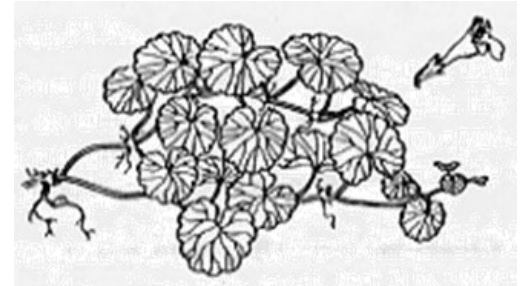


*Lamium amplexicaule*  
Henbit



*Glechoma hederacea*  
Creeping Charlie, Ground Ivy

**T**he life cycle and flowering time and therefore control measures differ with Henbit and Creeping Charlie. Henbit is a winter annual and creeping Charlie is a perennial. The original creeping Charlie plants come back every year accompanied by many seedlings. Henbit has to start from seed each year.



The henbit plants that are blooming now germinated last fall. Henbit, as a winter annual, blooms very early in the spring, well before creeping Charlie blooms. The purple haze you see blooming right now (March 1) on lawns and open fields is Henbit. Despite the weediness of the plant, it really is quite pretty. And despite the fact that it covers entire lawns it is not considered aggressive because it’s an annual, while Creeping Charlie is very invasive and hard to control.

**Purple Haze** [continued on page 12](#)



## Weed Control

The Lamiums - Henbit and Dead Nettle - are winter annuals. That is, they grow only from seeds, which sprout in the fall and flower in the spring. Then they make seeds and disappear by mid-summer, after depositing the seeds in the ground for next year. They can be controlled by using pre-emergent herbicides before they germinate in fall, or post-emergent broadleaf herbicides while they are actively growing; before they flower for best results. Small infestations can be easily pulled by hand from moist soil. Since they radiate from a small taproot, one pull in the center gets a satisfying amount of weed.

But *Glechoma* is a perennial that roots at every leaf joint and hand weeding merely beaks off bits and pieces. Any bits that you leave on the ground can also take root. Pre-emergent herbicides will only stop the seeds, not the perennial roots. Multiple applications of post-emergent herbicides are necessary. Sometimes stripping off the sod or using Roundup and starting over is the only solution.

When you see the purple haze, it is too late to use pre-emergent and probably too late to use post-emergent broadleaf herbicides to control winter annuals. To be effective on annual weeds, pre-emergents have to be used before the seeds germinate and post-emergents have to be used while the weed is actively growing, generally before it blooms.

## Eat the Weeds

While considered a weed because of its propensity for spreading, *Glechoma* has culinary and medicinal uses which are why it was imported to America by early European settlers. The fresh herb can be rinsed and steeped in hot water to create an herbal tea which is rich in vitamin C. It has a distinctive, mildly peppery flavor; it can be cooked as a pot herb, although it is most commonly eaten as a fresh salad green. *Glechoma* was also widely used by the Saxons in brewing beer as flavoring, clarification, and preservative, before the introduction of hops for these purposes; thus the brewing-related names: Alehoof, Tunhoof, and Gill-over-the-ground. *Glechoma* has been used in the cheese-making process as a substitute for animal rennet. It has been used in the traditional medicine of Europe going back thousands of years.

*Lamium Amplexicaule* is useful in salads, as dried herbs, and something you can "snack" on when you're out in the garden. The purple flowers have nectar at the bottom like honeysuckle; sucking on them is a quick, sweet treat. The mild, sweet taste of henbit leaves stands in contrast to the crisp leaves usually put in salads. John Gerard, the English herbalist, wrote some 400 years ago: "The floures are baked with sugar as Roses are, which is called Sugar roset: as also the distilled water of them, which is used to make the heart merry, to make a good colour in the face, and to refresh the vital spirits."

Lab tests show that *Lamium purpureum* seed oil possess high antioxidant activities. Purple Dead Nettle is used as an astringent, diuretic, purgative and tonic. Young plants have edible tops and leaves, good in salads or in stir-fry as a spring vegetable. If finely chopped it can also be used in sauces, but there is little to recommend about its flavor. Interesting note: the pollen is red.

## Well-behaved Cousins

There are nursery varieties of these plants for your garden. Spotted Dead Nettle, *Lamium maculatum* varieties are perennial groundcovers for shade or part shade. They have larger flowers in clusters of pink, white, yellow, or purple and interesting silvery leaf patterns, and even a chartreuse one. Best of all they're deer and rabbit resistant.

*Glechoma hederacea* 'Variegata' is a variegated Ground Ivy with white leaf markings. It will grow in sun or shade, and can drape over a wall, a pot, or a rock garden. Use it as a fast growing, deer resistant groundcover under trees and over bulbs. It is also sold as a "steppable" for light traffic.



Cookie Kruvand (W '99)  
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# *"Eating to Feel Better"* Lunch 'n' Learn at Dublin Park

Article and photo by Helen Carr (W '98)

**O**n February 6th, Nancy Billings with her outstanding qualifications as a nationally recognized Family and Consumer Sciences (Home Economics) teacher for 40+ years spoke as a Master Gardener. She filled the ears of 26 attendees about the newest recommendations to keep us healthy from Tufts University.

She gave out copies of the new Food Wheel, latest Genetically Modified Organism (G.M.O.) information, guidelines to daily meal and snack planning, refrigeration and freezer safety storage recommendations plus personal recipes. Everyone gave her a "Thumbs Up".

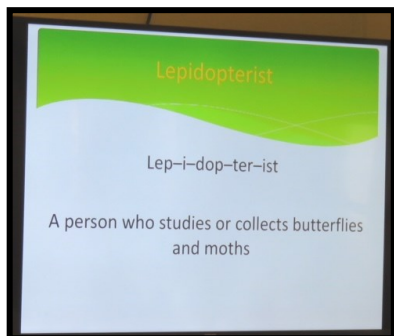


Helen Carr (W '98)  
[helenlcarr@aol.com](mailto:helenlcarr@aol.com)

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## *"Butterflies"* Lunch 'n' Learn at Dublin Park

Article and photo by Suzanne Kirkhuff (W '07)



**T**he Lunch'n'Learn workshops at Dublin Park in Madison have a greater attendance by the general public than any other venue we use. One reason is it is a great location and the programs are interesting to most everyone.

Master Gardener, Jennifer Johnson, our very own lepidopterist (studier of butterflies) gave a well received program on butterflies on February 20th. Jennifer has always been interested in butterflies as her students could attest to when she taught school.

Jennifer's presentation included pictures of many chrysalides and butterflies from her own yard that she filmed with her iph-one. What we all found awesome was her real time video of a chrysalis and then the butterfly emerging from it. Everyone received a listing of various plants and shrubs and the types of butterflies they attract.

One common theme throughout the presentation was to plant Miss Huff lantana. In our area it acts as a perennial but is really an annual. Hopefully, it made it through this hard winter we had. Butterflies love it and you generally don't have to replant each year like most lantana.



Suzanne Kirkhuff (W '07)  
[suzanne6816@att.net](mailto:suzanne6816@att.net)





*Don't miss the raffles, demonstrations, and rain barrels made to order!*

**Master Gardeners of North Alabama**

# *plant sale*

**Saturday, May 12 • 8:00 am – 3:00 pm**

**Madison County Farmer's Market**

(822 Cook Avenue, Huntsville)

- ✓ Hard-to-find varieties; very reasonable prices!
- ✓ Healthy, proven plants grown by MGs for this area!
- ✓ Master Gardeners on hand to answer your questions
- ✓ Perennials, wildflowers, roses, tomatoes, peppers, shrubs, small trees, hostas, shade plants, daylilies, annuals, native plants, herbs galore, and much more!
- ✓ *FREE* soil pH testing!
- ✓ Special Plants for Pollinators table!
- ✓ *EXPANDED* garden-themed rummage sale!

**Proceeds support MGNA service projects in the community!**

**[www.mginfo.org](http://www.mginfo.org)**

Master Gardeners of North Alabama, Incorporated, a 501 (c)(3) Nonprofit Corporation  
Trained volunteers supporting the Alabama Cooperative Extension System since 1968!



[www.facebook.com/MGofNA](http://www.facebook.com/MGofNA)



## 2018 MGNA Education Workshops - Thursdays

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Fairy Gardens	Gloria Uhl & Susan Meyer	X-tension	10-12 p.m.
Sept. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Fall Veg. Gardening	Tom Simpson	Agribition Ctr.	10-12 p.m.
Oct. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Drought Water/Conservation	Rhonda Britton	X-tension	10-12 p.m.
Nov. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Playing in the Mud	Karen Reed	X-tension	10-12 p.m.



**HerbFest**  
*Saturday May 12, 2018*  
*10:00 am - 2:00 pm*

- ❖ Tour the Herb Garden
- ❖ Sample delicious Herb cookies
- ❖ Beautiful fresh Tussie-mussies and Cookbooks available for Mother's Day
- ❖ Free Plants!

## **The Hosta Sale**

**Sat. May 19, 9 AM - 2 PM**

**Rare, New, and Tried & True**

**Free Educational Programs**

**10 am – Just Starting – Tips on Buying Hosta**

**12 pm – Growing Happy Hosta from the Ground Up**

**Grisham Picnic Pavilion, Huntsville Botanical Garden**

**4747 Bob Wallace Av., Huntsville, AL 35805**

**Garden admission not required, Free parking (blue lot)**

**Handicap accessible**

# Bluebirds

By Ann Tippie (W '12)

Photos by Alice Brigman (W '07)

Lieutenant Colonel Tim Green represented [OurBluebirdTrails.org](http://OurBluebirdTrails.org) at our March general meeting. The organization provides a platform of knowledge for bird lovers. Lt. Col. Green builds and installs bluebird houses.

[www.ourbluebirdtrails.org](http://www.ourbluebirdtrails.org) is sponsored by the Cavity Nester Conservancy (CNC). The CNC began as a hobby that developed into passion for wildlife for Lt. Col. Tim Green. The CNC is a national 501(c)(3) (Education and Research) nonprofit organization that promotes the outdoor lifestyle through education, wildlife conservation, habitat preservation, and stewardship.

Through their efforts they hope to help preserve, protect, and enhance the natural habitats of cavity nesting birds species across North America. Specifically, cavity nesting birds such as Bluebirds, Chickadee, Owls, Purple Martins, Tufted Titmouse, Tree Swallow, Wrens, and many



Lt. Col. Green discussing different types of bird houses during the General Meeting in March.

## River Rock Stables Field Trip

Article and photo by Jessica Thornburg (W '17)

On March 7th, a small group of Master Gardeners joined me at River Rock Stables located at 29146 Capshaw Road in Harvest, AL. River Rock Stables is a beautiful Equestrian facility owned by Steve & Lisa Foley. It is home to over 30 horses and they hold several horse shows annually as well as clinics and parties.

Under the tutelage of Master Pruners Tom Simpson & Barbara McFarlen, we were able to prune several grasses, trees, crepe myrtles and shrubs. I was out at the stables just a few days ago and I am happy to report the landscape is looking spectacular. Beautiful plants and lovely horses pair very well together.



Photo from left to right: Tom Simpson, Barbara McFarlen and Jessica Thornburg.

## WHNT Channel 19 Interview

Article and photos by Acacia Moore (F '12)

On Friday, April 6th, I had the wonderful opportunity to be interviewed and broadcasted live by WHNT Channel 19's, Melissa Riopka, to discuss the MGNA Plant Sale that will be held on Saturday, May 12th from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Farmer's Market located on 1022 Cook Avenue.





# *Jackson County Park Field Trip*

Article and photos by Alice Brigman (W '07)

**O**n Friday, April 6th, several MGs embarked on a MGNA field trip to Jackson County Park. The stars of the show were thousands of lovely native azaleas planted by HBG's Vernon Bush. The trail is an easy walk among the fragrant shrubs, many delicate wildflowers, hostas, and many more specimens. As you can tell it was a rainy day! We all survived and had a great time, especially when we ate lunch at 50 Taters. Our walk was led by Jerry Akins of Scottsboro, AL.



## *Earth Day Events*

**M**GNA's Seedlings and Sprouts will be participating in an Earth Day Festival on April 21st from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Hayes Nature Preserve. This is a free festival that expects to have 12,000 - 15,000 attending. This is a new event for us, and looks like it will be a good one. If you can participate and have not yet signed up, please contact Eugene Roberts at [eugenethegardener@gmail.com](mailto:eugenethegardener@gmail.com).

**O**n April 22nd, there will be an Earth Day Festival on Monte Sano. Allyson Shabel has asked for volunteers (3 or 4) to help her from Noon to 5 p.m. If you can help with this event, please contact Allyson Shabel at [ams0137@aces.edu](mailto:ams0137@aces.edu).



# Calendar of Events

## April

**April 6** Field Trip to Jackson County Park. 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jackson County Park, 2302 County Park Rd, Scottsboro, AL 35769. Contact Allyson Hofer at [allyson.d.hofer@gmail.com](mailto:allyson.d.hofer@gmail.com)

**April 7** Family Farm Day. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Alabama A&M University: Agribition Center, 4925 Moores Mill Rd, Huntsville, AL 35811.

**April 9** MGNA Plant Sale Planning Meeting. 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Madison County Extension Office, 819 Cook Ave, Huntsville.

**April 9** MGNA Board of Directors Meeting. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Madison County Extension Office, 819 Cook Ave, Huntsville. [president@mginfo.org](mailto:president@mginfo.org)

**April 10th and 11th** Habitat Homeowners Training Session. 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Madison County Extension Office, 819 Cook Ave, Huntsville. This is a fun meeting where we help the potential homeowners know a little about growing their own yards and taking care of them. For more information, contact Acacia Moore at [acacia-moore@att.net](mailto:acacia-moore@att.net)

**April 11** Dig and Pot Plants in Mt. Carmel. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. 103 Valley Head Court in Mt. Carmel, Huntsville, AL. We will dig and pot plants for the MGNA Plant Sale.

**April 11** Night of 1,000 Flowers. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Huntsville Botanical Garden, 4747 Bob Wallace Ave SW, Huntsville, AL 35805.

**April 11th-15th** HBG Plant Sale. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Huntsville Botanical Garden, 4747 Bob Wallace Ave SW, Huntsville, AL 35805.

**April 21** Earth Day Festival - Seedlings and Sprouts. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. J.D. & Annie S. Hays Nature Preserve, 7161 US-431, Owens Cross Roads, AL 35763. Contact Eugene Roberts at [eugenethegarden-er@gmail.com](mailto:eugenethegarden-er@gmail.com)

**April 22** Earth Day Festival. 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monte Sano State Park - Park Office, Huntsville, AL 35801. Contact Allyson Shabel at [ams0137@aces.edu](mailto:ams0137@aces.edu)

**April 28** MGNA Volunteer Open House. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Madison County Cooperative Extension Office located at 819 Cook Avenue, Huntsville, AL 35801. [president@mginfo.org](mailto:president@mginfo.org)

## May

**May 7** MGNA Board of Directors Meeting. 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Madison County Extension Office, 819 Cook Ave, Huntsville, AL. [president@mginfo.org](mailto:president@mginfo.org)

**May 10** MGNA Monthly Meeting. 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Murray Hall, Huntsville Botanical Garden, 4747 Bob Wallace Ave, Huntsville, AL. [www.mginfo.org](http://www.mginfo.org)

**May 11** MGNA Plant Sale Set-Up. 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Madison County Farmers Market, 1022 Cook Ave NW, Huntsville, AL 35801. [www.mginfo.org](http://www.mginfo.org)

**May 12** MGNA Annual Plant Sale. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Madison County Farmers Market, 1022 Cook Ave NW, Huntsville, AL 35801. [www.mginfo.org](http://www.mginfo.org)

**May 17** Educational Workshop: Fairy Gardens. There are two sessions: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Taught by Gloria Uhl and Susan Meyer. Madison County Extension Office, 819 Cook Ave, Huntsville, AL 35801. [www.mginfo.org](http://www.mginfo.org)

**May 19** Master Gardener day at the Huntsville Botanical Garden Demonstration Vegetable Garden. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Huntsville Botanical Garden, 4747 Bob Wallace Ave SW, Huntsville, AL 35805.

**May 21** Earth Day. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hays Nature Preserve, 7161 US-431, Owens Cross Roads, AL 35763. [www.mginfo.org](http://www.mginfo.org)

## June

**June 11** MGNA Board of Directors Meeting. 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Madison County Extension Office, 819 Cook Ave, Huntsville, AL. [president@mginfo.org](mailto:president@mginfo.org)

**June 14** MGNA Monthly Meeting. 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Murray Hall, Huntsville Botanical Garden, 4747 Bob Wallace Ave, Huntsville, AL. [www.mginfo.org](http://www.mginfo.org)

**June 17** Family Fun Fest. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Von Braun Center, Huntsville, AL 35801. [www.mginfo.org](http://www.mginfo.org)

**More information and registration for workshops at [www.mginfo.org](http://www.mginfo.org).**

**DEADLINE FOR SUMMER ISSUE IS JUNE 15, 2018**



Master Gardeners of North Alabama  
Alabama Cooperative Extension System  
819 Cook Ave.  
Huntsville, AL 35801

