



GARDEN THYMES

Master Gardeners of North Alabama, Inc.



[Christmas Social Page 5](#)

2019 - Quarter 1

2018 MGNA Annual Awards

Kathy Gardner (F'16)

MGNA 2019 Officers



President – Cyndi Lindblom (F13)
Vice President – Jessica Thornburg (W17)
Secretary – Debi Bonkoski (F10)
Treasurer – Kay Jacobson (F16)

Directors:

Connie Carr (F17) (2019-2021)
Sue Khoury (W13) (2018-2019)
Dave Grey (F10) (2018-2020)
Melissa Kirkindall (W98) (2018-2020)
Dotty Pierce (W95) (2017-2019)
Carolyn Wade (W12) (2019-2021) (not pictured)

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www.Facebook.com/MGofNA

Congratulations to all of the winners of the 2018 Master Gardener annual Awards

Sue Khoury is the 2018 Master Gardener of the Year. She will be our nominee from MGNA for the “Mary Lou McNabb State Master Gardener of the Year Award” that will be presented at our 2019 State Conference in May. Sue has been a Master



Gardener since 2013. Sue is everywhere. She serves on our Board as an director, co-chairs the Communications Team, chairs Publicity, Social Media and Facebook, chaired the MGNA plant sale, is the lead for Habitat for Humanity support, AND is the lead for the newest MGNA project, First Stop.

The **New Initiative Award** was awarded to Susan Meyer for Tinsel Tree. This award recognizes an individual or group for forming a new project or program, or for taking the initiative to reorganize and improve an existing pro-



ject or program.

The winner of the **Friend of Master Gardeners of North Alabama Award** was John Delashaw from the Lowe's at North Parkway. This award is presented to an individual, group, or business who are not members of MGNA but whose steadfast support and assistance enabled us to meet our goals in the community. John has been a “friend” throughout the year and his contributions are truly appreciated by MGNA. His support allows many of our projects to succeed. The award was presented by Mayra Pangborn.



The **Group Project of the Year Award** winner was First Stop chaired by Sue Khoury. This award is based upon the successful and timely accomplishment of a project that has been pre-approved by the executive board of Master Gardeners of North Alabama. This is an ongoing project that serves the homeless in our community.



[Awards continued on Page 6](#)

MGNA Tinsel Trail Tree

Susan Meyer (W'15)

The first ever MGNA Tinsel Trail Tree is up and decorated and was ready for official lighting on Friday, November 23rd and was lit nightly from dusk to midnight until January 3. Big thanks to Ann Tippie, Sue Khoury and Susan Meyer's grandkids (Callie, Ryan, and Ryley McMillen) for their expert help in getting the tree decorated.



Tinsel Trail is a free display of live Christmas trees in downtown Huntsville at Big Spring Park East and is sponsored by Downtown Huntsville, Inc. for the purpose of promoting community organizations. The trees and park are free and open

all day so be sure to gather your friends and family and visit this event sometime during December. Be sure to send us a note if you went by and let us know your thoughts. Susan designed the tree, made the seed packet ornaments, purchased everything else, and was the interface to the TT folks. She deserves all the credit.



GARDEN THYMES

VOL. XXIX, ISSUE 1

Editor

Ken Tippie (F'13)

Contributing Editors

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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Photo Submissions - Reminder

All Photos should be submitted to historian@mginfo.org so that they will be downloaded to a drive accessible to all. These can then be used by the newsletter editor and the publicity chair for Facebook etc, Currently photos must be sent to several users and are not necessarily available to all.

Project and Committee Synopsis

The following is a synopsis of the information gathered from the various projects and committees that did not have an article submitted into the current newsletter.

DVG – cleaned up for the winter – some winter crops planted. Leaf mulch spread over the beds. No further planned work days until late winter. Met with HBG about participating in the garden's plans for next year – Chinese plants in the first quarter, then the AL Bicentennial with a focus on education and heirloom crops.

Ask a MG – the only AAMG event for October was at the Artisan's Cove Fall Festival on October 19th. There were not a lot of attendees at the event.

Compost - This year has seen a great bunch of dedicated interns at the HBG. The last group volunteer day for the season was 1 December. The Garden has already turned off the water, so aerating the piles is no longer possible. Still, we're planning to get together one final time in order to pack the bins full of leaves. The bins will be checked during the winter, but they will soon freeze and there won't be much to do. There was a compost demonstration at Hays Nature Preserve on Saturday, November 17th.

Seedlings and Sprouts – Looking forward to spring.

Horticulture Therapy – finished for the year. Will start up in March

International Field Trips – The Tulip River Cruise is booked, all deposits are made, data has been input for each passenger.

Fundraising - Mayra Pangborn will be the new Fundraising Chair for the upcoming year.

First Stop – First Stop has stopped their market sales for the year. They have cleaned up the raised beds and prepared the greenhouse for next year.

Publicity - Nareatha Studdard will assume the Publicity Chair role in 2019.

Social Media – There are 1,206 Facebook followers and 61 NW Madison County Neighborhoods now see our posts on Nexdoor.com.

Habitat for Humanity – This year we completed 5 installations. The remaining installation may have to wait until the following year due to the early freezes that we had in November.

Madison County Farmers Market – On hold until Spring of 2019.

Give-A-Hand

At each MGNA general meeting, the members nominate a Master Gardener to be recognized for their volunteer work. The October Give a Hand winner was Barbara Stansky. "She helped all day at the Family Fun Fest. A great help - she worked at several tables during the day." In November, Janet Booth was the Give a Hand winner for creating the display for Speakers Bureau for the next Open House. There was not a "Give-a-Hand" winner in December due to the Christmas Social.

Master Gardener *In all that you do, do as* Profile *unto the Lord*

Cyndi Gunter Lindblom was born in Birmingham, Alabama at Lloyd Nolan Hospital. (no longer open). She was raised in Birmingham and went to Minor High School. She is married to Walt, also a Master Gardener. They have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. The grandchildren are 5 years old and under. She was in the last nursing class at University of Alabama (UA) in Birmingham receiving a BSN. This is now known as UAB school of Nursing.....ROLL TIDE!! She worked in Birmingham about 6 years at the hospital and ended up teaching LPN's at Bessemer Tech which is where she discovered her love of teaching. She taught Honors Anatomy and Physiology at CCA for 10 years and is retired - well sort of. She keeps busy with all kinds of activities including Master Gardeners. She stated that "I truly don't know when I had time to work!" Her father was a coal miner in the Birmingham area. He and her mother taught their children well on how to work, care for other people, and love family.

Cyndi and Walt were in the fall 2013 Master Gardner class and both of us enjoyed the speakers and classmates. She was rather timid about going to MGNA meetings so Josie Asquith took her. Ann Tippie then got her in-



volved with fund raising where she eventually became the committee chair for the last two years. One activity that she greatly enjoys is working in Dots Greenhouse, the ladies are very encouraging and great teachers. Her fondness of this activity is what has peaked her interest in seeing if reviving the "extension" greenhouses is a viable project. She works with Harvest4Health. This is a fantastic program and the lady she works with is so positive. As a breast cancer survivor (24 years), Cyndi is a true believer



that we need to eat more veggies and healthy foods and get our exerciseby gardening of course. One of the enjoyment factors is helping individuals plan their gardens, what to plant where, when to plant, etc. Cyndi is involved with her church, teaching Children's Church and Wednesday night Children's class. She and 3 other ladies also clean the church, there is much laughter. She loves to sew and especially loves Heirloom sewing which is very challenging and creative. There are those times where no pattern is used only your imagination. She does smocking, crocheting, some quilting, embroidery, and is always willing to learn a new skill. With all of these activities, she indicates that housekeeping is not high on her priority list. There are more fun and rewarding things to do instead of cleaning house, like playing with the Huntsville grandsons. She also enjoys reading, which she has to be careful about or poor Walt doesn't get to eat.

At the December Christmas Social/meeting, Cyndi was installed as the MGNA President for the upcoming year. We look forward to her leadership in striving to make MGNA the premier Master Gardener organization in Alabama.

MGNA 2018 Christmas Social

Ann Tippie (W'12)

The annual MGNA Christmas Social was held on December 13 in the Nichols Arbor at the Huntsville Botanical Garden. The evening started with a slide show presentation showing our various projects and committees and the people who lead them. After dinner catered by Herbal Organic Cooking, Janet Boothe, Chair of the Jane R. Parks Memorial Fund Committee, presented First Stop, Inc. President Mike Gordon with a check for \$250. The second grant in the amount of \$1,000, was presented to Beth Woodard for Madison Elementary School's outdoor classroom.



The yearly awards followed: New Initiative, Susan Meyer for Tinsel Trail Tree; Friend of Master Gardeners, John Delashaw from the Lowe's on North Parkway, Project, First Stop (Sue Khoury, Chair), Lifetime Achievement, Gigi Bullman, Intern (s) of the Year, Ann Schroetter and Jessica Thornburg, Outstanding Service Award, Alice Lawler and Master Gardener of the Year, Sue Khoury. Congratulations to all of these fine members and projects. Each one of you exemplifies the very best of our association.

Rhonda Britton, our Regional Extension Agent, officiated the installation of the new officers and directors for 2019.

The evening closed with a tribute to Alice Lawler. Alice has retired from the position of Tri-County Intern Class Coordinator after sixteen years. The speakers were Ann Tippie, Kathryn Davis, Max Campbell, Tom Simpson, past Extension agent,

Ken Creel and Rhonda Britton. Rhonda presented Alice with a scrapbook she had put together. Best wishes to Alice on all her future endeavors.



Jack Rogers named Honorary Master Gardener

At the October General Meeting, Jack Rogers was voted to become an honorary Master Gardener. He won the Friend of Master Gardener award in 2012. Jack has been a constant figure at DVG for many years. He has also donated hand crafted items for silent auctions.

Awards continued from page 1

This year we had two **Master Gardener Intern of the Year** awards presented. This award is presented to a Master Gardener Intern who has shown exemplary commitment to the Master Gardener program and the Extension office. The award winners were Jessica Thornburg and Ann Schroetter. Shown below with presenters Ronda Briton and Alice Lawler. At the time of their nominations, Jessica had volunteered 388 hours and Ann had volunteered 125 hours.



The **Lifetime Achievement Award** winner was Gigi Bullman.



This award recognizes a master gardener who has been an active member of the organization for a minimum of 20 years. Gigi has been a master gardener since 1983 and is one of our longest serving active members. Gigi recently helped the

City of Madison with their roses and has taught at least 50 rose classes. Gigi also worked the Help Desk for many years and still answers questions that come in via email. The award was presented by last years winner Bill Fuller.

This year's winner of the **Outstanding Master Gardener Service Award** was Alice Lawler.



Alice has been a Master Gardener since 1998. Alice took over the position of Tri-County Intern Class Coordinator in 2003 and has been coordinating two classes each year ever since. This was the first year that the new award – Outstanding Master Gardener Service Award – was presented. The nominee for this award has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and will have promoted or embodied the image, mission, and standards of the Master Gardener program. This Master Gardener will have volunteered a minimum of 100 hours and will have mentored others in maintaining high project standards. Shown here with MGNA President Ann Tippie.

A thank you goes out to those who served on the Awards Committee for 2018: Ann Tippie, Association President, Mayra Pangborn, Awards Co-Chair, and Kay Jacobson and Connie Carr. And a big thank you goes out to all of our dedicated and outstanding volunteers for everything you do to enrich our community!

Jane R. Parks Memorial Grant

Jane R. Parks Memorial Grant is given to organizations who support the community in its pursuit of continuing education through, and contributions to humanity through the creative, spiritual, and replenishing endowments of horticulture. This year's grants were presented to First Stop, Inc., president Mike Gordon, and Madison Elementary School's outdoor classroom, teacher Beth Woodard.



Pictured: Janet Booth, Beth Woodward, Susanne Kirkhuff, Mike Gordon, Dr. Shannon Parks, Sue Bish

DROUGHT AND WATER CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

Suzanne Kirkhuff (W'07)

If you missed the October 18 MGNA workshop, you missed a good one. Rhonda Britton, our Regional Extension Agent, presented a workshop on *Drought and Water Conservation*.



To begin, Rhonda told us we have 14 watersheds in Alabama. A watershed is an area or ridge of land that separates waters flowing to different rivers, basins, or seas. In Alabama alone we have enough rivers, creeks, streams, etc., to circle the earth five times. We are blessed. We have to remember that even though the earth is covered by water (71%) the available water for human consumption is .007% or eight one thousandths of 1% of this amount. With this knowledge, we see the importance of conserving water.

Rhonda listed a few of the ways we can conserve water.

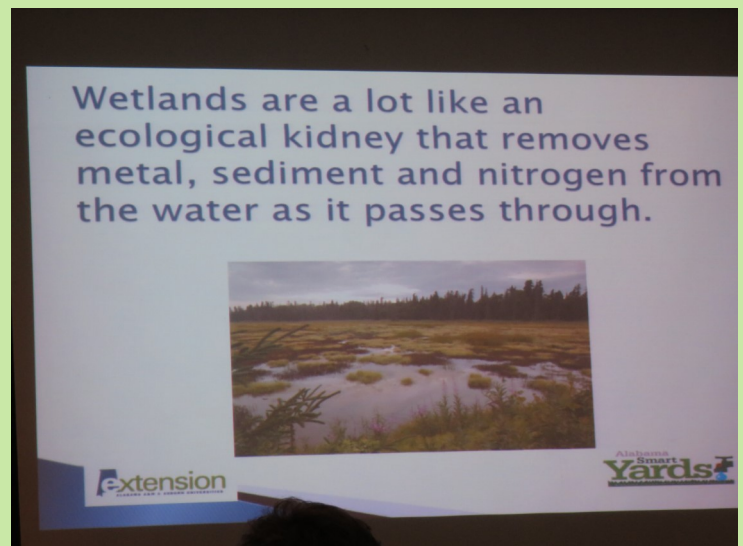
- Fix leaks (dripping faucets, leaking toilets)
- Low flow for showerheads, ftubs, and toilets
- Make sure washers and dishwashers are full before running.
- Keep a cover on your pool or hot tub, even in the summer
- Sweep sidewalks and driveways instead of hosing off
- Water the lawn when needed (if you see footprints when you walk on it, then it is time to water.)

As much as 50% of the water we use is outdoors. Be sure and mulch about 2 inches as this will reduce evaporation of water from soil by 70%.

We saw several types of rain collection methods. Rhonda brought two rain barrels as examples along with the hookups. You may ask why would anyone want to collect rain water. Well, a 1000 square foot roof yields 620 gallons of water when it rains one inch. The water is free with no chloride. Over half the water used in our homes does not need to be treated chemically. You could use the collected water to water your garden, houseplants, and landscape plants. You could use it to wash your car and even flush your toilets.

Drip irrigation can save 40-50% more water than traditional methods. Drip irrigation uses a lower water pressure delivering a controlled amount of water to the plants and minimizes evaporation. Rhonda says it is easy to install and she gave several examples.

Everyone came away from this workshop with a greater understanding of the importance of water conservation and we saw first hand several ways to do so.



Mid Winter Houseplant Cleaning

(Author unknown based on internet article)

Plants, like all living things, need to be properly taken care of in order to live to the best of their ability. Along with scheduled waterings, houseplants need a maintenance cleaning every once in a while. Not only will cleaning your houseplants keep them dust-free, but you'll be more aware of pests that may come around.

Remove Dust

Remove dust from African violets and other fuzzy-leafed plants with a soft-bristle paintbrush, soft toothbrush, pipe cleaner, or discarded fuzzy leaf. Stroke from the base of the leaf to the tip to dislodge dust and other debris. You can also clean the leaves of large houseplants by simply wiping them

with a moist cloth or damp cotton. Support the leaves with one hand to avoid bruising or cracking them. Do not use oils or polishes to make houseplant leaves shine; they can block pores, which can interfere with a plant's ability to breathe.

Take Care of Spent Blooms

Remove withered blossoms to keep your houseplants healthy and encourage further blooming. Pick up any flowers that fall on the soil to prevent mold and disease. Additionally, remove all dead or yellowing leaves regularly from your houseplants, picking up all fallen leaves on the soil. Ferns are a special case—reach under their green fronds and cut the brown leaf

stalks at the soil line. Shorten or remove any leafless, stringlike stems, too.

Give Them a Bath

Wash houseplants often in lukewarm water to rid them of dust and insects. Don't use cold water; it may spot leaves. Place small houseplants in a sink; wash larger houseplants in a shower. Let plants drip-dry before placing them in the sun.

Another simple way to clean small houseplants (especially those with fuzzy leaves) is to support them and their soil with your fingers, turn them upside down, and swish their leaves in tepid water. Let the houseplants plants drip-dry out of the sun.

MGNA Fall 2017 Class Graduation

Ann Tippie (W'12)

MGNA hosted graduation festivities for the F'17 Tri-County intern class on November 13. Along with the eleven graduates, the board members and Rhonda Britton, our ACES Regional Agent, we had several distinguished guests including the incoming president from Limestone County, Carol Knox and the incoming president from Madison County, Cyndi Lindblom. Also in attendance was Kathryn Davis, long time lead for Limestone County. Once again, Alice Brigman lead the decorating team. After a dinner of pork loin sliders (prepared by Alice Lawler), salads, beans and dessert (provided by the MGNA Board members), the certificates and badges were presented to the graduates by Rhonda Britton and Alice Lawler. It was a fun and festive evening for all.



Back Row Left to Right: Muriel Dunlatuck, Reed Alexander, Laurie Bower, Jenene Castiglione, Jim Hutchison, Amy Wilumson, Lidia Seda

Front Row: Wendy Brightwell, Tricia Cantrell-Teeter, Susan Parker, Alicia Gore

We're Well Into The Year at Morris

Carolyn Wade (W'12)

It has been quite a fall with the students at Morris P8 School. Working with two fifth grade classes has been interesting. We have made seed tapes and planted veggies in the raised beds by the greenhouse and also in the beds in the courtyard. The students in both classes painted rocks, gourds and okra for a fundraiser during their Thanksgiving luncheon with parents. The students raised \$100 which went towards the purchase of 4 picnic tables for the courtyard. We have learned about and tasted all manner of fruits and vegetables and how cheese is made. We also blind taste tested several kinds of cheese; did you know there is yak and camel cheese? We only tried cow and goat cheese, but it got the kids thinking.



Hillwood Homemakers donated a dogwood tree for our garden area and helped the 5th grade students plant it. While it was rather chilly that day, they had a blast. They learned not just how to plant a tree but what trees

need to grow and the difference between deciduous and coniferous trees.



Fellow Master Gardener Tom Simpson made and donated a birdhouse for each student in our two classes. The students had so much fun painting the birdhouses and decorating their Christmas wrapping paperbags. Thanks to donations from our volunteers, we were able to purchase a new book for each of our students to take home for Christmas.



A big thank you to our volunteers – it truly is another great group. We couldn't do what we do with these students without the support of MGNA and the help of Allyson and Owen Hofer, Jenene Castiglione, Candy Trowbridge, Elouisa Stokes, Ann Tippie, Bill Fuller, Helen Carr, Jennifer Johnson, Kay Jacobson, Gloria Uhl, and Mary Ann Stasiak.

If you would like to join us, we would love to have you join us on Wednesday's from 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.



From the President

Cyndi Lindblom (F'13)

Happy New Year! I am looking forward to an exciting year this year. It's going to be hard to fill Ann Tippie's shoes but I will try. I am excited to have a new adventure! Please come join me.

I love New Year's because it is always a fresh start for everything, new commitments, new resolutions, and excitement. This year we hope to get started working on the greenhouse in Hazel Green, getting it in



shape to grow plants, share ideas, learn new techniques and teach others. We will continue our ongoing projects and improve them as we go and have FUN as well.

Thank you in advance for your support and please let me know what I can do for you as the year goes along. I am looking forward to seeing ALL of you at our next meeting January 10th

Alabama's Official State Plants

(Author unknown based on internet article)

State Flower – Camellia The camellia (*Camellia japonica* L.) was designated the state flower of Alabama in 1959, replacing the original state flower, goldenrod, adopted in 1927. A native of Asia, the camelia is cultivated in the southeastern United States in many colors and sizes.

State Wildflower - Oak-Leaf Hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia* Bartr.) Since the state flower is not native, a state wild flower was officially designated in 1999. Found in every section of Alabama, the oak-leaf hydrangea is a deciduous understory shrub that grows six to eight feet tall, often in the shade of large trees.



Alabama now has an official state flower and an official wildflower. But that's not all. Alabama has a boatload of "official" things. Today's report includes all the living plant material that "officially" represents Alabama, and of course, the State Soil.

State Fruit – Blackberry The blackberry (*Rubus*, *R. occidentalis*) became the official state fruit symbol in 2004, thanks to a campaign by third graders in Fairhope. Blackberries can be easily confused with raspberries, but raspberries (including black raspberries) have a hollow center. Blackberries are red and hard when they are immature and turn black and shiny when they ripen. The dark pigment in the berries contains powerful antioxidants. .

State Tree Fruit – Peach The peach (*Rosacea*, genus *Prunus*, Species *P. persica*) was designated the official state tree fruit of Alabama in 2006. There are thirty to forty varieties of peaches grown commercially throughout Alabama, harvested from early May to early September. The peach is believed to have originated in China and was spread by the Romans throughout Europe. Several varieties were brought to North America by the Spanish, where they became naturalized.

State Nut – Pecan Alabama made the pecan the state nut in 1982. There are over 1,000 varieties of pecans - many are named for Native American tribes. The pecan, because of its pure American heritage, is honored by having the month of April as National Pecan Month. Astronauts took pecans to the moon, twice. Thomas Jefferson and George Washington grew them. George Washington was said to carry pecans in his pocket frequently.

State Tree - Southern Longleaf Pine The Alabama legislature first designated the state tree as "the southern pine tree" in 1949 – finally, in 1997 the southern longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris* Miller) was specified. Once covering 90 million acres in the Southeast. only scattered patches of the longleaf wiregrass ecosystem remain. It has suffered over 97% decline and over 30 associated plant and animal species are threatened or endangered. The longleaf pine needles are about 12 inches long. The cones are about seven inches long, the largest of the southern pines.

State Soil - Bama Soil Soil of the Bama series is the official state soil of Alabama, officially adopted in 1997. Bama soils occur in 26 counties in Alabama [but not Madison] on more than 360,000 acres in the state, mainly in the western and central part of the state. They are well suited to cultivated crops, pasture, hay, and woodland. Bama soil also occurs in Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, and Virginia.

<http://www.statesymbolsusa.org/Alabama/State-Symbols-Alabama.html>

Proposed Revival of the “Extension” Greenhouses

Cyndi Lindblom (F'13)

This fall someone suggested that MGNA “revive” The greenhouses in Hazel Green. Well, there were 10 of us who went out to see how bad they were. Rhonda Britton & Dr. Ernie Cebert went with us.

There are 3 greenhouses and 2 utility buildings on Grimwood Rd that on first glance looked really BAD. On closer inspection we caught the vision. We would start with the smaller greenhouse first and get the trees cut down and moved, assess the ‘to dos’ and come up with a plan and we discovered that it wasn’t as bad as we first thought. There were parts that were salvageable and we would expand to the other 2 as time and money allowed. A & M has helped us get the smaller house cleaned out by cutting trees and removing the old heater & lights. Jan 15 we will have a clean up day.



I will share some of the vision with you;

1. We would like to work with the MGNA Intern classes in teaching propagation, plant care, and whatever Rhonda has up her sleeve.
2. We would like to grow our own plants for our MGNA plant sale (our May sale).
3. Work with schools in the area sharing our knowledge and experience with the students (pretty much what Carolyn Wade does at Morris) and helping them with some of their own fundraising.
4. Work with A & M students and faculty to become a truly “green” house utilizing reclaimed rain water, solar heat & cooling, biofuel, etc.
5. We want this to be a great educational tool for Madison County and surrounding area.



This fits right in with our purpose as listed in the handbook Article II.

I will say, this is going to be a lot of work and hopefully not expensive for MGNA as we utilize our community resources including you....

You will see and hear more details in the near future. If you are interested in helping please contact me and I’ll put you in touch with the right person.

Cyndi Lindblom cyndi.lindblom@gmail.com

Reach for the Stars reward program for volunteers

Sandra Pape (F'06)

After you have completed your 50 hours as an Intern and joined your local Master Gardener association, the Reach for the Stars program honors your dedication to volunteering as a Master Gardener in your community. AMGA and MGNA require 25 hours of volunteer service and 10 continuing education units (CEU) yearly in order to maintain membership in good standing.

The program is recognized by the state Master Gardener Board of Directors and encourages Master Gardeners to record their volunteer hours, which helps support funding to the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

When you reach a certain level of volunteer hours, you receive a Bronze, Silver or Gold star. And beyond that, you receive a Gold or Platinum badge, or a Ruby, Emerald or Diamond star. And finally, you could receive a Lifetime badge. And all the while, you are helping to educate and improve your community while you volunteer your time!

To receive your star from your local MG association, you must be a member during the year you reach your milestone volunteer hours. The annual reporting period is Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, so be sure to log in regularly to keep your volunteer hours up to date. Don't wait 'til the last minute!

Volunteer-hour requirements for earning stars and badges are as follows:

Bronze Star – 100 to 299 hours

Silver Star – 300 to 499 hours

Gold Star – 500 to 999 hours

Gold Badge – 1,000 to 1,999 hours

Platinum Badge – 2,000 to 3,999 hours

Ruby Star – 4,000 to 5,999 hours

Emerald Star – 6,000 to 7,999 hours

Diamond Star – 8,000 to 9,999 hours

Lifetime Badge – 10,000 plus hours. Along with the Lifetime Badge comes a lifetime membership to the Alabama Master Gardener Association

To earn your star or badge, your volunteer hours are cumulative over time. Once you have reported your year's hours by Dec. 31, the Volunteer Hours/Reach for the Stars coordinator collects the information the next January. Earned stars are awarded by your local association. Earned badges are awarded at the next Alabama Master Gardeners Association state conference.

In the past, it was our practice to deduct the first 50 hours that were required for internship. A recent training session with the AMGA Awards representative determined this was not the case. That being said, all hours previously deducted will be reapplied in this reporting period for 2018 hours.

Lifetime members need to post their hours! The purpose of logging hours is a measure of the activities and support of the community in the county that is reporting. The honor of obtaining a Lifetime Badge does not negate the need to log these important volunteer hours for the Extension Office's use in their metrics.

For those people moving to the area or away from our organization, please contact your Reach for the Stars Coordinator. If you have transferred to MGNA, please have your coordinator email me a report of your past-year and 2018 hours; if you are moving away and join another association, I will be happy to provide your past-year and 2018 hours. Without communication there will be no way for either organization to provide you with total hours.

Report all service hours that promote the Extension Service and the Master Gardener mission. This could include meetings, programs, workshops, field trips, community gardens, any of the MGNA or AMGA activities, and support for these activities (organizing, printing, collecting or other administrative tasks). Travel time should be reported however, travel time to/from meetings is only recorded for officers and those with specific meeting responsibilities (committee chairs, bring snacks, presenters, etc). Do not report hours for activities that you are being paid for your services.

Details on reporting hours can be found in the Membership Handbook and on the website:

<http://www.mginfo.org/> and <https://ssl.acesag.auburn.edu/mgmanager/login/>

For additional help or questions, contact:

Sandra Pape, Reach for the Stars, sandrapape@gmail.com

Deen Rice, Database Coordinator, deenr@bellsouth.net

2019 Workshop Schedule

2019 MGNA Lunch 'n' Learn Workshops Tuesdays 11:30-12:30

Dublin Park, 8324 Madison Pike, Madison, AL 35758

Date	Topic	Presenter
February 5	Herbs Gone Wild Flavoring Without Salt	Pam Price & Doty Henry
February 12	Backyard Vegetable Gardening	Bonnie Gardner
February 19	Garden Tools	Rhonda Britton
February 26	Container Gardening	Russel Houser, Earth Touch

2019 MGNA Education Workshops

Thursdays 10:00-12:00

Madison County Extension Office, 819 Cook Avenue, Huntsville, AL
Alabama A&M Research Station, 372 Walker Lane, Hazel Green, AL 35750
Alabama A&M Agribition Center, 4925 Moores Mill Rd, Huntsville, AL 35811
Huntsville Botanical Garden, 4747 Bob Wallace Avenue, Huntsville, AL 35805

Date	Topic	Presenter	Location	Time
January 10	Propagation, Propagation Techniques & Pests	Marcus Garner	Madison Co Extension Of- fice	10:00-12:00
Saturday March 2	Pruning	Advanced Master Gardeners & Rhonda Britton	Alabama A&M Re- search Station	10:00-2:00
March 21	Bonsai Demon- stration	Allyson Shabel	Alabama A&M Agribition Center	10:00-12:00
May 2	Leaf & Flower Pounding	Crystal Kitchens & Ann Tippie	HBG Pavilion	4:00-6:00 then Chi- nese Lan- terns
September 19	Color in the Shade & Winter Gardening	Melissa Kirkindall & Elouisa Stokes	HBG Ander- son Education Classroom	10:00-12:00
October 17	All About Pump- kins – decorating, famous pumpkins, trivia	Gloria Uhl & Cookie Kruvand	HBG Ander- son Education Classroom	10:00-12:00
Nov. 21	Soap Making Demonstration	Doty Henry & Pam Price	Madison Co Extension Of- fice	9:30-11:30, 2:00-4:00

UPDATED November 20, 2018

Calendar of Events

January

January 7 MGNA Board of Directors Meeting. 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., Madison County Extension Office, 819 Cook Ave, Huntsville. president@mginfo.org

January 10 MGNA Monthly Meeting. 6 p.m., Speaker: Pam Dempsey on Seed to Seal Promise from Young Living Oils. Murray Hall, Huntsville Botanical Garden, 4747 Bob Wallace Ave, Huntsville. www.mginfo.org

January 31 Spring 2019 Tri-County Master Gardener Course begins at 9:00 a.m. and goes to 1:30 p.m. The class meets weekly on Thursdays through 2 May. Meeting locations vary. See www.mginfo.org for more information

February

February 11 MGNA Board of Directors Meeting. 12 pm to 2 p.m., Madison County Extension Office, 819 Cook Ave, Huntsville. president@mginfo.org

February 14 MGNA Monthly Meeting. 6 p.m., Speaker: TBA, Murray Hall, Huntsville Botanical Garden, 4747 Bob Wallace Ave, Huntsville. www.mginfo.org

March

March 11 MGNA Board of Directors Meeting. 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., Madison County Extension Office, 819 Cook Ave, Huntsville. president@mginfo.org

March 14 MGNA Monthly Meeting. 6 p.m. Speaker: Allyson Shabel with a discussion on Bees, Murray Hall, Huntsville Botanical Garden, 4747 Bob Wallace Ave, Huntsville. www.mginfo.org

[See prior page for workshop schedule](#)

More information and registration for workshops and webinars at www.mginfo.org. and <https://ssl.acesag.auburn.edu/mgmanager/calendar.php> (requires login)

DEADLINE FOR APRIL ISSUE IS MARCH 15, 2019



Master Gardeners of North Alabama

Alabama Cooperative Extension Sys-
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