



GARDEN THYMES

Master Gardeners of North Alabama, Inc.

[See Page 19](#)

for information on the
MGNA Plant Sale on
September 12.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello everyone. I hope everyone is well and safe. Hasn't this been a wild spring! I have to share.....when we were talking about this year at nominating time I was asked if I would stay on as president for the second term. I said "Of course, the first year is the learning year and the second year you know what you are doing" Boy was I wrong! I find myself making it up as I go because we all are in uncharted waters. With that being said I would like to say I LOVED our ZOOM meeting! It was great "seeing" all of you. We will be doing that again in July.



I do want to say, if you missed it, for all of you who made/are making masks count your hours. Rhonda said that was a community project and ACES would allow us to count our hours. We are looking for some Lunch-n-Learns to keep us all informed so watch for more information.

If you would be willing to mentor a new intern please send me an email. We have several who are anxious to get started with doing 'something' and would appreciate help navigating the system.

See you all soon I hope. Cyndi

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Rosie Rymut and her Sheltie therapy dog, Roxy, are still visiting the nursing home but now, due to Covid-19, they stay outside and visit through the window. Rosie says Roxie misses all the petting and attention she got before. See, we humans aren't the only ones being affected!



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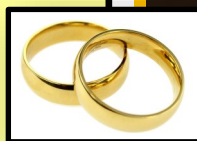
The Alabama Master Gardener program is conducted at the county level by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES).

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**Congratulations
Ed and Rosie
Rymut
Celebrating
their 50th
Anniversary!**



Master Gardener Profile Ken Tippie (F13)

"It is better to keep your mouth shut and appear stupid than open it and remove all doubt." - Mark Twain



Ken was born and raised in Southern California. Like his dad before him, Ken was an Eagle Scout. He earned the Pro Deo Et Patria Award from the Lutheran Church (God and Country) and has always exhibited a strong faith and love for his country. Ken was an avid surfer and, in later years, enjoyed surfing with his son. He knew from an early age he wanted to be an engineer. After graduating from Long Beach State University with a degree in Electrical Engineering, he went to work for McDonnell Douglas working on the Saturn Program. It was there he met his wife Ann. They were married in 1971. While attending the Uni-

versity of So. California at night, working on his masters in computer science, he was given the opportunity to work on the Skylab launch team in Florida. Just short of earning his masters degree, they moved to Florida. They moved back to California in 1973. Ken has worked on such programs (mostly as test director) as Saturn, Skylab, Site Defense, Homing Overlay Experiment (HOE), High Endoatmospheric Defense Interceptor (HEDI) and Director of Test for the McDonnell Douglas portion of the International Space Station (ISS) for McDonnell Douglas/Boeing. After coming to Huntsville, Ken worked on National Missile Defense (NMD) and Ground Based Interceptor (GBI) for Boeing; Multiple Kill Vehicle (MKV) and Kinetic Energy Interceptor (KEI) for Davidson Technologies where he was Director of Advance Missile Defense; and Command Control Battle Management Communication (C2BMC) for Modern Technology Solutions (MTSI). As you can tell, Ken has always had an interest in missile defense!

His work has taken him to California (Huntington Beach and Vandenberg Air Force Base), Florida (Kennedy Space Center), Kwajalein (Pacific Test Range), Las Cruces, NM (White Sands Missile Range) and Huntsville. The family lived on Kwajalein, Marshall Islands for a total of six and a half years. Ken and Ann moved to Madison in 1999.

While on Kwajalein, Ken was an avid scuba diver. He served two terms as president of the scuba club. He has a huge shell collection, the result of his many dives (mostly in boxes in the garage).

Ken loves the Caribbean and, for years, he and Ann vacationed on St. Martin annually. About the time they moved to Alabama, they started making a once or twice a year trip to Cancun and Playa del Carmen. His other favorite destination would have to be Yellowstone. Ken and Ann loved hiking and boating. Many road trips to national parks were taken while the kids were growing up. He taught his children to fish and, to be honest, they turned out to be better at it. That is, if you count catching fish as a criteria for "better". Most fishermen know, however, catching a fish is the frosting on the cake for an otherwise enjoyable day spent trying.

Master Gardener Profile (Continued)

Ken Tippie

The last few years, Ken has enjoyed their little house on Smith Lake and the pontoon boat.

Ken and Ann have a daughter, Kristin, in California and six grandchildren. Their son, Charlie, passed away in 2014. Three of their son's four children live close by and the eldest, Jillian, lives with Ken and Ann. They have four pets: two dogs and two cats.

Ken's favorite plants would have to be trees. He loves the big Redwoods in California because, as his sister points out, he helped plant them (LOL). His all time favorite trees are Japanese Maples. He has four varieties in his back yard.

Ken took the master gardener class in the fall of 2013. Ann says the only reason he took the class was because he didn't want Ann to know more about gardening than he did.

Ken served MGNA as the Garden Thymes Editor for two years.

Master Gardener Shoutout

Penny Osmer (F99)

I'd like to give a Shout Out to **Helen Carr**.....A couple of months ago, when there wasn't going to be a spring plant sale, Helen got busy & delivered plants – they were healthy and, thanks to her, I now have green tomatoes, great herbs and blooming pepper plants. That's the spirit of a Master Gardener Friend. Friends helping friends in times like this!



Neighbor Cleanup

Allyson Hofer (04)

Owen and I have not let the grass grow under our feet (Ha ha!) since the shutdown. Most master gardeners, I'm sure, have been kept busy growing fantastic flowers and probably veggies. On the left is Allyson beside our sugar snap peas. On the right is Allyson's fox glove flowers. We have been spending a lot of time at our Tennessee farm. In addition to the requisite bush hogging and brush cutting, we broke up some ground and sowed some old gourd seeds that had been around for ages; now we have a huge crop of gourd plants, the identity of which awaits their maturity.



Closer to home, there is a gentleman in our general neighborhood who has had some health issues; vines and trees had grown up all in his landscape and up the walls of his house. I asked the gentleman if he could use some help pruning back the shrubs; of course I volunteered Owen to help. The gentleman said sure, I can't get anybody to help me, but I will pay you. We told him we are members of Master Gardeners of North Alabama and cannot take pay, but rather do this as volunteers for community service.

We spent three days making his place looking pretty good, much to the delight of his immediate neighbors! Some of the shrubs were so thick, we had to take a chainsaw to them. The picture on the left is before the pruning and the picture on the right is after the pruning.



Project in the Midst of the Pandemic

Melissa Kirkindall (98)

In the midst of the pandemic I have had a project. I have been raising Monarch butterflies. I had seen a female Monarch laying eggs on my milkweed, and when I saw tiny caterpillars a few days later, I knew that predators would get them, so I cut the milkweed that they were on, and brought in as many caterpillars as I felt I could keep supplied with milkweed. I had the milkweed in a vase, and as the caterpillars grew I kept bringing in milkweed. Milkweed is the host plant for Monarch butterflies, and the caterpillars will eat nothing else. They eat the leaves down to nothing. The caterpillars shed their skin four times as they grow. Each time is called an instar. When they get to the fifth instar they quit eating and start looking for a place to shed their skin one last time and become a chrysalis. Some of them stayed on branches I had put in the vase, but since they were not in any kind of enclosure, some got loose. We had a chrysalis on the wall, 3 under the drop leaf table, 1 on the sofa, 1 on Sandy's recliner, and 1 somewhere else. I was able to video the transformation from caterpillar to chrysalis. It doesn't take long. Then they were a beautiful jade green chrysalis for about two weeks. The wings of the forming butterfly can be seen inside the chrysalis. The chrysalis becomes transparent on the day that the butterfly will emerge (called eclose). This was no problem for the ones that were on the vase, because I just took the vase outside. For the ones that were on furniture, I got sticks, mixed up a nectar solution, dipped one end of the stick in it, and touched it to the butterfly's foot (being careful not to touch the wings, which were not hardened yet). Monarchs can smell and taste with their feet and antennae, so the butterfly got on the stick, which I carried outside and fastened to the bakers rack on the front porch so the wings could hang down and dry. This takes a couple of hours. When the wings are ready the butterfly will take off. Some have hung around awhile to feast on my flowers, but they are headed north to lay more eggs and repeat the whole process. I have one more chrysalis to go. Its caterpillar hatched after I had brought the other caterpillars in, and is about a week behind. I have released about 16 butterflies.

Not having an enclosure was great for photography, but having an enclosure would keep the fifth instar caterpillars corralled instead of all over my living room!



Garden of Dreams

Betty Patterson (F18)

"If I plant it, will they come?" This was my question last winter as I contemplated the idea of changing my garden into a butterfly garden. Butterflies were here, once upon a time, when the garden was new, when the subdivision was still marked off lots. Then came more houses and then came the lawn service. Yes, we did the unthinkable, we let the lawn service spray! "Don't spray the flowers," we told them, and we thought that it was good. Several years passed, fewer and fewer butterflies appeared. In our hearts we knew the truth, we were killing them. "We are not the only ones", we told ourselves. "Our lawn is so beautiful; the whole neighborhood is beautiful! Life is beautiful!" But the truth kept nagging until the full weight of the truth was upon us. "Murderers!" it shouted. It shouted as I looked upon my garden. "Murderer!", as I lay in bed at night and we knew what we must do. Then the atonement began.



American Lady Butterfly on cone flower.



Rue (Ruta graveolens) host plant for Giant and Black Swallowtail butterflies



Rue (Ruta graveolens) host plant for Giant and Black Swallowtail butterflies

For the last two years there has been no spraying in our yard. Last year there were a few more butterflies, the Black Swallowtail caterpillars even enjoyed the parsley, but still, so few butterflies. "Will they come back? If I plant more nectar plants and more host plants will they come back? If I plant it, will they come?" And then I knew that I must try.

Last winter was a time of research. First stop, the public library. Second stop, the internet. Or was it the other way around. No matter, tons of information is available. I decided to study true butterflies in the tri-county area. I was looking for a list of butterflies by county. I found no such list until after I had compiled a list based on my own research. I compiled a document listing each butterfly with pictures, description, habits, host plants, and nectar plant preference. The existing lists are on the web site for the Tennessee Valley Chapter of North American Butterfly Association (TVCNABA).

The one consistent thing I found, was that information varied from source to source. They all agreed on some points, but not on all points. Some butterflies were always listed as having been sighted in Madison County, i.e. the Monarch. All sources agreed that the Monarch butterfly has been seen in Madison County. The Harvester Butterfly is more difficult to "pin down". Butterfly Atlas puts the Harvester in Morgan County only; neither Butterflies of Alabama nor Butterflies of Alabama, Glimpses into Their Lives, have sightings of the Harvester Butterfly in any of the three counties; however, Tennessee Valley Chapter of North American Butterflies puts the Harvester Butterfly in both Morgan and Madison Counties. I decided to give each butterfly the benefit of the doubt. If any one source has listed a butterfly, that butterfly is counted on my list.

Continued on next page.

Garden of Dreams (Continued)

The reason for this is to also include their host plants on my lists and, hopefully if the host plant is here the butterfly will come. (Yes, this is entirely optimistic.) Did you know that there are 60 species of true butterflies that have been sighted in Madison County?

There are even more inconsistencies when it comes to host plants (the plant on which the female lays her eggs). Each species has their own preferences of host plants. It would be so simple if they were all like the Monarch Butterfly who sticks to one family of plants, the milkweed. Many butterflies will lay eggs on any one of several plant families, not being too particular or consistent. Information varies to a great degree from one source to another as to what these plants are. Adding to the confusion is the fact that not all butterflies are consistent in their choices. They might not like a particular plant in my garden, but flock to it in your garden. The same is true of nectar plants. The moral of the story is that when researching, check several sources and go from there.

Once I had compiled the butterfly and host plants information, my next step was evaluating what I already had in my garden.

Butterfly garden needs: Sunshine ☐ weather permitting

Nectar plants ☐ OK here

Shelter ☐ Trees and shrubs

Water ☐ Bird bath and fountains

Bare soil for puddling Bare soil, yes, but need to keep it damp

Accommodations for overwintering butterflies

Need to work on this one, leaving the dead stalks out all winter is messy, but to throw them out is possibly throwing out chrysalises. I can learn to live with the mess.

Host plants

Aster (Aster spp.) for Pearl Crescent, Silvery Checkerspot, & Painted Lady

Snapdragon (Antirrhinum majus) for Common Buckeye Butterflies

Parsley for the Black Swallowtail Butterfly

Spicebush (Lindera benzoin) for the Spicebush Swallowtail Butter

Milkweed (**Asclepias syriaca** L) for Monarch Butterflies



Milkweed—Host plant for the
Monarch Butterfly

Continued on next page.

Garden of Dreams (Continued)

Next, my research turned to finding host plants that could be added to the garden. Easier said than done I found, especially with Covid-19. I ended up ordering seeds. I planted the following indoors: fennel, dill and parsley for Black Swallowtail Butterflies; false nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*) for the Red Admirals, Eastern Commas and the Question Marks; hollyhock (*Alcea*) for Painted Lady Butterflies (this did not germinate, I'm still looking for plants); partridge pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*) for the Little Yellow Butterfly, the Sleepy Orange Butterfly and Cloudless Sulphur Butterfly (this also did not germinate, still working on this one); pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*) for the American Lady Butterfly; Johnny jump up (*Viola*) for Variegated Fritillary and Great Spangled Fritillary Butterflies; swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) for the Monarchs; dutchman's pipevine (*Aristolocia macrophylla*) for the Pipevine Swallowtail Butterfly, this did not germinate, but the Pipevine is such a beautiful butterfly that I am not giving up; passionflower (*Passiflora incarnata* L.) for Gulf Fritillary and Variegated Fritillary Butterflies (this also did not germinate, but I found two plants at Cat Bird Seat in Madison); and finally – wild senna (*Senna hebecarpa*), host plant for Cloudless Sulphur and Sleepy Orange Butterflies.

I ordered several host plants online: lead plant (*Amorpha canescens*) for the Southern Dogface Butterfly, more New England aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*); more butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*); and fog fruit (*Lippia nodiflora*) for the Common Buckeye Butterfly.

Everything is planted and growing, “Are They Coming?” Yes, I found Red Admiral caterpillars on the False Nettle. I brought them in and now have 4 chrysalises hanging from the top of the net cage. Yesterday I saw 3 American Lady Butterflies on the cone flowers. With any luck, there are eggs on the pearly everlasting. If I find them, I will bring them in. It's a start, time will tell.

Left to nature 2% - 5% of eggs do not live long enough to become butterflies. In captivity that percentage turns around, 95% - 98% survive. The trick is finding the eggs or caterpillars before predators do. Remember anything that kills the bad bugs, kills the good bugs. Even the beloved Lady Bug that we all adore, eats butterfly eggs as well as aphids. Birds, lizards, dragon flies, spiders, praying mantises, ants, tachinid flies and wasps will all kill butterflies in any stage of life. How do you find the eggs or caterpillars so you can bring them in? Watch for butterflies laying eggs on your host plants. Look for little holes in the leaves of your host plants. Watch for dragon flies, or wasps circling your host plants. How to raise caterpillars is a story for another article.

Continued on next page.

Garden of Dreams (Continued)

Why should we even care about these delicate little creatures other than the fact that they are so beautiful? Their declining numbers are one of the indicators of what is happening to our environment. We will never again see the “clouds” of butterflies as described by W. Mike Howell who grew up in Alabama in the 1940's and 50's. But, if we all do a little, we can make a big difference. If we all stop the use of pesticides, plant native plants and trees, and plant host plants, we can make a difference. We can create stepping-stones for the butterflies and bees to move about. We can give them a safe place to increase their populations. When you have done all you can and these amazing creatures flit from flower to flower in your garden, you can sit back, relax and enjoy the peace and tranquility that only nature can give you.

Resources that I found useful in my research:

Butterflies of Alabama by W. Mike Howell and Vitaly Charny

Butterflies of Alabama, Glimpses into Their Lives by Paulette Haywood Ogard, Photographs by Sara Bright

Raising Butterflies in the Garden by Brenda Dziedzic

Butterfly Gardening, Creating Summer Magic in Your Garden, The Xerces Society and The Smithsonian Institution, Sierra Club Books.

Pollinator Friendly Gardening By Rhonda Fleming Hayes

Butterflies and Moths of North America, collecting and sharing data about Lepidoptera. <http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org>

Alabama Butterfly Atlas. <https://alabama.butterflyatlas.usf.edu>

(not secure) Tennessee Valley Chapter of North American Butterfly Association <http://tvcnaba.org/>

Butterfly Host plants at: www.joyfulbutterfly.com/product-category/butterfly-hostplants/page/2/



Ameree and Bill Young have kept busy working on their beautiful and tranquil backyard.
(Pictured above)

Pandemic Priorities

Sue Khoury (W13)

I live in a very large subdivision: 534 homes. I'm also the President of our HOA, so it falls on me to enforce the neighborhood C&Rs and ensure the safety of all residents. Because I'm so visible in the community, and I often post helpful gardening advice on our HOA Facebook page, most residents have caught on to the fact that if they have a gardening, tree, or shrub question I'm the one to ask.

I don't mind at all! I not only get to diagnose garden issues but I get to know my neighbors better, and during the pandemic this has been especially helpful. I can visit a neighbor's yard while maintaining physical distance and while masked, survey and assess their environment, and provide very specific guidance, all while learning something about the homeowners. And while I'm willing to do a lot of research if I can't immediately answer a question, I'm definitely not above asking more knowledgeable people, like our REA. Thus I learn even when I don't do all the research myself. And learning is something I think all MGs should be doing every day.

Within my subdivision questions range from "Why do my arborvitaes have so many brown branches?" (seridium canker, most likely due to 2 straight years of severe drought conditions in late summer that left them vulnerable) to "Can you help me decide what plants I could use to replace my ugly hollies?" (Yes, and let's try some native selections), to "Why do I have so many tree roots on top of the ground killing my lawn?" (What kind of tree is it? Oh, a river birch? Well, that's a lousy suburban tree because it's native environment is riparian and it needs more water than it'll ever get in your front yard.") Most often I need to visit the yard so I can determine the homeowner's specific environmental conditions. No landscaping solution is one size fits all. I tell them honestly that the amount of available sunlight, water (do they have an irrigation system or are they willing to water regularly?), and whatever trees and mature shrubs they already have will weigh heavily on my recommendations.

Then I get the true novice questions: "How do I grow my own vegetables?" Yikes! So much I could say, and our most valuable ANR – The Alabama Vegetable Gardener – is gone now, although I still have a copy. ACES has a new webinar series targeting gardening novices so I'm pointing them to it.

These consultations have been keeping me really busy during the pandemic.

I'm also trying to improve some of our common property areas by digging up and donating/relocating to our clubhouse landscape some ornamental grasses that took hold in my gardens without my consent. The clumps are large now so that effort is keeping me busy.

Presiding over this community isn't easy, especially during a pandemic. How to keep the pool area safe, whether or not to allow use of the playground or clubhouse, and how to help people who've lost their jobs due to COVID-19 are just some of the issues I've had to address. For stress relief I research articles to include on our public Facebook page. Posting three times daily keeps the page active and visible. We now have nearly 2,000 followers, all of whom also see our workshop, plant sale, and other fliers. I get a lot of questions in that inbox as well.

A very Unusual Earth Day 50th Anniversary Celebration

Melissa Kirkindall (W98)

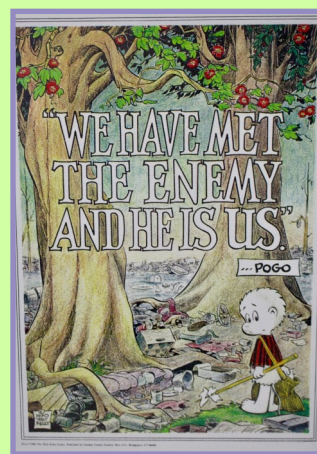
A few years ago, Jennifer Johnson helped Donna Leach and Lyndsey Winslette from Environmental Engineering and Occupational Health at Marshall Space Flight Center plan a pollinator garden on the Arsenal. The garden was planted and is doing well.

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, Jennifer, Janet Boothe and Melissa Kirkindall were invited to give presentations on butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds. Then along came COVID-19, and the Arsenal shut down. Through the wonders of technology, Dropbox, and flash drives, two of the presentations were made without us and were viewed by over 100 Marshall employees from their homes.

Many thanks to Jennifer, Janet, Donna and Lyndsey.

First Earth Day Poster

April 1970



Marylou's Garden

Mary Lou McNabb (81/Lifetime)

I am enjoying my hardy annuals: larkspur, annual poppies, cornflowers and just in the past few days the blackeyed Susans have started. Of course there are lots of weeds but I can't do much about that. All of these flowers come up as volunteers in the fall (and so do the weeds). I have observed an unusual happening on the gladiolas. They have been in the garden for several years and bloomed well. This year I have one which had a nice bloom stalk which I picked and then observed a second smaller bloom developing on the very same stalk. It will bloom in a week and be much smaller but I know it is from the same bulb. Good soil and plenty of rain is the probable cause.

I had the rest of my vegetable garden tilled in early May and grew lots of vegetable plants in the greenhouse. I often start a second tomato plant from one growing in the greenhouse and now I have lots of cherry tomatoes ripe from a cutting rooted in a glass of water on the window sill and planted in a 5 gallon pot. You could do this to have a second planting of tomatoes in August. Roots will usually form in 2 or 3 weeks and you should grow it in a pot in a protected place until it no longer wilts. Gardening is an interesting hobby and there are always new discoveries to be made.

My books are for sale at Harrison's Hardware on the Square in Huntsville. I am selling the last box of 40 now.

Buy a Brick

Just a reminder that we're selling engraved bricks to raise money to buy a greenhouse that will be installed behind the Extension Office on Cook Ave. Please share this with your family, friends, employer, clubs, etc. The bricks will be installed around the greenhouse. The link to purchase a brick is: <https://4everbricks.com/donors/MGNA/>. All the detailed information is there.

The greenhouse will be used for many community horticultural education efforts for adults and children, as well as growing plants for our annual plant sale.

Questions? email me at triplejhsv@gmail.com

Jessica Thornburg, Greenhouse Chair



GREENHOUSE CONSTRUCTION

BRICK FUNDRAISER

Master Gardeners of North Alabama

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You may enclose a check or enter your credit card information here. All donations are fully tax deductible.

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4" x 8" bricks can be personalized with up to 3 lines of text 18 characters per line without logo or 15 characters with logo



☐ Please add Clipart - Add \$25

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ANY SYMBOL IS CONSIDERED ONE SPACE (PERIOD, COMMA, DASH). ALL TEXT IS CENTERED.

Line 1

Line 2

Line 3


 Butterfly
☐


 Daffodil
☐


 Ladybug
☐


 Sun
☐


 Tree
☐


 Rose
☐


 Hummingbird
☐

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Questions? Please call Jessica Thornburg at (661) 212-5812

Note: This article appeared in the last issue of the Garden Thymes but was deemed important enough to print again.

There's a New "Bug" in Alabama

Is it in Your Garden?

Brenda Tapp (W98)

Have you heard about the new bug that is in Madison County? This new bug (Crape Myrtle Bark Scale or CMBS), a non-native insect that attacks crape myrtles, was first identified in Texas in 3004 and has now been verified in multiple locations throughout the south. It was verified in Baldwin County in 2014, in Madison County in 2017, in Lauderdale County in 2019, and in Mobile County in 2020. It has also been reported, but not verified, in Cullman County. As the presence of CMBS became more and more evident, a group of MGNA members was prompted to form a task force with the primary goal of educating fellow citizens on how to identify CMBS as well as steps to take to prevent and control it. Along the way, a secondary focus has become mapping locations throughout Alabama where it has been verified.

CMBS typically lives and feeds on trunks, branches, and twigs but not on leaves of crape myrtles. It first appears as white or grey waxy crustations around pruning cuts and in the crotches of the trees. If you mash or prick one of these it will bleed pink or red. If left untreated it will cover most of the trunk and twigs of the tree. Nymphs produce honeydew, which results in black sooty mold covering branches, trunks, and leaves.

If you have crape myrtles in your yard (and don't we all?), check them carefully. Look for the black sooty mold covered with white scales. Crush one or more of the scales to see if it bleeds pink or red. Don't just look at the bottom of larger trees. CMBS may settle on upper branches first. If you plan to buy new crape myrtles this year, buy them from a reputable nursery and before purchase check them carefully for any signs of CMBS. Plant any new crape myrtles in full sun, and keep them healthy by properly mulching, watering, fertilizing and pruning.

If, despite your care, your trees become infested, what should you do? An effective, but extreme, solution is total removal. If this is your decision, remember that debris should not be placed at the curb. It should be burned or buried. Another more labor-intensive solution is scrubbing the affected trunks and limbs with a soapy solution. Chemical controls (soil drenches using imidacloprid OR dinotefuran) also have proven to be effective. However, these chemicals, which should only be applied in very early spring when the first leaves are appearing, are neonicotinoids, which may be harmful to pollinating insects so use them with caution.

For more information on CMBS or to send reports and photos of infestations in your area contact the MGNA CMBS Task Force at: news@mginfo.org.



Photo taken at Fun Factory
by Sue Khoury



Photo taken in NE Huntsville
by Brenda Swanner



Close up of bark scale
by Brenda Swanner

Field Trip to Fredonia Mountain

Ameree Young (F13)

On Saturday, June 13th, a small group of master gardeners went to Fredonia Mt. Tennessee to the Eagle Point Railroad Club. This is a private wildlife refuge which has 10 orchards of chestnut trees planted on the refuge. We enjoyed a lecture by Larry Taylor, the owner of the refuge, who described his efforts to save the American Chestnut Tree from chestnut blight. By 1950, four billion trees had been destroyed by the blight. The American Chestnut Foundation was founded in 1983 with a single mission: to restore the American chestnut tree to the eastern woodlands to benefit our environment, wildlife and society.

Three chestnut trees were planted in March to honor the memory of Marti Newlon who was an active member of the railroad club along with her husband, Ron. She invited the master gardeners to visit the club, but then passed away unexpectedly, in February. A memorial marker was placed at the base of one of the trees. We were taken on a train ride through the forest on a series of tracks through the woods. On the ride, we saw deer, other wildlife and many fenced areas where the chestnut trees are planted.



Elouisa Stokes

LtoR: Al Stokes, unidentified man, Elouisa Stokes, Ameree Young, Bill Young, Barbara Stansky and unidentified man.

DVG Update

Carolyn Wade (W12)

Volunteers at the Demonstration Vegetable Garden are getting back in the groove at the Huntsville Botanical Garden. After completing mandatory volunteer training at the HBG, we were allowed back in to the garden after a 2 month hiatus. The HBG personnel had thankfully placed some landscape fabric over three of our larger beds to help with weed control so the garden was not as bad as we had feared.

Six Master Gardeners descended on the garden in mid May and got to work. We harvested and donated over 50 pounds of lettuce, chard, peas, onion and garlic. We also harvested over 4 trailers full of weeds and grass. Many of the raised beds have been reconfigured and planted. Plans are in the works for educational beds, signs and trails. Many of our Master Gardeners grew and donated vegetable and herb plants and the HBG has provided some soil amendments and fertilizer.

If you would like to volunteer with us this year, our works days are currently Monday and Wednesday mornings from 8 until 10am. We plan to start working on Friday mornings in the next couple weeks. ALL volunteers must undergo COVID training at the HBG before you can volunteer. If you are interested in joining us, please contact me or my wonderful co-chair, Susan Parker.



Susan Beam
harvesting onions



Marge Mullin
harvesting thistle weeds



Habitat for Humanity

Mary Ann Stasiak (W18)

On Saturday, June 20, MGNA and other volunteers planted over 100 plants at four different houses in Huntsville for Habitat for Humanity.



Photos continued on next page

Habitat for Humanity (Continued)



Calendar of Events

JULY

7/6 BOD Meeting

7/9 General Meeting

Field Trip:

Date & Time TBD

Hydroponic Lettuce Farm
in Arab

Contact: Mary Jane Reumann
for more information.

reumann@aol.com

Free

AUGUST

8/10 BOD Meeting

8/13 General Meeting

Field Trip :

Date & Time TBD

Dismals Canyon near
Phil Campbell

Contact Allyson Hofer for
more information.

Allyson.d.hofer@gmail.com

\$12 Adults

SEPTEMBER

9/07 BOD Meeting

9/12 MGNA Plant Sale

9/17 Native & Invasive Plant
Workshop (ACES Class-
room)

9/19 Annual Picnic

Field Trip:

Date & Time TBD

Duncan Family Farm—Gurley

Contact Cyndi Lindblom for
more information.

Cyndi.lindblom@gmail.com

Free

Note: Meetings and activities listed above are contingent on current health parameters at the time.

MGNA BOD meetings will either be at the ACES Classroom or by Zoom.

MGNA General meetings will be at Murray Hall or other designated venue or by Zoom.

Workshops, picnic and plant sale may have to be rescheduled.



MGNA FALL PLANT SALE FUNDRAISER
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2020
8 - 3

A&M AGRIBITION CENTER
4925 Moores Mill Road
Huntsville, AL 35811

Set up will be on Friday, September 11 starting at noon.

Please let **Brenda Tapp**, tapp0729@gmail.com, know what **plants/shrubs/trees** you will be able to donate.

Please let **Cyndi Lindblom**, Cyndi.lindblom@gmail.com, know what **rummage items** you will be able to donate.

Please let **Alice Brigman**, leaveamessage@earthlink.net, know if you have an **art piece or craft item** to donate.

Please let **Ann Tippie**, tippieam@gmail.com, know if you can **volunteer** on **Friday** to set up or **Saturday** to work the sale.

Please direct all questions concerning this fundraiser to Ann at tippieam@gmail.com.





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

