



GARDEN THYMES

Master Gardeners of North Alabama, Inc.

Please see page 5 for a list of awards and send in your [nominations](#) to Stephanie Boyd at slboyd10@yahoo.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings to you! Thank you all for your updates this summer. It seems we have all had a pretty inactive summer.

We did have our Fall Plant Sale on September 12, and it was a success even though we had many venue changes and ended up full circle at the Farmers Market. I would like to thank the HBG Guild for gifting us with about 500 plants for the

plant sale AND to all of you for growing, digging and potting your plants. I also want to thank ALL of you for coming out and helping to set up and work the sale. Y'all are spectacular, and I loved working with you. Jim Tylman saved the day with the tiller, which we sold.

The picnic was well attended Saturday September 19th. The BYOL (bring your own lunch) was great, but I will say I sure missed the wonderful sides and desserts!

We will have an October meeting via Zoom, and it will be cooking with herbs. The slate of officers will be presented at this meeting, as well.

November will be a day meeting and we will VOTE on the slate of officers.

I truly can't wait to see everyone in person! Stay safe, and I'll see you October 8th at 6:30

Cyndi Lindblom (F13)

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MGNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

President: Cyndi Lindblom (F13)
January 2019-December 2020
President@mginfo.org

Vice president: Jessica Thornburg (W17)
January 2019-December 2020
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January 2019-December 2021
Liz Gould (F18)
January 2020-December 2022
Dave Grey (F10)
January 2018-December 2020
Melissa Kirkindall (W98)
January 2018-December 2020
Barbara Stansky (W17)
January 2020-December 2022
Carolyn Wade (W12)
January 2019-December 2021
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Directors@mginfo.org



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MASTER GARDENER PROFILE KAY JACOBSON (F17)

Ann Tippie (W12)

Kay was born in Boaz, Alabama, but only lived there a short while. She grew up in Florence and met her future husband, David, her senior year in high school. They have two sons. John David and his wife, Nicole live in San Antonio, TX, and have a three year old daughter, Cora, and a six month old son, Hugo. Their younger son, Ben, and his wife, Catherine live here in Huntsville, and they have a six year old son, Rawson, and a five year old daughter, Ellie. Kay says they have not been able to visit them as often as they would like during COVID and are ready for life to return to normal soon.

Kay graduated from Bradshaw High School, in Florence, and Auburn University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, with a major in accounting. She also passed the CPA exam.

Early in her career, Kay worked in public accounting but decided that working 60-hour weeks from January through April was not for her! She then worked for Intergraph for 29.5 years, as a tax accountant preparing their federal, state and local tax returns, including sales tax returns. She is happily retired now.

Kay has helped with Ask a Master Gardener events, Huntsville Botanical Garden and MGNA plant sales, and the Morris School Garden Class. She is currently serving her second year as MGNA treasurer.

They have had many pets over their 39 years of marriage (10 dogs, 4 cats and a ferret). Their current dogs were rescues they adopted from Alaqua Animal Refuge in Florida. They are Rat Terrier mixes, a male and a female. They thought they were siblings, but when they first took them to their vet, they were told that, according to their teeth, the female, Maddie, was about a year older than the male, Milo, and that he is probably her son.

Kay was treasurer for the Greater Huntsville Humane Society for 8 years.

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Master Gardener Profile

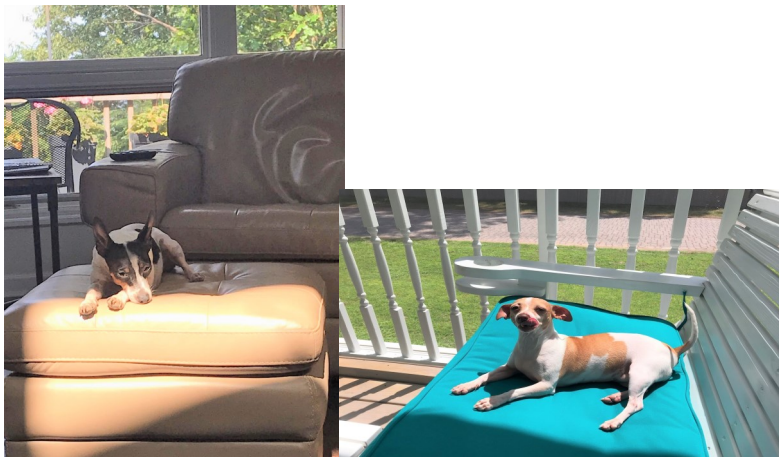
Kay Jacobson

(Continued)

Besides gardening, Kay's interests include walking, biking and exercising. She also enjoys reading and is a member of a book club. They just finished reading the book *Educated* by Tara Westover. When COVID is over, she says she and David will resume taking their grandkids to parks, movies, etc., on most weekends.

Kay and David have owned a house in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida, near Destin, since 2012 and enjoy escapes to the beach as often as they can. They have been able to go more often since David has been working from home. She says the yard there is very sunny and mostly sand so it is fun but challenging deciding what to plant there.

Kay and David have lived on Green Mountain for 33 years. She says she has finally decided to give up trying to grow a vegetable garden, as most of the things she grows have been eaten by deer, rabbits, and who knows what else, and they hardly get 6 hours of sun a day. She is in the process of converting to a pollinator garden, that will hopefully attract more hummingbirds and butterflies.



Maddie and Milo



Santa Rosa Beach



Kay's favorite flower is the gardenia.

Annual Awards

Stephanie Boyd ((W19)



It won't be long until it is time for our yearly Christmas Party and time to recognize people for their contributions this year. In order to give out awards and recognize others for what they have done this year, we need nominations! If you were in the ZOOM meeting last month, I mentioned that we needed you to be thinking about who to nominate. Now I need you to send me nominations of people or groups you think we should recognize at the Christmas Social. If you think someone should be recognized, nominate them. The awesome awards committee will look at the criteria and determine if your nomination is the best choice for one of this year's awards. Listed below are the categories for which we need nominations.

Master Gardener of the Year: If you nominate someone for this award please list things the nominee has done in any of the following areas:

- Leadership in a local project
- Service as an officer in local and/or state association meetings
- Presentation of programs to the public

Group Project of the Year: Given to a project which most notably stood out as the best example of group master gardening.

Friend of Master Gardeners of North Alabama: Nominate an individual, group, or business (not members of MGNA) whose support and assistance enabled the Association to meet its goals.

New Initiative: This award is for an individual who has formed a new project or program or taken the initiative to reorganize or improve an existing program or project.

The **Lifetime Achievement** award is for a Master Gardener who has been an ACTIVE member of MGNA for a minimum of 20 years and has made significant contributions through volunteerism in MGNA.

Outstanding MG Service Award: The nominee for this award will have demonstrated exceptional leadership skills, promoted the image, mission, and standards of the Master Gardener Program, gone "above and beyond" in identifying and implementing opportunities for MGNA volunteerism. They will have enhanced MGNA educational efforts, either by conceptualizing or implementing or promoting new elements of a project or an entirely new project, or by mentoring others in order to maintain an already high project standard. Will have assisted with a wide variety of internal and external tasks and efforts.

To nominate someone for any of these awards send an email with the following information:

Award name, nominee name, why you are nominating this person, group, or organization, your name, email address and phone number (in case we have a question).

To: Stephanie Boyd slboyd10@yahoo.com

All nominations must be submitted by the end of the October 8th business meeting.

HEALTHFUL PLANTS

Helen Carr (W98)

Pictured below are some of my newest vegetable plants: quinoa (grain with the highest protein content), amaranth (healthy grain), chamomile (tea to relax) and turmeric (anti-inflammatory-for arthritis). For the Huntsville Botanical Garden and MGNA plant sales, I grew Holy Basil which can be used as an herb in foods, like chicken dishes, etc., and makes a delicious tea. It fights viruses and has 20 great things it helps with, along with many others. Check this one out on Google. I also grow the edible ginger.



Quinoa



Amaranth



Chamomile



Turmeric

MEMBERSHIP

Elouisa Stokes (81)

It's that time of year again. We have had a good year for membership, and, as we look forward to 2021, let's encourage everyone to renew their membership to continue all the good work we do. I will begin taking 2021 memberships at the meeting on October 8. You will need to renew by December 31 to remain an active member and to be included in the membership directory. If we cannot meet in person, the membership form is on-line at mginfo.org. You can pay with PayPal. Scroll to the bottom of the main page and click on Membership. Choose On-line or Forms and Applications. PayPal will charge \$1 but the US Postal Service will also charge you to send it to me. However, you can also mail it to me at 2415 Glenn Street, Huntsville, AL 35801.



If you want your membership cards, enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope and I will send them to you. You can also pick your cards up at any meeting. The cost of active membership this year is \$30. If you wish to be an associate member, the dues are \$40. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you again soon. For more information, call me at 256-539-2058 or 256-604-8669.

NEW FACEBOOK PAGE

Carolyn Wade (W12)

Check out our new Facebook page – Master Gardeners of North Al. Our team will focus on promoting MGNA projects, our members expertise and local educational outreach programs. We will promote MGNA and what we do to increase awareness for our group. If you have MGNA project photos or updates, please send them to me at cbwade9@gmail.com

Sue Khoury will continue to post to our Facebook page, Master Gardeners of North Alabama, Inc. It will remain as a source of broad gardening-related educational content in accordance with that page's Mission Statement.



MGNA GREENHOUSE UPDATE

Carolyn Wade (W12)

As you may have heard by now, MGNA is trying to raise money for a greenhouse of our very own. How awesome would it be to learn from those in our group who are experienced propagators? Or to grow our own plants for the DVG or for the plant sale. What about teaching classes in our own greenhouse for members, interns or the public.

Well....We have a place to put it. We have bricks for the entrance. We have the educational expertise. We have the community need for it. NOW - lets complete the fundraising part so that we can build it (this fall?). What a great opportunity to showcase our members' expertise. We need to raise \$10,000 for the greenhouse and incidentals, i.e., water/gas hookups, gravel, etc. This is in addition to the money already raised by the brick sales. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, we can take cash, check, PayPal, or credit card. Want to donate or just have a question, please contact me and someone on our committee will get back to you ASAP.

INTO FALL WITH PEONIES AND HELLEBORES

Alice Lawler (F98)

PEONIES

I leave the foliage on my plants until it is brown and starts to fall off. (Cutting leaves off too soon can affect the blooms for the next year.) I cut the stems to about 2 inches above the ground. Be sure to pick up any fallen leaves or stem debris to prevent spreading foliar diseases. Discard the old foliage and remove and discard the mulch around the plants. (Do not compost it.) I add fresh compost at this time. Then I add some fresh mulch.

I have problems with botrytis blight particularly after a wet spring. I spray the stems and ground after I have cut them back and removed the mulch with a copper fungicide.

Experts recommend you remove the support rings and disinfect them also.

Fall is counted as another good time to plant peonies. In our area the eyes should be planted 1-2 inches below the surface. Spread compost around them and mulch. I use BLACK KOW.

Peonies prefer a soil with a neutral to alkaline soil.



HELLEBORES OR LENTEN ROSE

Hellebores are evergreen plants and require little maintenance. Late winter is the time to cut back old foliage and dead leaves.

Mine have gotten too thick and are spreading too much. I am planning to mow them down with a weed eater before they start putting on new growth and budding. I hope this will slow their progress.

Experts recommend dividing and replanting them in the spring. They prefer a slightly alkaline soil with high organic matter.

An excellent reference book is *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden* by Tracy DiSabato-Aust. It may be out of print by now. At one time, the Huntsville Botanical Garden had it on their shelves.





Doty Henry and Pam Price (F98)

ANNUAL HERB - But worth the plant each Spring.

BASIL: Harvest herbs in fall; use during winter. Mix in combinations you like or separately.

MAKE SURE TO LABEL....All herbs can be preserved for winter using this method:

Cut Basil early morning
Wash in cool water 3 times
Wrap in towel to absorb water
Process Basil in food processor or chop
Add enough Oil (Vegetable or Olive) to totally cover
Put in ice cube tray or zip bag and freeze

When needed take out what you need, will thaw in approx. 15 min, or put frozen directly into food item.

HERBS THAT THRIVE OVER WINTER

Rosemary - A Mediterranean plant that likes well-drained soil. Don't mulch around the plant base, but you can add pea gravel around base to help reflect light up in plant. You can harvest rosemary during the winter and summer. Cut young tender leaves and stems. **Prune back overgrown rosemary in mid- to late summer to maintain its shape and size.** Remove up to half the new growth on the shrub, taking care not to cut into the woody portions of the stems. Remember, new growth will only come from green stems, not from woody stems. So, unless you want to cut back your rosemary forever, only make cuts on the new growth.

Oregano - Needs well drained soil. Keep flowers cut off to help keep it from spreading. Divide it every 3 years or so. Can use during winter.

Parsley - is a bi-annual, so you need to plant a new one every year to have enough. Usually will live here during the winter

Chives - After blooming, trim chive plants down to about 6-inches and allowed to grow a fresh flush of spiky foliage that continues to provide harvests well into fall. As winter approaches, the chives go dormant and wait for the spring soil to thaw so they can emerge once again.

Continued on next page.

HERBS (Continued)

Tarragon - **Cut and dry before the first frost.** It should come back next year with some mulch/pine straw on top for winter protection.

Thyme - They prefer good drainage and do well with less water after the first year. **Vigorous pruning in the fall** will help the health of your plant the following year and help survive the winter.

Mint - cut back and dry for winter

Sage - Too much water is the biggest cause of its death. It likes well drained soil. In areas with wet winters it is a good idea to mix in some sand and gravel to ensure that the water can run off quickly. Prune lightly after flowering and late summer. Should temperatures drop to 14F cover your plant to protect from damage.

COOL WEATHER HERBS

Cilantro and Dill - It likes cool weather so **sow seeds on the ground in the fall or early spring.** Use and let it go to seed to reseed itself every season.

TO GARAGE FOR WINTER

Lemon Verbena - **tender plant for our winter.** Needs to be brought into a covered area away from wind and cold or just replant in the spring

Bay - Plant in a pot so it can be brought into a garage during winter. Fresh is so much better than dried.

DVG UPDATE

Carolyn Wade (W12)

The focus of the Demonstration Vegetable Garden this year has been education and demonstrations. Demonstrations for tomatoes included several different watering practices as well as pruning and training of tomato vines with constant sanitation of pruners. Marge has been diligent in keeping the suckers removed from the fig trees – and we have had a bumper crop. Compacted beds resulting from shallow tilling were double dug and soil amendments were added. Clover planted last fall as a cover crop and green manure and cowpeas planted this summer were both excellent 'nitrogen fixers'. Different varieties of cowpeas were planted, harvested and now ready to turn into the soil. Two of the raised beds have been covered in clear plastic to demonstrate solarization to kill ground pests, diseases and weed seed. Another demonstration utilized cardboard and mulching as a woven ground cover to prevent weeds. Other garden demonstrations include a Japanese ring garden, straw bale garden, keyhole garden and teepee garden. Weekly weeding has greatly improved the appearance of the garden and decreased weed seed from germinating.

An added component to our 'education' at the DVG this year has been the addition of a Facebook Group 'Demonstration Vegetable Garden, Huntsville, AL'. We have posted photos and explanations to aid in our education efforts. Check it out – like it – share it.

Our produce this year is being shared with two main local groups. On Monday's our harvest is delivered to the Rose of Sharon Soup Kitchen. Wednesday and Friday's the harvest goes to CASA. Both groups are beyond excited to get our donations.

An Ask the Master Gardener day at the DVG was held on August 8. Some visitors brought printed photos and their gardening notebooks with their questions. The caterpillars feeding on the parsley were a hit. Several people had recently relocated and were learning the Alabama growing seasons. There were first time gardeners, apartments dwellers trying containers and small spaces gardens. Topics included starting plants from seeds, fruit trees and small fruit for the home garden, crape myrtle bark scale and grub pests in turf and of course questions on herbs and vegetables. Visitors were referred to the MGNA web page, Extension ACES and the SOW app. Maybe some will become new master gardeners in the future. On September 26, we will have Master Gardeners in the DVG, Herb Garden, Compost Demonstration and Lily Gardens to answer questions for visitors.

If you are interested in touring the DVG or would like to volunteer this fall with the group on Monday, Wednesday or Friday's, send an email to [Susan Parker at susan.par96@gmail.com](mailto:susan.par96@gmail.com) Or stop by – we're usually there from 8 to 10 on those mornings.



(L-R) Jim Mullen and Susan Parker checking the muscadines, Lisa Crump pruning the tomatoes, apple gourd with tomato for size comparison, and Connie Carr showing a rattlesnake bean.

Hosta

Preparing Your Hosta for Winter

Sue Toole (F99)

Hosta are very hardy perennials that need little care but there are a few simple things that will help them overwinter.

The following steps will help make your hosta beds ready for their winter slumber:

Right before or after the first freeze of the fall cut back the dead stems of the hosta. Clean up around the base of the plant and make sure there is no debris where snails can overwinter. A clean base is best.

If your hosta are in the ground follow the same procedure as if they are in containers. You may cover with a covering of leaves to protect the crown from damage but this is usually not necessary.

If you are growing hosta in containers you can also cover with leaves or not. Your only concern is the containers ability to withstand freezes. Terracotta pots will freeze and thaw and eventually crack so use containers that can withstand this process.

The colder the better is best for hosta. They need a freeze period to thrive. If the winter is too mild they will not do as well.

The enemy of hosta in winter is too much water. You must make sure the containers are well drained. Keep the drainage holes in the pots open and sitting on bricks or pavers so roots cannot grow into the pots. If the plants are not well drained the crowns will rot and the plants will die. If you are worried about too much water you may tip your containers over and leave them that way for the winter but check in early spring to make sure you stand them upright when the pips begin to pop out or the plant will grow sideways.

Before fall gets here it is helpful to water the hosta very well the month of August. That prepares them for their burst of growth in the spring.

The best time to transplant hosta is in August or September but you may do it anytime they are up and growing. Sometimes it is easier to do when the pips first start to come up in the early spring so the leaves are not in the way.

After transplanting make sure they are in the shade and getting plenty of water.

Hosta love some morning sun but always afternoon shade.



MGNA Fall Plant Sale

Cyndi Lindblom (F13)

After many changes in the venue we came full circle to the Farmers Market.

Set up day was Friday, September 11th from 12 – 3. We received lots of plants AND good rummage and raffle items. We got everything set up except for the last minute signs, that we were going to put up Saturday morning. Some of us arrived at 7:30 to place the signs and we already had customers! We were going to open at 9 AM, but we just went with the flow and eventually got everything out.

We sold our tiller, edger, MGNA tools and merchandise, as well as additional rummage items for a total of \$550.

Most all of our plants sold, and those that were left over went to First Stop. Tim was most appreciative of our donations.

The plant sale brought in about \$4,700, so now we can breathe a bit easier with our budget.

We had phenomenal plant growers, re-potters, and workers! A huge THANK YOU to all who participated!!!

A big thank you to Michelle Quarles, Farmer's Market Manager, for all of her help!



Annual Picnic

Cyndi Lindblom (F13)

This year has been crazy as far as what we can and can't do due to Covid-19. We made the decision to go ahead and have the picnic since there were those who were anxious to get out. It was outside, and attendees were asked to wear masks and bring their own lunches. Well, everyone complied, and no one complained about lunch....

There were 35 people in attendance, and the weather was perfect, though a bit overcast. Bob led us on a hike around the lake pointing out spots of interest and some history of the area. There were quite a few first timers to the area so this was informative and they are ready to come back to the mountain.



Many thanks to Bob Goodwin for leading our hike again this year!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

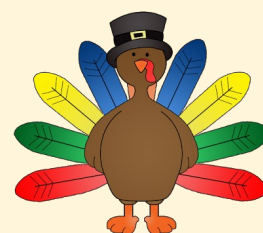
OCTOBER

BOD Meeting	10/02	12:00-2:00 p.m.
General Meeting	10/08	6:30 p.m.



NOVEMBER

BOD Meeting	11/09	12:00-2:00 p.m.
Corporate Meeting	11/12	Noon



DECEMBER

BOD Meeting	12/07	12:00-2:00 p.m.
Christmas Social	12/10	6:00-8:00 p.m.



Please note:

Meetings and activities listed above are contingent upon ADPH's and Gov. Ivey's public health mandates.

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

MGNA general meetings will be in Murray Hall at the Huntsville Botanical Garden or other designated venue or by Zoom.

The 2020 Christmas Social will be held at Community Fellowship Baptist Church, 7905 Logan Drive, Huntsville, AL 35802.



Master Gardeners of North Alabama
Alabama Cooperative Extension System
819 Cook Ave.
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