

In The Loop

by Theresa Davidson

Reach for the Stars:



REACH FOR THE STARS!

Bronze Star: 100 – 299 hours
Silver Star: 300 – 499 hours
Gold Star: 500 – 999 hours
Gold Name Badge: 1,000 – 1,999 hours
Platinum Badge: 2,000 – 3,999 hours
Silver Star Pin: 4,000 – 5,999 hours (ruby colored gemstone)
Silver Star Pin: 6,000 – 7,999 hours (emerald colored gemstone)
Silver Star Pin: 8,000 – 9,999 hours (diamond colored gemstone)
Silver Star Pin: 10,000-11,999 hours (amethyst colored gemstone)
Silver Star Pin: 12,000-14,999 hours (navy blue colored gemstone)
Silver Star Pin: 15,000-16,999 hours (garnet colored gemstone)
Silver Star Pin: 17,000-19,999 hours (rainbow colored gemstone)
Silver Star Pin : 20,000 plus (champagne colored gemstone)

What is your next level?? Enter you hours

Congratulations to these Master Gardeners who earned Stars for their work in 2024!

Bronze: 2620.50 total hours

2024	Henderson	Margaret	101
2024	Mitchell	John	102
2024	Hall	Patricia	107
2024	Duncan	Brenda	113
2024	Milligan	Neil	127.25
2024	Gearing	Jes	130
2024	Faralli	Mary Catherine	137
2024	Wood	Janith	138.75
2024	Hilton	Susan	157.75
2024	Nettles	Dr. Dana	159.5
2024	Poates	Vera	181.75
2024	Vrocher	Chester	183.25
2024	Golomb	Todd	186.5
2024	Piecuch	Kari	237.75
2024	Bailey	Melissa	278.5
2024	McDonald	Jennifer	279.5

Silver: 3678 total hours

2024	Deckbar	Kathy	302.55
2024	Reinhaus	Olivia	308.25
2024	Fink	William	327.75
2024	Reynolds	Shirley	328.65
2024	Tomberlin	Mary Ann	344.55
2024	Russell	Gudrun	362.5
2024	Barnes	Paul	372.95
2024	Renta	Dana	388.68
2024	Rooks	Carolyn	451.35
2024	Drinkard, Jr	Vaughan	490.68

Gold: 7468

2024	Earp	Joy	525.65
2024	Mackey	Carol	540
2024	Finley	Jane	571.01
2024	Davis	Lisa	609.3
2024	Kelly	Donna	648
2024	Helton	Kenneth	649.5
2024	Reeves	Paula	650
2024	Bingham	Barbara	723.45
2024	Platt	Marion	757.9
2024	Carter	Josie	857.25
2024	Morrow	Debra	936.25

AMGA Advanced Badges and Stars:

These badges and stars will be awarded at the State Conference in April.

Deadline: January 31		Badge Colors		Advanced Award Star Colors			Year Certified
(please double-check name spelling)		Gold	Platinum	Ruby	Emerald	Diamond	
Last Name	First Name	1,000-1,999 Hrs	2,000 -3,999 Hrs	4,000-5,999 Hrs	6,000-7,999 Hrs	8,000-9,999 Hrs	Printed on badges
Parker	Marianna	1078.25					2020
Findlay	Cindy	1259.25					2021
Arellano	Emily	1261.75					2018
Davidson	Theresa	1763.25					2021
Criswell	Lydia		2,174.25				2018
Williams	Carol		2,043				2016
Howard	Robert		2246.75				2019
Stolz	Marsha	10,195.5					2003

Please record your hours. Imagine the dollars these hours represent!

REMEMBER, I list the category on the Sign Up Sheets, on the Service Page under the heading VOLUNTEER, where Volunteer Opportunities are posted, and in In the Loop. I always try to use *italics and bold print* so that the category stands out.

Hour Requirements to remain a Master Gardener in good standing:

25 Volunteer Hours and **10 CEU's** each calendar year

CEU's may be easier than you think to acquire:

*For each General Meeting that you attend, you may claim the speaker's presentation time, usually an hour.

*Attend First Fridays at the Mobile Botanical Gardens and claim the speaker's time.

*Watch videos from universities that produce research based information (AU, MS, LSU, UF, etc.)

*Attend MG field trips and state conferences

Jack's Office Hours:



Jack's Office Hours

Jack has established fixed office hours for discussion of Master Gardener organizational business. Beginning January 14 and continuing every other week (next--April 8 & April 22) at 1 pm-2:30 pm, Jack will be available in person or Zoom for **15 minute** time slots.

Jack LeCroy, jml0003@auburn.edu, 251-574-8445

Jack's Upcoming Projects needing volunteers:

*Master Gardener Plant Clinics, June 6, September 12- All dates 9:30-11:30

*4-week Alabama Smart Yards Certification Class, July 22-August 12, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

*Homeowner Lawn School: Fairhope, April 17-18, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

*Mobile County Master Gardener Class, August 7-November 13

Remember, dates and times could change for activities at Jon Archer due to roof replacement. (March 21 MG Plant Clinic AND Grow More/Give More Certification Class were canceled.)

Upcoming Meetings:



April Board Meeting

Friday, April 4, 10:00 am
West Regional MPL on Grelot

Bob Howard, 251-423-2605, rhoward51@gmail.com
EMG Program Support/Local MGA or AMGA Admin

April General Meeting



April 18, 9:30 Social Time, 10:00 Meeting West Regional MPL on Grelot

Todd Lasseigne, Executive Director-Bellingrath Gardens

Bob Howard, 251-423-2605, rhoward51@gmail.com

EMG Program Support/Local MGA or AMGA Meeting

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:



Plant Late Spring Vegetables

Friday, April 11
9:00 am
Dream Garden
Bring Gloves

Marsha Stoltz, 251-689-5993, marshastolz@msn.com

Growing Ornamentals/Garden/Jon Archer

MOBILE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Spring

Festival

Vegetable Plant Sale 🍅 Free Admission

Saturday, March 29, 2025
9:00 - 2:00

New Location This Year! ➡ Mobile Botanical Gardens
5151 Museum Dr. Mobile AL

Thousands of Container-Compatible Vegetable Plants for Sale including: tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, eggplants, peppers and herbs.

Free admission to Mobile Botanical Gardens
Nita's Plant Marketplace will be Open

For vendor information, send an email describing what you would like to sell to :

Emily Arellano at edparel70@gmail.com or to
Diane Anthony, ACES at ida002@aces.com as soon as possible

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity, education and employer.

Speakers:

9:30 AM - Jack LeCroy, Cooperative Extension Agent : Spotted Lantern Fly
- A new invasive to know about

10:30 AM - Troy Latham, Environmental Educators Assoc. of Alabama; Alabama Beekeepers Association: Pollinators - Importance of Bees

11:30 AM - James Miles, Retired, ACES/Extension Agent: Growing Vegetables and Herbs

12:30 PM - Antoinette Hamilton: Garden to Plate

1:30 PM - Question and Answer Time

Details will be emailed this week!

Emily Arellano, 251-366- edparel70@gmail.com
Growing Food Plants/Prep./Host Educational Event



SPECIAL REQUEST FROM SARA HABEL, EDUCATION DIRECTOR AT MBG:

Assist with Mary B Austin field trip to MBG

April 11

4 rotating stations lasting 20-30 mins each:

-Grocery Store Botany- 3 volunteers

-Picture scavenger hunt- 2 volunteers

-Veronica of Honey Hill presenting on bees -Needs of Plant and a planting seed take home activity- 3 volunteers

-1 volunteer for each group to help lead them to the sessions

Emily Arellano, 251-366-4558, edparel70@gmail.com

Community Partner Event/MBG



Saturday Marketplace

Opens Saturday March 29 in conjunction with our Spring Festival.

9:00 am- 2:00 pm

Additional Saturday dates and times to be determined....

Checkers/Wagon Pullers- 2 or 3 needed (A very calm shopping experience-not the Spring Sale)

Community Partner Event/MBG



OPENS APRIL 26!!!!!!

Contact: Bob Howard, 251-423-2605, rhoward51@gmail.com
Community Partner Event/Market in the Park

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities:

Mobile County Master Gardener Helpline

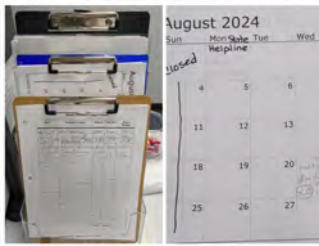
Monday-Friday

2 shifts: 8:30 am-12:00 pm & 12:00 pm- 3:00 pm

To sign up, please use the **blue** MG Helpline Clipboard, located in the MG Helpline area of the Mobile County Extension Office

Cindy Findlay, 251-786-4245, cndyfindly@att.net

Diane Anthony 251.574.8445 jda0002@aces.edu



Create & Share Info w/Public/Helpine



Prepare Snacks for MG General Meetings:

Jon Archer Center
Lydia Criswell, 251.610.5543, criswells2@mchsi.com

EMG Program Support/Local MGA or AMGA Meeting
(Add your round trip drive time to the meeting time. If you bring snacks, you have become a volunteer for that meeting.)



Mobile Japanese Garden

700 Forest Hill Drive
Volunteer your MG skills any morning/afternoon.
Text Don to coordinate!
Don Fry, 251.422.8466, don.fry@comcast.net, mobilejapanesegarden.com

Growing Ornamental Plants/Garden



Community Gardens:

Mobile Urban Growers (MUG):
mobileurbangrowers.org
Search Facebook: "Mobile Urban Growers" and Community Gardens
Pat Hall, 251-654-3935, phallphd@bellsouth.net
mobileurbangrowers@gmail.com

Work in the Vegetable Garden at **Central Presbyterian 1260 Dauphin St. Mobile 36604 2nd & 4th SATURDAYS: 9:00a-11:00a (Winter Hours)
Work in the Vegetable Garden at **Taylor Park, 1050 Baltimore Street 36605 1st & 3rd SATURDAYS, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM (Winter Hours)
Gardening with Children at **Taylor Park, THURSDAYS to coincide with the school calendar, 3:30 pm – 4:15 pm

Growing Food Plants/Garden



Mobile Medical Museum

Robert Thrower Medicinal Garden
Curating and maintaining everchanging collection + gardening with Full Life Ahead, serving adults with intellectual disabilities, usually on Wednesdays
1664 Springhill Avenue
Carol Dorsey, 251.209.3483, bcdorsey63@gmail.com

Growing Food Plants/Therapeutic Horticulture



Grow More Give More

Statewide Master Gardeners initiative to encourage food gardening and sharing produce
2 Ambassadors needed: attend meetings, target areas for grant development/grant funds fulfillment
Chair Needed

Growing Food Plants/Garden



Speakers Bureau

*Alice Marty, 251-709-1125, amarty@comcast.net

*Barbara Boone, 251-680-8263, boonebama@live.com

Create & Share Info w/ Public/ Creating Educ. Materials

(Speakers are needed. Please contact Alice or Barbara, if you'd like to volunteer.)



Office Manager/Phone Lines/MG Helpline

Cindy Findlay, 251.786.4245, cndyfindly@att.net



DREAM GARDEN: Join a Garden Room (See below)

Jon Archer Center

Marsha Stolz, 251.689.5993, marshastolz@msn.com

Contact Marsha or a Garden Leader to volunteer and work as needed.

**Growing Ornamental Plants/Garden OR
Growing Food Plants/Garden**

The Gardens:

Grandma's Pass Along Garden

Catherine Moates, 251.366.6163, memo366@att.net

Olivia Reinhaus, 251.458.7383, omcvea@gmail.com

Native Garden

Steve Sisk, 251-633-6996, s_sisk@bellsouth.com

Shade Garden

Bob Howard, 251.423.3108, rwhoward51@gmail.com

Vegetable Garden

Marsha Stolz, 251.689.5993, marshastolz@msn.com

Mary Ann Days, 251.391.5806, masdays@comcast.net

Herb Garden

Mary Ann Days, 251.391.5806, masdays@comcast.net

Cottage Garden & Formal Garden

Glenda Eady, 251.342.4248, jerryeady2@comcast.net

Building Garden

Marsha Stolz, 251.689.5993, marshastolz@msn.com

CEU's

CEU Opportunities:

****For each General Meeting that you attend, you may claim the speaker's presentation time, usually an hour.***

****Attend First Fridays at the Mobile Botanical Gardens and claim the speaker's time.***

****Watch videos from universities that produce research based information (AU, MS, LSU, UF, etc.)***

****Attend MG field trips and state conferences***

March General Meeting

April ??, 9:30 Social Time, 10:00 Meeting

TBA

Bob Howard, 251-423-2605, rwhoward51@gmail.com

CEU for speaker's presentation, usually an hour



First Friday at MBG

No First Friday this month....

CEU



Alabama Extension Urban Green: Back 2 Basics Gardening Series
2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 1:00 pm

April 9: Five Tips for Growing a More Productive Vegetable Garden

April 23: TBA

Registration required:

www.edu/go/Back2Basics

OR

Alabama Extension at Alabama A&M University Facebook page

Contact Dani Carroll at carrodl@aces.edu

CEU

Registration link: <https://auburn.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZakce2vpz8sGNx-jzzXDI81i5QdFzn2SX36#/registration>

Alabama Smart Yard Webinar Recordings:

Previous webinars are available to rewatch on the Alabama Extension@ Alabama A&M University Facebook Page

You may like these organizations:



Gulf Coast Herb Society

Mobile Botanical Gardens 4th Tues. of the month, (except July and Nov.), 5:30 pm

NEXT MEETING: April 22

Beth Poates, 251.342.6508, poates57@hotmail.com

CEU for presentation



K Sawada Camellia Club

Most meetings at Mobile Botanical Gardens

1st Sunday of month: Nov-March, 2:00 pm

Next meeting: April 6, 2:00 pm

Kenny Helton, 251.459.5555, kehelton@comcast.net

CEU for presentation

Good News! There will be one additional meeting this year, April 6!



Camellia Club of Mobile

Jon Archer Center

2nd Sun of the month: Sept. 2024- April 2025, 2:00 pm **(April 13)**

mobilecamellia.org, Camellia Club of Mobile FB Group

CEU for presentation

Clarke Root Gardens
 ~ 2,000 Waterfront Camellias in Mobile, AL ~



Becky Root
 Owner/Camellia Enthusiast
 251-753-0348
 byroot@yahoo.com


RSVP for free tours on most Sundays
 in January, February & March at 2pm

Learn more about Clarke Root Gardens:
<https://mobilebaymag.com/rooted-in-tradition/>



Azalea City Bonsai Society in Mobile,
 AL

Follow on Facebook




**Ikebana Mobile, AL - Friendship
 through Flowers**
 1.2K likes • 1.3K followers

Follow on Facebook

MOBILE BOTANICAL GARDENS *Come Here To Grow!*



Theresa's top reasons to join the Gardens:

1. **DISCOUNTS** on events, classes, plants, and the Gift Shop!
2. First Friday Lectures--**free** (Senior rate is \$45 per year. Senior nonmembers pay the daily admission rate of \$8 (senior rate) to attend the First Friday lectures. Join and save \$\$\$! (And, get all the benefits of membership.)
3. The **BEST** weekly newsletter-know **EVERYTHING** that's happening at the Gardens
4. Access to the Gate Code to visit the Gardens *before* and *after* regular hours
5. Reciprocal special admission at 360+ gardens in the US- I've used it in Huntsville, Atlanta and, New York City -quite a savings.

Mark your calendars for these SPECIAL EVENTS:

TIME TO REGISTER FOR THE STATE CONFERENCE!!!



2025 AMGA Conference and Business Meeting

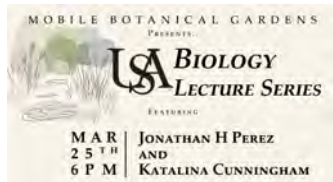
April 3-5, 2025

Prattville, AL

Hosted by Autauga County Master Gardeners Association

Featured Speaker: Joe Lamp'I, Host of PBS series, Growing a Greener World

www.alabamamga.org -----Click here for all details.



-Tuesday, March 25, 6 pm: Professor Jonathon Perez and graduate student Katalina Cunningham will speak on their Bluebird Research (with data from MBG)

-Tuesday, April 29, 6 pm: Professor Juan Mata will deliver a presentation on Mushrooms and Fungi. *NO CHARGE. However, email Sara Habel to reserve a spot- shabel@mbgardens.org



Old Dauphin Way Plant Swap

Open to all Plant Lovers

April 5, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Parking lot of Central Presbyterian, corner of Dauphin and Ann

Please bring plants potted and labeled.

Bellingrath Gardens:



Experience the Enchantment of the inaugural **Gulf Coast Chinese Lantern Festival at Bellingrath Gardens & Home**. From April 17 to June 15, 2025, visitors can immerse themselves in an unforgettable display of art, culture, and illumination. This must-see event will light up the night with spectacular handcrafted lanterns, interactive experiences, and family-friendly entertainment.



MGM Academy of Agribusiness is at Mary G. Montgomery High School.

Feb 8 · 🌐

🌱 Annual Spring Plant Sale 🌱

Spring is just around the corner, and so is our Annual Plant Sale! 🌿🌸 Starting March 12, you'll find a beautiful selection of plants ready to bring life to your garden. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just getting started, we've got something for everyone. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details!



👍❤️ Semmes Woman's Club + 94 19 comments 84 shares



Like



Comment



Send



Share

SPRING PLANT SALES





March 12

START

Your Spring bedding and gardening favorites will be ready soon!

Operating Hours
Monday–Friday 8 AM– 2 PM
Saturday (March/April only) 9 AM– 12 PM





Bryant Career Technical Center - H... ... X

1d ·

We will start selling March 10th. Transplanting update:
Begonias - Red, Pink, White in trays and hanging baskets.

Calibrachoa - Mango Tango, Orange Zest, Canary Yellow, Strawberry, White, Blue Sky, Lavender In hanging baskets and small pots.

Gaillardia - Mesa Red, and Arizona Sun, in small pots

Coreopsis - Sun Kiss in small pots

Angelonia - Deep Blue in small pots

Cucumbers and squash in 36 ct trays

Double Profusion Zinnias - Fire, Golden, White, Cherry in 36 ct trays

Marigold - Janie yellow and Orange in 36 ct trays.

Pretty sure some other things not listed here for planted too.

The students this year have been and are amazing!

They do everything we ask of them and more.

We are so excited to show off our shop updates!

March 10th until the end of the season, we'll be open 8am-2pm any regular school day. Our Saturday sale is April 5th, 8am-2pm.

For Your Information:

When you shop The Gift Shop at MBG, look for the work of two of our Master Gardeners: *Susan Hilton, Potter, and Sharon Claseman, Jewelry Designer.*



VOLUNTEERS AT WORK:

Caladium Sales at the March Meeting



SPRING FESTIVAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING: We can meet anywhere!

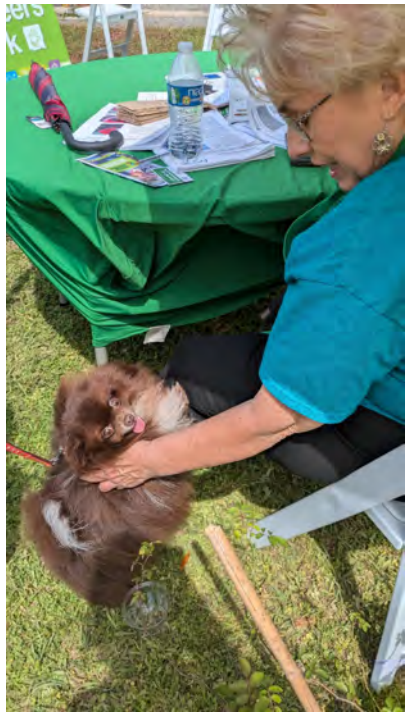


PLANTASIA: MBG Spring Plant Sale 2025

*Thank you, **Valuable** Volunteers!! They couldn't do it without YOU!*









THANK YOU!!!
Jes Gearing, Olivia Reinhaus, Shirley Reynolds, Kathy Deckbar, Lisa Davis, Mary Jo Broussard, Lydia Criswell, Carolyn Rooks, Todd Golomb,

Susan Hilton, Dana Renta, Karen Ruckart, Catherine McCleod, Janine Brunet, Marion Platt, Barbara Boone, Harry Surline, Buddy McLaughlin, Carol Dorsey, Glenda Eady, Carol Mackey, Marianna Parker, Cindy Palmer, Barbara Comstock, Mary Ann Days, Carol Williams, Betty Clifton, Mary Townsley, Mary Catherine Faralli, Pam Noerr, Kelsey Flach, Mary Ann Tomberlin, Gudrun Russell, Earl Gochey, Joan McCracken, Brenda Bolton, Jan Wood, Jackie Jenkins, Pam Pousson, Tracey Duren, Jane Finley, Bob Howard, Alice Marty, Mildred McCants, Julie Conrey, Margie Wilcox, Rynn Toifel, Lynn Coleman, Donna Kelly

Earning **CEU's** at the January K Sawada meeting--

I spy with my little eye-----Master Gardeners! How many can you name in each picture??



I see 6: Jane Finely, Marion Platt, Theresa Davidson, Jane Davis, Bill Fink, Vaughn Drinkard



I see 7: Lydia Criswell, Patti Hicks, Buddy McLaughlin, Jane Finley, Jane Davis, Harry Surline



I see 4: Marion Platt, Theresa Davidson, Vaughn Drinkard, Kenny Helton

Until next month, happy gardening!



Mobile County Master Gardeners | 1070 Schillinger Rd. N. | Mobile, AL 36608 US

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