



Special Points of
Interest:

Gardening ..WoW

INSERT

Nominations

New Extension Logo

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AMGA Website



Garden Pathways



Winter 2014

Volume 14 Issue 60

Gardening ... Wow!!



2015 AMGA Annual Conference
Hosted by Blount & Cullman Counties
March 23 - 25, 2015
SEE INSERT FOR ALL INFORMATION

NOMINEES ARE:

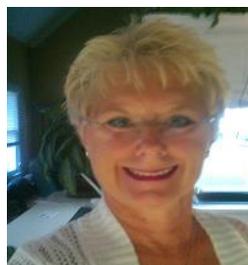
2014 AMGA Nominating Committee

Dee Hubbert – Chair
 Pam Olson & Tom
 Boyle

The 2014 AMGA Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following names to serve on the AMGA Board. Election and installation of these Officers, Board Members at Large, and the Nominating Committee Member will take place at the AMGA Annual Conference in Cullman, Alabama, March 23-25, 2015.

OFFICERS:
 Terms will expire
 in 2017

President:
 Jeanon Massien,
 Shelby Co. MGA



Jeanon earned her B.A.A. in Management (Cum Laude), from Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia. She worked in management, administration and sales in the Southeast and as a corporate office manager in Chicago and Philadelphia.

In 1994 Jeanon retired from corporate life and developed two strong passions...needlework and gardening. She continued to develop her skills while living in New Jersey, San Francisco and Oklahoma City. Perpetual Schnauzer Mom, having raised 8 miniatures over the last 30 years. Jeanon, a native of Jefferson County, left Alabama in 1976 and returned in 1996 to Shelby County after her husband retired. She serves as Chairperson for the Master Gardener Intern Class Program, teaches the Houseplants Class and serves as Chairperson

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dottye Pierce



Well, winter finally found us here in North Alabama, at least for now. The weather can't really decide what it wants to do, but a few warm days would be appreciated. I put off some fall cleanup and now it's been too cold to get out there and do it!

This newsletter is packed with lots of great reading. Check out the bios on our slate of nominees and be prepared to vote at the AMGA Conference in March. The

Blount/ and Cullman MG Associations have a wonderful time in store for us. The Board toured the conference facility early in December and it's very nice. They are even upgrading the center for us (grinning). Anyway, the Conference information will give you all the details you need. Please register early to make final planning easier.

I am looking forward to a peaceful holiday season and hope you are all blessed with the same. See you at the Conference!

Dottye Pierce,
AMGA President

NOMINEES ARE:

(Continued from page 1)

for the SCMGA By-laws Committee. She received the Top Hours Award for 2013 from SCMGA.

Since returning to Alabama, she has pursued extensive study in Japanese Embroidery. Jeanon is a founding member of the Cahaba Lily Needlepointers, serving as Secretary, Vice President and Newsletter Editor at the local level. She is a founding member of the Greystone Garden Club, serving as Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President and President. Additionally she served as Secretary for the Jones Valley Federated Garden Club.

She has served continually since 2002 as Treasurer for the Birmingham Botanical Gardens annual Spring and Fall Plant Sales. In 2010 she received the Unsung Hero Award from the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

Jeanon completed the Master Gardener program in 2004 and served as local Vice

President in 2005 and President in 2006-2007. On the State level she served on the AMGA Advisory Council, on the AMGA Board of Directors 2009-2011, Secretary of AMGA 2011-2013, and currently serves as Vice President (2013-2015).

Additionally, she has served 7 years on the AMGA Awards Committee, 6 years as the Scholarship/Endowment Chairperson, and developed and implemented the Advanced Stars Program. Jeanon also completed the Advanced Master Gardener Program in 2008 and received her Platinum Badge that same year, earning the ruby star in 2014.

Vice President: John Baker,
Shoals MGA



John Baker retired from the military in 1980 and from the U.S. Postal Service in 2001. He moved to the Shoals in 2001 and took the Master Gardener course in 2003. John was elected President of Shoals Master Gardeners in 2005, having previously served as Vice President. He continued to serve on the Shoals MG Board as Chairman of the Publicity Committee and also as Chairman of the Volunteer Hours Committee.

He was elected as a Member at Large to the state board of the Alabama Master Gardeners Association at the 2006 State Conference. He helped with the Q&A portion of the state newsletter and helped to establish and served as chair of the National Fund Raising Committee for three years. He also served on the Awards Committee for three years. He was elected as Vice President of the state board at the 2009 Conference, served as chairman of the AMGA Confer-

(Continued on page 3)

NOMINEES ARE:

ence Committee, and secured locations for the next three State Conferences. He was elected as President of the state board at the 2011 Conference.

Some of the things John accomplished during this term: increased dues to make the organization more financially stable, reduced cost of the Garden Pathways Newsletter by sending it out electronically, helped to institute an electronic database for membership tracking and dues paying, and wrote articles for the Garden Pathways Newsletter.

After leaving the office of AMGA President, John remained active with the AMGA Board by serving as Chairman of the Membership Committee and attending all Board and Advisory Council meetings.

He has worked on landscape projects at Ivy Green – Helen Keller's birthplace, helped develop a children's vegetable garden at the YMCA, and helped form and served as the MG rep for three years on the Shoals Beautification Alliance.

John helped to establish the Helpline for the Shoals Master Gardeners, has taught several classes open to the public on Gardening and Garden Tools, and set up a composting booth for Earth Day in conjunction with the city's recycling drive. He helped plant trees in the town of Phil Campbell after the devastation of the 2011 tornadoes, helped to set up Intern classes and taught the Orientation/Introduction to the Master Gardener Program for the past four years, has worked on various Garden Angel projects for members who

are ill or infirm, and has helped to decorate Christmas trees at the Tennessee Valley Art Center for the Trees of Christmas display.

Secretary: Brenda Armstrong, Blount Co. MGA



Brenda Simmons Armstrong grew up in beautiful Blount Springs, Alabama, surrounded by a naturalist's dreamland. She married her high school sweetheart Jim Armstrong and moved to Hayden, just 4 miles away. Her "happily ever after" was interrupted when Jim had extensive surgery and radiation for cancer while in his twenties. Although given a dismal diagnosis, Jim lived an amazingly productive life for the next 43 years. He and Brenda gave countless hours of love and service to neighbors, friends and family.

Brenda has many loves but top of the list are her three beautiful granddaughters, Abby, Anna, and Ella, given her by her son Anthony and his lovely wife Dana. She lives with her dog BitBit (he does not live with her, she lives with him, spoiled rotten) and her outside dog Sugar.

Brenda has learned to do quite a few things since her husband's death in 2011. Through trial and lots of errors

she has mastered her zero-turn lawn mower. She not only mows her 5 acres of grass but has taken on some of the mowing Jim once did for the neighbors.

Brenda took the MG class in 2001 and hit the ground running. She served as Secretary, Vice-President and President. She has chaired numerous committees, cooked countless dishes, and nurtured numbers of plants for the Master Gardener plant sales. Brenda was editor of Growing Pains, the BCMGA newsletter. She was honored as the Master Gardener of the Year. She should receive her "ruby" for 4,000+ volunteer hours this year. She has served as vice-president of the Blount County Wildflower Society and is currently serving as secretary. She is the editor of the newsletter for the Blount Iris and Daylily Society. She is currently co-chair of the 2015 AMGA State Meeting, serving as Fund-Raising Chairman. Brenda is very active in her church FBC Hayden where she is a member of the choir and serves as Hostess Committee Chairman. She is a member of the current Nominating Committee and is Chairperson of the upcoming Centennial Celebration.

Brenda worked as a Secretary for a number of years moving into management before her retirement.

Brenda's love for gardening comes from her grandmother and her father. She laughs and tells that her mother could kill plastic flowers. She has become an avid gardener since taking the MG class and

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NOMINEES ARE:

she has found her true love “playing in the dirt” to be the most rewarding job she ever had. It has been said that she could spot a wildflower going 60 miles an hour down the interstate and has been known to stop and “rescue” some plants along the way. She is never without a shovel in her car. Her gardening motto is “plant your plants very close together, thus eliminating having to pull weeds.”

Treasurer: Roger Clarke,
Jefferson Co. MGA



Roger completed the Master Gardener program in 2010 in Jefferson County, and was elected treasurer that same year. He served as treasurer from 2011 to 2013, including chairing the Jefferson County finance committee for the 2012 state conference. He was elected president for 2014.

The Jefferson County Master Gardeners Association is headquartered, along with part of the Jefferson County Extension officers at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. The Botanical Gardens also houses one of the few horticulturally themed libraries in the country. Together these provide a wealth of volunteer

opportunities that Roger and his wife Beth have participated in, including spring and fall plant sales, antiques at the garden, earth day and numerous others.

Roger has aided subsequent Master Gardener classes, as well as being a regular volunteer at the help line.

Roger also serves as the district coordinator, and a counselor for the North Central Region of AARP's Tax-Wise program which prepares and files federal and state income tax returns free of charge for individuals.

Roger was born in Nottinghamshire, England, home of the folk legends about Robin Hood, but considers he is “southern by choice”.

A retired accountant and banker Roger tells one and all he spent forty years inside an office in a suit and tie, and has been determined to make retirement a lot more fun out of doors and in the garden. As his career developed Roger and Beth lived in several states, finally retiring in the Birmingham area. His wife Beth is an active gardener and volunteers with the University of Alabama Birmingham hospital, Assistance League and others.

The Clarke's moved to a new home in December 2013 and have spent much of 2014, after recovering from the move, in starting a new yard. “To be a gardener you must have faith in the future.”

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Terms will expire in 2018

Phil Gatlin,
Cullman Co. MGA



After retiring and moving to Alabama from Florida and Connecticut, Phil quickly realized that he did not understand how to garden in the rich diversity of Alabama's climate, soils, plant selections, and plant requirements. The only way he was going to become a successful gardener was through education and the Master Gardener program seemed the secret to success. He completed the MG course in 2006 and used the skills he learned to begin work on his home gardens. In 2009 Phil re-united with the Cullman County Master Gardeners with a desire to gain additional gardening knowledge and share that knowledge with others.

Since 2009 he has accumulated over 1,800 volunteer hours. He has served the Cullman County association as President, Vice President and Awards Chair, Treasurer, Intern Class mentor, and Rain garden chair. Phil has worked with other members building several public gardens in Cullman including the MG Demo

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NOMINEES ARE:

(Continued from page 4)

garden, a Rain garden, gardens at the Commission on Aging and gardens at the Veterans Memorial. Phil is also responsible for landscape at his church.

On the state level Phil is currently co-chair of the 2015 AMGA State Conference. In this position he has attended all AMGA Board meetings in the last year, so has knowledge of the workings of the board.

Phil has seen first hand the positive impact Master Gardener programs have on a community and individuals. He is excited and would be honored to serve on the AMGA board and help lead the AMGA to even greater service in Alabama.

Andria Cummings,
MGs of North Alabama



As a career journalist, Andria Cummings has a need to know and to share information. She has worked as the editor on magazines, newspapers, web sites, and in corporate marketing.

Since taking the Master Gardener class in the fall of 2007, her curiosity has led her to become involved in many areas of volunteering while representing Master Gardeners of North Alabama, AMGA and ACES.

She has served as the MGNA Reach for the Stars Coor-

inator, as the Publicity Committee Co-Chair, and as a Communications Committee member and a Bylaws Committee member. For two years she has been the editor of the Garden Thymes newsletter, which received the MGNA 2013 Project of the Year Award and the AMGA 2014 Outstanding Newsletter Award. She also received the AMGA 2014 Top Hours of the Year Award.

She enjoys volunteering at the Demonstration Vegetable Garden planting and harvesting food for home-bound seniors, and at Morris Elementary School teaching children where food really comes from.

Her computer skills help in various ways. She has worked with the AMGA Reach for the Stars Chair to create the interactive Reach for the Stars forms found on the AMGA web site. Since 2010, she has been the Madison County Super Administrator for the Auburn Master Gardener Service Report database. For the Regional Extension Agent, she created and administers the TriCounty e-mail distribution list which reaches Master Gardeners in Limestone, Madison and Morgan counties.

She assists the REA and the TriCounty Master Gardener Program Class Coordinator with two Master Gardener Program classes each year. She is an instructor during the Propagation Class, and she presents a session on reporting hours and using the Auburn database.

She also volunteers at the Huntsville Botanical Garden, having co-chaired the Perennial Tent at the annual Spring Plant Sale since 2011.

She has always enjoyed research and was the local coor-

inator for the recent Auburn University/HBG research on seasonal ornamental annuals. Currently she is in the Harvest for Health project which pairs Master Gardeners with cancer survivors.

She is the MGNA representative on the AMGA Advisory Council, serving as chair of the 2014 Advisory Council Nominating Committee. Outside of Master Gardeners, Andria was the secretary/treasurer for several years on her local Homeowners Association board and continues to chair its Landscape Committee.

She most enjoys her husband Lee, who supports her in her choice of volunteer activities.

Wayne Van Landingham,
Wiregrass MGA



Wayne is an active member of Wiregrass Master Gardeners Association in Houston County, Alabama. Certified as a Master Gardener in 2010, he has been heavily involved in Wiregrass Master Gardeners administration and various projects since certification. He was President of the local association in 2011 and 2012, and led the association in seeking and finally receiving the coveted

(Continued on page 6)

NOMINEES ARE:

(Continued from page 5)

501c3 non-profit status in 2014. The Wiregrass Association had many financial threats during the 501c3 application process and the association's board with Wayne's lead, worked through these obstacles, paid four years back taxes, and submitted the application.

He has worked on many projects, but is currently the maintenance Master Gardener Greenhouse Manager, associate chair for raised vegetable beds at the Alabama Youth Diversion Center Dothan Campus, is a Harvest for Health volunteer assisting a recovered cancer patient, and is a Plant Parent for shrubs – propagating, growing, tending, digging, and seeking donations of shrubs for the Wiregrass Master Gardeners Association biannual plant sale fundraisers. He volunteers for the fire ant control booth each year at the National Peanut Festival, and helps teach the Master Gardener course at Coffee County and Houston County.

The local Master Gardener of the Year award and the Leadership Award were given him by his peers last year for his dedication and hard work.

Wayne is married to his sweetheart of 39 years, Patty, he is the father of two grown children, a lay leader in his church in Dothan, a past local and state officer of the Alabama Knights of Columbus, and a Navy Vet. He is retired from 35 years of supervisory and management duties at Farley Nuclear Plant near Dothan.

Wayne accepted the role of Chairman of the 2016 Alabama Master Gardener Conference in Dothan on May 12, 13, and 14, 2016, and with the Conference Steering Committee, is working to make it the best ever.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:
Term will expire in 2017

Karin Carmichael,
Capital City MGA



After retiring from a 25 year career in teaching, Karin Carmichael soon found that she needed something more than playing bridge so she turned to the Master Gardener program. Since completing the MG course in 2005, Karin has earned over 3,000 volunteer hours and is very close to earning her Ruby Advanced Star.

She has served her local association, Capital City, as President, Vice President and Program Chair, Advisory Council Representative, Hospitality Chair for the 2010 AMGA Conference, Governor's Mansion Garden Chair, first Bus Trip Chair, Plant Sale Chair, Intern Class Instructor, Rose-Morris House Garden Co-Chair, Awards Chair and Intern Mentor.

Also, she has been on the Educational Events Steering Committee (Registration Chair), Speakers Bureau, Lilly's Garden Committee and the Lunch and Learn Committee. In the process of serving in these various capacities, Karin has designed and installed several public gardens and spoken to many local groups including school classes, garden clubs and civic organizations.

On the state level, Karin has served on the AMGA BOD for three years and served as state Awards Chair during that tenure. She has remained as the Reach for the Stars Chair and is serving her fourth year in that position.

Karin has been on the Montgomery Trees, Inc. BOD for five years and has served as Treasurer for two years and Membership Chair for two years. She also chaired the Montgomery Humane Society Dog Play Yard project.

In recognition of her service to Montgomery, Karin has received the Betty Fitzgerald Award For Dedication and Commitment To The Beautification of Montgomery.

Also, in CCMGA, she has received the President's Award for Outstanding Service and the Lifetime Hours Award.

Proposed Amendments to the AMGA Bylaws By Brenda Tapp

Following are the proposed amendments to the AMGA Bylaws, which were approved by the AMGA Board of Directors on December 2, 2014. The majority of the changes are in language or in reorganizing information within the document. Please read these proposed amendments carefully and be prepared to vote on them during the Business Meeting at the Annual Conference in March. You may want to refer to the current Bylaws which were adopted in March 2010 when reviewing the proposed amendments. These bylaws can be found by going to the AMGA website (www.alabamamg.org). Scroll to the bottom of the page, and click on AMGA By-Laws.

Article II. Purposes

Other than Item g., content did not change but was simply reformatted.

ARTICLE II PURPOSES

The purposes of the Association are educational, scientific, literary, and charitable and may include:

- a. distribution to organizations that qualify as exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or a corresponding section of any future federal tax code;
- b. enhancement and supplementation of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System Home Horticulture Program;
- c. assistance with the responsibility of performing special tasks and engaging in continuous activities related to the program;
- d. promotion of a wide dissemination to Alabama citizens and residents of information available as a result of study and experimentation completed at the Alabama Cooperative Extension System universities, such information to be in accordance with Alabama Cooperative Standards;
- e. cooperation and affiliation with other public and private organizations whose purposes are consistent with the purposes of the Association, when such cooperation is beneficial to the Association and not specifically prohibited by the statute;
- f. provision of scholarships to college students in Alabama studying horticulture; exploration and implementation of any other purposes that are lawful and in keeping with the purposes defined above.

Article III. Membership

No changes in basic content. Section 7 was changed into Section 2; following sections were renumbered. References to dues and voting were removed from new Sections 3 - 7. Sections 8 and 9 are unchanged.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. There shall be five classes of membership: Active, Provisional, Lifetime, Associate, and Honorary. Members may hold more than one class of membership.

Section 2. Only Active and Lifetime members in good standing are eligible to vote and to hold office, and only Active members pay annual dues.

Section 3. Active Member: Active membership shall be limited to individuals who have successfully completed an approved Alabama Cooperative Extension System Master Gardener Training Program (hereinafter referred to as the Program) and also have fulfilled the Program's volunteer service requirements.

Section 4. Provisional Member: Provisional membership in the Association may be granted for one calendar year to Intern Master Gardener volunteers who have been reported by an Extension Agent to have satisfactorily completed the approved MG instructional program. Once a Provisional member reports completion of the Program's volunteer service requirements to the coordinating Extension Agent, the individual is certified as a Master Gardener and is eligible for Active membership. If the Provisional membership term ends before an individual completes the required volunteer service requirements, the individual will be eligible for Active membership when these volunteer service requirements have been met.

Section 5. Lifetime Member: Lifetime **active** membership may be granted to an Active member in good standing who expects to remain a member of the Association and who chooses to make a one-time payment of state dues. Lifetime active membership also may be awarded to an individual Master Gardener for meritorious service to the Program

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Proposed Amendments to the AMGA Bylaws By Brenda Tapp

or Association as determined deserving by the AMGA Board.

Section 6. Associate Member: An Associate member is an Alabama Cooperative Extension System employee working with an office which offers the Program, or which cooperates with other units in offering the Program, or which plans to offer the Program within one year of his/her application for membership in the Association.

Section 7. Honorary Member: Honorary memberships are bestowed by the Board of Directors on individuals who may or may not be master gardeners who have rendered outstanding contributions to the Program or to the Association. Honorary members may occupy an advisory capacity.

Article IV. Officers

Article VI. Board of Directors

In carefully reading the existing bylaws, it becomes apparent that although duties are specified for the Board (Article VI), there is no provision for electing said board members. By combining Articles IV and VI as follows, this problem will be alleviated. We also are recommending that committee chairs that are not elected members of the Board be appointed as ex officio, non-voting, board members since they function as such.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Officers of the Association shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2. The Board of Directors (hereinafter referred to as the Board) shall consist of the four (4) elected officers, seven (7) members elected at large and additional ex officio members as needed to conduct the business of the Association.

Section 3. Any committee chair that is not an elected member of the board shall be appointed as an ex officio, non-voting member of the board for the duration of his/her tenure as committee chair. Said ex officio member shall have all rights and responsibilities of elected board members other than the right to vote.

Section 4. The Officers and other Board Members shall perform the duties prescribed by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Association where not in conflict with these Bylaws.

Section 5. Election of Officers and other Board Members:

- a. Officers and Board Members shall be elected by a majority vote of the Active and Lifetime members present or represented by proxy at a meeting at which a quorum {ten percent (10%) of the Members of the Association entitled to vote} is present.
- b. The Nominating Committee annually shall recommend a slate of candidates for the offices, board positions and nominating committee position to be filled. Additional nominations for any position will be accepted from the floor at the elections.
- c. The Nominating Committee shall report the slate to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the annual meeting and shall prepare a ballot for the election of officers, board members, and nominating committee members.

Section 6. Terms of Office:

- a. Officers shall serve for a term of two years or until their successors are installed. The term of all officers shall begin upon election with the following exception: The term of the incoming treasurer shall begin on July 1 to enable the outgoing treasurer to finalize the conference finances before the incoming treasurer takes office. No officer shall serve consecutive terms in the same office, provided that if no nominations are made, an incumbent may serve with the Board's approval.
- b. Board members shall serve on a staggered basis for terms of three (3) years.
- c. Any vacancies that may occur among the Officers shall be filled by the Board, subject to approval of the membership at the next annual meeting.
- d. Any vacancies that may occur among the Directors shall be filled by the Board, but only for the unexpired term created by the vacancy.

Section 7. Duties and responsibilities of the Officers and Board:

(Continued on page 9)

Proposed Amendments to the AMGA Bylaws By Brenda Tapp

- a. The Board shall fix the date, time, and place of the Board meetings and the membership meetings, determine the Association's rules of operations, and perform such other duties as are listed in these Bylaws or as are necessary and proper for the operation of the Association.
- b. The Board shall meet at least quarterly. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President and may also be called by written request of a majority of the Board of Directors, at such time and place as shall be fixed in such call.
- c. The Board of Directors shall have full power to create committees from among the membership as may be deemed expedient and shall prescribe their duties, this power may, however, be assumed by the President subject to the Board approval.

Articles V. Membership Meetings

The following changes to Section 3 are recommended. No other changes at this time.

ARTICLE V

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Section 3. Notice of Meeting: Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of the meeting and, in case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes of the meeting, shall be delivered not less than thirty (30) days before the date of the meeting, either personally or by mail, to each Member of record entitled to vote at such meeting. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to have been given when addressed to the Member at his address as it appears on the membership records of the Association and deposited in the United States mail, with postage thereon prepaid. Notice may be waived in writing and signed by the Member entitled to such notice, where not otherwise provided by law.

Article VII. Committees is now Article VI

It is recommended that all job descriptions be removed from the bylaws and addressed in the Board Manual.

At the recommendation of the President and Vice-president, the State Conference and Program Committees are being combined and renamed as the **Conference Committee** and the Endowment/Scholarship Committee will become the **Endowment Committee**. In addition, both the current and immediate past Treasurer have questioned the necessity for a Finance Committee since the responsibilities replicate those designated for the Treasurer. These changes are reflected below.

ARTICLE VI

COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Association's standing committees shall be: Conference Committee, Membership Committee, Nominating Committee, and Fund-Raising Committee, and, except for the Nominating Committee, shall be appointed at the direction of the President subject to the approval of the Board.

Section 2. The President shall appoint special committees, including but not limited to the following, as are deemed necessary by these Bylaws, the Association, or the Board of Directors: Audit Committee, Awards Committee, Communications Committee, Project Funding Committee, Endowment Committee, and Continuing Education Committee.

Article VIII. Advisory Council is now Article VII

Section 4 of the Advisory Council has been revised as follows to reflect the AC SOP, which was adopted in February 2014.

ARTICLE VII

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Section 4. Advisory Council Objectives and Responsibilities:

- a. The primary objective of the Advisory Council (AC) is to serve as a communications link among the local Master Gardeners associations, as well as between the local Master Gardener Associations, the AMGA Board of Directors, and the State Master Gardener Program Coordinator. The exchange of information, ideas, concerns, and solutions will occur on a regular basis and may be initiated by any one of these groups.

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Proposed Amendments to the AMGA Bylaws By Brenda Tapp

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- b. Specific responsibilities of the AC will include:
 - providing a list of potential candidates for the AMGA BOD to the AMGA Nominating Committee and assisting in identifying MGs for AMGA standing and special committees.
- c. The AMGA BOD may ask the AC to perform other

duties as needed.

There are no changes to the remaining Articles.

AMGA Project Funding Program

By Joyce Davis

See AMGA website to download a form and complete instructions for applying (AMGA Forms, Project Grant Application). Deadline for submission of application is January 15, 2015. Project Funding will be announced at the AMGA State Meeting in March 2015.

- The applicant and the project must be in the State of Alabama.
- Priority will be given to

those projects that most closely meet the mission of AMGA.

- Master Gardeners must be directly involved in the project.
- The project will be evaluated based on the information submitted. No further contact will be made by the Evaluation Committee to obtain information.
- An applicant may receive

funding for only one approved project within a three (3) year period.

See AMGA website for complete instructions.

All applications should be sent to:

Joyce Davis,
610 Snellgrove Ave.
Boaz, AL 35957

or emailed to
joyce.davis76@yahoo.com
no later than January 15, 2015



“Brent and Becky’s Bulbs” Bloomin Bucks

- Do you need Bulbs? The Bloomin' Bucks Fundraising program by Brent and Becky's Bulbs, a very progressive and unique way for 501(c)(3) organizations like ours to raise money almost year 'round!
 - HOW IT WORKS:
 - It's simple... go to www.bloominbucks.com (with no 'g')
 - From a pull down menu of all of the organizations registered, select to support **Alabama Master Gardeners Assoc, Inc!**
 - With one click, you are then sent to the Brent and Becky's Bulbs website where you can order whatever they want, in whatever quantity you want...books, bulbs, tools, supplements, gift certificates...ANYTHING...and a percentage of all of the orders goes to **AMGA!**
- Thanks for your support



AMGA Endowment Fund

By Jeanon Massien

New Year Greetings to you all!

I want to say thank you once again for your support of the AMGA Endowment/Scholarship. 2014 has been another successful year in funding and, I trust, by Conference 2015 we will have reached our goal of \$100,000.

The AMGA Undergraduate Endowment now provides scholarship funding for two worthy individuals each year. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of

young adults who share Master Gardener's passion, and who are the future caretakers and preservationists of our natural resources.

Almost 2 years ago the Auburn Horticulture Department made known the need for funding of graduate students and asked for MG's help. At the December 2014 AMGA Board Meeting, your Board of Directors accepted the contract with Auburn for the establishment of the AMGA Graduate Student Endow-

ment. I am delighted to be able to present to the Membership at Conference 2015, this new endowment for adoption. It has been my honor to represent all of you at AU Scholarship Events over the past 6 years. We have made a difference... *YOU have made a difference.*

I look forward to seeing you all in Cullman!

Jeanon

AC GROUP

By Ginny Holland

The Advisory Council met on November 5, 2014, in Jemison with 60 attendees. A new sign-in table to register attendance was instituted with great success. Officers were elected for 2015: Ginny Holland (Cherokee County), Chairperson; Glenda Gower (Russell County), Vice Chairperson; and Ann Hammond (East Central), Secretary. Ann Vaughn (Morgan County) will serve as Parliamentarian. Dottie Pierce, AMGA President, reported on the last

Board meeting. John Baker, AMGA Membership Chairperson, distributed membership cards for Reps to take back to their association. He also stressed the importance for each association to make sure all AMGA members are in the database.

Steve Espinosa (Etowah County) discussed upcoming changes to the AMGA website. Ona Garwood, Editor, shared information that will help facilitate contributors getting their articles into

Garden Pathways.

Kerry Smith, AMGA Coordinator, reported on the success of Harvest for Health and the new look of the ACES website. Several topics of interest and concern were brought up and discussed in the Open Forum portion of the meeting. Representatives were given updates for the 2015 and 2016 Conferences.

The next Advisory Council meeting will be on February 3, 2015, in Clanton.



ACES has a new logo with the focus on Extension that will be used for marketing purposes. MG assistance is needed in using/promoting this new logo to help more Alabamians become familiar with it. Alabama Cooperative System, however, will continue to be used for most other purposes.

Membership

By John Baker

There always seems to be a question of the classes of membership in the AMGA. Below is taken from the latest AMGA Bylaws which are found on the AMGA web site:

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. There shall be five classes of membership:

1. Active
2. Provisional
3. Lifetime
4. Associate
5. Honorary

Members may hold more than one class of membership.

Section 2. Active Member:

Active membership shall be limited to individuals who have successfully completed an approved Alabama Cooperative Extension System Master Gardener Training Program (hereinafter referred to as the "Program") and also fulfilled the Program's volunteer service requirements. Active members must pay annual dues.

Section 3. Provisional Member:

Provisional membership in the Association may be granted for one calendar year to Intern Master Gardener volunteers who have been reported by an Extension Agent to have satisfactorily completed the approved MG instructional program. Once a Provisional member

reports completion of the Program's volunteer service requirements to the coordinating Extension Agent, the individual is certified as a Master Gardener and is eligible for Active membership.

If the Provisional membership term ends before an individual completes the required volunteer service requirements, the individual will be eligible for Active membership when these volunteer service requirements have been met. Provisional members pay no state dues and have no voting rights.

Section 4. Lifetime Member:

Lifetime membership may be granted to an Active member in good standing who expects to remain a member of the Association and who chooses to make a one-time payment of state dues. Lifetime active memberships may also be awarded to individual Master Gardeners for meritorious service to the Program or Association as determined deserving by the AMGA Board. Subsequently, Lifetime members no longer pay state dues, and have full privileges as Lifetime/Active members.

Section 5. Associate Member:

An Associate member is an Alabama Cooperative Extension System employee working with an office which offers the Program, or which cooperates with other units in offering the Program, or which plans to offer the Program within one year of his/her application for

membership in the Association. Associate members pay no dues and have no voting rights.

Section 6. Honorary Member:

Honorary memberships are bestowed by the Board of Directors on individuals who may or may not be master gardeners who have rendered outstanding contributions to the Program or to the Association. Honorary members may occupy an advisory capacity. Honorary members pay no annual dues and have no voting rights.

Section 7. Only Active and Lifetime members in good standing are eligible to vote and to hold office.

Section 8. Annual dues for each class of membership shall be established annually by the Board of Directors and shall be payable on or before January 1. Members who have not paid dues by January 1 are no longer in good standing and, therefore, not eligible to vote or receive AMGA communications. Voting rights and full AMGA privileges will be restored upon payment of current dues.

Section 9. Any member who desires to resign shall notify the Secretary, who shall promptly remove the member's name from the Association's Active rolls. Members' names shall be removed from the Active rolls in the event of death.

NOTICE

Looking for possible leads for Artisans, Donors and Advertisers for the upcoming conferences. If you know of any please contact Kathie Bass at mgafundraisingchair@gmail.com.

POLLINATORS

By Kerry Smith



Ok, I'm a sucker for those comedic animated movies. Anyone else see *Bee Movie*? It is one my favorites not just that it makes me laugh, but also for its serious message too.... **We need a healthy insect population to pollinate our plants!....**

Some plants are wind pollinated, but most plants with

showy flowers need helpers to visit them and move pollen from the male flower parts (anther) to the female parts (stigma). Lots of insects assist this process as they feed on the pollen and/or nectar in the flowers.



Several bees make Alabama their home. Bumblebees are found in larger flowers due to their bulky size. Mason bees like the early spring bloomers like fruit trees, mustard, and clover. Other bees in Alabama include: squash bee, sweat bee, leaf-cutting bee, various digger bees, blueberry bee, numerous bumblebee species, and of course, the honeybee.

Have you ever wondered what you can do to help?

You can support pollinators by attracting them to your yard, an Alabama Smart Yard. Remember that insects need help finding flowers so a big floral pit-stop makes their hunt easy. The flowers of herbs such as thyme, basil, bee balm, and rosemary all produce nectar that bees love.



Let your parsley, dill, and Cole crop veggies go to flower next spring as these are good bee pasture.



Mix flowers like coneflower, coreopsis, or any other aster family flowers into other plantings – even your veggie garden. Add some shrubs and trees like salvias, redbud, hollies, false indigo, and buckeye.

Consider extra caution when

using insecticides. Yes, even organic sourced Insecticides may kill our beneficial insects when used incorrectly. Think about the time of day bees are foraging. The daylight hours are when most bees explore. So if you need to use insecticides, dusk and later are better times. Look for that lazy bumblebee who might sleep in a flower after a tiring day.



As a general rule, **avoid flowers when applying insecticides of any kind.**

Help support all pollinators by learning more about them. We've hosted some terrific webinars this year through eXtension; check out the two on bees: <http://www.extension.org/pages/70120/all-bugs-good-and-bad-2014-webinar-series#.VGaEpaPnbcs> (both from Dr John Skinner, University of Tennessee)

And here's a website and a few publications: <http://www.fws.gov/pollinators/> - <http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0351/ANR-0351.pdf> - <http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-2140/ANR-2140.pdf>

Spread the word too! Helping bees and other beneficial insects is easy. We just need more of us doing it.



Kerry,
Alabama Cooperative
Extension,
Home Grounds Team
& MG State Program
Coordinator



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AMGA AWARDS PROGRAM

By Jane Trawick

Please remember the deadline for submissions for the AMGA Annual Awards must be postmarked or emailed no later than January 31, 2015. The awards are listed and detailed at the AMGA website:

www.alabamamg.org. Click on Alabama Master Gardener Association. At this site, you will click the side tab AMGA Awards Information. All of the awards, including the Reach for the Stars Program, will be accessible there. However, there are changes to some awards that may not be updated on the web-site for the upcoming award submissions. Please take note of the information contained in this article.

There are some changes for submission for the **AMGA Outstanding Newsletter Award**.

This award will now have two (2) categories of Newsletter Awards: the **first** category is for associations with up to sixty (60) AMGA members; the **second** will be for associations with sixty-one (61) and above AMGA members. It will be imperative that issues submitted list the number of members in the association, the name and month of the issue. The issue should be "sent one at a time"—Example--MCMG-JUNE when emailing. The two specific issues for judging will be **JUNE** and **NOVEMBER**, and should be sent both electronically and by USPS by the January 31, 2015 deadline.

Additionally, newsletters that have won previously can now be re-submitted for judging after a three year period has elapsed.

Submission for the Jean Lee Lifetime Hours Award and the Top Hours for the Year should be emailed by January 31, 2015.

The Mary Lou McNabb submission **MUST BE SENT BOTH ELECTRONICALLY** and by USPS, by the deadline. The Gary Murray Outstanding Service and Dedication Award has changes for the submission of nominees. All the information regarding the criteria for selection of the nominee will remain the same. The new instruction for submission is as follows: "the narrative will be in 12 pt. type and should not exceed two pages in length. No photographs, newspaper articles, etc. will be accepted." The submission **MUST BE SENT BOTH ELECTRONICALLY** and by USPS.

It is hoped that each local association will submit a nominee for the Jean Lee Lifetime Hours, Top Hours for the Year, Mary Lou McNabb and the Gary Murray Outstanding Service for a non-Master Gardener. Please remember that the County Agent must certify the candidate for the Lifetime Hours and Top Hours. These submission should be submitted electronically to:

Award Chair - Jane Trawick,
boja7@yahoo.com .

Other contact information is 5895 Timberlane Drive, Mobile, AL 36605 or at (251) 402-3463 (cell) or (251) 443-9175 (home).

Reach for the Stars, Badges and Gem Star Awards

The Reach for the Stars and Badges and Gem Stars Award information is accessible on the AMGA website. Also, the order forms are available at this tab. Scroll down to the title Resources and then down to Forms. These forms are interactive and must be filled out on line. Instructions for completion and submission precede these forms. The two forms are titled Reach for the Stars and Badges and Gem Stars Awards. The Stars order form should be printed and mailed, accompanied by a check for the appropriate amount to the Stars Awards Chair. The Badges and Gem Stars form should be filled out electronically and verified by the signature of the local ACES agent. Specific instructions are detailed at the order form site. When completed as instructed, this form can be submitted electronically directly to the:

Stars Awards Chair,
Karin Carmichael,
jkcarmi@bellsouth.net or if other information is needed she can be contacted at 334-271-3084 or 3508 Lancaster Lane, Montgomery, AL 36106.



See page 11

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

By Brenda Tapp

The AMGA Board met December 2, 2014 in Cullman. Prior to the meeting Board members toured the Cullman Civic Center, location of the 2015 AMGA Conference.

ACES Report

Kerry Smith, State MG Program Coordinator, reported:

- ACES now has an electronic publication available. *Gardening in the South, Getting Started* is the first of a planned five-part series designed to appeal to the general public. The book is available via a link on the ACES website or you may go directly to Apple's bookstore. (Cost is \$9.99)
- ACES has a new logo with the focus on Extension that will be used for marketing purposes. MG assistance is needed in using/promoting this new logo to help more Alabamians become familiar with it. Alabama Cooperative System, however, will continue to be used for most other purposes.

Conference Updates

- Blount and Cullman Master Gardeners have been busy finalizing plans for AMGA's
- The Communications Committee presented Amendments to

25th Annual Conference, **Gardening ... Wow!!** Program and registration

- Planning continues for the 2016 AMGA Annual Conference, **Sculpting the Garden**, which will be hosted by Wiregrass MGA.
- The 2017 AMGA Annual Conference will be hosted by MGNA. The site will be The Jackson Center, and the tentative theme is **Gardening Heritage**.
- The 2018 Southern Region MG Conference will be held in Alabama, but Kerry said there is "nothing to report yet." Updates will be included in Pathways as they are available.

Committee Reports

- The Awards Committee reported that changes have been made to the criteria for some of the awards categories. Please review them carefully, and encourage your MGA to make entries in all categories.
- The Communications Committee presented Amendments to

the AMGA bylaws, which will be voted on during the 2015 Annual Business Meeting.

- The Nominating Committee presented the 2015 slate of officers and board members. This slate will be voted on during the Annual Business Meeting.
- The Continuing Education Committee reported that the 2015 Fall Seminar will be held "somewhere in Chilton County."
- **The next AC meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 in Chilton County.**

NOTE: The proposed amendments and bios for the slate of nominees are elsewhere in this issue of Pathways. Please review this information carefully prior to the business meeting and be ready to vote on both.

The next AMGA Board Meeting will be March 25 in Cullman County immediately following the conclusion of the 2015 Conference.

ATTENTION PRESIDENTS, REPORTERS, AND BOARD MEMBERS:

Please send all Articles and Photos and Reports for *Garden Pathways* to: gardenpathways@roadrunner.com. Please include name of the Association or report name in the subject line.

Thank You,
Ona Garwood - Editor
Garden Pathways



Volume 14
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**GOT
QUESTIONS?**

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ANSWERS!**

[http://
www.aces.edu/
questions/](http://www.aces.edu/questions/)

AMGA Website
www.alabamamg.org



Deadline for Spring Issue is March 15, 2015

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Vice President: Jeanon Massien - (Shelby)
(205) 991-3125 nauser1@att.net

Secretary: Mary Long - (CAMGA)
(334) 514-0860 plantlady@elmore.rr.com

Treasurer: Mary Howe (MGNA)
(256) 534-4773 mary.howe67@gmail.com

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Joyce Davis - (Marshall)
(256) 593-7977 Joyce.davis76@yahoo.com

Jimmie Van Valkenburgh - (Baldwin)
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Term 2013 - 2016

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(334) 794-2094 BoyleT@graceba.net

Jane Trawick (Mobile) (251) 443-9175
Cell: (251) 402-3463 boja7@yahoo.com

Term 2014 - 2017

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205-260-7748

Brenda Tapp (MGNA) (256) 859-8703
Cell: (251) 520-5295 tapp0729@gmail.com

Advisory Council Chairperson -

Ginny Holland (Cherokee)
(256) 779-6906 hollandg@tds.net

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Elected Members)

Term 2013 - 2015

Delores "Dee" Hubbert (Shoals)
(256) 760-4603 chubbert@bellsouth.net

Term 2014 -2016

Pam Olson (Autauga)
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