



NEW WEEDS

February 23, 2026

It's the time of year to pull out your garden tools and give them some tender loving care.

- * Wash away dirt and grime with water and dish detergent.
- * Scrub away built-up residue from blades.
 - * Store out of the elements.
- * Wipe down wooden handles with linseed oil yearly.
- * Sharpen along the original bevel when dull.

Check out these Extension articles about tool care:

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/extd8/files/documents/12281/gardentoolscare.pdf>

https://wpcdn.web.wsu.edu/extension/uploads/sites/57/2020/05/12-07-18_Garden-Tool-Care-Maintenance.pdf

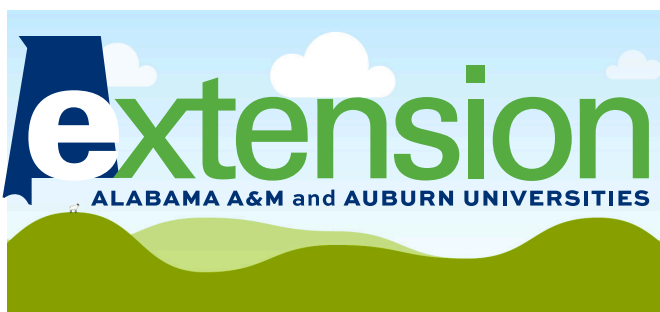


Demonstration Gardens

Caroline Dean Wildflower Trail
9:00 – 11:00 AM Workdays begin
March 5 & 19, 2026
Betsy Akins 404.861.9717

Grandma's Garden
at Pioneer Park
Workdays begin
February 26, March 12
March 26, 2026 8-10 AM
Kathy Hayward 540.233.3028

Garden at Kiesel Park Workdays
March 10 & 24, 9-11 AM Jan Holt
334.663.3357



ACES

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

LOG HOURS

Be sure to log services hours and contacts

<https://www.acesagmg.site/login.php>



leemastergardeners@gmail.com



www.leemg.org

To access member page, click on tab and use password "member"

Meetings and Programs

Next meetings: 10 AM Business Meeting 11 AM Program (open to public)

March 4 Lee County Extension Office, 600 South 7th St, Opelika

Program: Garden Apps with Shelley Aistrup, EMG, and Mike Akins, Honorary EMG

Follow along during the program: go to App Store or Google Play Store and download the apps:

SOW – A plant companion, PictureThis – Plant Identifier, iNaturalist

April 1 Harris Center, 425 Perry St., Auburn

Program: Landscape Design Shade Gardens with Claire Goldman, R&R Landscaping

LCMGA 2026

Business Meeting – 10:00 AM.

Public Program – 11:00 AM.

April 1 – Harris Center

May 13– Lee County Mtg Center, Opelika

June 3–Youngs Plant Farm

July 8 – Harris Center

August 5 – Harris Center

September 2 – Lee County Extension Office

October 7–Lee County Extension Office

November 4–TBA

December 2 Social–TBA

(Monthly Programs are CEU's)

**State newsletters
(Pathways and Happenings)
can be accessed on the
Alabama Master Gardener
website:**

**<https://alabamamga.org> or
[https://alabamamga.org/archiv
e-pathway-news-letters/](https://alabamamga.org/archiv
e-pathway-news-letters/)**

LCMGA Board Meetings

scheduled for:

May 12, Aug 11,

and Nov 10 10 AM to 12 PM

Lee County Extension Office

Order new t-shirts and/or hats from

Victory Designs

**[https://victorydesigns.com/product-
category/amg/](https://victorydesigns.com/product-category/amg/)**

**Lee County Volunteer Training Coordinator will
host monthly Extension-EMG meeting last
Monday of each month at 1 PM (1 CEU)**

<https://auburn.zoom.us/j/89715057283>

**Get Outside with Alabama Smart Yards
Webinar Series – Wednesday 1 PM**

**Register at www.aces.edu/go/asywebinars
(CEUs)**

**Do you have gardening books to
give away?**

Call Kat Anderson at 202-487-8748

**Look for free book giveaways at
each meeting!**

**If you know of congratulation or
condolence cards that should be
sent to our members, interns, or
Friends, please contact**

Susan Parker

parkersj12@gmail.com or

Betty Plaster

bettyplaster@icloud.com

**To see a list of those who are leading
different parts of our organization, go
to the Member page on our website:**

www.leemg.org and enter the

password: member. The list is under

Leadership and Committees. Click on

the button for 2026-2028 LCMGA

Leadership.

Upcoming New Weeds: March 9, March 23

Service Hour Opportunities

Helpline

One of the best ways to learn more about horticulture and to advance the mission of Extension Master Gardeners. Upcoming dates: March 31 and April 4 from 8:30 AM to 1 PM. John Sewell - jesewell@mindspring.com. Please sign up for this **service** opportunity now: www.acesagmg.site

Kiwanis Plant Sale

Thank you for all of the help with the Kiwanis Plant Sale on Friday, February 27 and Saturday, February 28. Right now, our sign up is full. However, you might take a look to see if any help is needed closer to the date or contact John Sewell at 334-444-3441 or jesewell@mindspring.com. Check the sign up or Sign up for **Service** hours here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4AAB82BAAF8C43-61745584-kiwanis>

Senior Therapeutic Gardeners will present *Alabama Gardens & Flowers, a Visual Tour* through Master Gardener's Popup Garden at Summer Village Azalea Place on March 24th 2:00 pm. After program, seniors will create flower arrangements. Help is needed to assist seniors with making flower arrangements. Donations of greenery and square vases are needed. Summer Village Azalea Place 1601 Professional Pkwy. Auburn. The program will last about one hour.

Please sign up here to volunteer for this **service** opportunity:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4AABA82BAAF8C43-62400892-senior>

Lynn Peer is stepping down as the lead of this program after the March event. If anyone is interested in assuming this role, please contact Joan Jacobs at jcjacobs84@gmail.com or 919-407-2836.

Empty Bowls Event

As part of an ongoing effort to combat hunger in our area, the City of Opelika's Denson Drive Recreation Center will host the 13th annual Empty Bowls Event on Saturday, February 28 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Opelika Sportsplex, 1001SportsPlex Pkwy, Opelika.

Soup makers are needed! Click here for more details and to sign up for **service** hours with a community partner:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4AABA82BAAF8C43-61520636-2026>

Join our Plant Rescue Workshop Saturday, March 7 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM at the Opelika Public Library, 1100 Glenn Street, Opelika. Helpline Lead John Sewell and LCMGs will diagnose plant problems and instruct plant owners how to revive stressed, neglected or struggling plants.

Community members will bring in plants. There will be 15-minute time slots for participants to present their plant problem. Plant owners will learn available online resources to reference for plant problems. Expert knowledge is not necessary to volunteer. Knowledge of available online resources would be beneficial.

Questions: Contact Joan Jacobs 919-407-2836 or jcjacobs84@gmail.com or John Sewell 334-444-3441 or jesewell@mindspring.com

Sign up for this **service** opportunity here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4AABA82BAAF8C43-61915222-plant>

Save the Date

CityFest Saturday, April 25 9 AM to 4 PM
Kiesel Park, Auburn Free Admission

CEU's

The Donald E. Davis Arboretum in Auburn offers tours the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Stroll through the beautiful garden and learn about the wonderful world of Alabama's native plants. Tours begin at 12 noon, plan to arrive at 11:50. Parking is available in the Church of Christ parking lot on South College. Tours are March 9, April 13, etc.... Volunteer opportunities are also available at the garden. See Patrick Thompson for details (thomppg@auburn.edu)



Auburn Rose Society
For more information, contact Jami Johnson, President (334) 450-7502
auburnrosesociety@gmail.com
<https://auburnrosesociety.org/>

The Alabama Master Gardeners Association's 2026 Annual State Conference will be held Wednesday, May 6 through Friday, May 8 in Huntsville.

Detailed information here: <https://alabamamga.org/2025/10/2026-amga-annual-state-conference/> State conferences are definitely a CEU!

The Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program Online Store, managed by Victory Designs, launched on February 6! Here is the link: <https://victorydesigns.com/product-category/alabama-emg-volunteer-program/>

Other details:

Introductory discounts are from Feb. 6 thru March 6, shirt items only.

Bulk orders are encouraged, but single orders are available.

Some items will accommodate adding local MG Association names.

The Store will be down temporarily from March 7 to March 31 to fill these early orders.

It will reopen on April 1 with standard pricing, only a few dollars increase per item.

Spore to Store: Urban Mushroom Symposium

March 5-6, 2026 UGA Griffin Campus

Georgia's gathering place for mushroom growers, researchers, enthusiasts, and anyone curious about the fascinating world of fungi.

For more information and to register click here: <https://spore2store.org/>

March 12, 2026 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

Phenix City Library, 1501 17th Avenue, Phenix City, AL 36867

Join Fred Schlich, LCMGA intern, for a blooming good time as he shares expert tips on selecting, planting, and caring for azaleas—Southern garden favorites known for their vibrant beauty!

Articles and Information

The City of Auburn and the Auburn Tree Commission will be distributing Hazelnut and Eastern White Pine seedlings on Saturday, February 28 from 8 AM to 11 AM at the following locations: Kroger on Dean Road, Publix at Cary Creek and Publix at Moore's Mill/Hamilton Road.

The Caroline Dean Wildflower Trail is featured in a segment called Spotlight on Agriculture with Alabama Extension. The segment will be aired on Alabama Public Television/PBS on Thursday, February 26 at 8:00 PM. Be sure to tune in!

Are you looking for plants, workshops, ideas, or more? Consider following Petals from the Past on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/petalsfromthepast> or check out their website: www.petalsfromthepast.com

Auburn-Opelika Camellia Club's Spring Camellia Show and Sale. When: Saturday, February 28 from 8 AM to 3 PM. Location: Pebble Hill 101 S. Debardeleben Street, Auburn.

The Importance of Alabama's No Comb Law

What is the No Comb Law?

This law makes it unlawful to import honey bees on comb into Alabama, including established colonies or nucleus colonies (Nucs) .

Why the No Comb Law Exists

Honeycombs can carry serious bee diseases and pests that threaten Alabama's colonies. American foulbrood, European foulbrood and small hive beetles can hide in wax cells and are often difficult, sometimes impossible, to eradicate.

This law protects our beekeepers by reducing the risk of:

- Disease outbreaks that can spread rapidly between colonies and across counties.
- Economic losses caused by infected or quarantined hives.
- Destruction of valuable breeding stock due to mandatory eradication of contaminated colonies.

Protecting Consumers

By blocking the import of diseased or contaminated colonies, the No Comb Law protects both bee health and food safety. It ensures that honey and other bee products sold in Alabama come from healthy, disease-free hives.