



2025

*MARSHALL MESSAGES*

JANUARY-FEBRUARY

WELCOME TO OUR  
*Monthly Newsletter*



MARSHALL COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2025, we are so glad to have made it this far!

We enjoyed some staff training and teamwork building then got to rest and relax for the Christmas/New year holidays.



We are rejuvenated and ready to serve you in the upcoming year with new programs, education, and other opportunities.

IN THIS NEWSLETTER:  
Updates and highlights from the end of 2024, upcoming events for 2025, and education information pertinent to this time of year

ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR:  
Check out the calendars on the last two pages for events that are upcoming. Mark your calendar, and call us to let us know you're coming!



A MASTER GARDENER IS A TRAINED GARDENER WHO VOLUNTEERS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT GARDENING AND SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE WITH THE COMMUNITY.



**MARSHALL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**

A FEW WORDS FROM  
**Master Gardener President**  
Patty Griffin

Greetings and Happy New Year. 2025 has started off with the weather being discussed by all. The ground is soggy and we are only a few weeks into this winter season. The night sky has a lot happening in the month of January. There are 6 planets that will align for a rare celestial event. Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune and Uranus will form a planetary parade on January 25. The phases of the moon have been used for thousands of years to determine when to plant crops. The Farmers Almanac was first printed in 1792, during Washington's first term and is still in print today. The first editor was Robert B. Thomas. He studied solar activity and weather patterns. I found this little tidbit that said " the wider the black band on a brown wooly caterpillar, the more severe the winter will be". Well snap, because I saw plenty of them and I didn't know to check the band. We have all heard and repeated some of these sayings. I would love to know some of your favorites for the next newsletter. Until then, stay warm, stay safe, and follow the facebook page for planting advice for the spring.

**Junior Master Gardener**  
growing good kids.

**MARSHALL COUNTY 4-H JUNIOR MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM**  
*Kick Off Event*

DATE: MARCH 13, 2025  
TIME: 1:00 PM  
LOCATION: MARSHALL CO. EXTENSION OFFICE  
GRADES: 2ND-5TH

SNACKS ARE PROVIDED

Meeting Topic:  
Butterflies

Contact us to join in on the fun!  
120 South Spring Street, Holly Springs, MS  
662-252-3541

**Junior Master Gardener**  
growing good kids.

**MARSHALL COUNTY 4-H JUNIOR MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM**

DATE: MARCH 25, 2025  
TIME: 4:00 PM  
LOCATION: MARSHALL CO. EXTENSION OFFICE  
GRADES: 2ND-5TH

SNACKS ARE PROVIDED

Meeting Topic:  
Soil Sampling Techniques

Contact us to join in on the fun!  
120 South Spring Street, Holly Springs, MS  
662-252-3541

SAVE THE DATE

Plant Sale  
April 18, 2025  
Marshall Co. Ext. Office

SAVE THE DATE

Kids Plant Camp  
July 8-9, 2025  
Marshall Co. Fairgrounds



**Marshall County Master Gardeners created their own evergreen centerpieces for the holiday season!**

**MARSHALL COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OFFICERS FOR 2025:**

- PATTY GRIFFIN, PRESIDENT
- JOYCE HOLLAND, VICE PRESIDENT
- KAREN SMITH, SECRETARY (NOT PICTURED)
- NANCY GREEN, TREASURER



# February Garden Chores

## PLANNING

- Decide on plants you would like to have in your spring garden and flower beds.
- Consider buying new plants that you have not tried before.
- Determine how many seed packets you need; remember to order extra seed if you are planning to replant for a second crop of flowers after the heat of the summer.

## PLANTING

- Start cold-weather vegetables in a cold frame: broccoli, cauliflower, onion sets, English peas, kale, carrots, collards, beets, radishes, kohlrabi, Chinese cabbage, (and eggplant in South Mississippi).
- Plant asparagus in prepared beds.
- Start herb seeds indoors to transplant outdoors in early April.
- Plant ornamental trees and fruit trees.
- Plant new roses or move old roses soon after February 15.

## FERTILIZING

- Fertilize trees and shrubs (not spring-flowering shrubs) toward the end of the month (in South Mississippi). Follow soil sample recommendations or use a slow-release, complete fertilizer.
- For roses, apply a top-dressing of fertilizer under a thick layer of compost or mulch.

## PEST CONTROL

- Spray the orchard with dormant oil spray. This helps control insect eggs and disease spores. Do not apply if temperatures are expected to dip below freezing within 4 hours of application. Always read the pesticide label.

\*\*Scan the QR Code for a complete guide of garden chores organized by month.



# OUTSTANDING PROGRAM AWARD

## TAKING CARE OF WHAT MATTERS IN MARSHALL COUNTY

Each year in December, the Northeast District hosts their Annual Christmas Meeting at the North MS Research and Education Center in Verona, MS. Agents and office associates from the 22 counties in the region attended.

While there, each county coordinator presents a "yearly update" for their county. Lemon presented on the Lady Landowners Event that Marshall County Extension hosts each year. It was voted as "People's Choice" award by all those in attendance at the meeting.



Lemon and Kelsey were also recognized for their work on the Lady Landowners event as an "Outstanding Ag and Natural Resources (ANR) Program."

They are pictured above receiving their award from their Regional Coordinator, Lance Newman and the Director of Mississippi State University Extension, Dr. Angus Catchot.

# VEGETABLE SHORT COURSE

## YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE 2025 MISSISSIPPI VEGETABLE SHORT COURSE

Topics include greenhouse, high-tunnel, and field production of numerous vegetables

There will be sessions on food safety, pesticide safety, sanitation practices, and pest and disease management. General sessions will include a research facility tour and hands-on education. The tour will feature hydroponic growing techniques, greenhouse controls, and indoor production. We are currently lining up vendors to showcase their goods and services.

The pre-registration fee is \$40 per attendee. Registration closes on February 15th.

Registration at the conference is \$50 per attendee for both days or \$25 per attendee for 1 day.

This covers conference handouts, lunch both days, snacks/coffee, and a facilities tour.

All pre-registration must be done online using the QR code below. This program will be very educational, and we hope you will make plans to attend. If you have any questions, please call 662-566-2201.



Scan the QR Code to Register





This year, Marshall County Happy Quilters donated their king size quilt entitled "Grandmother's Garden" to be raffled off. People paid \$20 to pull a shotgun shell from the box. On the bottom of the shell, was a number that determined how many raffle tickets the person would receive. The winner, McKenzie Buchanan, is pictured above with her prize possession: the quilt!!



Also pictured is Mr. Randy Curtis accepting the award for Mr. Greg Curtis. It's the Bill and Ida Wallace Service award. It's for outstanding service for the year and is presented to an individual by the Marshall County Forestry Association by the president of the association, Mr. Danny Mills.

## CATCH-A-DREAM

HOSTED BY MARSHALL COUNTY FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

Catch-A-Dream is a national, charitable, non-profit 501(c)(3) foundation, that provides once-in-a-lifetime dream hunting and fishing trips to children across the United States and Canada, age 18 and younger, who suffer from life-threatening illnesses. Through these adventures, and exposure to outdoors-minded people who care, the program instills in these children a message of encouragement at a time when they need to know that hope does, indeed, exist. Each year, the Marshall County Forestry Association partners with Catch-A-Dream to host a silent auction benefit event. This year, the event was held on December 5, 2024 at the United Methodist Church in Byhalia, MS. This year the event raised \$23,000.

Mississippi Private Applicator Certification Training is scheduled for the new year at Marshall County Extension Office!

A private applicator is a certified applicator who uses or supervises the use of restricted-use pesticides to produce an agricultural commodity on his or her own land, leased land, or rented land or on the lands of his or her employer. Private applicators must be at least 18 years old.

Private applicator certification expires after 5 years. To renew their certification, private applicators must complete private applicator training and pass the test during the 12 months prior to their expiration date.

For information regarding the current status of private applicator certificates, contact the Bureau of Plant Industry at (662) 325-3390.

Call Marshall County Extension Office at 662-252-3541 to sign up for the class.

SAVE

**PRIVATE  
APPLICATOR  
TRAINING**



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

**13 FEBRUARY  
2025**

**9:00 AM**

THE

DATE

**120 SOUTH  
SPRING  
STREET,**  
Holly Springs, MS 38635  
662-252-3541

# HAPPY QUILTERS

MAKE AND DONATE QUILTS TO MARSHALL COUNTY SHERIFF'S DPT.

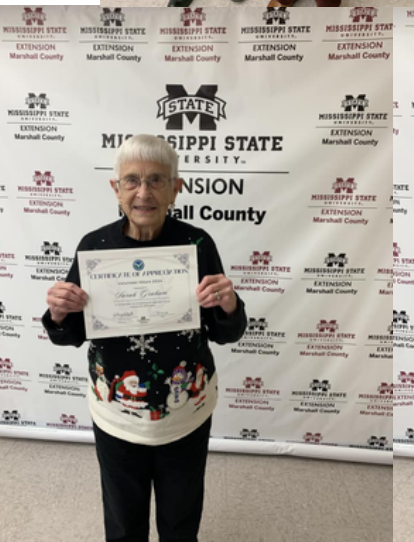
Marshall County Happy Quilters have worked on and finished 7 quilts to donate to the Marshall County Sheriff's Department. These quilts are used for accident victims in need of quilts especially in the cold season months. Marshall County Happy Quilters meet at the Marshall County Extension Office on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month from 9:00-12:00. They work on service projects and personal projects. If you are interested in joining them, please call 662-252-3541.



# MARSHALL COUNTY MHV

MISSISSIPPI HOMEMAKER VOLUNTEERS

Marshall County MHV ladies meet once per month to fellowship together and learn about a topic. In December, they celebrated the holidays by learning to wrap gifts and tie bows. They also were recognized for their volunteer hours. If you are interested in being a part of their group, please call 662-252-3541.





OCTOBER -NOVEMBER- DECEMBER

## MARSHALL COUNTY 4-H STEAM CLUB:

“LEARN BY DOING”

Marshall County 4-H is hosting a monthly STEAM Club for youth ages 5-18, with an adult chaperone. The cost is \$10 per child and the meetings are held at the Marshall County Extension Office.

STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, art, math. The meetings educate on one of these topics then provide a hands-on activity for the youth to complete.

October’s meeting was constructing and racing an electric car.

November’s meeting was creating and inflating a turkey.

December’s meeting was a take-home kit for making oobleck Christmas trees.

January’s meeting information is below. Come join in on the education and fun!



## MARSHALL COUNTY 4-H STEAM CLUB

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART, MATH

### **Walking Water**

**watch and help make a walking water project**

\$10 per child

Call 662-252-3541 to sign up

**February 27, 2025 at 4:30 pm**

*MARSHALL COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE  
120 SOUTH SPRING STREET, HOLLY SPRINGS, MS*

# MARSHALL COUNTY 4-H

## SHOOTING SPORTS INTEREST MEETING

“LEARN BY DOING”

There will be an interest meeting for Marshall County 4-H Shooting Sports on Sunday, February 16, 2025 at 2:30pm. The meeting will be at the Marshall County Fairgrounds located at 1569 MS-7 N, Holly Springs, MS 38635.

The meeting will be for those ages 8-18 and parents who are interested in participating in Marshall County 4-H Shooting Sports for the 2025 season.

The Marshall County Extension Staff will have paperwork packets for you to fill out to enroll in the program. There will also be copies of the 2025 rulebook. Coaches will be present to answer questions about equipment, practices, and competitions.

We look forward to seeing you on February 18th. If you have any questions, please call 662-252-3541 or e-mail [marshall@ext.msstate.edu](mailto:marshall@ext.msstate.edu).



 MARSHALL COUNTY 4-H

# SHOOTING SPORTS INTEREST MEETING

February 16, 2025 | 2:30 pm  
Marshall County Fairgrounds  
Ages 8-18 years old



# **KIDS IN THE KITCHEN**

**March 12, 2025**

**9:00am- 12:30pm**

**Marshall Co. Extension Office**

**\$25 per child**

**Call 662-252-3541 to sign up**

Topics/Activities will include:

- Knife Skills
- Measuring Skills
- Biscuit and Butter Making

  
**MISSISSIPPI STATE**  
UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION



## It's Time to Prune!

The first 2 weeks in February are pruning season at the DeLashmit orchards. Marshall County Master Gardener, Sherri DeLashmit describes her method of properly pruning fruit trees.

First you need sharpened, well lubricated pruners. I use hand pruners, lopping shears, and a stick pruner. When I approach a tree, I look at the overall shape of the tree. Pears and apples should be conical in shape with one main vertical leader branch. Plums and peaches should look “bowl” shaped with the middle thinned out for maximum sun exposure and air circulation. I start pruning by cutting out all dead or damaged branches. Next I look for branches that are rubbing or will be rubbing other branches as they grow and prune them out. Next, I cut out any branches growing inward toward the center of the tree or main trunk. Then I trim off limbs and branches that will not support the fruit either because the limbs are too long, they come off the main trunk at an undesirable angle, or there are just too many smaller branches.

On apple and pears trees, I prune off the “water sprouts”, those long straight limbs that grew fast and straight up since last year. I then prune back the branches that are too tall to pick the fruit from. (I don't like being on a tall ladder!) I save some of the trimmed branches to use in grafting new trees. The remaining trimmings are used in grilling meats through the summer Bar-B-Que season.

For more information on pruning fruit trees, refer to MSU-Extension publication by scanning the QR code below.





MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™  
EXTENSION



MARSHALL COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

120 South Spring Street, Holly Springs, MS 38635

662-252-3541







marshall@ext-msstate.edu

FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4 MCCA Board Mtg at 8am   Honey  Bees at 6pm	5	6  Happy Quilters 9-12	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 MCFA Board Mtg at 8am  PAT at 9am	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15
16  Shooting Sports Interest Meeting 2pm Marshall Co. Fairgrounds	17	18	19  MHV 10am	20  Happy Quilters 9-12	21	22
<del>TREE PLANTING WEEK 2025</del>						
23	24	25	26	27 STEAM Club 4:30pm	28	



# MARCH 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4 MCCA Board Mtg at 8am  Honey  Bees at 6pm	5	6  Happy Quilters 9-12	7	8 Bull Soundness Exam Marshall Co. Fairgrounds
9	10	11	12 Kids in the Kitchen 9-12:30	13 MCFA Board Mtg at 8am  Junior Master Gardeners 1:00 pm	14	15
SPRING BREAK 2025						
16	17 <i>Happy St. Patrick's Day</i>	18	19	20  Happy Quilters 9-12 MCFA Quarterly at 6pm 	21	22
23	24	25 Junior Master Gardeners 4:00 pm	26	27 Master Gardener Meeting at 10am  STEAM Club 4:30pm	28	29
30	31					