



January 2016

Volume XXIV Issue I



NEWSLETTER OF THE BALDWIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, INC.

WWW.BALDWINCOUNTYMASTERGARDENERS.COM

**2015 BCMG Elected Board**

President:

John Fitzhugh

President Elect:

Pam Tucker

Vice-President:

Sharon Thoele

Treasurer:

Gene Sellier

Recording Secretary:

Mary Hamilton

Corresponding Secretary:

Connie Griffin

Members at Large:

Bernie Fogarty

John Kitch

Past President:

Myra Lassere

**2015 Appointed Board****Members**

Continuing Education Chair:

Carma Gronback/

Loree Hadley

Finance Committee Chair:

Gordon Cooper

Intern Class Coordinator

Pam Tucker

Outreach Coordinator

Tany's Waldron

Projects Chairperson

Gary Wallace

Merchandising Purchase Chair

Maura Daniell

*President's Notes by John Fitzhugh*

Let me begin by saying what an honor and privilege it is to serve as your 2016 President.

When I joined BCMG as an intern in the 2012 class, I never envisioned that I might be called on to be its President. I was a recently retired career banker that had never belonged to a garden club or had any formal gardening instruction. I was just a person who had always liked "working in my yard" and who had a deep appreciation for gardening and all things green. I had never really shared my love of gardening with anyone outside of my family and closest friends.

When I enrolled in the MG intern program, my objective was to simply learn more about the finer points of gardening and use that knowledge to improve my garden at home. Little did I know that connecting with others who share my passion for gardening and joining an organization that enables its members to use their knowledge and experience to benefit their community would be life changing.

I am keenly aware that BCMG has been blessed with outstanding leadership since I joined the organization in 2012. I am also aware that continuing the legacy of achievement set by Gene Sellier and Myra Lassere will be a challenging task that will require the continued support and dedication of our entire membership. I look forward to working with each of you this year to build on BCMG's long history of volunteer service to the community.

Providence Hospital Foundation's 2016

**Festival of Flowers**

March 10-13

Pam Tucker is once again building a crew to help plan and build a booth at the Festival of Flowers. This is an excellent venue to reach people that might be interested in learning about gardening and becoming a Master Gardener.

Please contact Pam Tucker to volunteer your time and energy.

Introducing your 2016 Elected Officers and Appointed Board Members:



Pictured Left to right, back row: Gary Wallace, Project Coordinator, Maura Daniell, Merchandising Purchase Chair, John Kitch, Member at Large, Gordon Cooper, Finance Committee Chair, Gene Sellier, Treasurer, Sharon Thoele, Vice President. Front row: Myra Lassere, Past President, Bernie Fogarty, Member at Large, Mary Hamilton, Recording Secretary, Tanys Waldron, Outreach Coordinator. Not pictured: John Fitzhugh, President, Pam Tucker, President Elect and Intern Class Coordinator, Connie Griffin, Corresponding Secretary, Carma Gronback and Loree Hadley, Continuing Education Chairs,.

Sam Andrews presents the **2015 Wayne de la Rua Award Winner**, which is the highest honor bestowed upon our members.

Congratulations **Gene Sellier** !

Nominated by Sherry Arnold and Tanys Waldron, and receiving the most votes from our membership. Gene has been a very active member since 2001. He is a past president and currently our Treasurer. He is our “go-to” person to solve our computer and audio visual problems. He keeps us up-to-date with the latest, very much needed, technology.

Please take a moment at the next meetings to greet and congratulate Gene Sellier !





**December Awards: Photo of the ladies that set up (and clean up after) for the awards and luncheon: Many, many Thanks!**



Left to right: Sarrah Rankin, Judi Smith, Diane Hall, Darlene Anderson, Jimmy Van Valkenburgh, Anita O'Connor, Tampa Sykora, Connie Griffin.

Plus Pam Tucker, who is not pictured.

Our extension agent, Mike McQueen did an excellent job of presenting award winners. Beginning with the Bronze stars for 100 hours. Presented to Kathleen Whitson, Mark Lammon, and Freya Sonenstein, Pictured below:



Pictured above, presented the Silver star award for 300 volunteer hours; Linda Bender, John Fitzhugh, and Diane Hall, (not pictured) Shirley Ryals. The Gold Star award for 500 volunteer hours presented to Julian Walthall, Gayle Floyd, John Kitch, Judi Smith, and Tanya Sykora.



The Amber star award for 2000 volunteer hours for Jan Sanders

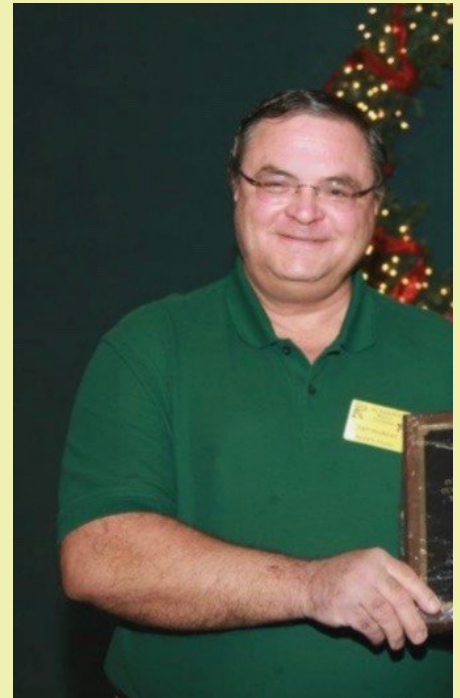


Continued **December Awards:**



Receiving the Saffire award for 5000 volunteer hours was **Myra Lassere**. Our 2016 president, John Fitzhugh calculated that she earned 2000 in just one year, "That is equivalent to a full-time job."

The Helpline Award for an outstanding amount of volunteer time answering questions and coordinating other volunteers and training interns was presented to **Sam Andrews**.



The ACE Volunteer Award: was given to **Myra Lassere**. Myra commented that she is grateful and blessed to work with the Master Gardener group.



The Rookie of the Year was presented to a surprised **Karen Rhea White**, a favorite with all of us, if the applause was an indication.





Once again Mike McQueen presented the 'Green Thumb' awards to those that earned 200 plus volunteer hours in just one year. Listed alphabetically: Diane Alaman, Donna Aplin, Sherry Arnold, Barbara Comstock, Gordon Cooper, Patricia Cotton, James Greer, Patricia Greer, Carol Hall, John Kitch, Myra Lassere, Larry Lutz, Kazuko Russell, Martha Seale, Gene Sellier, Tampa Sykora, Pamela Tucker, Jimmie Van Valkenburgh, Tanys Waldron, Susan Wallace, Karen Rhea White, Joy Zeanah.



If you missed the December 12th event, here is a photo of Loree Hadley, who, with the assistance of Tanys Waldron, created a year by year photo collection book of Master Gardeners interns from the last 25 years. Just awesome! Jim Higgins, Marylee Smith, and Phyllis Holman enjoying viewing the new book.





## Minutes of the December 12 Award Ceremony, General Meeting, and Holiday Luncheon:

The meeting was opened by President, Myra Lassere.

She asked for members to please silence their cell phones. Members should pay dues now, if they have not already. Myra announced that there are 17 new interns in the January intern class and thanked all who encouraged people to become interns.

Thank every one who worked on the award luncheon, Anita O'Conner, Pam Tucker, and the team at Barnwell Baptist Church.

Myra announced that there is a need for a speaker on succulents in January for a garden club.

The meeting was turned over to Sam Andrews to announce the winner of the Wayne De La Ru Award. There were three candidates and it was a very close vote, but was awarded to Gene Sellier. Gene has been a Master Gardener since 2001. He thanked Tanys Waldron and Sherry Arnold for creative writing (they wrote the nominations for him), and to those who voted for him, and ASC office for their support.

The Blessing was given by Myra. The order for lunch was with numbers drawn for tables and served with two lines.

Lori Hadley was thanked for her work on the photo album of the first 25 years of Baldwin County Master Gardeners. It took four years to produce. Lori also produced a wonderful video of the 2015 year of Master Gardeners.

Thank you gifts were presented to Mike McQueen and ACES staff; Sandra, Susan, Kathy and Shasta.

On behalf of the Board and membership, Gene presented President Myra Lassere a gift.

Mike McQueen presented awards to the members who achieved different volunteer hours levels. Mike thanked everyone for all that they do, encouraged everyone to record their hours, and started the presentation with the stars awards.

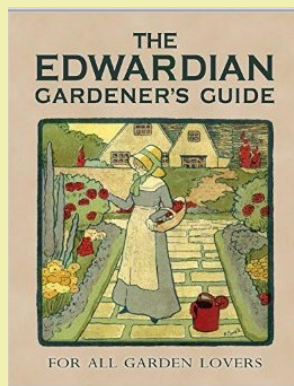
Poinsettias on the table were door prizes, awarded to those that sat in chairs with a star.

Myra presented the President's gavel to 2016 President, John Fitzhugh.

John said that Myra is one of the most impressive Presidents that he has ever worked with. "She will be a hard act to follow." She did it all and John watched in amazement at how she conducted this organization. She is very organized, he hopes that he can be half as good. She was due the Ruby award in July but came to enough volunteer hours to qualify for the Sapphire in December. She has done over 2000 hours this year alone. That is equivalent to a full-time job.

John closed the meeting with, "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!"

## Design: Edwardian style in the Garden



A new style of gardening emerged in Britain in the early 1900s as a reaction to high Victorian formality. In the garden, the Arts & Crafts movement encourage a partnership between architect and gardener. The gardens strove to include traditional craftsmanship in the detail of stonework, and used natural materials for the construction of drystone walls, stone-flagged terraces and paths, semi-circular steps and sunken plats.

Beyond the formal Victorian 'outside rooms' that were viewed from the house, the Arts & Crafts garden gave way to the landscape, with rock gardens leading to woodland glades, and wild areas with rustic paths and water gardens, where there was space could be viewed like a picture from inside the house.

'Let there be some formalism about the house to carry on the geometric lines and enclosed feeling of architecture, but let us step shortly from that into wood and wild garden.' This was the advice that Henry Avray Tipping (1855-1933), the architectural editor of Country Life magazine, gave to the Royal Horticultural Society in 1928.

Typical elements of the Edwardian and Arts & Crafts garden included garden features such as formal pools, fountains, rills, hand-built gazebos and summer-houses and wisteria-clad rustic pergolas (with sturdy masonry pillars supporting high oak beams) are all trademarks of the Edwardian period. Arts & Crafts gardens included traditional craftsmanship in the detail of stonework, and used vernacular, natural materials for the construction of dry stone walls, stone-flagged terraces and paths and semi-circular steps.



The authentic Edwardian garden was interwoven with the architecture, softly draping the hard architectural lines. Pergolas were used as a device to link different areas or levels in a garden, built tall enough for roses and wisteria to hang down from the beams.

The planting design left behind Victorian bedding displays of exotics and focused instead on neat, box-hedged beds billowing with roses, and generous, sprawling herbaceous borders. The exuberant and colourful planting contrasted with the formal layout of verdant lawns and bowling greens, tennis courts and shady loggias for tea. The same plants were used again and again: peonies, irises, *Alchemilla mollis*, lavender, catmint, delphiniums, edgings of bergenias, stachys, erigeron, foxgloves and nicotiana. Topiary was also used in the Arts & Crafts garden, and yew hedges with piers, buttresses and archways topped by birds and animals were used as enclosing walls.

While watching the final season of BBC's 'Downton Abbey' look for examples of the turn of the 20th century gardens that became rural idylls crafted around the house, with natural materials, formal design and ebullient planting.

## January General Meeting

At Gulf Coast Research & Extension Station on 104

Gene Sellier will do a presentation on 'Cooking with Herbs'. His talk will include recipes, how-to advice, and examples like Rosemary Cookies and Rosemary Chicken.

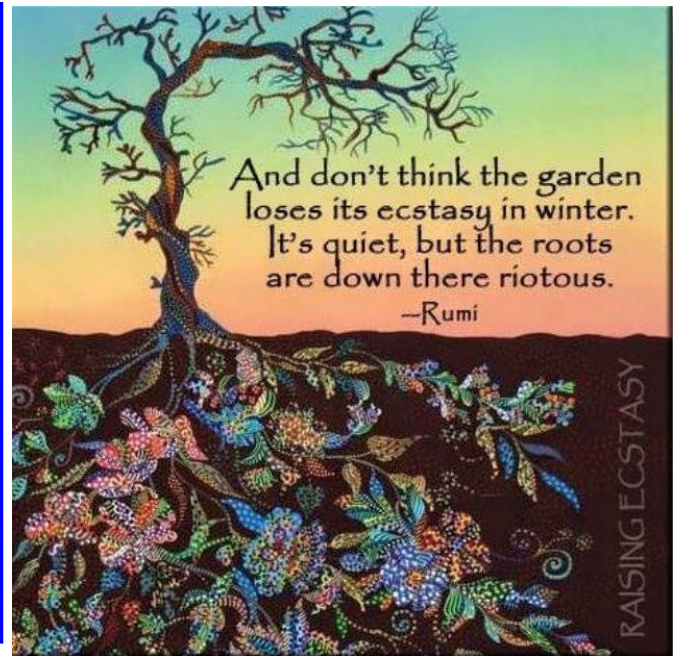
If you have a favorite dish utilizing herbs, please bring some to share with others.

Social time: 9:30 am, Meeting: 10 am.

If you haven't paid your dues, please do so now — \$30.

If anyone has gardening pots, please bring them—as clean as possible, to share with others.

If you have gardening magazines or books you no longer need, consider bringing them to the meeting to share with others.



The Alabama Cooperative Extension System's **21st Annual Beekeeping Symposium** is **Saturday, Feb. 6 from 8 a.m. until 3:45 p.m. at the Clanton Conference and Performing Arts Center, 1850 Lay Dam Road, Clanton.**

"The symposium will feature a variety of knowledgeable speakers, as well as valuable demonstrations for beekeepers," said James Tew, beekeeping specialist with Alabama Extension.

### Diverse Program Planned

Dr. Marion Ellis, professor emeritus, Department of Entomology, University of Nebraska, will present discussions on "The History and Use of Oxalic Acid for Controlling Varroa Mites" and "Why Bees?"

Jennifer Berry, apicultural research coordinator and lab manager, University of Georgia Honey Bee Lab, will discuss "Swarm Control and Feeding" and "Varroa and Small Hive Beetle Control"

Sally Lee, an Alabama Extension agent, will talk about "Sex in the Garden"

Keith Fletcher, chairman, Alabama Master Beekeepers, will discuss "Sustainable Beekeeping Using the Jenter Method of Queen Production."

New beekeepers will have a series of practical information seminars targeting their special needs.

"Life Cycle of the Honey Bee"

"How to buy 'Bees and Equipment'"

"Your First Season"

"Assembling Woodenware"

"Methods of Dealing with Diseases and Pests."

All of the instructors for these classes are experienced beekeepers who have helped many new beekeepers develop the skills they need to start keeping bees.

There are a number of sessions that look beyond the bees and the hive.

Nona Hurst, Rockhurst Farm, will address "Floral Design—Using the Plants Bees Love."

Jason Powell, Petals from the Past, will also conduct a workshop on "Selecting Bee Plants for Your Garden."

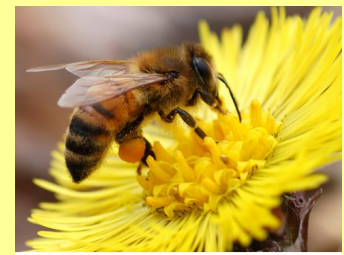
Alabama Regional Extension Agent, Janice Hall will talk about practicing correct food safety techniques when marketing honey.

Registration is from 8-8:30 a.m. For those who preregister, lunch will be provided by the Alabama Beekeepers Association.

To register online for the Beekeeping Symposium, visit: [https://mell-](https://mell-base.uce.auburn.edu/wconnect/CourseStatus.awp?&course=C160206B)

[base.uce.auburn.edu/wconnect/CourseStatus.awp?&course=C160206B](https://mell-base.uce.auburn.edu/wconnect/CourseStatus.awp?&course=C160206B). If prepaid by Jan. 22, the

registration fee is \$35. After Jan. 22, registration will be at the door only, and the registration fee is \$50.



January 14 General Meeting 10 am at 104. Gene Sellier on 'Cooking with Herbs'.  
 January 20 Mentor Intern luncheon at 104  
 January 27 Intern classes begin at 104  
 February 4 Board Meeting at Bryant Bank at 9:30 am  
 February 5 Webinar, 2 pm, 'Don't Let the Insects Eat Your Vegetables'  
 February 11 General Meeting at 104  
 February 11-13 Alabama Hiking Conference at Gulf State Park.  
 February 25 & 26 Arbor Day at Silverhill, please volunteer.  
 February 27 Arbor Day at Daphne, Fairhope, Foley, and Magnolia Springs, please volunteer.  
 February 7 Camellia Club at Mobile Botanical Gardens OR TBA tour.  
 February 13 Camellia Day at Mobile Botanical Gardens. Tours, lectures, demonstrations, and sale.  
 March 3 Board Meeting  
 March 4 Webinar, 2 pm, 'Kill That Queen the First Time: Tips for Making Fire Ant Mound Treatments'  
 March 10 General Meeting at 104  
 March 10-13 Festival of Flowers at Providence Hospital in Mobile. Please volunteer!  
 March 16 Intern Luncheon  
 March 29—April 3 Spring Plant Sale! Set up on the 29th & 30th— it's a volunteer opportunity!

**Grass Roots** is compiled and edited by Barb Mühl Comstock. The publisher is Sandra Walton at the Baldwin County ACES office in Bay Minette. The newsletter is available before the monthly general meeting on our website:  
[www.baldwincountymastergardeners.com](http://www.baldwincountymastergardeners.com).

Submission of articles, items of interest, photos of BCMG events, garden tips, garden jokes, etc. are greatly encouraged and appreciated. Send to [grassrootsnews@gmail.com](mailto:grassrootsnews@gmail.com)



Baldwin County Master Gardeners  
 % Baldwin County Extension Office  
 302-A Byrne Street  
 Bay Minette, AL 36506  
 Attn: Sandra Walton

Next meeting: Jan 14

Location: 104

Gene Sellier speaking on  
 'Cooking with Herbs'

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