



MG SPROUTS

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August 2017

Message from the President ***By Sheila Anne Webb***

August already. The frogs joined groups to perform in symphonies. Rain is easing off and at times appears only as a roar of thunder and only a few sprinkles. I hope you've enjoyed sunshine intervals, but I'm hoping for regular rainfall for the next few months and not a mirror image of 2016 drought months. Incredibly, amid the heat and humidity of August, it's time to start planning your fall garden.

Help me congratulate Sherry Blanton for her many pictures and columns on gardening in the *Anniston Star*. Note, too, that she identifies herself in the byline as a Master Gardener, which is good publicity for our organization. She and two other feature article writers have been attributed by the *Anniston Star* for the Star's award 1st Place in the Alabama Press Association's 2016 "Better Newspaper Contest." This state award beat out larger metropolitan area papers. Lisa Davis described the writers as "outstanding example of quality community journalists...the heart of Sunday features section...telling you (readers) what you want to know."

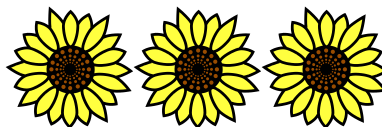
Be sure to mark your November MG meeting as a special event. We'll dedicate the Greenhouse in memory of Sherron Pritchett, entertain guests, have a luncheon and special dessert cake, much like the dedication of the Coke Williams building. We'll also have a business meeting to vote on any new officers and provide assistance in turning in our volunteer and CEU hours.

Meanwhile, we have Fall Fest on the horizon for September. Many of you have already committed to help that day. This is a fund raising day for us so that is important; our only other source of funding is an annual allocation of approximately \$2,000 from the Commissioners. That's the serious side of business, but Fall Fest always is full of fun and good spirits. As we open our doors (gate) to the community, we again thank the Cane Creek crew for making us proud to share the beautiful facilities.

As a reminder, the Board will not meet in August but the regular, brown bag luncheon meeting will begin at noon as usual.

July wrapped up the 4-H competitions. Thanks to our Master Gardeners for their help in judging both the regional and/or state competitions. It's always fun to see our outstanding youth present and explain their entries.

Thanks needs to be shared all around. Our MGs and interns have contributed to beautification projects at the Longleaf Botanical Gardens, Jacksonville Pocket Park and community projects, Cane Creek Community Gardens, Tree Amigos, Coosa Valley, and all other projects listed in our directory and also provide informative programs such as Earth Day and support for 4-H. I could provide a very long list here. Know that your work is appreciated and that your love of stewardship of flora and fauna greatly valued.



Like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CalhounMGs>



MG Calendar

MG Board Meeting	No Board Meeting
MG Business Meeting	12 p.m., August 9, Cane Creek Community Gardens
Sprouts Deadline	August 25



MG Notes

Thank you to Marchale Burton, staff member at our Extension Office, for the informative program and delicious treats made with summer fruits at our July business meeting. When Marchale is in the house, we have great food to sample.

Plant pathologist Dr. Jim Jacobi presented an extremely helpful program on plant problems at our July Lunch and Learn. He is a regular at the Master Gardener Training classes and always popular with the students.

Our monthly business meeting for August 9th will be given by Dani Carroll; Dani will talk about "Helping the Pollinator." Lunch and beverage will be brown bag.

Dani will be back again for August Lunch and Learn on August 23rd at noon to help us "Invite the Good Insects into our Garden." Learning about pollinators and beneficial insects are important topics for gardeners. Please attend one or both and improve the health of your gardens and the creatures that live there.

Plans are underway for Fall Fest, September 16th from 9 until 2. The success of this fun event, akin to an old fashion county fair, relies on the participation the Master Gardeners. Many have already signed up to help; we, however, need many more enthusiastic volunteers. Volunteering for this event counts as service hours for interns as well as active Master Gardeners. We will have a cake walk, cookie sale, sno cones, and hot dogs, a hay ride, a canning contest, a variety of games, and domestic and wild animal shows. We will need cakes donated for the cake walk and cookies for the bake sale. Monies raised benefit Cane Creek Community Gardens. For the third year we will have Chick Chain where 4H members exhibit chickens they have raised. After the judging the participants will auction off their chickens. More information to follow via e-mail and September Sprouts. Contact me if you can help on this day.



Just as a reminder, dues and service hours are due from interns and active Master Gardeners by our November business meeting.

There is no board meeting in August.

Thank you to Ruth Sarro for adopting the tropical bed at Cane Creek and to Myra Gann for adopting an adjacent bed and to the members of the 2015 class for adopting the front beds and the bed by the building. These volunteers are making a tremendous difference in the beauty of our Cane Creek Community Gardens.

Thank you to Judy Shew, Linda McDaniel and Billy McDaniel for creating a beautiful rock painting for the Jacksonville Pocket Park. Since the park does not have an "official" sign, this gift will mark this garden.

Sherry Blanton



Linda McDaniel and Judy Shew gave the Jacksonville Pocket Park a new sign

Lunch and Learn 2017

August 23, Inviting Good Insects into Your Garden
Dani Carroll, ACES

September 27, "T" is for Tropical
Hayes Jackson, ACES

Lunch & Learn is held the 4th Wednesday of each month and Cane Creek Gardens from noon- 1 p.m. Bring your own lunch!

**Dates and speakers are subject to change. Contact the Calhoun County Extension Office at 256-237-1621 to confirm.*

MG Happenings

From Skeeter Sims at Cane Creek:
Cane Creek volunteers are seeking help with a couple of special projects that require extra hands and willing workers.

Handicap ramp/Meeting room entrance work will begin on Thursday Aug 10th and complete on Friday Aug 11th, the first phase will be the entryway landing and railing. Ramp will follow at later date. We need hands to hold lumber, drive nails/screws, clean up debris.

Roofing of the equipment shed will be in September (when weather cools off). We will need 6-8 folks that can climb ladders and help hold the tin while others are on the roof driving nails/screws on a "hot tin roof" (cue music).

As always, every Tuesday, we can use any added hands to maintain our Cane Creek grounds. We are preparing to welcome the public to the Gardens for Fall Fest (3rd Saturday in September) and we want to have everything ready and at top showing for all county residents to see and appreciate.
Come work, visit and learn with the Cane Creek Crew....we have fun and there's room for YOU!

From Janet Evans at Tree Amigos, Coosa Valley Attention Center:
The Tree Amigos volunteers have had a busy summer repotting plants. The residents had a watermelon party and an ice cream social with the volunteers. A pool party at the home of one of the volunteers is planned as well as classes about hurricanes and butterflies with Hayes Jackson.

From Sarah Sloan at Longleaf Botanical Gardens:
The Third Thursday program "Going Bananas! Ornamental Bananas for Central Alabama" will be held 5-6 p.m., August 17, 2017, in the James P. Roberts Education Room at the Longleaf Botanical Gardens. Hayes Jackson will be the speaker. Come learn about all the varieties you can grow and how to take care of them in your landscape. Call 256-237-6766 to make your required reservation. The cost is \$5 per person or free to members.



Entrance to Cane Creek Community Gardens

Gardening Calendar for August

Water efficiently and effectively with the best time to water turf, ornamentals or trees between 4 am and 9 am. Measure the amount of water on your turf grass by placing small cans around the area to collect and measure your water.

Keep your turf grass mowed regularly and at the right height; your lawn will thank you.

Trees and shrubs planted this spring or those that have not settled in yet need careful monitoring to make sure they have adequate moisture, but being careful not to over water. Use the finger stick method to make certain trees and shrubs have ample moisture.

August remains an important month to scout for diseases and pest problems and act accordingly depending on the problem.

Container gardens are becoming pot bound and tend to dry out very quickly by August and may need two waterings a day.

If your mulch has composted, fresh mulch will help your plants survive the heat of summer.

It is still a good idea to prune annuals that have gotten leggy or herbs that are rangy to help them flush out again.

Fresh plants are available in the big box stores if either your annuals or perennials have withered from the summer heat.

One community was passing out creative decals to help keep down the mosquito population. The decals said simply "Drain and Cover," good advice for us all.



Ruth Sarro and the tropical garden at CCCG



Jim Wakefield and Janet Evans share their problem plants with Dr. Jim Jacobi at July's Lunch and Learn

Officers - Calhoun County Master Gardeners

President: Sheila Anne Webb Vice President: Don Crow
 Secretary: Emily Richardson Treasurer: Ruth Sarro
 Members-at-Large: Jim Wakefield and Dick Pritchett

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Fall Fest 2017



Saturday, September 16, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Cane Creek Community Gardens at McClellan Admission \$1. Children under 12 FREE.

Lots of family fun!!

- Kids Activities
- Wildlife Show
- Pony Rides (\$1)
- Quilt Show
- Plant Show
- Canning Contest
- Carving, basket weaving demos
- Cast iron cooking
- Apple butter makin' demos
- Arts & Crafts Contest
- Baked Goods Contest
- Cakewalk (\$1)
- Quilting Contest & Show
- Grocery Give-a-Way
- Fall Farmers Market & Craft Vendors
- Bake Sale
- 4H Chick Chain Show & Auction
- Lots of Family Fun

Bring the whole family out for a day loaded with fun!

Proceeds benefit continued development of Cane Creek Sustainability Center.

Facebook: [11th Annual Calhoun County FallFest](#)