

Message from the President
By Dick Pritchett

The Alabama Master Gardeners Association has issued The Calhoun County Master Gardeners Association a written formal invitation for our group to host the 2021 State Convention.

Michael Thomason, VP of the AMGA, attended the July meeting to answer any questions and concerns we have with this undertaking. This is our opportunity to showcase Calhoun County and the surrounding area. Yes, work and much planning will be involved.

Your attendance and voice is very important at our CCMG meeting on August 8th. At this meeting, the decision must be made to accept or decline the offer from AMGA. We must give AMGA an answer by mid-August. Most of the work will happen in mid to late 2020 and early 2021. We have the flexibility to select the date so that it will fit our schedule. Dr. West is 100% supportive of our effort and has pledged that his staff will be heavily involved.

If for some reason you cannot attend the August 8th meeting, please mail or hand deliver your vote of “Yes” or “No” to the Secretary, or a Board member prior to the meeting. Please include your name.

AMGA tries to have annual state meetings in different regions of Alabama, and if we work as a group, along with volunteers from surrounding counties, we can provide a “Class Act” and show hundreds of Master Gardeners what our area has to offer.

It is of utmost importance that all Calhoun County Master Gardeners cast a vote either on or before the August 8th meeting concerning this important decision.

Until later,
Dick

Quote of the Month

“It is not so much for its beauty that the forest makes a claim upon men’s hearts, as for that subtle something, that quality of air that emanates from old trees, that so wonderfully changes and renews a weary spirit.”

-Robert Louis Stevenson



Hibiscus in Bloom at Cane Creek

MG Calendar

MG Board Meeting	10:45 a.m., August 8, Cane Creek Community Gardens
MG Business Meeting	12 p.m., August 8, Cane Creek Community Gardens
Sprouts Deadline	August 25, 2018

From Our Advisor

Midsummer means time for children to return to school. Schools open the first full week of August. Summer break ain't what it used to be!

We like to take a quick camping trip before school starts back each year. I am writing this column from site #8 in Catteloochee campground in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Two elk have just walked through my campground. That's pretty cool, but it is not the best idea to drive a 30-foot motorhome to camp in Catteloochee. I am either very adventurous or just plain dumb. Right now, I'm leaning towards the latter. When it says "narrow, winding, mountain road", it means it. Actually, it was a good deal understated. I am in recovery, dreading the drive back out.

Kudos to our local MG Board members. They have navigated some difficult waters, and they are emerging with a bold plan to host the State MG Association meeting in 2021. I encourage you to give this opportunity serious consideration and support the organization if the decision is made to proceed. In comparison, the State MG Conference has an attendance of up to 300. Each year at Earth Day, you serve 350-450 4th graders each day of the event. FallFest is usually 500-700. You clearly have the skills to navigate a conference. Thank you to the Board for bringing this opportunity to Calhoun County. Now, it will be up to the group to decide whether or not to proceed.

FallFest, FallFest, FallFest! That is the next thing on deck. This is a great opportunity to serve your community, get some hours and have some fun. We have a meeting scheduled soon to plan for the event, and I was glad to hear that the Tuesday Cane Creek MGs have already been meeting to plan for the event. Watch our MG Facebook page or weekly updates for ideas of where you can fit in.

Tree Amigos has been going well, and there are some staff changes. Mary East, who has worked at Attention for many years, is moving to a new position at Coosa Valley Youth Services. We will miss working with Mary!

A new staff member, Ashley Browder, will be working with Amanda at the Attention home, and I am sure our MGs will have similar good experiences in the future. Now is the time to work on that relationship. The staff and girls prepared and served a wonderful meal for the County Extension Advisory Board meeting in July.

Third Thursdays at Longleaf Botanical Gardens have been a big success this year. Attendance has been great, and programs have been very well received. The gardens are coming together after years of hard work, and they are already impressive.

Maintenance is the name of the game at Cane Creek Community Gardens. MGs and staff have been keeping things in order during this rather wet summer. Improved plantings and buildings are in the works. A sponsor stepped forward for improvements to the back of barn number 2, the greenhouse is near completion, we added a small cabin in the outdoor classroom and we've submitted a grant application to improve the large building for the 4-H Shooting Sports club. It will be a busy "off season" following FallFest!

Thank you for all you do, and keep us updated on projects you are working on in the community!

David West

August's Mystery Gardener

Dick Pritchett identified last month's mystery gardener as Jerry William. If you can identify this month's Master Gardener, please let me know.

I am from Anniston

My hobby is photography.

I enjoy "Straw Bale Gardening."

I was a communications specialist before retiring.

I currently live in Oxford.

Sherry Blanton

Lunch & Learn

A series of free gardening programs sponsored by Calhoun County Master Gardeners and Calhoun County Commission. Held the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Cane Creek Community Garden at McClellan, 77 Justice Avenue. Noon to 1 p.m. Bring your own lunch!

August 22

Landscaping with Japanese Maples

David Doggett, Jefferson County Master Gardener

Cane Creek Update from Skeeter Sims

Thanks to all who have been working so faithfully and diligently at Cane Creek. The grounds continue to improve and provide many with joy on their walks around our home grounds! Please do not drop off your planters, hoses, plants, etc that you can't use or don't want any more at Cane Creek. All planting and equipment donations need to be coordinated with the Cane Creek Crew. We've had some recent problems with a lot of "junk" being left on the grounds or at the gate.

FallFest is coming up (Sept 15). This is our one source for fund raising to support development and maintenance of Cane Creek. We will need ALL HANDS to prepare the grounds, clean up for the public, and execute this event. It's a great day of fun and fellowship - there will be Baked Goodies, Cake Walk, Concession Stand, Games, Hayride, Bounce house, Games, Vendors and of course The Country Store, Chick Chain Show and Auction, Farm Animals on display, in addition to the normal County Fair competitions - Canning, Quilts, Painting, etc. Please mark your calendars now to support as both a volunteer and spread the word!!

MG Happenings

At our July business meeting we became armchair travelers as we took a wonderful photographic trip to Africa through the outstanding pictures and narration by Pam Smith and Judy Glass.

Eric Shavey did a terrific job educating us about how to use chemicals safely at our July Lunch and Learn. David Doggett from Birmingham, a Japanese Maple expert, will speak to our August 22nd Lunch and Learn on "Landscaping with Japanese Maples," Please share information about our series with your Facebook friends

We thank Lisa at the Extension Office for her colorful Facebook postings about our programs. We also appreciate her weekly up-dates on current activities.

August 8th is our monthly business and educational meeting. Stephen Faughn will introduce us to some of the fascinating residents of the Legacy Wildlife Room. Lunch is brown bag. It would be terrific if someone brought something cold for dessert; ice cream sandwiches anyone?

Sherry Blanton



Laurel helps with the pruning work



Speaker Eric Shavey talks with Janet before Lunch and Learn



Fellowship after lunch and Learn (from left: Angela, Sarah, Margaret and Hilda)

Recipe for the Month

Tomatoes are still plentiful in the gardens and the farmers' market.

Miss Emily's Green Tomato Soup

1 medium onion, diced
1/3 cup carrots, diced
2 cloves garlic, minced
6 cups fresh green tomatoes, cored and chopped
2 cups chicken broth/bouillon
Salt and pepper to taste
4 slices bacon
1/3 cup sour cream

Directions: Cook bacon in deep pan until crisp. Remove and place on paper towel lined plate. In bacon grease, cook onion and carrots until soft. Add garlic and sauté for 3 minutes. Stir in tomatoes, broth, salt and pepper. Bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer 30 minutes. Using a food processor or blender, puree soup until smooth. Return to pan and add sour cream, cooking until combined. Garnish with crumbled bacon.

These recipes and others can be found in the Alabama Cooperative Extension System Publication FCS-2112 *Fresh from the Farm, Alabama Recipes*.



Kevin handles some weed eating chores



Zinnia blooming in a garden box at Cane Creek

Longleaf Botanical Gardens

History of Alligators In Alabama

Third Thursday, August 16, 2018 – 5:00 – 6:00 P.M.
James P. Roberts Education Room – Longleaf Botanical Gardens

Stephen Faughn will be the speaker for the August 16th Third Thursday program. Come learn about this big creature.

Call Anniston Museum of Natural History at 256-237-6766 for a reservation (required). Cost is \$5.00 per person or free to members. Payment is to be made at the time of registration and may be made by cash, check (made payable to Longleaf Botanical Gardens and earmarked for educational programs) or charge card in person or by phone.



Officers—Calhoun County Master Gardeners

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