



# MG SPROUTS

Volume 19, Issue 2

February 2018

## ***Message from the President*** ***By Dick Pritchett***

Dear Master Gardeners,

We are growing! We now have over 60 Master Gardeners to use their expertise to help educate gardeners in our beautiful Calhoun County. This year, our group will contribute both time and energy to the varied activities that drive this organization. We are driven by our passion for exotic plants, flowers, vegetables gardening, canning, etc. There are many activities available for us to give back to our beautiful area. We are driven, but we must remember the **Calhoun County Master Gardener Mission Statement:**

The Calhoun County Master Gardener Volunteer training is an educational program provided and administrated by the Calhoun County Office of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. It is a local, autonomous program to train and certify individuals who in turn, volunteer their expertise and services in support of the Cooperative Extension effort related to the horticultural services.

We welcome the most recent class of Master Gardeners (2017) and the Intern Class for 2018. The intern class begins coursework on January 24, and will conclude with Earth Day in mid-April. We wish total success for this group and look forward to working with the new class! What an opportunity to give back to Calhoun County as Master Gardeners! There are many ways to volunteer, including Tree Amigos, Longleaf Botanical Gardens, Jacksonville Pocket Park and Cane Creek Community Center. MGs (excluding interns) can earn hours at the Jacksonville Community Garden (The "Garden of Eatin',") led by Mike Limerick. What a great job Mike has done with this project.

We will celebrate National Arbor Day on Friday, April 27, 2018. However, many will celebrate much earlier due to climate differences. Truman Norred (2005) will distribute Arbor Day trees on Friday, February 16, on the square in Jacksonville from 2:30-5:30 p.m. He will also distribute trees Tuesday, February 20, at the old Lenlock Shopping Center from 2-5 p.m. A number of fruit trees will be available then.

Several years ago Truman was giving trees to a couple and all the trees had been mixed together. The couple asked, "How do we know what species of tree that we have?" Truman replied, "We only give 'smart trees.' Plant them and they know what they will become!"

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 14. Lunch will be casseroles. Please bring your favorite dish. The interns will furnish dessert. Our guest speaker will be ACES Regional Agent Hayes Jackson. The topic is Weather- from a gardener's point of view.

Wow! Mandy did a great job last month speaking on the history of Mount Cheahea. Hope we have her back next year.

Your board has voted unanimously to recognize Sherry Blanton for her undivided devoted to the Master Gardener Program. Sherry, we love you and appreciate you for all you have accomplished over a 20-year span. We hope you will continue to serve the member of the Master Gardener program for years to come. YOU ARE APPECIATED.



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



## MG Calendar

MG Board Meeting	10:45 a.m., February 14, Cane Creek Community Gardens
MG Business Meeting	12 p.m., February 14, Cane Creek Community Gardens
Sprouts Deadline	February 25, 2018

### Gardening Inspiration

“A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in.”  
Greek Proverb

### From Our Advisor

The new year is off to a good start with our new class of Master Gardener interns and plenty of activity at our project sites. We have 15 members in our new class, and it is a friendly and fun group. Thanks to Sarah Sloan, Dick Pritchett and Skeeter Sims for speaking to them during our orientation class. Interns can begin accumulating service hours anytime. Interns must complete their first 50 hours of work at either Cane Creek Community Gardens, Tree Amigos 4-H Club at Coosa Valley Youth Services, Longleaf Botanical Gardens or the Jacksonville Pocket Park. Some have already registered in the online reporting system. Class will conclude April 11th.

We have new officers on the MG Board. Your Board for 2018 is: Dick Pritchett, President; Sheila Webb, Past President; Edwin Sims, Vice President; Ruth Sarro, Treasurer; Judy Shew, Secretary; and Jerry Williams and Gary Lawson as members at large. Board work is challenging, and we thank you for your service! Let's not forget the folks who rotated off the Board, Jim Wakefield, Don Crow and Emily Richardson. When you see them, please thank them for their work, as well.

We have had some formerly active MGs return to our group this year. If you were a certified MG, you can always re-activate your service. Established MGs conduct 25 hours of service each year. Once an inactive MG completes 25 hours of service, the Board can reinstate them as active members of the Association. We encourage you to seek out inactive Master Gardeners and encourage them to re-activate their status.

I enjoyed speaking to a group of citizens at Longleaf Botanical Gardens last week regarding Tree

Identification. Twelve folks braved the cold and icy conditions to attend, and we had a good class. Wintertime can be a challenging time to identify trees, but we learned how to look for clues to help us answer question in our native tree identification key. Thanks to Longleaf volunteers for inviting me! There has been a lot of improvement at the botanical gardens site, and I encourage you to go check it out.

Earth Day will be the week of April 16-20. We know we will have at least two days of activities at Cane Creek Community Gardens. We will have a planning meeting some time in February, and we will begin seeking volunteers in March. I hope everyone that can will participate.

Thanks for all of your work in 2017. Master Gardeners continue to make an impact in Calhoun County, and you are known for making our community a better place to live, work and play.

**David West**



### News from Cane Creek

In January/February, we will repair/replace the roof on the equipment shed. We'll need all the extra hands we can get and will let everyone know the actual dates as we will work around weather and other events. Fascia boards and some of the roof in the back of the shed will have to be replaced, but Billy has the plan and materials required.

- January will bring a lot of post storm/post-holiday clean up around Cane Creek. We plan to thin perennials such as daylilies, irises, ginger lilies, etc. especially in the front beds and entranceway beds. February will be rose pruning and we hope to include the new intern class if they are far enough along in their course of study. Pruning the knockout roses will take all hands or all day.
- We also have a couple of other special projects in the works --- building a picket fence to match the ramp and deck in front of the concrete pad to help prevent anyone from running off the front of the pad

and causing major vehicle damage. We also will be adding to the brick walkway in the tropical bed and building a small foot bridge from the pavilion to this walkway and over the drainage ditch.

- And of course the plasticulture removal will be a major achievement --- plans are in work to make that area easier to maintain and more attractive throughout all seasons.

**Skeeter Sims, Vice-President of CCMGs and spokesperson for Cane Creek**

### **Reach for the Stars Awards 2017**

Congratulations to the following Master Gardeners. Carolyn Patton will distribute the Stars at the February meeting. Badges are received at the State MG meeting.

#### **BRONZE STARS:**

- 1-Sarah Ballard
- 2-Fran Byrd
- 3-Jennifer Gann

#### **SILVER STARS:**

- 1-Mary Banks
- 2-Myra Gann
- 3-Susan Gibbins
- 4-Jerry Williams

#### **GOLD STARS:**

- 1-Judy Shew
- 2-Joe Trawick

#### **ADVANCED NAME BADGES**

#### **GOLD NAME BADGES:**

- 1-Richard Pritchett
- 2-Emily Richardson
- 3-Edwin Sims

#### **PLATINUM NAME BADGES:**

- 1-Linda Crow
- 2-Sarah Sloan

Reach for the Stars Awards will be handed out at our February CCMG meeting. Advanced name badges will be awarded at the State Conference. These awards are paid for by the state.

**Carolyn Patton**

### **Plants of the Month:**

#### **Lenten Roses (*Hellebores orientalis*)**

These perennial darlings of the winter garden are beginning to poke their flower heads up. New leaves have replaced old tattered leaves which should be removed. This part to full shade groundcover can spread from a small clump in time to a large beautiful patch. There are many species of hellebores and each

one may require a different amount of water. Once the flowers have gone the shiny green leaves remain a beautiful part of the landscape.



*Lenten Rose*

**Pansies** are the ultimate annual flower for the winter garden. Whether planted in containers or a color bed their bright colors and charming faces add cheer to the dreariest day. There are so many pansies available for purchase from the tiniest Johnny Jump Up to the colossal Majestic Giant. My pansies have really taken a beating from our unruly winter weather but they are coming back gradually. Pansies need fertile, well-drained soil, and at least 6 hours of sun. They do need moisture; if they get dry they will wilt pretty quickly. Sadly; the deer love pansies as much as the humans.



*Pansies*

### **“Who am I?” Answer**

Janet Evans and Skeeter Sims successfully identified January’s mystery MG as Carolyn Patton. Carolyn is a long time MG who just recently finished two terms (and a bit more) as our treasurer.

Please take a few minutes and see if you can identify February's MG and let Sherry know in an e-mail who your guess is. This is a good way to get to know a bit more about each other.

### **"Who Am I?"**

1. raised in Jacksonville, AL (Valedictorian of 1981 JHS)
2. Fly-fishing, chicken wrangler, spending time with family and friends (Hobbies)
3. Planting and Harvesting (Gardening Favorites)
4. Carrier Aviation, Airborne Early Warning Mission Commander and Airborne Controller (Career)
5. Middleton community of rural Ohatchee (Lives)

### **All Bugs Good and Bad 2018 Webinar Series**

First Friday of the Month 2:00 p.m. Eastern (1 p.m. Central)

Title [Feral Hogs, Ecology, and Control](#)

Presented by [Norm Haley](#), [Alabama Cooperative Extension System](#)

Moderated by [Mallory Kelley](#), [David Koon](#)

Link: <https://auburn.zoom.us/j/209793415>

As the numbers of feral hogs continue to rise in the United States, so do the problems that they create. Get a plan! Learn about their biology, distribution, and management strategies in this webinar. Note: on February 2, the link to the live webinar opens about 15 minutes before the webinar. If you try to log in earlier, you will get an error message. For more webinars in this series, see [2018 All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar Series](#).

### **Painted Gourd Birdhouse Workshop**

February 10, 2018, 9 am to noon. Program sponsored by Longleaf Botanical Gardens. Cost \$35 nonmembers (\$30 for members) Call Anniston Museum of Natural History to make a reservation at 256-237-6766. Reservations required.

### **Third Thursday: Native Azalea 101**

February 15, 2018, 5 to 6 p.m. Program presented by Hayes Jackson in the James P. Roberts Education Classroom of the Longleaf Botanical Gardens. To reserve your spot, call Anniston Museum of Natural History at 256-237-6766. Reservations are 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 credit card in person or by phone.

### **Spring Garden Symposium: Mind, Body and Garden**

Thursday, March 15, 2018, Longleaf Botanical Gardens, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. To reserve your spot, call Anniston Museum of Natural History at 256-237-6766. Reservations are required in advance, and if made by March 8, 2018, a box lunch will be included in the cost. Cost is \$25.00 for members and \$30.00 for nonmembers. Payment due at the time of registration and may be made by cash, check (made payable to Longleaf Botanical Gardens and earmarked for educational programs) or credit card in person or by phone.

### **Companion Planting Program**

Join Sherry Blanton at the Public Library of Anniston Calhoun County for a free program on Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, at 2 p.m. The topic will be "Companion Planting," and the subjects included will be plants that benefit each other by being planted close together, plants that look good in groups, and plants that perform better by sharing their growing conditions. Door prizes will be given.

### **Monthly MG Meeting**

Thank you to Mandy Pearson for stepping in for Renee in January. We will get Renee back to visit. Hayes Jackson will be talking about the weather at our February meeting on the 14th. Lunch is covered dish; please bring a casserole to share (and a utensil to serve it). Cane Creek does not currently have hot water so it is difficult to wash dishes there.

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#### *Officers—Calhoun County Master Gardeners*

President: Dick Pritchett	Vice President: Skeeter Sims
Secretary: Judy Shew	Treasurer: Ruth Sarro
Members-at-Large: Gary Lawson and Jerry Williams	

#### *Sprouts is published by:*

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