



# MG SPROUTS

Volume 18, Issue 1

January 2017

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

Happy New Year! May your 2017 bring you much happiness and enjoyment.

The weather since Thanksgiving has finally brought much needed rain. Hope our trees and shrubs and other beloved plants survive the drought. We've been on a roller coaster of freezes and warmth with the first day of winter, December 21<sup>st</sup>, boasting higher temperatures. Now we're on the path to longer daylight and spring on the not too distant horizon. Cold weather did hamper our plans for the December 9<sup>th</sup> Awards banquet, leaving Cane Creek without heat. However, with repairs in a week we convened the next Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, and had an enjoyable evening with great decorations, food, and fun. The Red Bandana Awards were presented to Jane Auiler and Mike Limerick. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to various groups: Long Leaf Botanical Garden Green Team, Cane Creek Community Gardens Team, Coke Williams Storage Shed Volunteers, Jacksonville Garden Club Projects Volunteers, and Coosa Valley Tree Amigos 4H Volunteers.

January offers a few new changes. Linda Emanuel will begin service as our Treasurer; Carolyn Patton will attend Board meetings and work with her for six months per our By-Laws. Carolyn's fine work is truly appreciated. She also continues on the Membership Committee and as a resource for MG tee and sweat shirts. We will also have a new intern class this year. Help welcome them to our organization. Harvest for Health has been added to the list of 2017 Approved Projects. January 11<sup>th</sup> begins our cycle of meetings. The Board meets at 10:45 a.m. and the full membership meeting begins at noon. We're open to contributions of soups, sides, and desserts to share. Renee Simmons Raney, Director of Conservation, Georgia-Alabama Land Trust will present "Wild Wings" as our first program of the year.

Winter presents a season of our dreams as we scan seed catalogues and plan our gardens. Pollinators need special attention—bees, butterflies, moths, even hummingbirds, etc. Think blooming plants for each month of the growing season plus concepts of groups or clusters of plants and consult ACES publications to ensure that you provide the appropriate food source for each stage of growth of the pollinators. Adventurous souls may think of becoming a fungus farmer. Morels can be grown but really don't taste like those grown wild. However, the shiitake, derived from Japanese shii which translates to "oak" and take means "mushroom", can retain its taste in the refrigerator for 3-4 weeks. A mushroom is not a true vegetable (no leaves, roots, seeds, need for light) but the National Agricultural Statistics Service lists it as vegetable for statistical purposes. Each American eats about four pounds of mushrooms a year. Following China, the USA is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest producer of mushrooms. The less adventurous of us may merely tend our houseplants during winter, working as an indoor gardener. Houseplants prefer a relative humidity of 40 to 50 percent. Grouping plants together is an easy way to raise the humidity level since most homes don't maintain the needed percentage. Ideally, plants like indoor daylight temperatures of 65-75 degrees and nighttime temperatures of 60 to 65. However, most will survive if temperatures do not fall below 50 degrees. Avoid letting them touch cold windows or get exposed to cold drafts.

Again, the very best for you in 2017!

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



## MG Calendar

MG Board Meeting	10:45 a.m.-noon, January 11, Cane Creek Community Gardens
MG Business Meeting	12 p.m., January 11, Cane Creek Community Gardens
Sprouts Deadline	January 25

### From Our Advisor

We plan to have a MG intern class in association with Etowah County. The class may be on Tuesdays instead of Wednesdays. Most classes will be at CCCG. We plan to begin middle to late January.

We have about \$4,000 to spend on the greenhouse at CCCG. We hope to begin work on that in January as well.

We have planned that Hayes will continue working at LLBG 2 days per week in 2017, and we should be able to confirm that in January. I think this has worked well for the Botanical Gardens and for Hayes and his other ACES responsibilities.

The 4H Mentoring program for the Attention home was not funded for 2017. We will close that program out in January. We thank everyone who volunteered for mentoring, and perhaps it will return in 2018. It was a good program for us for the past 6-7 years.

Jennifer Gann, a Master Gardener and temporary 4H staff member in our office, will begin 2017 as our new 4-H Foundation Regional Agent. She did a super job with her 4-H assignments this past fall, and we are very proud of her accomplishment! She will be a pleasure for all of us to work with.

Other new staff changes include Cheyenne Pye's hire as EFNEP Nutrition Educator. Cheyenne worked with local 4-H programs since last spring, and she moved to EFNEP in mid-November. Also, Kayla Shealy will begin work with our NEP program in January. Meaghanne Thompson transferred to Cherokee and Cleburne Counties, so we have Kayla in place for a smooth transition as school returns. Please welcome these new staff members and help them make good work contacts in the community.

The Sheriff's office has agreed to lend us some inmate labor on erecting the barn we moved from Golden Springs. We'll have to plan that work, and maybe we will have it complete by Earth Day!

Thanks to your hard work, we have had a very successful 2016. I look forward to an exciting 2017.

Happy New Year!

*David West*

### MG Notes

- Begin 2017 at our January 11 MG monthly meeting with Renee Simmons Raney, Director of Conservation for the Georgia-Alabama Land Trust, and her program "Wild Wings," about birds. Lunch will be soups and sides. Please remember to bring serving utensils with your dish.
- Congratulations to Linda Emanuel who was elected our new treasurer in November. Congratulations to Carolyn Patton and Mary Andrews who have been voted "Lifetime Members."
- Please join me for a program at the Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County on January 10 at 2 p.m. The title is "Turning over a New Leaf" and I will cover Fascinating Foliage of all types from big trees to perennials. The program at the Library is free. The hour may be counted as a CEU.
- We will begin to get the new directory together early this month. It is IMPORTANT that if you have changes in address, phone numbers or e-mails to get it to Sherry ASAP so we can make sure the new directory is correct.
- Thanks to all the MG elves who turned Cane Creek clubhouse into a magic place for our annual awards event.

### **PRUNING: techniques, outcomes, and design influences**

"A totally different kind of pruning lecture..." by Fred Spicer, at Longleaf Botanical Gardens.

January 21, 2017, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. PRUNING: techniques, outcomes, and design influences. This will be an in-depth presentation with extensive illustrations.

Fred will demonstrate how to prune correctly from the plant's point of view for short-term and long-term

outcomes. When and how to prune will be the focus. You will learn how to prune creatively in designing your home garden.

To reserve your spot, call Anniston Museum of Natural History at 256-237-6766. Reservations are required. Cost is \$25.00 per person; \$20.00 for members.

Payment is to be made at time of registration and may be made by cash, check (made payable to Longleaf Botanical Gardens and earmarked for educational program), or charge card in person or by phone.

### ***Third Thursday in The Gardens Program***

Longleaf Botanical Gardens  
Thursday, January 19, 2017, 10 – 11 a.m.

Some Winter Swag for your Landscape: a collection of winter interest plants to make your garden shine

It's the middle of winter and your garden has the blues? Not necessarily. There is an array of fantastic plants that shine in the doldrums of winter. Whether it's jazzy bark, artistic branch structure, fancy foliage, or grandiloquent blooms, you will find something to make a statement in your mostly dormant landscape.

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 time of registration and may be made by cash, check (made payable to Longleaf Botanical Gardens and earmarked for educational program) or charge card in person or by phone.

### ***Gardening tips for January***

Recycle your tree once the holiday season is over. Hopefully, many of you had a living tree that can be added to your landscape.

We are still very much in a drought situation regardless of the rains. Recently planted ornamental shrubs and trees may need supplemental water if our winter days are dry.

January is a good time to use dormant spray to control diseases and pests. Read and follow directions exactly!

We are still in a good planting time in our area. As long as the ground is not frozen, we can continue to add plants to our landscape.

Spring blooming bulbs like daffodils can still be planted at the first of January.

Continue to collect discarded leaves and pine straw to use in your compost pile or as garden mulch.

Inspect trees for damaged, diseased or dead branches. Prune when necessary for safety or to remove damaged limbs.

### ***MG Year in Review Photos***

Just a few examples of MG activities in 2016. For more, check out our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/CalhounMGs>



*L to R: MGs Carolyn Patton, Mary Andrews, Constance Sims, Don Crow and Sheila Webb at December award ceremony*



*Jane Auiler received a Red Bandana Award*





Jane Aulier working on the tractor



4H Chick Chain participants at Fall Fest



James Spann at May Lunch & Learn



Jason Powell of Petals from the Past, at August Lunch and Learn



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Stephen Faughn and Lizard