



MG SPROUTS

Volume 19, Issue 1

January 2018

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

Dear Master Gardeners,

I would like to thank our past President, Sheila Anne Webb, and the retiring board members for their outstanding leadership during the past several years. A special thanks goes to Jane Aulier for serving Cane Creek so well over the years and changing an ordinary piece of property into a beautiful state attraction.

Skeeter Sims, the "Class of 2015," along with Janet Evans and other veteran Master Gardeners, have taken the lead to continue to our beautiful sanctuary. Purchases of a new tractor, weed eaters and a riding mower have updated our equipment to a new standard.

Congratulations to our 2017 Red Bandana Award winners, Billy and Linda McDaniel. Thank you so much for all you do for Cane Creek and the fundraising efforts of the Country Store during Fall Fest. We have such outstanding volunteers in our Calhoun County Master Gardener program.

All Master Gardeners should work together as a team to move us in the same positive direction. We should complement and encourage each other. Before we criticize or complain, we should think about how others may react. Our involvement should be fun and we should look forward to our chosen or our assigned areas. Most Master Gardeners have many years of experience in teaching, management and leadership skills. Let's all recognize the talents around us and show our best as we deal with everyday experiences. I'm reminded of what Sherry Blanton told the 2013 class about what we will receive from the Master Gardener program. Sherry said, "The most rewarding thing you will receive as Master Gardeners is the relationships we build over the years of serving."

Just a reminder; bring soups and salads to our first MG meeting in January. All meetings are scheduled on the second Wednesday in each month except December. Please make sure to pay your dues of \$20 ASAP to Ruth Sarro.

My personal thanks to all who attended and participated in the dedication of the Sherron Pritchett Memorial Greenhouse. My dream for this building is for it to be used as a teaching aid for Master Gardeners and 4H participants at Cane Creek. Our first project should be underway no later than April 2018. If you would like to be a part of the Greenhome team, please contact Don Crow or myself.



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



MG Calendar

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

Gardening Inspiration

“Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.” Rachel Carson

MG Tidbits from Sherry

Congratulations to Linda and Billy McDaniel who received the Red Bandana Award at our Annual Awards Event. Master Gardeners receive the Red Bandana for exemplary service to our organization. Linda and Billy's dedication has been very important to our Association since they were interns.

Congratulations to the Interns who became Certified Master Gardeners at the awards night. We look forward to continuing our friendship and partnership with them.

Congratulations to Skeeter and Madge Sims on the birth of their second granddaughter, Lyla.

I will be presenting “Hooray for Hydrangeas,” emphasizing the selection and care of this popular southern shrub on January 23rd at the Public Library of Anniston Calhoun County at 2 p.m. The program is free; no reservations are needed. “Hooray for Hydrangeas” is the first of a series of eight garden talks at the Library, sponsored by Davis Landscape Services; door prizes will be given away. Hope you will support the Library and attend.

We will begin 2018 on January 10 when good friend Renee Raney talks about “Wild in Alabama, State Parks: Education and Volunteer Opportunities.” Renee is now Park Operations and Supervisor at Cheaha State Park. As we usually do for our first meeting of the year, we will have a covered dish lunch of soup and sides. Please remember your serving pieces.

If you have changes, corrections or new additions for our 2018 MG Directory, please let me know ASAP.

Finally, I would like to let you all know that I will be retiring from many of my Master Gardener responsibilities. After twenty years with this organization and thousands of hours of service, I will be refocusing my energies. I will no longer be responsible for scheduling our programs, taking photographs, recruiting volunteers, or sending out the e-mails. Additionally, I am giving up my role as outside media person for this group. If you have information for *Sprouts* or for our Facebook page, please let me know as I will continue working with Paula on those projects.

I will still have many MG activities on my plate and plan to get more involved with other gardening activities in our community. I want to thank all who responded to requests for help with generosity and kindness. I have enjoyed working with you.

Who is this Master Gardener?

Each month we will list a few facts about one of our members and invite your guesses about who the volunteer is. We will identify the person in the next month's newsletter. Hopefully, we can all get to know each other better though this new feature for *Sprouts*.

Who Am I?

- I am from Rhode Island.
- One of my hobbies is walking.
- I enjoy growing bougainvillea in my garden.
- Before retiring I worked as a printer.
- I live in Jacksonville.

If you can identify this Master Gardener, please drop editor Paula or me an e-mail. We will be featuring a different member every month. Join in and learn more about your fellow volunteers.

To Do List for January

Inspect your trees for dead, dying, or diseased limbs and prune as necessary. Limbs rubbing against each other also need attention.

News from Cane Creek

Skeeter Sims, Vice President of MGs and Cane Creek Spokesperson

*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 plastic-culture removal will be a major achievement --- plans are in work to make that area easier to maintain and more attractive throughout all seasons.

Basic Native Tree Identification: Third Thursday, January 18, 2018

Dr. David West will talk about basic tree identification in this class in the James P. Roberts classroom at Longleaf Botanical Gardens. Attendees will learn basic skills for identifying about 20 native trees that occur in the woodlands of central Alabama. Utilizing and understanding a tree key will help you in identifying numerous species while learning botanical terms and characteristics. Join us for another fantastic learning experience from 10-11 a.m.

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 charge card in person or by phone.

Plant of the Month Paula Barnett-Ellis

January's Plant of the Month is Meyer Lemon, *Citrus x Meyeri*, thought to be a lemon and mandarin orange cross. My dwarf Improved Meyer Lemon tree, which I have had for more than 20 years, is planted in a large container. The tree's main blooming period

is in the spring, although it has some blossoms on it currently. The fruit gets ripe in late fall. It went for years producing few fruit, until we decided to try a citrus fertilizer. Ever since then, it produces a lot of lemons. The estimate this year is 80. We have given away dozens.

My husband has adopted the tree as his project. It gets citrus fertilizer three times a year. The lemon tree stays outside in full sun most of the year. It is moved inside a pool house, with heat, when the weather is really cold.

You can find more information from ACES about growing citrus fruit in <http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0603/index2.tmp>

My favorite recipes for Meyer lemon are lemon curd and marmalade. I never seem to use the same recipes every year, but the most recent marmalade recipe I used was this one: <https://www.epicurious.com/recipes/food/views/meyer-lemon-marmalade-102746>



Meyer Lemon Marmalade



Meyer Lemon tree with a lot of lemons



Linda and Billy McDaniel



Loquat tree with wonderfully fragrant blooms



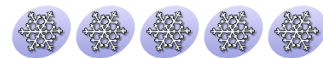
Snowfall in early December 2017



Camellia japonica 'Magnoliaeflora' in full bloom in late December



Amaryllis "Lemon-Lime" blooming way past the holiday season



Officers—Calhoun County Master Gardeners
 President: Dick Pritchett Vice President: Skeeter Sims
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