



MG SPROUTS

Volume 20, Issue 1

January 2019

Message from the President By Dick Pritchett

Dear Master Gardeners:

It's the time of year to reflect on our past year as Master Gardeners and focus on projects for the upcoming 2019 year. My sincere appreciation to all ten Master Gardeners who planted approximately 25 plants for our fellow MG, Carolyn Patton. This effort to help another Master Gardener touched my heart. All who participated had such a wonderful feeling of compassion and love for the Pattons. This project was one of my favorites of the 2018 year. Thank you, Carolyn, for letting us help in getting your yard back in growing shape after you had so much destruction from the March tornado!

We have finished the Sherron Pritchett Memorial Greenhouse, and are in the process of planning our 2019 projects. The Greenhouse Committee, led by Linda Gunnoe, Chairwoman, and Co-chairman, Jimmy Nail, met during the Holidays. Other Committee members are: Angela Brewer, Jerry Gilbert, Don Gay, Gary Lawson and Dick Pritchett. Our first project will be plantings of variegated monkey grass, cuttings of a variety of figs, and blueberry cuttings later in the year. We do need some variegated monkey grass plants to pot, so please help by bringing clumps to the Greenhouse from your yard ASAP! Linda and I met at Lowe's and purchased items which we will need for projects. Our first workday will be Monday, January 7, at 9:00 a.m. at the Greenhouse. Please, please, join us to help get this project underway.

My sincere thanks to Sherry Blanton for communicating to our group concerning the death of Elzie Eugene Prater, beloved husband of Yun Prater who is a dedicated and active member of the Calhoun County Master Gardeners. Our deepest sympathy goes to Yun during this sad time.

In 2018, we voted to host the 2021 State Master Gardeners Conference. Our Chairman, Skeeter Sims, is busy filling Committee Chairs and remaining Chairs need to be filled within the first quarter of this year. Our first objective after Chairs are filled is to establish a budget for the Conference. Management skills are needed ASAP!

My winter garden is beginning to look good and I am looking forward to harvesting a variety of greens in the near future. "The highest reward for your work is not what you get for it, but what you become by it!"

'Till Later!

Dick

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MG Calendar	
MG Board Meeting	10:45 a.m., January 9, Cane Creek Community Gardens
MG Business Meeting	12 p.m., January 9, Cane Creek Community Gardens
Sprouts Deadline	January 25, 2019

Gardening Inspiration for the New Year

“Everyone must leave something behind when he dies, my grandfather said. A child or a book or a painting or a house or a wall built or a pair of shoes made. Or a garden planted. Something your hand touched some way so your soul has somewhere to go when you die, and when people look at that tree or that flower you planted, you're there.

It doesn't matter what you do, he said, so long as you change something from the way it was before you touched it into something that's like you after you take your hands away. The difference between the man who just cuts lawns and a real gardener is in the touching, he said. The lawn-cutter might just as well not have been there at all; the gardener will be there a lifetime.”
Ray Bradbury, Fahrenheit 451

Gardening Ideas From Our Members

From Patricia Patty:

“Keep a few plants inside during the winter. Caring for live plants indoors feeds a gardener's soul while the days are dark or cold and nothing is growing outside.”

From Linda McDaniel

“In January I am usually looking at the seed catalogs. This year I am expanding an existing flower bed and taking everything out of it and redoing the bed, of course Billy will help me. This is the time I usually separate plants that I am taking out of the bed and put in gallon pots. I keep them for the plant sale in the spring. We are going to be painting names on tiles for Cane Creek Community Gardens. We hope to get labels on most of the plants out there before next spring.

I am still thinking about the Bicentennial Garden for Cane Creek. We will start working on it the first of next year also. We are putting it in Skeeter's raised bed. It should take up the whole bed when we are finished.”

From Gary Lawson

“One thing I do is plant greens in the middle of September. Right now, they are prolific and I'm eating fresh greens almost daily. I have 5 varieties of turnips, curly leaf and Florida broad leaf mustard, rape and kale. In a few weeks the actual turnip will be ready to eat. they'll get bitten back by hard freezes but they'll bounce back. Early next year in March or April they will start to grow again and start to bloom. It will be food for pollinators. A few weeks later they will start to seed and be food for the birds. It's about 6 months of really easy gardening with a purpose - feeds me and the birds and bees.”

MG Notes

Congratulations to Myra Gann, Ruth Sarro, and Skeeter Sims for receiving the Red Bandanna Awards at our Awards Event for their exemplary service to our association.

Under Skeeter Sims' leadership the decorating committee made the Cane Creek clubhouse very festive. The arrangements were really special. I wish everyone could have seen them. Thank you to all the elves who donated their time and talents.

Thank you to Ruth Sarro, our outgoing treasurer, for a job well done. We welcome Myra Gann who was elected to this position. We know she will do a great job.

Our first meeting of the New Year will be January 9th at noon. Our pot luck lunch will be soup and sides; please bring your own utensil to serve your dish. Skeeter Sims and Billy McDaniel will give us a lesson on keeping our gardening tools sharp, “Staying Sharp in the Garden.” Plans are already underway for the 2021 MG conference. If you have not signed up to help, there are many jobs to fill.

Our deepest sympathies to MG Yun Prater on the death of her husband Elzie. We will also keep in our thoughts the families of Dan Spector and Larry Dixon; both MGs passed away very recently.

Please join me at the Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County on January 8th at two o'clock for “Pruning Like a Pro.” We will discuss best pruning practices to produce healthy, attractive trees and shrubs. The program is free and no reservations are required.

May 2019 be a healthy and successful year for all our members

SB



Red Bandanna Award congratulations to Ruth Sarro (helping out at Earth Days)



Red Bandanna Award congratulations to Skeeter Sims and Myra Gann (helping to get Cane Creek ready for the holidays)

Mystery Gardener

Please send Sherry Blanton your guess as to the identity of this experienced Master Gardener.

1. I am originally from DeArmanville, Alabama.
2. My other hobby is playing golf.
3. I enjoy smelling the flowers, but definitely not digging holes.
4. I am retired from Maritz Corp General Motors.
5. I live in Jacksonville currently.

Longleaf Botanical Gardens

Sounds like a delicious program.

THE FOOD OF THE GODS

A Look into the History and Production of Chocolate
Hayes Jackson – Presenter

Third Thursday, January 17, 2019 – Noon Until 1:00 p.m.

James P. Roberts Education Room - 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 charge card in person or by phone.

Cane Creek Update from Skeeter Sims

-Well, a new year is upon us. 2019 is poised to be another busy year at Cane Creek, the grounds are looking to be in good shape but we still have lots of work to do, so the more active hands we have, the better it's going to be!!

-When weather breaks after the first of the year, we have lots of pruning and shaping to do for the shrubs, trees and plants. Tropical bed will be cut back and cleaned to the normal levels and the plants that did so well this past year will be cut back and shaped to maintain their respective areas. The tree limbs along the back fence line and perimeter will be cut back to prevent fence damage and mower damage in the upcoming growing season.

-Organic boxes will be relocated to the front box areas after the first of the year to allow more sun for boxes and better access for equipment and storage under the open barn. All implements, tractor, trailers, and county truck will be kept under that shelter for easy access and operations.

- Our first major project will be the removal of the plasticulture runs and preparation of that area for seeding with grass in March/April. February will be a major pruning month for roses, perennials and our summer bloomers; as well as any dead, cold damaged plants that we find as we work the grounds.

-The Alabama Bicentennial Bed is in work. We hope to add some dirt to the box as well as some native plants and plants that showcase Alabama (the state not the football team!). I for one am looking to add a couple of Alabama Crotons and Possum Haw (because I like the

name) to my farm this year, just finding them is proving difficult.

That's our update and plan for the first of the New Year, everyone come out and help us; we work hard but we have fun too!! And as always,

See Y'all at the Creek!

Skeeter



Myra Gann puts finishing touches on CC tree



Linda McDaniel with one of her beautiful arrangements



Janet Evans admires the display at Cane Creek



Judy Shew sets up holiday decorations

Officers—Calhoun County Master Gardeners

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

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