



MG SPROUTS

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July 2016

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

I wish the corn and tomatoes and other heat loving plants could talk. I wonder if they understand the differences in the temperature in the shade, the temperature in the sun, and heat index readings and which they prefer the most. I know I can tell the differences and wish we lived in the shade air temperatures only in July and August. Hope our rain rotates into an inch a week and stays that way. It's been way too dry, requiring us to water frequently.

Thanks for your hospitality for the Coke Williams family and dedication. I thought we had a heart- warming celebration. Stephen Faughn and his adorable animals provided a brief but great addition to the fun. Two weeks later Hayes presented another great program, Hooray for Hostas, at Lunch and Learn. And super news to round out a wonderful June was the arrival of the new zero turn mower.

One pleasant thing that is ever apparent when we meet is the vast knowledge of flora and fauna our group possesses. We need to capture some of it and preserve it in a time capsule. Perhaps we could bury a time capsule under a rock at Cane Creek. You never know when its meaning will be even more worthwhile than today. As an example, Henry David Thoreau, author of *Walden*, studied and wrote about Walden Pond in Concord, Massachusetts. His studies from 1852-1858 described when 300 flowers bloomed, when migrating birds returned, when ice melted on the pond, and when the leaves appeared on trees. All of these are signs of spring. Now, 160 years later, scientific study unveils that Concord is five degrees warmer, ice on the pond breaks up and flowers bloom two weeks earlier than in the 1850s and trees leaf out 18 days earlier. The only item in Thoreau's recordings that seem static is that migrating birds still return about the same time they did in the 1850s. Perhaps our MG group could record these types of things in Calhoun County, Alabama, in spring 2017 and somehow save and preserve our information for later readings.

Meanwhile, July brings us two interesting programs. For our July 13th meeting, Renee Simmons Raney will present Growing Up Wild: Watershed Stories. Dr. Julie Price will present Green Roofs at Lunch and Learn on July 27th. Both are brown bag luncheons.

Because gardening provides me with such peaceful time for reflection, I always enjoy others from various times who also reflected on the topic of gardening. Find a few here:

"My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece." Claude Monet

"A weed is but an unloved flower." Ella Wheeler Wilcox

"However many years she lived, Mary always felt that she should never forget that first morning when her garden began to grow." Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The Secret Garden*

"It was such a pleasure to sink one's hand into the warm earth, to feel at one's fingertips the possibilities of the new season." Kate Morton, *The Forgotten Garden*

Enjoy all your senses as you garden and stay hydrated!

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MG Calendar

MG Board Meeting	10:45 a.m.-noon, July 13 , Cane Creek Sustainability Room
MG Business Meeting	12 p.m., July 13, Cane Creek Community Gardens
Sprouts Deadline	July 25

From Our Advisor

As I reflect on over 20 years of Extension work, I don't think I have participated in anything better received or appreciated than your dedication of the Coke Williams Memorial Tool Shed. Family members young and old came from hundreds of miles away to enjoy the day and the memories with us. I don't recall which of Coke's children called me about such an opportunity when Coke passed away, but a more fitting project could not have been in the works at that particular time. I appreciate your work on the project, and I am grateful for the donations that made this memorial possible. I am also pleased that Coke made his love for and enjoyment of the MG program clear to his family members. This allowed them the opportunity to do something meaningful in his honor and to improve facilities for future volunteers.

We completed the purchase of the new lawnmower during June. Reports are good, and I hope this will help with grounds maintenance at CCCG. Thanks to all who donated to this and to the James Rosen Foundation for providing \$3,500 to complete the purchase. This is a long-lasting improvement for our ground maintenance needs!

Development of Longleaf Botanical Gardens has progressed nicely this year. All reports are that Hayes having more freedom to work at the site has been a big success. We are grateful to the City of Anniston for providing funding for a part time agent assistant, Tammy Hall, to cover some of Hayes' work duties. Be sure to let your local City officials know if you think this has been helpful to Botanical Garden development.

Thanks to the beekeepers for loaning two beehives to CCCG. These are between the 4H building and fence facing Justice Avenue.

Camp Cane Creek has been a success so far this summer. If you know of youngsters who could benefit from this program, please send them to us. Many thanks to Rachel Brinks for continuing this program and to Brandi LaBenne for volunteering to assist with

planning and implementation of the program. It is a big commitment!

Electrical wiring is planned for the Sherron Pritchett greenhouse project as well as the work shed and Coke Williams tool shed. Adding electricity to these sites will be a big help to us as we continue CCCG development. Thanks to Commissioner Hodges for responding to requests from the MG Board to assist with this project, and thanks to Jerry and Tim, County employees, for developing a plan for implementation.

Thanks for all you do! Your work is noticed on a regular basis.

David

2016 Lunch & Learn

Lunch & Learn is a series of free gardening programs sponsored by the Calhoun County Master Gardeners and Calhoun County Commission and held the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Cane Creek Community Garden at McClellan, 77 Justice Avenue. Noon-1pm--bring your own lunch!

July 27th

Green Roofs

Dr. Julie Price, UAB Coordinator of Sustainability

**Speakers and/or subjects may change. Contact the Calhoun County Extension Office [256-237-1621](tel:256-237-1621) to confirm.*



MG Notes

The dedication for the shed in memory of Coke Williams went really well. It was a pleasure to meet Coke's family and remember him with stories and laughter. We are grateful to the MGs who worked so hard on the great looking shed. It is surely an asset to the Cane Creek grounds

While we enjoyed the finger foods brought by our members, Stephen Faughn showed the group animals from the 4H Wildlife Room.

Hayes had a standing room crowd at "Hooray for Hostas" at our June Lunch and Learn. There were lots of new faces at the program; Lunch and Learn continues to grow.

Our new zero turn lawn mower is here and the MGs are already mastering the art of using it on our grass. We are grateful for the donations, especially from the James Rosen Charitable Foundation, which made a new lawnmower a reality for Cane Creek. The John Deere salesperson told David that we could now cut the lawn in about half the time as before.

Our July 13th monthly meeting will have a brown bag lunch. Renee Simmons Raney with the Georgia-Alabama Land Trust will speak on "Growing up Wild: Watershed Stories." Renee has been a longtime friend to our MG Association. She has recently changed jobs; we look forward to hearing about her new responsibilities.

On July 27 Lunch and Learn will have Dr. Julie Price, Coordinator of Sustainability at UAB as our guest speaker; her program will be on "Green Roofs." A green roof is one that is covered in plants; a green roof helps reduce storm water run-off and lowers cooling costs. Find out how a green roof can also help the environment. The program is from noon to 1pm. Please bring lunch and a friend.

Gardening Tips for July

Water wisely. Keep a careful eye on newly planted shrubs and trees. Annual color beds may need watering almost every day. Container gardens may require water each day.

Scout your gardens, both vegetable and flower, for insects and diseases daily to keep your plants healthy.

A little work every day can help the gardener stay ahead of the weeds.

Keep the water in birdbaths or fountains changed two to three times a week; relocate birdbaths out of direct sunlight into the shade to keep water from getting too warm.

Keep annuals pinched and spent flowers removed to prolong blooming time.

Add fresh mulch to help moderate soil temperature.

Be careful with weedeaters and lawnmowers around shrubs and trees.

Drink lots of water when gardening in July's heat and humidity; it is easy to become dehydrated.

Plant another crop of tomatoes.

Smile; fall begins September 22nd.

Stargazer Lilies

Sound the trumpet; bang the drum: the grand old lady of the summer garden is in bloom. And what glorious flower deserves such an introduction? None other than the stargazer lily, an oriental hybrid, *Lilium* 'Stargazer'. The 3 to 3 ½ foot stem is topped with rose colored flowers with darker rose colored spots and the blooms are edged with white. 'Stargazer' has a delightful fragrance; its only downside as far as I can see is that the pollen can stain clothing or whatever it touches. Mine in my 7B/8A garden just started blooming and will continue to bloom for several weeks.

Although 'Stargazer' can steal the thunder in the garden right now, 'Casablanca', another oriental hybrid with pure white flowers, makes a beautiful companion. Asiatic hybrid lilies also make a very easy to grow beautiful flower for the landscape. Asiatic lilies tend to bloom a bit earlier than oriental lilies and come in a wonderful range of colors.

Oriental lilies are not difficult to grow, but as do all plants, they also need the "right place" and "the right care." Once those two are provided, they are a long-lived addition to the garden (providing the voles don't eat the bulbs). Like most flowers, lilies prefer well-drained, loose deep fertile soil. Before you plant, add lots of nice rich organic soil to your bed. Lilies need water all year; you can give your lilies less water when the foliage has turned brown or is completely out of sight, but if your fall and winter are very dry, water them just as you would other landscape plants. 'Stargazer' does need staking, possibly as it grows, instead of waiting until it is falling over and in bloom to stake. Lilies do better in filtered sun, light shade, or afternoon shade. They are also plants who love cool feet and warm heads so plant among a low growing ground cover. Like most plants, lilies do like to be mulched to help save moisture and keep the soil cool. When the plants have come up, give them a dose of bulb fertilizer. Like other bulbs, planting depth will depend on the size of the bulb. Unlike bulbs such as daffodils and tulips, it is better not to plant them too deep. Space lily bulbs anywhere from six inches to a foot apart. The nice thing about lilies is that you can tuck them in anywhere in your garden. If you must move them, do so when the foliage and the stems have turned yellow, usually fall; however, lilies can also be moved in spring. I have read that the deer are fond of the buds so a spritz on the buds/blooms with some deer repellent can't hurt. Just like daffodils and tulips please leave the foliage alone while it dies back and yellows and remove when completely dead.

Lilies make good container plants, especially if you have creatures who may burrow and eat the bulb. If

your winter gets really cold, the containers will need some protection from the winter temperatures.

If you don't have lilies in your garden, it is high time to get some! White Flower Farm and Brent and Becky's Bulbs have some of the most beautiful ones I have ever seen. If I gave you only one piece of gardening advice, it would be: plant lilies – and then plant some more. Prepare to be intoxicated by their beauty and their fragrance. Until you have stargazer lilies in your garden, your garden is not complete.

"The Southern Living Garden Book" was used as a resource for this essay.



Casablanca Lily



Dedication of the Coke Williams Memorial Tool Shed



New zero turn lawn mower for faster mowing



Stephen Faughn and wildlife at MG meeting



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**Sprouts is published by:
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President: Sheila Anne Webb	
Editor: Paula Barnett-Ellis	Copy Editor: Sherry Blanton

Advisors: Dr. David H. West, County Extension Coordinator
Mr. Hayes Jackson, Urban Regional Extension Agent