

MG SPROUTS

Calhoun County Master Gardener Newsletter: Volume 22, Issue 7

July 2021



Daylilies at Cane Creek Community Gardens

MG Calendar

- MG Board Meeting, July 14, 10:45 a.m., Cane Creek Community Gardens
- MG Business Meeting, July 14, 12:00 p.m., Cane Creek Community Gardens. Lunch: Bring your own
- Sprouts Deadline, July 23
- Lunch & Learn, July 28, 12 noon, Cane Creek Community Gardens

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President's Message

Garden Reflections or Life Reflections

As I write this month, I look outside and see everything in bloom and growing. There are all kinds of colorful flowers, bright yellows to lighter yellows, dark deep purples to light barely purples, deep reds to very light pinks, some lighter blues, and brighter blues; and then there's the white ones – not much variance there!! But each plant is unique – either the bloom itself or the plant's foliage makes it just a little or a lot different from the next plant. Pollinators don't seem to care at all about the colors or unique characteristics, they flutter from one to another doing their own thing and going about the business they were designed to accomplish. Isn't that how we should be? We are all uniquely created, unique skill sets, different abilities, different ways of thinking; yet we are all a part of a bigger world, a larger community.

Our shades, our foliage, our place in the sun shouldn't really matter when compared to each other as we all have a purpose --- to grow, to provide beauty/kindness/generosity to others, to share and help when/where we can, and make our own little piece of the garden better!! As we approach Independence Day, do not forget what this celebration is all about --- it's not about the Armed Forces, Veterans, etc. It is about being an American, free from an oppressive controlling monarch and choosing to be a country like no other!! Having traveled the world, I can truly say America is like no other country in our World!! There is none with more opportunity for all things (jobs, education, careers, etc.) and none with such advancements in society. We are a blessed nation and probably the richest in more ways than any other country! So, take a moment and count your blessings, choose kindness over anger, generosity over pettiness, self-sacrifice over selfishness; and others before self --- you will be surprised at the results! We need this year as a celebration of the reminder of last year that we all endured and survived, so celebrate Independence Day and be thankful for our great country and our freedoms.

We will meet outside again this month under the pavilion, with a program on roses. We will also be appointing a Nominating Committee for our upcoming Board elections this year. If anyone has financial, accounting, or bookkeeping experience, we will need this for our new Treasurer; good note taking and recording experience is also needed for a new Secretary. If interested in serving on the Executive Board, just see the Chair or me after this month's meeting.

The Cane Creek Crew hosted Cherokee County MGs at Cane Creek last month. They expressed great appreciation and compliments for our home grounds. They also stated how lucky we are to have such a great place to call ours – recognizing the work and sweat that goes into maintaining Cane Creek was also one of their most frequent comments! So, take the time to catch a tour of our home grounds as well – every third Wednesday from 10-12!!

See y'all at the Creek!

Let's Be Social

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

Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/CalhounMGs>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ccmgsala>

My Favorite Plant from Jennifer Gann

"One of my favorite plants is a rose. I like roses because you can find wild roses or cultivated varieties. Roses come in so many colors, and hybrid colors are becoming more popular every day. Roses smell wonderful and they are a bright flower to add to a landscape. My favorite rose color is a two-tone rose, or the wild variety pink mini rose that likes to show up in the woods or along the old country roads climbing the fence rails."



July's Mystery Gardener

"I am originally from Roanoke, Alabama. My favorite part of gardening is seeing things grow and sharing with others. I enjoy riding on my lawn mower, cutting grass, riding on my tractor, and working in my garden. I was in the ministry before I retired. I currently live in Jacksonville."

Last month's Mystery Gardener was Mary Rose. Landon and Skeeter identified her.

Garden Inspiration

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

Recipe of the Month from Myra Gann: Heavenly Hash Pie

THIS RECIPE MAKES 2 PIES:

CRUST: 2 Cup plain flour
1/2 tsp salt
2/3 cup cooking oil
1/2 cup COLD Water
1 cup chopped pecans

Mix all ingredients until a ball forms. Half mixture. Form into pie plates with fork.

Cook 20 minutes on 325 degrees. LET COOL.

HEAVENLY HASH FILLING:

1 large Cool Whip
1/2 cup chopped pecans
1 Can Eagle Brand condensed milk
1 small can crushed pineapple (drained)
1/2 cup lemon juice

Mix ingredients with mixer on low speed at first... then high. Pour into COOLED pie crust. Chill.

NOTE: Regular pie shells may be used, but the above crust really compliments this pie.

If you have a recipe to share, please submit it to Sherry.



CCCG Butterfly Garden is alive with zinnias

Cane Creek Community Gardens

Cane Creek Community Gardens came into existence in 2007. The land was part of Ft. McClellan Army Base. The Calhoun County Commission extended the operation of this 17-acre property to the Calhoun County Extension in concert with the Calhoun County Master Gardeners. Information courtesy of Linda McDaniel.

Cane Creek Update from Skeeter Sims

- July is a busy month of weeding, weed eating, mowing, and keeping up with all the usual summer chores in "the yard". Cane Creek workdays are every Tuesday 0900-1230, we could use weed eaters and operators just to keep up every week with edging the boxes, fences and around all the roses and trees.

- July is also one of our hottest months, so when working the grounds, we will take frequent breaks for water and shade. It's a good time to visit, catch up and catch our breath too!! Please stay hydrated and look out for each other.

- Special Projects for Cane Creek will probably be started in September if we can complete in time for Fall Fest; but if not, we will wait until after to complete these few projects. Start planning now for Fall Fest, 3rd Saturday in September!! Remember it's our only fundraiser that directly supports the maintenance and improvements for our home grounds at Cane Creek!!

MG Happenings by Sherry Blanton

At our monthly meeting our speaker, Brenda Green, talked about day lilies and brought some exquisite flowers for us to see. For those who were not there the name of her day lily farm is Greenroe Farm Daylilies. To purchase daylilies from her farm, call Brenda at 256-422-3438 to make certain she is home and get directions. (I want one of each, thank you)



Daylily display from June MG meeting

Dr. Ken Tilt presented our June Lunch and Learn program on another beautiful flower, the lotus. Our July monthly meeting (July 14th at noon) will feature Judy Bacon who will talk about roses. Bring your lunch and a chair.

Lunch and Learn (July 28 at noon) hosts Dr. Carolyn Robinson with a program about the art of floral design. Please bring your lunch and a chair.

Please join me in person at the Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County for "Happy Hydrangeas." At my house, the hydrangeas have been gorgeous this year. The program is July 6th at 2pm. Seating is socially distanced. The program is no longer live streamed on Facebook but will be recorded to be shown on YouTube.



Another beauty from CCCG



More zinnias from CCCG Butterfly Garden

"Summertime" from Tim Kaylor

"Summertime and the livin' is easy" is how Billy Stewart sang it in 1966, but as Master Gardeners, we would have to sing, summertime and the livin' is BUSY! That's right; sowing, planting, watering, weeding, pruning, fertilizing/feeding, harvesting, freezing, canning, and the list goes on and on. Some uninformed folks may think that this time of year is the only time to be outside handling those gardening chores. News Flash!! Gardening, as you know, is a year-round activity. It seems there is always something to do no matter what the calendar says. Now, to be sure, we all enjoy what we do and here are some examples. We love learning,

interacting with our fellow master gardeners, improving, expanding our knowledge, new tools, new varieties of plants, shrubs, trees, and another list that goes on. There is something ethereal about what we love! The excitement of putting a tiny seed into the soil, nurturing, and watching it grow and deliver exactly what it was created to deliver. In our area, we are blessed with so many varieties of flora and fauna to observe and opportunities to make our world a more beautiful and bountiful place to call home. So yes, we are busy people, but let us not forget to, as Bernard Kelvin Clive said, "Today, just take time to smell the roses, enjoy those little things about your life, your family, spouse, friends, job. Forget about the thorns -the pains and problems they cause you - and enjoy life".

Watch Out for Summertime Pests

Along with the wonderful summertime treats of sweet peaches, fresh vegetables, and colorful flowers appear the creepy, crawly, and flying pests.

Rose sawfly larvae prey on our roses, chewing small holes and disfiguring the foliage. The leaves get ugly, but the rose can survive the damage. Since these tiny pests come out early in the morning, we may not see them. The larvae are on the bottom of the leaves. Search early in the morning; pick the offenders off or use a heavy spray of water to dislodge the larvae. If you choose to use a pesticide, check with the Extension Office for a recommendation.

Hibiscus sawfly larvae skeletonize hibiscus leaves. They, however, seem to do more damage to the hibiscus leaves than the rose sawfly does to the rose. Hibiscus leaves look like lace. The tiny larvae come out in the early morning and can be found on the bottoms of the leaves. A direct hard blast (in the early morning) from the hose may help. Again, should you desire a pesticide solution, please check with the Extension Office.

Japanese beetles, flying iridescent insects, target over 300 species of plants, including flowers, fruit, and foliage. The beetles can do major damage in a very short time as dozens may cover a target. A defense is to pick off the beetles and either step on them or drown them in a cup of soapy water. Japanese beetles are particularly fond of roses; however, they were munching my basil plants earlier this week. Although their damage may be primarily cosmetic for a healthy plant, an unhealthy plant may not survive the harm. Japanese beetle grubs feast on the roots of turf grass and can do serious damage to a lawn.

If you choose to put out a Japanese beetle bait, do not put it in your garden as the trap attracts the beetles. Put

it a distance from yours and others' landscapes. Check with the Extension Office for chemical solutions.

Black lubber grasshoppers do not only do major cosmetic damage to our plants, but they can also completely destroy them. They took down a five-foot elephant ear in the Jacksonville Pocket Park. When the lubbers first hatch in late May, there will be hundreds of small black grasshoppers moving in a group. They eat and grow and grow and eat. For the uninitiated, these grasshoppers can reach a couple of inches in length; they are black with orange stripes. Sprays do not hurt them; they have no predators as they have a terrible taste. Gardeners become the predators. The grasshoppers hop clumsily (but quickly) so our defense is to catch them. I stomp on them hard, as a small step will not work, or cut them in half with my pruners, or beat them with a shovel. There are no chemical solutions for adult lubbers.



Garden Humor

"Bulb: potential flower buried in Autumn, never to be seen again."

- Henry Beard

Calhoun County Master Gardener Officers

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Vice President:	Linda Wakefield
Secretary:	Judy Shew
Treasurer:	Myra Gann
Members-at-Large:	Gary Lawson and Linda McDaniel

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