

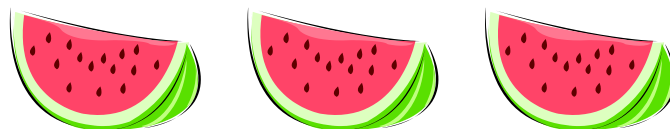
Message from the President ***By Sheila Anne Webb***

I hope your calendars are marked for June 14th meeting. Interns, now that you have completed classes, remember you're welcome at all our MG meetings. We'd love to have your company. Lunch and Learn is off to a roaring start, with programs the 4th Wednesday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. L & L was the vehicle that propelled my interest in the MG classes.

The rhythms of spring arrived: hummingbirds came back the last week of March, April brought azaleas and blooming trees, May magnolias and this year gardenias. The beauty of it all is simply magnificent. The rains have thankfully arrived and all my fingers and toes are crossed that they'll be consistently, evenly, spread throughout the months and adequate and better to provide health and well-being for our flora and fauna.

I harkened into a feeling of romance when in our sharing garden tips at the April meeting, the saying was shared "When the whippoorwills sing, it's time to plant". This is somewhat founded since this ground nesting bird needs warm soil under its nest for egg incubation. Someone also told me later that the song Debbie Reynolds sang called "Tammy" mentioned the bird. I found the lyrics on the internet and discovered in stanza two "Whippoorwill, whippoorwill, you and I know I can't let him go...When the night is warm, soft and warm..." This discovery led me to find the words for "Glow worm, glimmer, glimmer...Love's voice is callin' yonder" sung by the Mill Brothers. As a child, I thought someone had a great imagination and only learned later that the glimmering worms actually become fireflies. The fireflies turn on and off their lights in paced rising/falling flight to attract a mate just like the singers of songs comparing their longing love like the spring patterns of nature. By the way, if you haven't seen these areas, there are two places in the USA that during early June sport the unusual sight of fireflies flashing in unison. One is nearby in Elkmont, TN in the Great Smoky Mountains and the other in Congaree National Park in South Carolina. If your yard has fireflies, do all you can to protect your good environment as fireflies try to breed in the same area. Too many people now have bright street lights or yard lights on all night, making it too bright for fireflies to propagate.

And, of course, since I'm thinking of songs, let's not forget "June is busting out all over...All over the mountains and the hills..." June brings us longer daylight, warmer weather, and on the 21st the first day of summer. It's also time for our little 1/6 to 3/8" friends, the ladybug to dine on 30-40 aphids a day. The USA has 400 ladybug species ranging in color from yellow to orange but most sport red with 1-15 black spots. They work hard in the garden—free of charge. In the Middle Ages, ladybugs were dedicated to "Our Lady Virgin Mary" for removing pests from the grape vines and have since been referred to as lady bug, lady bird, lady beetle, etc. They hibernate in winter and hang out on the underside of leaves during rainstorms. Their six legs are tipped with two sharp claws and each foot has a sticky pad for all kinds of maneuvers. If you pick one most likely it will play dead like it does for its predators the birds and frogs. All these treasures and more are outside for your summer enjoyment. Enjoy this special time of year.



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



MG Calendar

MG Board Meeting	10:45 a.m.-noon, June 14, Cane Creek Community Gardens
MG Business Meeting	12 p.m., June 14, Cane Creek Community Gardens
Sprouts Deadline	June 25

From Our Advisor

As we begin summer 2017, we can reflect on a busy spring season. Our Master Gardener intern class completed their training, and they are hopefully out completing their volunteer hour requirements alongside our established Master Gardeners. We had a very successful Earth Day event with 900-1,000 people on the grounds of Cane Creek Community Gardens over the 2-day event. We've hosted or assisted with several plant sale fundraisers in the community. We've kept grounds at multiple locations maintained for public good through drought and recovery. We've hosted several educational events. Hopefully, you've completed all your spring planting. So, you've done a lot of successful work leading up to the normal, expected sultry Alabama summer.

Students will be having regional and State 4-H competitions, and I thank those of you who assist with judging these events. We've grown our 4-H program in Calhoun County over the past few years, and we now have 1,982 youth enrolled. We have about 30 local students heading to 4-H Camp in Columbiana soon. Camp Cane Creek will be held for 2 weeks in June and 2 more weeks in July, and I know some of you have agreed to assist with that. Having the grounds at the Community Garden in tip-top shape is helpful for Camp and other functions hosted at CCCG. Some of you completed the recent Junior Master Gardener Training Class at CCCG. We want 4-H to be important in the County, and we appreciate your support to help us achieve that goal.

Mark your calendars for the rest of the Lunch and Learn classes. This program is a great way to provide outreach in the community, and it is well received.

Fall Fest 2017 is September 16. We've already begun promotion, and I noticed the Fall Fest sign was already out on the fence at Cane Creek Community Gardens. I think this will be the 11th Annual Fall Fest.

The 4-H air rifle and archery teams will be using the big building beyond the covered bridge. It will be good to

have that building occupied with children, parents and volunteers frequenting the site. They have begun clean up inside the building. This group is very active, and I expect they will be good partners at the site.

We have another plant sale coming up soon. This will be a good opportunity to reduce stock at the Tree Amigos greenhouse, and maybe a good time to find a good deal on a plant you "need" for your garden.

I notice more and more dead trees around the area. This is likely drought damage. I encourage you to inspect the trees in your yard and address any safety concerns. Dead wood can be dangerous.

We are 3-4 inches above average on rainfall at this point in the year. Let's hope we don't lose ground on that surplus too quickly as we move into summer.

Beautification Board Award entries close May 31 at 4:30 p.m. If you have entered your garden or the home and garden of another deserving friend!

Thanks for all the work you do in our Calhoun County!

David West



Lilies

MG Notes

Thank you to Skeeter and his panel of talented MGs: Janet, Linda M, Linda C, Joe, and Gary for the great program for the May meeting. I was sorry to have missed it but I was far away enjoying the plants at the beach. Our association is fortunate to have so many members willing to help with programs.

David Doggett spoke to a huge crowd (50 plus) about "Planting, Transplanting and Re-Potting" at our May Lunch and Learn. David always does a fine job with his programs. He will be back in 2018 to talk about his Japanese Maples. We had so many folks there who

had never attended Lunch and Learn; we got a lot of positive feedback about his presentation. Even for old hands at planting David brings us new information to help us become better master gardeners.



Huge Crowd for May Lunch and Learn



MGs and David Doggett at May Lunch and Learn

Join us on June 14th for our monthly meeting. Stephen Faughn will introduce us to some of the newcomers to the 4-H Legacy Wildlife Room. Stephen's programs are always entertaining and interesting as we learn about his residents. Lunch is brown bag.

Hayes Jackson will share his passion for caladiums with us on June 28th for Lunch and Learn at noon with his program "Classy Caladiums." He told me he has 75 varieties; this is bound to be a beautiful and informative program. If you have a caladium you are proud of, bring it to the meeting.

Please share information about our Lunch and Learn programs on your Facebook pages. It is a wonderful way to get the word out about this great series and allow more folks to get to know Cane Creek and Master Gardeners.

Don Crow is in need of 5-gallon plastic buckets to use to plant vegetables in the green house. The vegetables

will be grown to share with our Master Gardener Association. Bring them to the meeting or drop them off at CCCG.

If you have any spare time, I imagine Mike Limerick could use some help with his Jacksonville vegetable garden.

Please remember that our Master Gardener monthly meetings are open to our 2017 interns as well as our active Master Gardeners. We hope members of the newest class will join us each month; our meetings are a nice chance for us to get to know each other.

SB

Lunch and Learn 2017

**June 28, Classy Caladiums
Hayes Jackson, ACES**



Lunch & Learn is held the 4th Wednesday of each month and Cane Creek Gardens from noon- 1 p.m. Bring your own lunch!

**Dates and speakers are subject to change. Contact the Calhoun County Extension Office at 256-237-1621 to confirm.*

Happenings:

The Tree Amigos are having a "Clean out the Greenhouse Plant Sale" on Wednesday, June 7 from 11 a.m. to 3 pm at Coosa Valley Youth Service under the covered patio by the greenhouse. There will be bargains on some beautiful plants. Proceeds keep the Tree Amigos volunteers financially able to provide programs for the girls.

From Longleaf Botanical Gardens:

Attend Third Thursday in the Garden at Long Leaf Botanical Gardens: "Wildlife in the Garden: It's not just for the Birds," June 15, 5 – 6 p.m., presented by Master Gardener Emily Richardson. Call Anniston Museum of Natural History at 256-237-6766 to make a reservation. Reservations are required, and space is limited to the first 35 people to register. Cost is \$5.00 per person and 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.

From the Team at Cane Creek Community Gardens submitted by Skeeter Sims:

The Cane Creek gang will begin construction on a handicap ramp for the meeting facility as soon as possible. Any help will be appreciated. No construction experience required, just willing and helpful hands! This is a big project so we are looking for dedicated and committed volunteers to assist.

The equipment shed roofing project will begin in June. It should be a relatively quick project but extra hands will be needed to climb ladders, put on metal roof, and repaint exterior wood when complete. We should be able to accomplish this in just one week if we get enough folks there to make it happen!

The barn renovation is ongoing. Safety is a priority but there will be cleanup and painting requirements in the near future. Anyone willing to learn to operate mowers at Cane Creek?? Training is available, experience will be gained!

(And from me—thank you to the dedicated group at Cane Creek for the meticulous care of our home. Please thank them as Cane Creek represents all of us. Lend a hand—even if it is an hour a week. It will be appreciated.)

SB

June Gardening Tips

Vegetable and summer color gardening should be in full swing. Water sufficiently to keep your soil moist but not soggy; do not, however, allow your soil to dry out. Mulch is important to a healthy garden.

Make sure to mulch around any tree or shrubs that can get in the path of lawnmowers or weed eaters. It is best if children or pets should be out of range of yard tools to keep everyone safe. Use protective eyewear and ear protection. Sun screen, water, and mosquito repellent are also vital for summertime gardening.

Keep standing water emptied to prevent those places from becoming mosquito breeding grounds.

Keep your lawn healthy by appropriate moisture and cutting it to the right height. ACES.edu has lots of publications to keep your turf grass at its best.

Be mindful of using chemicals in the garden; remember harsh chemicals are as harmful to the beneficial creatures as our targets.

Be hopeful that rain comes often and in amounts to lessen our present drought situation. Water from a hose does not replace the rain. Enjoy summer.
SB

Camp Cane Creek

The Calhoun County Cooperative Extension Center will be hosting Camp Cane Creek this summer at CCCG for children ages 7-14. Campers will be learning about water quality, gardening, conservation and more! The camp is 4 weeks, June 19 – 23, & 26 – 30 and July 10 – 14 & 17 – 21 Camp times are 8 a.m.- 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Cost is \$70 per week, with a \$10 discount for siblings. Register your child at the Calhoun County Extension Office, 1702 Noble Street, Suite 108, In the Calhoun County Administration Building. For more information, please call the Extension Office at 256-237-1621



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