

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

I became a Master Gardener in 2013. I had never attended the Alabama Master Gardener Association State Conference before 2018. Shame on Me!

From my arrival on Thursday morning until I left late on Friday evening, I had a fantastic time. The Urban Greening tour caught my eye and I opted for this exciting tour. Our first stop was Railroad Park. This beautiful 19 acres of green space in the middle of downtown Birmingham is the ideal place to combine the urban vista with a celebration of the industrial and artistic heritage of Birmingham. This property was purchased for 19 million dollars before the project was begun and must be in the 40 to 50-million-dollar range after completion. Our guide was Leigh Ann McNally, Architect. She knew every single tree and plant! How cool was that?

Our next stop was Sloss Furnace / "Grandmother's Garden". A colorful guide met us on the steps of the historic Duncan House and gave us a presentation of Sloss Furnace. Master Gardeners planted an heirloom vegetable and flower garden of hardy perennials, self-sown annuals, and Native American plants. My very favorite was a rose arbor covered with "Petite Pink Scotch", pre-1949 (mounds of cascading branches), "Duchesse de Brabant" and "Archduke Charles". The garden was full of perennials, kitchen herbs, medicinal herbs and vegetables of all kinds. My favorite was the orchard of mulberry bushes. They were ripe, and I had never tasted a mulberry. That is now OFF my bucket list.

Our next stop was Jones Farms, located about 5 blocks south of the downtown Sheraton Hotel. It is a working, teaching farm with a huge crop of vegetables, fruits, flowers and bees. It is run by three people with a few volunteers. The lady who guided us was extremely knowledgeable of the farm's mission. The Jones Urban farm has seven locations in Birmingham and teaches school children about farm life in general. The tour ended near the Honor System Store on the property. They also sell produce and flowers through the Farmers Market in Birmingham.

The remaining afternoon was filled with breakout speakers with different kinds of sessions featuring camellias, bees, designing beds, herbs, grafting, and growing an urban garden. Friday provided options for various sessions which were organized and exciting. Most sessions were informative!

Have you attended an Alabama Master Gardener Association Conference?

YES! Great-Bless Your Heart!

NO! Shame On You!

Here's your opportunity. Put it on your calendar. "**Party in the Garden**" May 8-10, 2019, Clanton Performing Arts Center, Clanton, AL, AMGA Spring Conference

Hopefully, we can all attend.

Do you think that Calhoun County, along with Etowah, and Cleburne Counties could host the annual AMGA State event in 2021? Give me your feedback, in writing. We are being recruited by the State Board with this request.

'Till Later,
Dick



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



MG Calendar

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| MG Board Meeting | 10:45 a.m., June 13, Cane Creek Community Gardens |
| MG Business Meeting | 12 p.m., June 13, Cane Creek Community Gardens |
| Sprouts Deadline | June 25, 2018 |

Garden Inspiration

"Gardening is a way of showing that you believe in tomorrow." Author Unknown



New resident at Cane Creek

From Our Advisor

Welcome to summer. It seems we often skip spring. It would be nice to have a month of transitional temperatures and weather, but once again we went from 50s and 60s to 80s and 90s. We were worried about a killing frost and having record highs in the same week. We had cold-frame samples that got too hot on a day that started out in the 30s. I need time to adjust physically and mentally to Alabama summers, but it seems I rarely get the opportunity to prepare myself.

I enjoyed speaking about introduced or returning pests and concerns for outdoors folks at our last MG meeting. Rabies was one of the items we discussed, and I see that 2 more people in South Alabama are being treated. That makes 4 for the State, and it is early in the season. Be wary of animals out of place or character. Vaccinate your pets.

The Calhoun County Beautification Awards are open for 2018. You must have your entries in before May 31. If

you or someone you know has a yard or business worth nominating, now is the time to get some photos and submit an application. Applications are available from the Extension Office.

The MG interns are busy collecting service hours. Several already have their minimum 50 hours completed! I encourage veteran MGs to continue reaching out to interns to encourage them in their activities. We are getting good participation from our class, and the more MGs they know and are involved in working with, the more likely we are to retain them. We do plan to have a class in 2019, so please have potential class members call our office at 256-237-1621 to pre-register. We have already received several inquiries.

Stephen Faughn is cleaning and painting the Sustainability and Wildlife Rooms exterior walls this summer. If you would like to assist, please let him know so that he can plan a day to work with you.

The Extension Auditorium is available for use once again. It has been closed for several months as construction activities forced our staff members to use the auditorium for office space. If you need a place for clubs or educational meetings, call Lisa to reserve the Extension Auditorium.

Kayla Shealy, one of our local SNAP-Ed educators, will be checking with Cane Creek Garden box users regarding weighing the fruits and vegetables they collect from their garden boxes. If you have a garden box or you know one of our box gardeners, and you would like to weigh and report the goods you produce, please call Kayla at the ACES office.

Thanks for all your work and for how you represent the Master Gardener Program in our communities!

David

What's Happening by Sherry Blanton

"Clean out the Greenhouse Sale" by the Tree Amigos Master Gardeners is Saturday, June 16th from 8 until noon at Coosa Valley Youth Services, 4625 McClellan Blvd by the greenhouse. The volunteers will have sale prices and a great selection of plants. Come early for the best selection. Lots of new plants added since the April sale.

Please join me at the Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County on June 5 at 2 PM for "Rockin' Color in the Garden" We will talk about the many ways to incorporate color into the garden twelve months of the

year. The program is free and open to the public and is part of the library's summer reading program. The staff always provides delicious snacks too. Door prizes!

We enjoyed Dr. Chip East at our May Lunch and Learn. Hayes Jackson will be our speaker on June 24th with a program on a fascinating topic, carnivorous plants, "Sassy Sarracenias" (pitcher plants). If you have not planted this easy to grow plant, Hayes will provide all the information to be successful.

The Tree Amigos volunteers helped the girls at Coosa Valley plant their raised beds with summer vegetables. The group meets Wednesday mornings; join them and find out what a difference these Master Gardeners make for the residents.

Our monthly meeting is June 13th. Lunch is brown bag. Anyone want to donate ice cream sandwiches for a cool treat? Our speaker is Jennifer Yates, Coordinator of the Calhoun Conservation District. Her topic will be "Overview of the Calhoun Conservation District."

If you know children who may enjoy Camp Cane Creek, encourage their parents to get in touch with the staff at the Extension Office for more information or to register. The Camp provides a lot of learning in a fun setting.

Our dedicated Cane Creek team under the leadership of Billy McDaniel built the wonderful bridge at Cane Creek and added the paver walkway. Our Association is blessed to have such a dedicated group of members who work to make the grounds so nice. Thank them, or better yet, join them on Tuesday mornings to help keep our place beautiful.

Thank you to the Calhoun County Master Gardener Association for the generous donation to Retree Jacksonville. Many residents who lost trees will benefit from the group's kindness. The Retree committee looks to a green future for our town. We will need transportation help with the trees and lots of smiling faces to give them away. Let me know if you can pitch in (October 20).

Member Don Crow asked me to relay his appreciation for the visits, cards, and phone calls. His recovery is going well.

Planning for 2019 programs will begin soon. Suggestions for possible programs or speakers are encouraged

Share your successes! Please keep us informed about activities at your volunteer site.

The Jacksonville Pocket Park is in full bloom; residents relax or eat under the shade of the crepe myrtle. A

recent visitor told me "it was the happiest place in town." The city of Jacksonville appreciates the efforts of the Master Gardeners for maintaining this special garden.

Lunch & Learn

A series of free gardening programs sponsored by Calhoun County Master Gardeners and Calhoun County Commission. Held the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Cane Creek Community Garden at McClellan, 77 Justice Avenue. Noon to 1 p.m. Bring your own lunch!

June 27

Sassy Sarracenias (Pitcher Plants)
Hayes Jackson, ACES Regional Agent



Cane Creek Team on our new bridge

Cane Creek Update from Skeeter Sims

- All special projects for Cane Creek have been completed ahead of schedule and below budget! Thanks so much for all the interns and MGs that helped with the roofing the shed, the parking area fence, the walkover bridge, and paver walkway. Your sweat equity in improving our CCMG home site is greatly appreciated.
- As we enter the maintenance phase of summer, we could use any extra help in weed eating the grounds which takes us about 16 hours a week. Weeding the beds, deadheading blooms, and keeping up with all the landscaped beds are our primary goals for June/July/August as we begin to plan for Fall Fest.
- A new Lady Banks Rose has been purchased to replace the one near the front entrance; please

provide any input on plants or any annuals to the Cane Creek Gang for placement and planting. We cannot allow random plantings of unknown origins to invade our grounds. Thanks for your support and consideration in these efforts!



Linda and Judy admire a beautiful clematis at the entrance to Cane Creek



Butterfly weed, favorite food of the monarch caterpillar, in front bed at Cane Creek

Who is this Master Gardener?

Last month's gardener was Paula Barnett-Ellis. Paula edits Sprouts and keeps our members informed. Let her know how much you enjoy reading our newsletter.

Can you guess who this month's mystery gardener is?

Where are you from originally? "Dadeville, Alabama"
 What other hobby (hobbies) do you have besides gardening? "traveling and cooking"
 What is your favorite gardening activity? "planting

shrubs and perennials"

If you had a career, what did you do before retiring (or you still do)? "retired educator"

Where do you live now? "Anniston"

If you know, please contact me with your answer.

June Recipe

Squash Casserole

Ingredients

2 eggs

1 10 ¾ ounce can cream of chicken soup

½ cup skim milk

2 cups cooked summer squash

1 cup saltine cracker crumbs

Butter flavored cooking spray

1 cup grated sharp cheddar cheese

¼ cup grated sharp cheddar cheese

¼ cup saltine cracker crumbs

Directions

Beat eggs well. Add soup and milk. Stir until well blended. Add squash, 1 cup cracker crumbs and 1 cup cheese. Stir until blended. Coat a 1 ½ quart baking dish with cooking spray. Pour squash mixture into dish. Sprinkle the top with ¼ cup cheese. Sprinkle ¼ cup crumbs over cheese. Bake at 350 degrees F for 20 to 25 minutes.

Makes 8 servings. One serving: ½ cup. 161 calories per serving.

These recipes and more can be found in *The Auburn Cookbook*, a publication of Alabama Extension Systems.

Longleaf Botanical Gardens

Hayes Jackson will speak about box turtles at The Third Thursday program on June 21st at 5 PM.

Preregistration is necessary to attend. Please call the Anniston Museum of Natural History to register.

Officers—Calhoun County Master Gardeners

President: Dick

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Sims

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Sprouts is published by:

Master Gardeners of Calhoun County

Editor: Paula Barnett-

Copyeditor/Proofreader:

Ellis

Sherry Blanton

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