



# MG SPROUTS

Volume 18, Issue 5

May 2017

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## ***Message from the President***

***By Sheila Anne Webb***

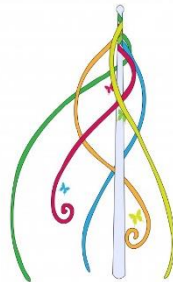
Let's keep the ancient May Day celebration alive and "Dance into May." There's a long tradition in many countries in feeling happiness at the approach of May symbolizing spring, the promise of birth and prosperity for crops, animals and people. In Greece, May took its name from the goddess Maia, the nurse, a Greek and Roman goddess of fertility. A variety of ways to celebrate focus not only the prosperity of flora and fauna but also protections for them. Typically, farmers and gardeners can take a break in May since their seeds should be planted. Many countries actually have a May day holiday; some on May 1 or the first Monday in May with celebrations the eve before and day of. In Hawaii, May Day is Lei Day and celebrates island culture and Native Hawaiians.

Celebrations typically integrate the rhythms of nature: face washing in the morning dew, wreath making of wild flowers, flower baskets left on a door step-door bell rung—anonymous giver flees, dancers circling the maypole with long ribbons, crowning of a May Queen, etc. Ancient traditions continue such as the giving of lily of the valley bouquets in France much like King Charles IX received in 1561.

Relatively recent films that feature May Day festivities include many genres: (Disney) 2005 Lilo & Stich 2: Stich Has a Glitch, (Comedy) 2001 On the Green Carpet, (Horror) Trilogy 2006 The Wicker Man, 2011 The wicker Tree, 2015 The Wrath of the Gods, (Thriller) 2011 Tinker, Tailor, Soldier Spy. In though this is older, I always liked the 1988 thoughtful drama The Unbearable Lightness of Being.

Congratulations to the 2017 interns as they've now completed their coursework and start and/or continue their stewardship for flora and fauna. They will receive special recognition at the December Awards Banquet. Thanks to all who worked Earth Day with 800 fourth graders enjoying their educational day at Cane Creek. Thanks to everyone working at our various garden sites. Spring is always a very busy time.

Brown bag will be our spring, summer, early fall mode of luncheons. Don't forget our second Wednesday meetings and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Lunch and Learn programs. Dr. Holstein provided a packed audience program April 25 to kick off the season. April provided the gift of great rainfall for our May flowers. We are moving into beautiful seasons. Enjoy.



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



## MG Calendar

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

### New Column for Sprouts

The board at the April meeting decided it would be helpful to allocate a column in Sprouts entitled something like project updates. The title of the column can go by any name that seems suitable. We're asking that each project designate someone to submit information and that it be formatted in 2-3 sentences and uses bullets when needed to highlight information for a quick read. In other words, we're not taking a single page narrative on one project only. We understand the length of the column will vary by month and hopefully stabilize as we get accustomed to it.

For May, I'd like to submit the following:

- The Jacksonville Garden Club bought a hanging scale and 10 blueberry bushes for the Garden of Eatin'. Mike Limerick and crew grew over 2 tons of vegetables for community distribution in 2016.

*Dr. Sheila Anne Webb*



### MG Notes

- Jacksonville Garden Club Plant Sale, May 6th, 8am to 11am, Dr. Terry Bonds parking lot, 601 Pelham Road, Jacksonville.
- Lunch and Learn 2017 started off to a fabulous opening program. We had standing room only for one of our favorite speakers, Dr. Harry Holstein. He will be back next April to continue his history of Alabama.
- Our May 10th monthly meeting will highlight the talents of our own MG Association. Skeeter Sims will head up a panel of Linda McDaniel, Linda Crow, Janet Evans, Gary Lawson, Joe Trawick, and Kris Schmit. The group will pass on their most helpful garden tips. Please come and support them. Lunch and beverage are brown bag.
- David Doggett is joining us for Lunch and Learn May 24th. He will speak on "Planting, Transplanting

and Re-Potting." David is an excellent speaker and has visited us many times presenting an information packed program. Join us at noon. Bring your lunch. It is free.

- Thank you to MG Ruth Sarro for her informative program on GMOs at our April meeting.
- Please attend my May 16th program at the Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County. It starts at 2 p.m. and it is free. The topic is Container Garden. Linda McDaniel and I are going to construct a container garden as part of the program and then it will be given away to one lucky attendee. Program is usually over by 3 p.m.
- Longleaf Botanical Gardens Third Thursday May 18th from five to six p.m. "Garden Sustainability on a Large Scale in the Arizona Desert" with Jan Emming. Cost is \$5 for non-members. To make a reservation call 256-237-6766.
- Please remember to sign in at our monthly meetings. Emily records attendance in our minutes. Signing in at Lunch and Learn is also appreciated. Thank you.
- The 2017 MG Training Class has finished. Congratulations on completing the first step toward becoming a certified Master Gardener.
- A huge thank you to the dozens of Master Gardeners who participated in Earth Day activities. You were all wonderful. I hope you had as much fun as the children did. Earth Day is a great event because of you.

*Sherry Blanton*

### May Garden Tips

- We should have passed the all clear as far as frost. The ground and night air may not, however, be quite warm enough for some summer tropicals. Spring fever gardening can commence. Have fun.
- Make sure to keep all new plantings including lawns watered during dry spells. Local farmer's markets should all be open. If you did not plant your own vegetable garden, there will be plenty of delicious ones available for sale.
- Caladium bulbs should not be planted until the soil has warmed. I usually plant mine in mid-May. If the soil is too cold, the bulbs will rot.
- Mulch any newly planted shrubs or trees.
- It is still not yet time to remove bulb foliage; wait until it turns brown.
- Be careful to read temperature limits on pesticides or herbicides before spraying. Read and follow directions exactly.
- As you plant, please remember "the right plant in the right place."

## Lunch and Learn 2017



May 24, Planting, Transplanting and Repotting  
*David Doggett, Jefferson County Master Gardener*

June 28, Classy Caladiums  
*Hayes Jackson, ACES*

July 26, What's Wrong with my Plant?  
*Dr. Jim Jacobi, ACES Plant Pathology Lab*

August 23, Inviting Good Insects into Your Garden  
*Dani Carroll, ACES*

September 27, "T" is for Tropical  
*Hayes Jackson, ACES*

Lunch & Learn is held the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.*

## All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar Series

Please join us for this webinar series for information you can use about good and bad insects. We used your feedback to bring topics that you suggested. We will discuss troublesome insects such as invasive ants, landscape pests, vegetable pests, and house dwellers as well as arachnids too. Not all insects are bad, though, come and meet some of our native pollinators! Webinars will be on the first Friday of each month at 1 p.m. Central time.

On **May 5th**, Dr. Thomas Mather, Professor, University of Rhode Island (aka "the tick guy") will talk about an important arachnid, ticks. Ticks that you do and don't see as well as how to protect yourself, your family, and your pets will be discussed. Moderated by Ellen Huckabay and Bethany O'Rear, Regional Extension Agents, Alabama Extension. Click <https://extension.zoom.us/j/332261879> to login as a guest and participate in the live event. Note: on May 5th, the link to the live webinar opens about 15 minutes before the webinar. If you try to log in earlier, you will get an error message.

## June 2: Aphids, Scales and White Flies

Presented by Dr. Erfan Vafaie, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

## August 4: Drain Flies, House Flies, and Fungus Gnats

Presented by Elizabeth "Wizzie" Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. Moderated by Hunter McBrayer, Taylor Vandiver

Moderated by Marcus Garner, Allyson Shabel  
For more webinars in this series, see 2017 All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar Series.  
<http://articles.extension.org/pages/74016/2017-all-bugs-good-and-bad-webinar-series>

The webinars are brought to you by the following: eXtension Communities of Practice: Ant Pests, and Urban IPM; and by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Clemson Cooperative Extension and University of Georgia Extension.



*Greenhouse construction last month at Cane Creek*



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**Earth Day 2017 Scenes from Cane Creek Community Gardens**

