

# MG SPROUTS

Calhoun County Master Gardener Newsletter: Volume 22, Issue 5

May 2021



Lady Banks Rose

## MG Calendar

- MG Board Meeting, May 12, 10:45 a.m., Cane Creel Community Gardens
- MG Business Meeting, May 12, 12:00 p.m., Cane Creel Community Gardens. Lunch: TBD3
- Sprouts Deadline, May 23, 2021

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## President's Message: Busiest Time of the Year

Well, by now we have had our plant sales and attended many other plant sales too! Many of us have planted annuals, cleaned up landscapes, planted vegetable gardens, and trimmed/treated fruit trees in preparation of harvest. So now all we have to do is sit back and wait, right? Wrong, you all know that now the work is really beginning – weeding, pest control, watering, fertilizing, and more work than ever before, all in preparation of harvest! Well, that's exactly how you should be viewing your volunteer hours for Master Gardener as well – we are over a third of the way through the year and it's been on the cooler side so far. So, you should all have at least 8 hours by now and probably 3 CEUs – it's really that simple!! There should be no excuses for trying to find ways to get hours – Cane Creek has been active since beginning of the year both outside on the grounds and inside the greenhouse. I know Longleaf has been limited but they have been working as they prepared and put on a great plant sale. Coosa Valley has had even more restrictions but maybe soon things will relax a bit and things will get busier there as well – but they did have a great plant sale with a good crowd and great results, even in the questionable weather that weekend. Bottom Line: There is no excuse for not getting your hours in; if you are dedicated to being a Master Gardener, then get up and get BUSY!

We had a great meeting in April and will plan to have our May meeting outside again as has become the norm for now. We will have a speaker and CEU, plus the business meeting to follow. It has been good to see more and more of you returning, even if it does take a minute to recognize you in a mask! Don't forget Lunch and Learn has started and will continue through early Fall, with a great lineup of speakers and topics. Just a reminder, 4th Wednesday of every month at Cane Creek at noon. BYO lunch/chair. Schedule is online and in directory.

Our interns are finishing up classes and most have already been working on their hours. So, take some time to get to know them and invite them to test out all of the big three for hours to figure out where they might want to serve. It's a small group this year but some really good workers are in this group!!

See y'all at the Creek!

*Skeeter*

## My Favorite Plant from Doris Baucom

"I absolutely adore Indian Pink, *Spigelia marilandica*, not only for sentimental reasons as a start was given to me by Ria Jane Chiepalich, who was a member of the Jacksonville Garden Club. Indian Pink are one of our most attractive native wildflowers. This herbaceous perennial likes the shade, requires no maintenance, and attracts hummingbirds."



Indian Pink photo by Doris Baucom

## Recipe of the Month from Mary Rose

### Taffy Apple Salad



1 Tbs. Flour  
½ cup Sugar (I use Splenda)  
1 Egg, beaten  
1 - 8 Oz. Can Crushed Pineapple with juice

2 Tbs. Apple Cider Vinegar  
Heat sauce ingredients until thick. Cool.

Stir in 2 Snickers candy bars, cut up in small pieces  
8 Oz. Cool Whip  
4 Cups Apples  
1 Cup Dry Roasted Peanuts (Keep separate and let each person add their own or nuts get very soggy if the whole salad is not eaten right away.)

This makes a huge batch. For a smaller amount use the same sauce recipe but add:

4 Oz. Cool whip  
2 Cups Apples

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

## Who is May's Mystery Gardener?

April's Mystery Master Gardener is Lavon Brown. Landon Rivers, Lyn Webb, and Skeeter Sims identified her.

May Mystery Gardener

"I am from Fayette, Alabama.

My favorite part of garden is the entire process from planting seeds to harvesting

My other hobbies are cooking, beekeeping, reading, collecting antiques, and bird watching.

I am a retired RN.

I now live in Jacksonville, Alabama."

## Garden Inspiration

"It is a golden maxim to cultivate the garden for the nose, and the eyes will take care of themselves." – Robert Louis Stevenson.

## MG Happenings by Sherry Blanton

Secretary Judy Shew has our 2021 MG directories. Please see her for your copy.

- Monthly Meeting, Noon, May 12, Jonathan Stober, US Forestry Service, "General Overview of the Talladega Forest," Lunch, TBD.

- Lunch and Learn, Noon, May 28, Dr. David Cline, AU Dept. of Aquaculture, "Aquaponics." Bring your lunch and a friend.

Please join me at the Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County on May 4th, live streamed on the Library's Facebook Page. The topic will be "Creating a Cut Flower Garden." I will also be presenting a program on butterflies for Alabama Smart Yards- Alabama Extension on May 5. Watch for your Zoom invitation.

For questions about hours, please contact Billy McDaniel. Billy gave an excellent presentation on how to count and enter our hours at the April meeting. If you were not there, contact him for assistance. There have been changes from the state that are important. In 2020 seventy Master Gardeners logged in 6,500 service hours and 1,055 CEUS.

## Gardening Gigue

"Knee: a device for finding rocks in your garden."

## Plant Information from Sherry Blanton

Gardeners are frequently asked about lichens. ACES.EDU's web site has very good information about lichens.

"Lichens (inconspicuous, hardy, and adaptive plantlike organisms composed of two fungi and a green alga) being blamed for the decline and death of shrubs and trees is not too surprising because these unusual plantlike organisms are commonly seen on the exposed limbs and trunks of declining or dead shrubs and trees, especially azaleas, dogwoods, and pecans. Lichens are not responsible for the poor top growth or death of shrubs and trees. Instead, their appearance is often related to damage from environmental stress or poor management. Exposed limbs on damaged plants simply give lichens access to the sunlight they need for growth with little competition.

Lichens are an indication of poor plant health. Good plant vigor is the best defense against the presence of lichens. Heavy infestations of lichens are most common on shrubs and trees in declining or poor health due to other factors. Following recommended establishment, watering, and fertility practices will promote the development of a thick leaf canopy, which will inhibit lichen growth on twigs and limbs. Better growing conditions and soil fertility may stimulate new plant growth and ultimately suppress the lichens. Light pruning of affected limbs will remove some lichens and stimulate new shoot growth that may help shade out the remaining lichens. Trees and shrubs in extremely poor condition will often not respond to better care and should be replaced. Refer to Extension publications "Pruning Ornamental Plants" (ANR-0258) and "Planting and Establishing Woody Landscape Plants" (ANR-0410) for additional information on pruning, planting, and maintaining shrubs and trees."

## Cane Creek Update from Skeeter Sims

- Grounds are now in maintenance and upkeep mode. We will need help weed eating and keeping weeds in check. It takes about 14 hours a week to weed eat the grounds so if we have 3 or 4 folks on our Tuesdays, then we can get it all done in one day!! If you need hours, we can provide.

- May will be limited for special projects but if time and resources (number of people) allow, we will try to accomplish one or two of our remaining projects. Both sheds need sanding/scraping, caulking, and painting but these can wait on weather and numbers --- if you need your hours late in the year, this is what we will provide for sufficient hours accumulation!!

- Check out the Moss Hill Village, the Muscadine Vineyard, and the newly improved Garden of Reflection. We will be revitalizing more landscaped areas as time allows but you can always relax on the porch and take in the Native Plant demonstration area in the Sweet Tea Garden as well!!

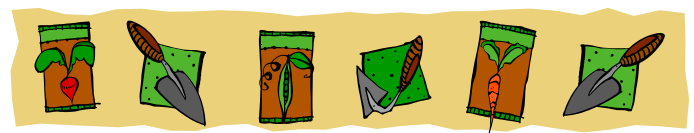
- Don't forget to advertise and invite --- grounds will be open for public tours every 3rd Wednesday from 10-12 starting this month with members of the Cane Creek Volunteer Crew present to answer questions. We are closed for a large private group tour in June; but other than that, invite your friends and come check out our home grounds.



Great to see Andrew!



Tim is busy planting seeds for the summer garden







Tom is building shelves for the greenhouse



Iris at Cane Creek



Cane Creek sail cloth garden



Natives blooming in the Sweet Tea Garden



Spring arrives at Cane Creek



#### **Calhoun County Master Gardener Officers**

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Vice President:	Linda Wakefield
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