



# MG SPROUTS

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November 2017

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

We'll wrap up 2017 with several special events. See Sherry Blanton's column in newsletter interior for specific dates and times. Please help us celebrate the dedication of the green house at the November meeting. The process will be similar to the dedication we had for the Coke Williams building. If you're bringing food to share, please arrive and place your food by 11:45 a.m. so we may begin promptly at noon. Don't forget to bring a serving utensil. Someone will be available to help you place your food gift. No need for any desserts; a special cake has been ordered. The agenda will be as follows:

1. Everyone should assemble inside by noon. MGs and interns should sign in as usual.
2. At noon, I'll offer a welcome and start with the pledge to the flag.
3. Next, we'll have our traditional Gardener's moment of reflection/silence.
4. I'll explain we're taking a vote on new officers now because some MGs may not attend the business meeting which follows the dedication. Only MGs can vote.
5. The food will be blessed and Dick Pritchett and guests will lead off the luncheon line.
6. During lunch, I'll call on Dick to introduce his guests.
7. I'll call for comments on the Pritchett family or greenhouse for Sherron.
8. At the closure of lunch, I'll announce our MG business meeting following the dedication. The business meeting involves payment of annual dues and posting volunteer hours for the period Nov. 1, 2016 to Oct. 31, 2017. Assistance will be available for these processes.
9. David West will be introduced. He will lead us to the greenhouse and conduct the dedication.

December is also a busy time with preparation for and our annual Awards banquet. Interns receive their certificates for having completed all requirements, thus officially (now that hours were posted and dues paid) becoming Master Gardeners. The Red Bandanna will also be awarded. David West will cook the meat and members provide a potluck for the banquet. The building will be decorated and we'll play Dirty Santa for those who wish to contribute a \$10 gift. As our year of activities are closing down, let's not forget our flora and fauna. If you've planted new trees or shrubs from a nursery, you'll want to wean them off daily watering to a more spaced out program ultimately letting Mother Nature take over. Several techniques work: 1<sup>st</sup> week imitate the nursery by watering daily, 2<sup>nd</sup> every other day, thereafter 1-3 times weekly depending on soil needs. When the ground freezes, stop watering and let Mother Nature take over until spring. For watering, measure the diameter of the trunk 6" from the ground. For each inch in diameter, use 1-2 gallons of water. Test soil moisture with your finger tip. Use a garden hose with a slow trickle for 15- 20 minutes. Some like slow water release bags. Or, simply drill two 1/4 inch holes in the same bottom side of a 5-gallon bucket. Place the bucket holes on the mulch next to the trunk to maximize water reaching the root ball.

I hope you've enjoyed watching the birds flock and have begun to see migrations pass through. I always try to spot raptors who may have a long flight to Argentina, for example. There's a chance to see them with the foothills here where they can catch thermal drafts which they like. This year I joyfully watched 3 dozen plus Canadian geese practice leadership and grouping patterns in a pond for about 2 weeks prior to their departure.

Fall colors are just beginning as I write this. Hope it's beautiful and that you enjoy the cooler weather, breezes (which, when I was a child, smelled of burning leaves) and nature's color parade. Looking forward to seeing you at year end events.

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



## MG Calendar

MG Board Meeting	10:45 a.m., November 8, Cane Creek Community Gardens
MG Business Meeting	12 p.m., November 8, Cane Creek Community Gardens
Annual Awards Banquet	6:00 p.m., December 8, Cane Creek Community Gardens
Sprouts Deadline (January)	December 28, 2017

### MG Notes

We thank Bethany O'Rear for the informational and entertaining program in October about unusual containers. We saw some inventive ideas on repurposing old toilets and bathtubs in the garden.

Please encourage interested individuals to sign up for the 2018 Master Gardener Class. Ask them to call the office at 256-237-1621 for information or to register.

The annual awards event will be Friday, December 8th. David is preparing the turkeys and members are asked to provide sides and desserts. If you choose to participate in Dirty Santa, a tradition at the party, bring a gift to share. The Red Bandanna awards will be given to volunteers who have showed exemplary service. Additionally, the Interns who have completed their class work and their 50 service hours will be recognized as certified Master Gardeners.

On November 8th we will have annual business meeting as well as the dedication of the greenhouse in memory of Sherron Pritchett. We will elect new officers; the slate is as follows: Dick Pritchett (president), Skeeter Sims (vice president), Judy Shew (secretary), Gary Lawson and Jerry Williams (members at large). Lunch will be potluck; please bring a dish to share. We will have at least 20 extra guests for the dedication; please plan for those folks when you prepare your food.

Our reporting year ended October 31 with our new year beginning November 1. Any service hours earned after October 31 must be counted for the next year.

Ruth will be collecting our dues and hours at the meeting. If you prefer, mail a check to Ruth Sarro. Her contact information is in the MG directory. Please consider entering your hours online; it is an easy process. There will be help at the meeting for those who wish to enter their hours online. If you bring your hours recorded on paper to turn in, please also report where

you earned your hours. That information is very important to the Extension staff.

Please remember that active MGs are required to record ten hours of CEUs. Please indicate how those hours were earned (for example: Lunch and Learn, Longleaf Botanical Gardens, Jacksonville Garden Club.)

Our MGs prepare a basket containing gardening items to be sold at the silent auction during the state MG conference. We need a large basket to contain the items and new items to fill the basket. Our basket last year brought in a nice donation. 100% of the proceeds go toward a garden-related scholarship at Auburn. Please contact a board member if you have a contribution (or bring it to a meeting). The deadline is February 1.

Thank you to the MG elves who decorate our clubhouse so beautifully every year for our awards event. Your efforts really make our clubhouse sparkle and add to the evening's fun.

Thank you to the members of our outgoing board, Sheila Anne Webb, Emily Richardson, Don Crow, Dick Pritchett, and Jim Wakefield. Ruth Sarro remains treasurer for the rest of her term. This board has done a professional job guiding our group, helping it make great strides forward. Your service has been appreciated.



*Outgoing board (first row) Emily, Ruth (who remains for another half term), and Sheila. Second row Don, Dick and Jim.*

2018 begins for programs and monthly meetings on January 10th; our speaker will be good friend Renee Raney, who has a new position as Park Operations and Supervisor at Cheaha State Park. Lunch is a soup and sides potluck.



*Dick admires Sherron's plaque on the greenhouse*



*Margaret (l) and Linda W.(r) enjoy the friendship at the MG meeting*



*Diana, Janet and Sarah B. welcome speaker Bethany O'Rear to the October MG meeting*



*Confederate Rose at Cane Creek Community Gardens*



*The Jacksonville Pocket Park wishes you a happy fall*

### ***Gardening Tips for November and December***

- Keep the lawn raked of leaves and straw. Straw is a great mulch; leaves work well as a mulch and also in the compost pile.
- Remove spent perennials, leftover summer annuals, and any other plants that expired over the summer and early fall.
- Begin a compost pile.
- Do a soil test for your landscape if you have not performed one in the last two years. Fall is a great time to add lime, if your soil requires it (according to the recommendations of the soil test).
- Continue planting pansies and other cool season annuals in November.

- Begin planting spring blooming bulbs as soon as the first frost and the soil and air have cooled down. Bulbs planted too early will begin to sprout if the temperatures are too warm.
- Keep bird feeders and baths clean and full.
- If we do not have ample rain, keep an eye on the moisture level of recently planted ornamental shrubs and trees and supplement as needed.
- The best time to plant in our area is now in full swing. Nurseries are stocked with plants to add to the garden. Keep them watered as needed. Mulch the garden for the oncoming winter weather.
- Tender houseplants should be inside for the winter months.
- Clean and store lawn equipment.
- Disconnect and store hoses. Protect outside faucets from the freezing temperatures ahead.

## MG Happenings

### *Cane Creek*

- “Repair and re-roofing of the equipment shed will begin in late October/early November. We will need 4-6 sets of helping hands to make this project possible. Once the roof is repaired and replaced as well as the soffits/fascia boards, then we can look at painting the building if needed in the future.” Skeeter Sims
- “Awards banquet decorating will be 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 5 (weather permitting.) We will plan to decorate outside and inside so everyone come out and help hang some lights, some garland, some tinsel and get in that holiday spirit. Whatever we don't finish on the 5th will be completed on the 6th so that all is ready for the banquet (Dec. 8).” Skeeter Sims

### *Longleaf Botanical Gardens*

- “Hollies and Osmanthus for Alabama”  
Third Thursday in the Gardens  
November 16, 2017  
9 a.m. to 10 a.m.  
See a selection of the false-hollies and true hollies that make a garden stand out in the cooler seasons.

The program will be held in the James P. Roberts Education Room at Longleaf Botanical Gardens. To reserve a spot, call Anniston Museum of Natural History at 256-237-6766. 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.

- LBG is again selling fresh greenery (24 inch wreaths – \$30, bows– \$10 and garlands – \$18) for the holidays as a fund raiser. Supply is limited and all orders must be prepaid by cash or check. The Anniston Museum (as well as several locations around Anniston) has order forms. Forms are also available on the LBG FB page. Orders must be placed by November 15 and greenery is picked up November 29.

### *Tree Amigos*

The girls in the program are preparing Thanksgiving lunch for the MG volunteers. The volunteers will sponsor their annual end of the year recognition event at Coosa Valley in December. The MGs will be providing stockings for the girls and gifts for the home as well. Presents for the home come from the proceeds of plant sales. Diana Martin

### *Jacksonville Pocket Park*

Volunteers decorated the park for Halloween. They will also decorate the park for the holiday season, participating in the city of Jacksonville's Christmas celebrations. Janice Cain and Sherry Blanton



### *Officers - Calhoun County Master Gardeners*

President: Sheila Anne Webb  
Vice President: Don Crow  
Secretary: Emily Richardson  
Treasurer: Ruth Sarro  
Members-at-Large: Jim Wakefield and Dick Pritchett

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