



MG SPROUTS

Volume 19, Issue 11

November 2018

Message from the President By Dick Pritchett

Cooler temperatures have finally arrived! Hurricane Michael helped to bring some rain last month but he was wicked and left a mess in the Florida panhandle and in South Georgia. It seems that we only get rain in the Fall as a result of hurricane action.

Shorter days and cooler nights always make me think of a winter garden. I always have turnip greens turnip greens, collards, Kale, and mustard in my garden along with onions, cabbage, lettuce and a few surprises that I have never grown before. I think that I really love winter vegetable gardens because of the lack of weeds. I'm looking forward to planting soon.

The Steering Committee began our journey to the 2021 State Conference this past week, and in our first meeting, we chose the following:

Chairman, Skeeter Sims

Co-chairman, Dick Pritchett

We are currently filling Committee Chairs and we will ask for help in these areas. If you are interested in chairing a Committee, or if you have an interest in being on a specific committee, please contact Skeeter, Ruth or me to let us know. This is going to be a huge task, but we have qualified individuals to make it one of the best ever. If you get a call to Chair a Committee, please give it serious consideration. We need 100% of our Master Gardeners to pull this Conference off with our best efforts. We will ask for your approval of the full committee slate at the November meeting. Hopefully, we will have all Committee Chairs filled by that time.

"The quality of a persons' life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor". (Quote by Vincent T. Lombardy {1913-1970}, famed Coach of the Green Bay Packers).

November begins my second, and last year as your President. I really appreciate the guidance of Past President, Sheila Webb and the awesome team members of our Board of Directors. All have been supportive and have worked hard to improve our overall MG experience. Thank you, Board Members and our membership, for your support.

I feel that our entire membership is pulling together to make CCMG among the best in our State. Our facilities and grounds are second to none. Without a doubt, we have come a long way since the very first Master Gardeners tackled this project. We can all appreciate the efforts of our leaders of the past, and the current leader, Skeeter Sims. Thank you and your team of excellent and dedicated workers who work every Tuesday (and other days when needed) to keep up and improve our grounds.

'Til later,
Dick



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MG Calendar	
MG Board Meeting	10:45 a.m., November 14, Cane Creek Community Gardens
MG Business Meeting	12 p.m., November 14, Cane Creek Community Gardens
Sprouts Deadline	December 28, 2018

From Our Advisor

We are finally enjoying some cool fall weather. Perhaps those pesky upper 80s and low 90s will stay away until April, but I'm rarely surprised by Alabama weather. I've seen forecasts for a warmer than normal winter and a colder than normal winter, and I predict that it will be colder than normal on some days and warmer than normal on others. What are your predictions?

Our Master Gardener class for 2019 is forming now. We need 15 students to have a class. We expect the class to begin in mid-January. Be sure to refer your friends and family to the MG program. Of course, the MG program is a great place to make new friends, too!

I hope our MG intern class from 2018 has achieved their hours goal. Please get those into the MG reporting system as soon as possible. If you have trouble with the reporting system, ask a Master Gardener Board member. They will help or point you in the right direction to receive assistance. Typically, Carolyn Patton and Ruth Sarro have been the folks who helped others enter hours. If you don't have it figured out by our November 14th meeting, bring your hours report with you to the meeting. MG interns need 50 hours of service to report. Certified MGs need 25 hours of service and 10 hours of training.

MG President Pritchett and State Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator, Dale Dickens, report that the Re-Tree Jacksonville event went great. Your work to assist with this cause is greatly appreciated, and your community and beyond noticed your service. Thanks to all MG's and other community members and sponsors who were involved.

We will have an election for MG Treasurer at our November 14 meeting. Thank you to Ruth Sarro for her service as Treasurer. Board work is challenging, but rewarding. I am sure the nominating committee has a good candidate lined up for us, and Ruth will be working with the new officer for a smooth transition.

The holiday season is upon us. I think Halloween decorations were available July 5th, and Christmas decorations shortly thereafter. October is an odd month in retail stores. I've been humming Jingle Bells while

walking through a forest of Christmas trees inter-planted with Jack-o-lantern pumpkins. The kids have already asked if Christmas music will begin on the radio on November 1. Sadly, my truck radio has died.

Remember that Fall is for planting!! You can find some wonderful prices on great plants and local nurseries and big box stores. Be sure to remedy any pot-bound situations before planting, but your plants will have all winter to get established in the landscape. Your plant knowledge will make you a good bargain finder.

Thank you for your work!

David

Recipe of the Month

Sweet potatoes are getting plentiful this time of the year. Healthy and delicious!

Sweet Potato Casserole
Rucker Beasley-Daphne Middle School
1st Place-Junior Division-2016

Ingredients:

3 cups sweet potatoes
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup brown sugar
½ cup milk
2 eggs, lightly beaten
1 cup melted butter
Topping:
½ cup brown sugar
1/3 cup melted butter
1/3 cup flour
1 cup chopped pecans

Directions:

Combine first 6 ingredients. Pour into buttered casserole dish. Mix remaining ingredients together and sprinkle over top. Bake 350 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes until hot and brown.
From the annual Sweet Potato Recipe Contest
Posted in Agriculture, Family & Health

Update from Cane Creek Community Gardens From Skeeter Sims

We are doing our fall clean up in preparation for winter at the Gardens. Extra hands are always appreciated. We will be decorating the club house on the mornings of the 4th and 5th of December for the Awards Banquet. Please join in the fun.

MG Notes

This is the last Sprouts for 2018. Paula and I take December off.

We will meet January 2019. We will have a soup and sides luncheon. Skeeter Sims and Billy McDaniel will demonstrate a lesson on how to sharpen just about anything we use in the garden, "Staying sharp in the Garden."

Please remember our annual business meeting is November 14th at noon. We are asking all our members to bring finger foods to share for lunch.

We will also begin signing up for volunteer positions for the 2021 MG convention we are hosting. Please come sign up for what interests you. There is a spot for everyone.

We will be voting on our new treasurer at this meeting. The nominating committee has proposed the following two MGs for the position of treasurer: Myra Gann and Sarah Ballard. We appreciate the great work that Ruth Sarro has done in her term. If you cannot attend, you may obtain an absentee ballot by contacting Judy Shew, our secretary. Her contact information is in the MG Directory.

Dues should be paid at the meeting or before. Ruth Sarro remains our treasurer; thus, dues should be sent to her. Dues are twenty dollars per year (ten local and ten for the state). Her contact information is in our directory. Service hours must be completed by Oct 31, as that is the end of our calendar year and hours recorded online by the November meeting. Please remember every active MG must report 25 service hours and 10 hours of continuing education. Interns must report their 50 hours also. For interns all 50 hours must be earned as service hours and earned at the appropriate volunteer sites.

When you turn in your hours, please make sure to indicate where you earned your hours and approximate dates when you worked.

We will begin working on the new directory soon. If you have changes to your phone number or address, please let Lisa Sosebee know.

The annual awards banquet takes place December 7th at 6 p.m. It is a covered dish supper; please bring something to share. As usual, the attendees will participate in a game of Dirty Santa. Bring a gift if you want to play. The Board will also award the Red Bandanna Awards for exemplary service to our organization.

It is not too early to wish all of you a happy holiday season and another wonderful year in the garden.

We send our deepest condolences to Sara Dixon. Her husband Larry passed away in September. They were both talented Master Gardeners.

Sherry Blanton

The Sweet Smell Of The Gardens

Third Thursday, November 15, 2018 – noon until 1:00 p.m. Bring Your Lunch
James P. Roberts Education Room – Longleaf Botanical Gardens

Sherry Blanton, "The Southern Gardener" of the Anniston Star and Master Gardener will share a few of her favorite things whose fragrance makes them special.

Annuals, perennials, ornamental shrubs, and trees are not only beautiful in the landscape, many have blooms (or foliage) that add a delicious fragrance to the garden. A walk into the summer garden at dusk to inhale the wonderful smell of the gardenia flowers will improve even the worst day. A vase of gardenia blossoms on the kitchen table brings summer time inside.

Gardeners should not only plant for year-round color, they should plant for year-round fragrance. A beautiful bloom that boosts a delightful scent only enhances that plant's presence in the landscape. Come learn about the many fragrant plants for your garden. We will talk about the petite pansy to the large magnolia and everything in between. We will even mention a few plants distinguished by a smell that is not so "attractive."

To reserve your spot, call Anniston Museum of Natural History at 256-237-6766. Reservations are required. Cost is \$5.00 per person or free to members. Payment is to be made at the time of registration and may be made by cash, check (made payable to Longleaf Botanical Gardens and earmarked for educational programs) or credit card in person or by phone.

Mystery Master Gardener

Last month's "mystery gardener" was Kris Schmit and she was identified by Skeeter Sims, Janet Evans, and Dick Pritchett.

This month's "mystery gardener." If you recognize this person, please let me know. Where are you from originally? *Sylacauga*

What is your hobby other than gardening? Learning new things.
 What part of gardening do you like the most? Weeding
 If you are retired what was your career before retiring? I was a French teacher.
 Where do you live now? Anniston

Thank you for participating by either offering a guess or being the mystery gardener.

Garden Hints for November

November brings the best time to plant trees and ornamental shrubs. We can take advantage of a plant's growth habits planting now. Plan for four season interest in your garden so that there is always something beautiful to see.

From MG Linda McDaniel



Emily Richardson at her October program with MG Judy Cole

2018 Fall Seminar

Judy Shew and Linda McDaniel attended the Alabama Master Gardener Association 2018 Fall Seminar in Montgomery, Alabama. The title of the Seminar was Your Sanctuary Garden. There were four wonderful speakers.

Peggy Hill talked about ideas and inspiration. Create a sense of security, comfortable seating, add items that bring joy and startle people by engaging as many of the senses as you can. Websites: www.HiddenHillsGarden.com and www.ThePlantHo.com .

Mary Beth Shaddix talked about Color and Edibles for Your Garden. Mary Beth and her husband own Maple Valley Nursery (wholesale).

I won a wonderful three-gallon shrub from Maple Valley Nursery. This shrub is called Spider's Web Japanese Aralia. It is a Fatsia Japonica that looks tropical but is hardy in our area.

Officers—Calhoun County Master Gardeners

President: Dick Pritchett
 Vice President: Skeeter Sims
 Secretary: Judy Shew
 Treasurer: Ruth Sarro
 Members-at-Large: Gary Lawson and Jerry Williams

Sprouts is published by:

Master Gardeners of Calhoun County

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Hayes came up with a new way to label the trees given away



Judy Shew doing a little pruning at CCCG