

MG SPROUTS

Calhoun County Master Gardener Newsletter: Volume 22, Issue 11

November 2021



President's Message

Important Information!

If you read nothing else, read this front page!! Here is everything you need to know until the end of the year for Calhoun County Master Gardeners!! In no particular order, but equally important:

1. Don't forget to move your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 6.
2. Our next meeting will be our election and final business meeting for the 2021 year. Dues are due at this meeting, no excuses. Have your minimum hours recorded and pay your dues or risk going inactive/provisional or worse starting all over!! Bring cash or check for Myra.
3. Board elections are at November meeting. Absentee voting will be addressed in weekly emails. READ weekly emails!!
4. Minimum hours are 25 volunteer hours and 10 CEUs. Webinars count toward CEUs only this year. Hours must be accomplished at Board approved locations. Get your hours recorded and if you have trouble contact Billy McDaniel for assistance!!
5. We are also collecting donations for our building cleaning funds for 2022. Contact Myra if interested in paying for a month or half month. Building is cleaned 3 times a month for \$60/month.
6. If you have not attended a meeting in a long while or regularly, please try to attend this meeting as it will set the direction of CCMG for the next couple of years. Plus, we have lots of new faces and need to reconnect with those that have not been a regular part of our group.
7. This Sprouts will be the last for the year. We do not send out Sprouts in December. Please let the Board or Sherry know if you are willing to go to only a digital version with printed versions available at meetings in the future. This will save us quite a bit of money in the future as the costs of mail goes up and delivery is delayed.
8. We will hold a meeting in December. Meeting on our regular date, 2nd Wednesday of the month, December 8 at noon. This meeting will be a fun time, no program. We currently plan to certify our current intern class, introduce the new Board, and maybe have some fun games together. If you want to bring a gift (approximate value \$10), we will hold a door prize lottery instead of the usual "dirty" Santa. If weather turns bad, we will go inside and do our best to be safe. As of right now, it's a Bring Your Own Lunch for safety and convenience reasons.
9. We will start the new year with a new Board and new faces on 12 January. Start now recruiting and getting commitments for our upcoming Intern Class. Have them contact Extension Office as soon as possible. The future of this Association depends on each of you!

I hope to see everyone in November to personally thank you all for your support and impact to Calhoun County – but if not, I hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving and a great start to the holiday season. And since this is it for the year, I also want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year! You all have worked hard through challenging times and our county is bettered by your efforts as well as our individual communities!!

See y'all at the Creek!

Sherry

MG Calendar

- MG Board Meeting, November 10, 10:45 a.m., Cane Creek Community Gardens
- MG Business Meeting, November 10, 12:00 p.m., Cane Creek Community Gardens. Lunch: Bring your own.
- December 8th, No Board Meeting.
- December 8, Noon: Yearly recognition meeting and holiday get-together
- Sprouts Deadline December 23

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Let's Be Social

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/CalhounMGs>

Twitter:

<https://www.twitter.com/CalhounMGs>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/ccmgsala>

Mystery Gardener

The Mystery Gardener for October is Patricia Womack. Teri and Lyn identified her. (If you sent me a vote via text, I am sorry, but I accidentally lost a bunch of texts; email works better.)

November's Mystery Gardener (drop Sherry an e-mail if you recognize this MG)

I am originally from Anniston, but I moved away for 33 years and returned after my husband and I retired. I enjoy learning and continuously improving my gardening skills. Just being outside in nature working with plants is so satisfying and therapeutic.

I love all animals, especially dogs, and I enjoy my two dogs and cat. I like to play golf, and I also play the piano. I was an elementary school teacher. I currently live in Anniston.

Update from Linda McDaniel

Thank you to everyone that helped set up, work, and shop our Country Store at Good News Assembly Church. We want to especially thank The Good News Assembly Church for allowing us to set up there. Thank you to the people who have given us donations to help with maintenance and upkeep of the gardens.

A big thank you goes to Tom Gilbert, Billy McDaniel, Skeeter Sims, and Jim Wakefield for repairing and painting the Coke Williams Building, and the Equipment Building. If you have time, check these buildings out; this project required a lot of time and commitment to accomplish.

We are all so fortunate to have these dedicated Master Gardeners who do so much to make the Cane Creek Gardens a great home for the Calhoun County Master Gardeners.

My Favorite Plant: Patricia Patty

Gloriosa Liliaceae "Rothschildiana"

"A plant in my yard that always causes an intake of breath when people first see it, is a beautiful Gloriosa lily. It is a climbing, tuberous perennial with oblong, glossy, bright green leaves, which narrow to form terminal tendrils. This is the most unique thing about this plant. The end of the leaf grabs something to pull itself up! I have the best luck growing it against a fence with strings attached to the top. It gets about 6 feet tall, but sometimes heavy wind and rain will beat it down some. It blooms summer to autumn with gorgeous recurved red and yellow flowers. There is some variation among the colors, but the red/yellow combination has endured here on my hill for 40 years.

Grow it in well drained, fertile soil in full sun. Plant the finger sized tubers at least 4-6 inches deep. The plant is highly toxic if ingested, and you should wear gloves when you handle it. I have a lot of wildlife in my garden but nothing has ever been harmed to my knowledge. It grows near a lined pond, so I am careful to make sure it does not get into the water. Many plants are toxic, so do not be afraid to grow this beauty!"



Gloriosa Liliaceae "Rothschildiana"



Recipe of the Month: Potato Soup

Recipe submitted by Judy Shew

1 pkg (28 oz) Ore Ida O'Brien hash brown potatoes
4-5 cans chicken broth
1 pkg country gravy mix (ex. Pioneer) in pkg seasoning section
1/4 cup skim milk
Put broth in pot - bring to boil
Mix milk and gravy to make a paste
Add to broth, stir, and lower heat and add potatoes
Cook until done, stirring occasionally
Can also add cream cheese and/or cream of chicken or mushroom soup

MG Happenings

David Doggett provided an entertaining and informative program on his favorite gardening books at our October monthly meeting. He gave us a typed handout which makes it easy to order a book if you were partial to one of them.

Candidates for the November election are:

President: Skeeter Sims

Vice President: Tim Kaylor

Treasurer: Tom Gilbert

Secretary: Geri Toycen-Jones

Members at large (vote for two):

Linda McDaniel, Shirley Heifner, and Ellen Cannon

I would like to invite you to attend two programs I am presenting in the community. The first is November 2 at the Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County, Tuesday at 2 pm. This is an in-person program and will not be live streamed. The topic is "Deck the Halls with Boughs of Flowers." We will discuss holiday plants from amaryllis to poinsettias. Admission is free and no reservations are required.

I will also be presenting a program at Third Thursday at Longleaf Botanical Gardens at twelve noon on November 18th. The topic will be "And These are a Few of my Favorite Gardening Things." I will include garden books, tools, and gadgets to make life in the garden easier and more fun. Please call the Museum for registration details. This is an in person program.

I am taking the month of December off at the Library.

Paula and I wish each of you a happy healthy holiday season with a New Year full of positive experiences. Be well.

Sherry Blanton

Now What?

Yes, the weather is cooler, and the daylight hours are shorter. The heat and humidity of Summer has subsided. Yes, we've harvested and enjoyed our summer vegetables. We've also gloried in the "lovely things" we've grown. So, does that mean, as Alabama Gardeners, we need to relax and as someone said "...rest on our laurels." The simple answer is...NO! The great thing about gardening is, it is a year-round endeavor and those of us who love it can enjoy it any season of the year. So, now what? If you're a Spring/Summer only gardener (and it's fine if you are), then begin planning your spring garden. If you want to garden during the Fall and Winter, there's a plethora of things which can be planted and successfully grown in our area of the state. If you're new to gardening, which some of you may be, then, as one of my favorite "YouTubers" has said, "...turn your waiting room into your classroom." You may ask, what does that mean? It's just a way of saying, while you may not be working in your garden this Fall/Winter season, you can be learning all about gardening. "Mr./Ms. Google" is a great friend to have. Type in your question or area of interest and they will identify numerous places to learn. Stay involved with our local Association and maybe visit some other area associations. Gardening is a great way to "GROW" new relationships and if you "SOW" a seed of friendship and nurture it you will be rewarded with a great harvest of extended garden family members. "SOW" wisely and you will "REAP" in due time.

Tim Kaylor



Crape Myrtle in the snow

Cane Creek Update

Grounds crew continues to work our home grounds for November. Our primary focus will be clearing/cleaning the front outside beds, refreshing with mulch, and getting them prepared for Winter.

- We will also be finishing up some projects before the end of the year. Repainting tires in 4H/Wildlife Bed, cleaning up areas for Winter weather as well as draining/removing hoses before first freeze We will also be replacing some timbers that outline the beds as required/when needed.

- Lastly, due to Union rules, we will not be working the grounds for December. If you want to work at Cane Creek, contact Skeeter for direction. But the Crew as a whole is taking a well-deserved break!!

Skeeter

Plant of the Month from Cane Creek Gardens

The plant of the month is a pink lantana, pink and yellow flowered 'Pink Huff' in our Butterfly Garden. The plant can get about 4 feet high and can get about that wide. 'Pink Huff' dies back to the ground every year. It should be hardy to zone 7 but it never hurts to mulch it. The pollinators love 'Pink Huff'. Full sun is preferred. Pink Huff will bloom from late spring until frost.

Linda McDaniel



Lantana Chapel Hill Pink Huff



Asters in the Cane Creek Sweet Tea Garden



MGs operate the Country Store for the benefit of CCCG



Calhoun County Master Gardener Officers

President:	Skeeter Sims
Vice President:	Linda Wakefield
Secretary:	Judy Shew
Treasurer:	Myra Gann
Members-at-Large:	Gary Lawson and Linda McDaniel

Sprouts is published by:

Master Gardeners of Calhoun County

Editor:	Paula Barnett-Ellis
Copyeditor/Proofreader:	Sherry Blanton
Advisor:	Dr. David H. West, County Extension Coordinator
Advisor:	Mr. Hayes Jackson, Urban Regional Extension Agent
Advisor:	Ms. Dani Carroll, Regional Extension Agent