



MG SPROUTS

Volume 18, Issue 10

October 2017

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

Fabulous, fun Fall Fest! Thanks to all the MG and intern volunteers for your diligent work. Our over 800 visitors enjoyed your congenial, welcoming attitudes and offerings. This event, which witnessed one of our largest crowds, takes a great deal of planning and many personal contributions for a successful implementation. Spectacular. We're so proud of the Cane Creek crew who plan and maintain the grounds so beautifully. CC is a great showcase for the Fall Fest and Earth Day events and visitors throughout the year.

Fall has officially arrived. Soon the deciduous trees will adorn their colors. I'm reminded of Emily Bronte's statement; "Every leaf speaks bliss to me, Fluttering from the autumn tree." You may well note other color changes in nature. For instance, wildflower colors cycle too, to attract pollinators throughout the growing season. Early season flowers are predominately white or yellow to contrast with the green foliage. Typically, we can't see ultraviolet light, but the pollinators can detect a darker center that holds the nectar. As the light changes later in the season, wildflowers add a range of colors like purple, pink, blue and even red. As the daylight hours shorten, patterns of light and shade also change. And, of course, keep your eyes to the sky for flocking and migrating birds. Don't forget your tiny hummingbirds need a good food source to prepare for their long flights.

At our October meeting, we'll call on the nominating committee to reveal their recommendations for MG Board members for president, vice president, secretary and two members at large. We'll review Fall Fest. Then, we'll look ahead to our November meeting where we'll celebrate the completion and dedication of the green house. At that meeting, we'll have luncheon and special cake. Our business meeting will focus on electing officers and assisting folks with reporting their volunteer hours and continuing education hours. Finally, we'll close out the year with our awards banquet and inauguration of interns into Master Gardeners, plus bestow other awards.

As president, I'll take the privilege of commenting on the exiting Board members. Don Crow, Vice president, has volunteered and worked on many projects. He's currently also serving as chair of the Greenhouse committee and helping us transition into nurturing cold frame fall vegetables. We need to also thank him for securing our flag and pole (be sure to read the plaque about its history posted on the wall) thus helping us formalize our meetings starting with the pledge to the flag. Jim Wakefield, member at large, has been a wonderful asset in helping us connect with the state MGs. He's our delegate to state meetings and has remained faithful in bringing back news and involving our organization in state activities. He's also been very active in several MG projects. Emily Richardson's secretarial skills are terrific. She been meticulous in sharing drafts for comments and final versions of the Board and MG meetings. She's had several interactions with the Extension Office sharing information and working with staff. She, too, works on MG projects. It's been extremely helpful to the Board to have our officers work among the volunteers on our projects as they interact, work, and listen to our members' concerns to share with the Board. Since I'm still working full time, the wealth of information they bring to the Board's attention has been invaluable. I started the MGs under the presidency of Jane Auiler and found her a great role model, then enjoyed serving the Board as secretary under Truman Norred's presidency prior to my 2-term presidency. A thanks, too, to Carolyn Patton who provided fine work as treasurer prior to Ruth Sarro's current term in that position beginning 2017. Jane has assisted me throughout as a member of the annual audit committee to edit the treasurer's books. Thanks to all the exiting Board members for their terrific service to our organization. A round of applause. Remaining on the Board are Ruth Sarro, treasurer, and Dick Pritchett, member at large. We look forward to learning of the nomination committee's recommendations.

Enjoy this lovely fall weather!



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



MG Calendar

MG Board Meeting	10:45 a.m., October 11, Cane Creek Community Gardens
MG Business Meeting	12 p.m., September 11, Cane Creek Community Gardens
Sprouts Deadline	October 25

From Our Adviser

Thanks to all of you who participated in, helped prepare for and helped promote Fall Fest 2017. The event seems to go more smoothly every year, and our attendance increased again in 2017. This is the main opportunity you have during each year to support "Our Place," Cane Creek Community Gardens and MG Classroom, and it is great that so many of you supported this event. Mark your calendars for September 15, 2018 for Fall Fest 2018!

Surprisingly, it is time to select officers for our local Master Gardener Association again. I have become quite poor at keeping up with the passing of time. Thank you to all the officers who are moving off the Board this year. Board service is time-consuming and challenging. We have been fortunate to have great leadership over the years, and I encourage you to let the nominating committee know if you are interested in a Board position. Elections will be held in November.

Our yearly awards dinner is the evening of December 8 in the Master Gardener Classroom. If you have noted the work of a Master Gardener or intern, please let a Board member know. We usually recognize MG and MG Intern service hours at this event, so please start getting your hours reported online. If you are having problems reporting, there are several MGs who can assist. Interns need to complete a combined 50 hours on one or more of the assigned projects as was discussed at the beginning of the MG class. Established MGs need 25 hours on an approved program.

Our 2018 Master Gardener Class is forming now. If you have friends or contacts who are interested in participating, please refer them to the Calhoun County Extension Office at 256-237-1621. The fee for 2018 will be \$150. We hope to begin class mid to late January. The State is imposing a \$25 late fee this year during the last 2 weeks before class begins, so don't wait until the last minute. It would be helpful if current MGs would prepare applicants for the paperwork and background check required. Each year, folks complain or delay their

paperwork and background check, and they may proceed more quickly with some encouragement from a current MG.

Thanks for your community service and dedication to make Calhoun County a better place to live, work and play!

David West

MG Notes

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who worked at Fall Fest, donated cakes, items for the country store, the bake sale, cakewalk, or entered contests. Judy Shew and Linda McDaniel had a beautiful array of items for the country store. I came home with one of Jane's handmade hats, one of the dear snowman Billy and Linda McDaniel built and fourteen slices of Judy Shew's delicious pound cake.

The Master Gardeners made this day such a great success. Be proud of yourselves! We had about 700 through the gate and we ended up with about \$2,000 for Cane Creek.

We had a great Chick Chain event. Jennifer Gann did a terrific job her first time out.

I appreciate all the volunteers who stopped to tell me what a wonderful time they had on the 16th and they are already looking forward to 2018.

Now for non-Fall Fest News. The handicap ramp is complete. Thank you to Billy McDaniel and his crew of dedicated volunteers who made this important addition to our clubhouse happen.

Mike Rushing provided an energetic and informative program at our September meeting, "The Aging Garden and the Aging Gardener." His enthusiasm is contagious.

Hayes concluded Lunch and Learn 2017 with a program about tropical plants that do well in our climate. Lunch and Learn will resume in April, always the 4th Wednesday of the month at noon.

Bethany O'Rear, an Extension Agent from Jefferson County, will speak about "Unusual Containers" at our October 11th meeting. Lunch will be brown bag.

Jane Auiler is retiring from her position as leader and spokesperson for Cane Creek Community Gardens. Hats off to her for the great accomplishments she has made there. She now will be a regular volunteer every Tuesday morning. Skeeter Sims has stepped into the

role. Under his leadership Cane Creek will continue to bloom and move forward. Join the team every Tuesday morning at 8 a.m. and help keep our grounds and clubhouse beautiful.

Gardening Tips for October

“A garden without a gardener is a jungle waiting to happen. A gardener without a garden is likewise a sorry sight indeed.” Margaret Roach

This month can still be dry; monitor plants for moisture needs.

Mid to the end of October marks the best time in our area to plant ornamental shrubs and trees. Hopefully, winter rains will keep those plants watered. If not, we may need to supplement water.

Remove spent plants from vegetable and flower gardens.

Time to think about bringing summer houseplants in for the winter. Give them a good spray with the hose to remove insects. Check them for disease (and take care of any problems) before moving them indoors.

Take cuttings from any plants you want to propagate before the first frost of the season.

Happenings:

“Third Thursday in the Gardens

Creepy Critters

Thursday, October 19, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

LBG Classroom

Are snakes haunting your garden? Do scary spiders make you scream? Come see some of the creepy critters that inhabit many gardens in Alabama. While many are frightening, most are beneficial to your garden. Come learn with Hayes Jackson about some of the nice (and maybe not so nice) varmints that are lurking in the landscape.

The program will be held in the James P. Roberts Education Room at LBG. To reserve your spot, call Anniston Museum at 256-237-6766. Reservations are required, and space is limited to the first 35 registrants. Cost is \$5.00 per person and free to members. Payment is to be made at time of registration.”

Tree Amigos, Coosa Valley Attention Home

Volunteers are busy propagating plants for the spring plant sale. They always need one-gallon pots if you

have extras to share.

Cane Creek Community Gardens

“Repair and reroofing 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

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.

October 6, 2017

[New Invasive Ants to Know About](#)

Presented by [Dr. Timothy Davis](#), University of Georgia Extension

Moderated by [Tim Crow](#), [Eric Schavey](#)

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>



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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 **Fall Fest Photos 2017** 



Dick Pritchett and his canning contest ribbon



Sara Sloan, Linda Crow and Linda Wakefield work the flower show



*The lunch crew:
Kris Schmit, Jane Auiler and Janice Cain*



Sandra Walker rides the hayride



Shirley Heifner helps with the hayride



Judy Cole and Linda Emanuel made sno cones