

MG SPROUTS

Calhoun County Master Gardener Newsletter: Volume 22, Issue 10

October 2021



Sedum in 4H Garden at Cane Creek

MG Calendar

- MG Board Meeting, October 13, 10:45 a.m., Cane Creek Community Gardens
- MG Business Meeting, October 13, 12:00 p.m., Cane Creek Community Gardens. Lunch: Bring your own.
- Sprouts Deadline, October 23

In This Issue

President's Message	1
My Favorite Plant	2
MG Happenings	3
Recipe of the Month	2
Cane Creek Update	3



President's Message

My favorite time of year – candy corn, Reese's bats/pumpkins, Little Debbie Christmas Cakes, and the list goes on and on. But also, it's college football, autumn leaf colors, crisp mornings with coffee on the porch, baby turkeys and fawns all over the farm, butterflies in migration, and this list goes on and on too. There's also all the history and old-time predictors of weather that fascinate me as well – predicting the first frost by spider webs, almanac signs, to the persimmon seeds predicting winter weather... which looks, by the way, like heavy wet snow with wind and winter storms are in store for this year based on this one!

We are also quickly approaching our seasonal times of the year which means dues and hours are around the corner. We meet this month on the 13th at noon outside at Cane Creek pavilion – we will begin to collect dues which means you need to have your minimum hours/CEUs logged as well so that the dues can be categorized. So, to clear up any confusion, here's the options:

1. Active Master Gardener – you got your 25 volunteer hours at approved locations and attended 10 education programs or webinars that were approved for CEUs. Pay your local and state dues of 10/10 for totals of \$20 and you remain Active.
2. Provisional Master Gardener – you didn't get your minimums, but you want to remain a Master Gardener and you will get your hours as soon as possible in the new year to return to active status. Pay your dues and start working on hours after new year.
3. Inactive Master Gardener – you did not get minimum hours last year or this year for whatever reasons and you have chosen to not pay dues or attempt to return to active status. You will be made inactive on rolls, at state level and have no rights within the MG Association.
4. Locally awarded Lifetime MG – you must remain active and get your hours every year; but CCMG will waive local dues and pay your state level dues if you remain a committed and active member of our Association. If you fail to get minimum hours, by local bylaws, you will no longer be awarded Lifetime MG and you must pay both local and state dues again while earning your minimum hours.
5. State level Lifetime – prepaid for LIFE. You can be any of above options but must continue to get minimum hours or become locally provisional while you return to Active status.
6. Honorary/Associate/Emeritus – ask if you care, too complicated to cover here.

Most of these may never apply to most of us but others have been confused; and even I get confused but this is my best attempt to explain. Ask me at upcoming meeting if unclear.

Lastly, with Fall Fest canceled as our main fund raiser to support Cane Creek maintenance and improvements, we are looking ahead to next year and I just wanted to personally THANK all who have donated and continue to contribute to supporting the efforts to make our home grounds so beautiful. It truly is a showpiece for our county!! We will begin to plan for next year and budget accordingly – But again thanks so much to those that have given to support Cane Creek with the cancellation of Fall Fest.

It's good to be back and thanks to those that checked in on us!! I hope to see everyone at October meeting even if you are wearing a mask!! See y'all at the Creek!

Skooter

Let's Be Social

Facebook:

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

Twitter:

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

Instagram:

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

My Favorite Plant: Sarah Sloan

"One of my favorite flowers is the jonquil. They are so easy to grow, and their bright blooms are such a welcome, cheerful sight after the doldrums of winter. I live in the home where I grew up and many of my jonquils were planted by my father. That makes them even more dear to me."



Jonquils in bloom

Gardening Humor

"Nature: the greatest show on earth and admission is free." — Anonymous

Mystery Gardener

September's Mystery Gardener is Geri Toycen. Skeeter Sims, Judy Shew, and Tim Kaylor identified her. Can you guess who this month's mystery gardener is? Let Sherry know if you do.

October's Mystery Gardener

"I am originally from Sharon, PA and grew up in Hermitage, TN. I joined the United States Army when I was 17 years old.

My favorite part of gardening is watching my ecosystem grow and being able to have a safe haven for wildlife and insects.

My other hobbies are cooking, sewing, photography, and, of course, gardening.

I am retired from veterinary medicine. I now live in Alexandria, Alabama."

Recipe of the Month

Sweet potatoes will be in abundance soon. This is a new way to fix them without sugar, marshmallows, and pecans. We hope you enjoy Thyme Sweet Potatoes! This recipe and more from farmers around the state are also available in Extension publication FCS-2112, Fresh from the Farm Alabama Recipes, a great place to find new ways to use an abundance of fresh produce. The most important thing to remember when trying these recipes, which are farmer favorites, is to buy fresh and buy local. Support our farmers and support our communities. Connie Penry, Penry Farms, Baldwin County

Ingredients

6 sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/4-inch rounds
1 tablespoon thyme
4 cloves garlic, diced
Freshly ground sea salt and pepper
1/4 cup olive oil

Preparation

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. In large mixing bowl, whisk olive oil, thyme, and diced garlic. Add sliced sweet potatoes and toss until completely coated. Spread onto large shallow pan and salt and pepper to taste. Place in oven and cook until edges are slightly crisp, approximately 30 minutes. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

Gardening Inspiration

"You can bury any number of headaches in a garden." — Charles Barnard





White Beauty Berry Bush



Cane Creek Garden of Reflection



Zinnia in the Butterfly Garden at Cane Creek

Cane Creek Update

- We will continue to work the grounds every Tuesday from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. as we prepare the beds and common areas for upcoming seasons. Refreshing mulch, removing debris, and pruning as required.

- All special projects have been completed for this year and we will begin the planning process for next year this month so that we can establish a budget for upcoming year.

- Thanks to all those that have donated for the maintenance of our home grounds!! Your encouragement and contributions have helped us to make up for the loss of our annual fundraiser, Fall Fest.

Again, if you wish to donate, simply write a check to CCMG and designate it in comments for Cane Creek or let Myra know when you turn it in. Thanks again to everyone for your support!!

Skeeter

Master Gardener Happenings

Paula and I need your help with Sprouts. We would love to share your recipes. Since soups and other warm dishes hit the spot in winter, it would be great to have a recipe from all of our members to include one each month. Hope you will participate.

We also need submissions for plant of the month from our talented gardeners. Tell us which plant makes you happy. Pictures are always welcome with your plant. It is a bit difficult to remember everyone who has participated. It does not matter if you have already sent something in, we welcome seconds or even thirds. Please volunteer as these entries provide an excellent means to get to know each other better. Please e-mail your entries.

From the Alabama Master Gardeners Advisory Council: "The Alabama Master Gardeners Association would like for dues to be sent to them by December 15, 2021, from all of the counties."

Be sure to pay your dues to Myra and record your hours before then.

We can pay dues to Myra at the October and November meeting. Or you can mail your check to her. Dues are \$20. Ten for the state and ten local. Checks are made out to Calhoun County Master Gardeners. You can mail your check to Myra; her contact

information is in the MG directory.

David Doggett, Jefferson County Master Gardener, will speak about Hydrangeas at our MG meeting on October 13.

Lunch and Learn has ended until spring 2022.

Sherry Blanton

Webinars/CEUs

- “Get Outside with Alabama Smart Yards” Series: Every Wednesday 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Register: auburn.zoom.us/j/82398811386
<https://www.facebook.com/AlabamaSmartYardsAlabamaExtension>
- Back to Basics Gardening Series: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Register: <http://www.aces.edu/go/B2Bzoom>
<https://www.aces.edu/?s=Back2BasicsWednesdays&q=Back2BasicsWednesdays>
- Eco Friendly Fridays~ Environmental Education Series: Last Friday of Every Month 12:00p.m.- 1:00 p.m. <https://www.aces.edu/go/EcoFriendlyFridays>
- Alabama Garden Walk Series: 1st and 3rd Fridays 12:00 p.m.-12:45 p.m. (Begins February 19th)
- Register: <https://www.aces.edu/go/GardenWalk>
- ForestHer Webinar Series: 2nd Tuesday of Every Month 12:00p.m.-1:00p.m.
<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/forestry/foresther-workshops/>
- 2021 Natural Resources Webinar Series: Wednesdays 12:00p.m.-1:00p.m. (see the link for the dates scheduled)
<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/forestry/natural-resources-webinar-series/>
- Alabama Virtual Farm Tours: (Biweekly from March-Oct at 5:00p.m.- 6:00p.m.)
Stay informed or watch on
<https://www.facebook.com/AlabamaExtensionCommercialHorticulture>
- ‘Q&A Friday!’ interactive shows: (Fridays from March-Oct 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)
Stay informed or watch on
<https://www.facebook.com/AlabamaExtensionCommercialHorticulture>

Note: Click Videos on ACES Facebook pages to view recorded webinars. Also check the calendar at <https://www.aces.edu/calendar/>



Requests for Nominations

The Nominating Committee (Judy Shew, Myra Gann, and Ruth Sarro) is asking for nominations of all offices for the Board. If anyone wishes to be considered for any of the board positions or wishes to nominate someone, please contact one of the members of the committee. If you do nominate someone, please contact them first to be sure they will be willing to serve if elected.

Contact information for the Nominating Committee:
Judy Shew email: jgshew@yahoo.com or text: 256-282-4037

Myra Gann text: 256-689-6220

Ruth Sarro text: 256-453-3049

Nominations will be announced at our October meeting and votes will be taken at our November business meeting. However, the committee will continue to accept nominations up to the November meeting or from the floor.

The committee has received the following nominations:

President: Skeeter Sims

Vice-President: Lyn Webb

Secretary: Geri Tocyen

Members at Large (choose two): Linda McDaniel, Tim Kaylor, Shirley Heifner, Gail Cannon

Treasurer: Tom Gilbert

Gardening Tip of the Month.

It seems like that first frost always slips up on me. Be sure to secure any terra cotta or ceramic containers that may not be able to handle the winter cold. Cover the water faucets to protect them from freezing. Run the gas out of your mower if you have finished using it for the season

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

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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