



MG SPROUTS

Volume 18, Issue 9

September 2017

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

Where did the summer go? One verb says it all--insert "are." Schools in session, birds flocking, day hours shorter, hurricanes forming, rains less, crepe myrtles blooming. Wait, that last item looks out of place. Among it all, a solar eclipse. Best of all, those folks who spend endless time looking at their phones all magically looked at the sky, talked face to face with each other, and commented on details like how shaded light made tree leaf shadows look interesting. Wonderful. There is still hope for educating youth about stewardship for our marvelous planet.

I am taking the liberty of an aside here. I view poetry as a glimpse of a moment in shorthand time. Often, poetic subjects have a universality and can be revisited at other times. I'd like to share my poem written in the past but applicable to this eclipse. (Readers of this column know from time to time I've quoted other poets who wrote about nature.)

Eclipse by Sheila Anne Webb

Instinct driven birds circle, never flew,
While man pinholed mortality in measured light.
The sky so dim, covered finally to meager rays,
Spread slowly into ancestral graves.
Trapped wolves in nearby zoos yelped at gravity
Fertilization grew, bone-mealed to sandy loam,
Rose the fingers of an eclipsed past, a sudden grasp.
Soon the sun fought the passing of its lesser moon,
As the crowd below stripped itself fleshless,
Bleak, choiceless move, sharing a force
That embarrasses the sun with patterned returns.
It'll come again to a different crowd,
Some other face, a new familiar bird.

Speaking of nature, I commend Doris Baucom who presented "Butterflies at Twin Oaks" to the Jacksonville Garden Club. She showed an overview of her property as she noted that one can Google butterflies by ZIP code. Her code lists 48, and over time she beautifully photographed 37 on her property. She talked about plants and butterflies. We have among us a great resource of knowledge with Doris. Add an Extension Office handout on butterflies and feeding sources and you, too, can create a great environment for these pollinators.

September brings our fun and community event Fall Fest. Our change from late October to September has worked well with all the events accompanied by nice weather. Thanks in advance for all your hard work to make Cane Creek so beautiful and welcoming plus your many volunteer assistance hours to make all activities feasible. A lot of prep work goes into this event. Hope everyone enjoys the day.



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



MG Calendar

MG Board Meeting	10:45 a.m., September 13, Cane Creek Community Gardens
MG Business Meeting	12 p.m., September 13, Cane Creek Community Gardens
Sprouts Deadline	September 25

Fall Fest 2017

Fall Fest is September 16, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

First, thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time, talents, and tangible items for the event.

Here are some things to keep in mind:

Please be there by 8:30 to be in your station. No cars are allowed inside the gates after 8:30 a.m. and until 2 p.m.

Please park across the street or in the lot; please do not park on the motel grounds.

I would greatly appreciate your checking in with me. I should be close to the gate until 9 a.m.

The event ends at 2 p.m.: please do not take down your stand until 2 p.m. (With the exception of the bake sale which is usually over earlier)

We need the following to help make the day a success:

BAKE SALE ITEMS: cookies, brownies, fudge or other homemade candy, bagged four items to a bag. Please label the contents. Carolyn is also selling cake slices, iced tea, and kids' drinks. Items can be dropped off most any time but best by 9 a.m.

CAKE WALK ITEMS: cakes, cupcakes, loaf cakes, pans of brownies, etc. Please label your donation with your name and contents. Items should be there no later than 9 a.m. Cake walk begins at 9:30 a.m.

COUNTY STORE ITEMS: handmade crafts for sale (handmade by you or someone else)

Please consider entering items in the quilt show, the flower show, arts and crafts, etc. to help make the event a success for our visitors. Besides it is fun.

Someone may be selling water; if you prefer, bring yours from home.

The morning shift is from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. and the second shift is from 11:30 a.m. to 2 pm. If you are working second shift, please be at your station 15 minutes before your shift starts.

We do not provide lunch for the volunteers at this event but hot dogs will be for sale.

Volunteers:

HAYRIDE (one volunteer rides in the hayride and the other keeps the line for the ride)

First shift: Barbara McCray and Shirley Heifner

Second shift: Sandra Walker, Robbie Medders, Pinuccia Weitzberger, Judy Cole

HOT DOGS

Chef: Jane Auiler

Money: Kris Schmit

Condiments: Janice Cain

TREES

Joe Trawick

TRAFFIC: (bring chairs if you need)

We will have a deputy but he will need help. I have two volunteers for the first shift and one helper for second shift. If anyone is willing to lend a hand either shift, the more volunteers we have the smoother things run.

Second shift folks can split up and work 30 minutes if they have other jobs.

First shift: Rusty Martin and Billy McDaniel (**anyone else is welcome to help, please**)

Sherry Blanton

MG Notes

Thank you to Dani Carroll for two excellent programs in August about pollinators and beneficial insects. Good information for all gardeners; our crops and our flowers need both of these to be healthy.

Our September 13th monthly meeting will be a brown bag lunch; our speaker is Mike Rushing who will talk to us about "The Aging Garden and Gardener." (Don't know about the rest of you but I sure need to hear this.) Please come and welcome Mike; he is a terrific presenter and active Jefferson County Master Gardener.

Hayes Jackson will conclude our 2017 Lunch and Learn series with "T is for Tropicals" on September 27th. We know Hayes' passion for tropical plants in the garden, a

passion most of us share. Lunch and Learn will be back next April with good friend Dr. Harry Holstein.

Please read the important information about Fall Fest. If something is incorrect or needs updating, please let me know. We are fortunate to have almost 50 MGs on site that day, which guarantees a safe and fun event for our visitors.

Please help with your donations of cakes for the cake walk and baked items for the bake sale. Bring in flowers for the flower show. Let us show Calhoun County what a terrific event Fall Fest is.

Thank you to the talented crew who is building our much needed wheelchair ramp. Under the skilled leadership of Billy McDaniel, Myra Gann, Janet Evans, Jane Auiler, Skeeter Sims, Judy Shew, and Janet Evans built us a beautiful ramp which makes our clubhouse more accessible for the community. Myra and Jane washed dozens of buckets for the greenhouse. What a tremendous group of volunteers our Association has!

Just a reminder that interns and active Master Gardeners should have hours recorded or turned in at our November business meeting (the 8th). Dues can be brought to the meeting or mailed to Treasurer Ruth Sarro. We will also dedicate the greenhouse at the meeting.

Sherry Blanton

September Gardening Tips (abbreviated)

This month can be hot and dry; keep watering, especially new plantings.

It is still hot to plant pansies, cool season annuals.

Learn to identify beneficial insects in your garden; they are our garden's friends.

Lunch and Learn 2017

September 27, "T" is for Tropical
Hayes Jackson, ACES

Lunch & Learn is held the 4th Wednesday of each month and Cane Creek Gardens from noon- 1 p.m. Bring your own lunch!

**Dates and speakers are subject to change. Contact the Calhoun County Extension Office at 256-237-1621 to confirm.*



Sarah Ballard is reminding us to come to Fall Fest



Myra and Jane washing buckets for the greenhouse. Thank you to Skeeter for collecting them!



Team leader Billy McDaniel is getting the details on our ramp just right!



Putting together the Cane Creek wheelchair ramp



Another view of the ramp



Skeeter Sims and Judy Shew work on ramp



Finished ramp—all smiles!



Teamwork--Jane and Judy



Officers - Calhoun County Master Gardeners

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