

MG SPROUTS

Calhoun County Master Gardener Newsletter: Volume 21, Issue 9

September 2020



Serenity Garden at Cane Creek Community Gardens

MG Calendar

- "Made in the Shade," Sherry Blanton, 2 p.m., September 1, Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County. View at facebook.com/publiclibrary.cc/live/
- MG Board Meeting, 10:45 a.m., September 9, Cane Creek Community Gardens
- MG Business Meeting, 12 p.m., September 9, Cane Creek Community Gardens.
- Lunch and Learn, Hayes Jackson, "The Edible Landscape: Instead of Planting That, Plant This." Noon-1 p.m., September 23, via Zoom.
- Sprouts Deadline, September 25, 2020

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President's Message

Finally, some good news! Our infection rates are going down and you can't help but admit it is because of those of us who wear masks and keep our distance, plus limit contact with others outside of our normal group. There's a lot of other "stuff" going on in our world but looks like we may finally be seeing the light at the end of the tunnel on this virus (still hoping it's not a train!). The other good news is that our County Commissioners voted to continue to pay the water and power bills for Cane Creek Community Gardens for next year. I hope all the information we provided, shows how valuable this land is and what a great investment it is for Calhoun County. We are one of only a handful of Master Gardener groups that have our own home grounds for meetings, classes, and educational purposes to the community (not to mention maybe only one of even less that have this much land to maintain!)

Saying Goodbye to Summer and anxiously anticipating Fall is an understatement for me. I can't wait to pull up the sweatbox garden and remove the okra, eggplant, cukes, tomatoes, beans/peas – hanging on to watermelons a bit longer but Labor Day weekend is my chance to dig up my first ever sweet potatoes to see how that worked out. Then as the sun sets on that land, I'll be tilling it all under and getting ready for my Fall crops which for me always require much less attention and therefore are that much more enjoyable! Collard greens, leaf lettuce and probably some root vegetables like beets are my current plans but I'd be glad to try anything new if y'all have some ideas. Now to just pray the deer don't eat at this buffet table!

Our meeting is planned for September, again outside under the pavilion. Bring your chairs, wear masks, sit apart and brown bag if you want. It was so good to see some of y'all at the last meeting. I am actually starting to recognize you even in masks!! If you have not seen someone in a while, call and check on them, please. And if anyone needs anything that this group can help with, please call a Board member and let us know of that need.

Also start getting your hours in the online system ASAP because Auburn ACES is going to soon bring a new version online that is more compatible with smart phones. But it will be much easier if you already have most, if not all, of this year's hours entered. Plus, we are still looking at November's "business" meeting and it will be a lot easier to have all the hours already in, just in case we are still having to meet outside. **UPDATE:** If you are currently an Active MG, you can use all the many webinars, logged as CEUs online, to accomplish your 25 hours plus 10 CEUs. In other words, if you sign up, view, take surveys associated with online webinar or videos, you can log 35 CEU hours and will have all you need for 2020 requirements.

Together we are stronger than individuals standing apart (even if it's 6 feet). United we can make a huge difference to our community, county, state and beyond. I pray that once we get to the other side of all this virus, chaos, and change that we can look back and appreciate where we were, how we got through it, and look to the future to see what we can do next.

Words cannot express how appreciative I am of all y'all do for our MG group, for our communities and our County. Thank you for your support and words of encouragement to me during these times. Kindness to one another definitely soothes a troubled soul.

See y'all at the Creek!

Garden Inspiration

"Gardening adds years to your life and life to your years." – Unknown

Favorite Plant: Tonya Johnson

The *Spigelia Marilandica* is a perennial wildflower in the Loganiaceae Family that is used as an ornamental plant. It flowers in June and tends to be found in low moist woods, ravines or streambanks in both partial and full shade. The unusual blooms are trumpet shaped with a red exterior and a unique flare at the top that forms a yellow star shape.



Spigelia Marilandica (the Woodland Pinkroot or Indian Pink)

September Gardening Tip

We made it through August. Can Fall be far behind? Start making a list of jobs to be completed before winter. Saving all those leaves and pine straw for mulch that everyone else throws away is a good thing. The leaves can be used in a compost pile. Your soil will thank you for it.

Gardening Giggle

Has anyone else's gardening skills improved during this quarantine like mine have?

I planted myself on my couch at the beginning of March and I've grown significantly since.

Cane Creek update from Skeeter Sims

- Sweet Tea Garden is complete. Native plant demonstration beds, stone pathways, bog gardens, trellises with climbing vines, porch seating, and so much more!! Check it out when you're at Cane Creek, it's a beautiful and peaceful addition to our grounds.
- As Fall approaches, we still have lots of work to get done. Grass still needs cutting; weeds need pulling and as things start to die back, we'll be looking to clear debris and freshen the mulch on all landscaped beds. So, if you've been waiting on the weather to cool off, there are still things to do to get your hours in at Cane Creek.
- With no Fall Fest, we will use September to complete 2 special projects. Equipment shed revitalization is our first priority - scrape/sand, caulk/seal, then paint outside to match Coke Shed. We will probably freshen Coke Shed as well since it's all the same process. Once complete, we'll move on to the next project.



Butterfly Garden at Cane Creek Community Gardens



Shade cloth added to Cane Creek Community Gardens

Who is September's Mystery Gardener?

Last month's mystery master gardener was Shirley Heifner. Janet Evans, Sarah Ballard, and Skeeter Sims identified her.

Can you identify this month's Master Gardener?

"I am originally from Anniston, Anniston."

My favorite part of gardening is "Teaching others and sharing the fruits of my labor."

I also enjoy "Traveling, fishing, gardening, and spending time with my family."

"I am a retired educator - in the Anniston City School System I taught English for 17 years, coached for 10 of those years, and was an administrator for 17 years."

"I am a current resident of Anniston."

If you recognize who the gardener is, please let Sherry know.



Masked Gardener Sarah Sloan

Recipe of the month from Margaret Copeland



Gaga's Pound Cake (Margaret's children called Margaret's mother Gaga)

Ingredients:

3 cups sugar
3 sticks salted butter
1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese
3 cups plain flour
2 tsp. baking powder
6 eggs
2 tsp. almond flavoring

Directions:

Beat sugar and butter until light and fluffy; then, beat in cream cheese. Sift flour and baking powder in separate bowl. Alternate adding flour and eggs to the batter, beginning with flour. Then beat in almond flavoring. Bake in prepared tube pan at 350 degrees for 1 hour and 20 minutes. (Make sure to spray the pan thoroughly with Pam before baking.) Let cool and remove from pan. Serve with strawberries and whipped cream or vanilla ice cream.

If you have a recipe to share, please submit it to Sherry.



Masked Gardener Patricia Patty

MG Happenings by Sherry Blanton

Congratulations to the Cane Creek Volunteer Crew for the wonderful addition to our grounds, "The Sweet Tea Garden." It is lovely. It represents a lot of sweat equity, creativity, and cooperation. Please thank all those who helped with this gift to Cane Creek. You will see photos of some of the folks who helped out. We have planned another photo date for September 15 for those we may

have missed. Myra Gann designed and built the fabulous sign.

We will have a meeting on September 9th at noon. Bring your lunch, your mask, and your chair.

We thank Chip East for visiting us in August for our monthly meeting. We were unable to have Lunch and Learn in August; in September Hayes Jackson will be presenting a Lunch and Learn program on zoom about the edible garden. Watch for the link from Linda McDaniel.

Please be sure to read Linda's weekly e-mail. It is full of information important to our Association.

Congratulations to Jim and Linda Wakefield for winning the Calhoun County Beautification Board award for their district.

Longleaf Botanical Gardens and Tree Amigos both remain closed to volunteers.

And as most of you have heard, Fall Fest has been cancelled. Funds for projects at Cane Creek came from this money. I have pledged to give the money I would have spent on donations for the event to the Cane Creek Fund. I ask each of you to do the same. Join together to keep our home site the gorgeous place it is. If you have not visited Cane Creek recently, stop by to see how it has bloomed. Even better wear a pair of gloves and help maintain the grounds. There is plenty to do.

I would like to thank everyone for participating in photo opportunities. Over the years our members have asked for more photos in Sprouts. That is hard to do without your cooperation.

If you need CEUs for this year, I finally found "the" place. Go to Facebook page for Alabama Smart Yards; click on videos and you will see dozens and dozens. I am not much of a Zoom watcher so I appreciate the fact that the programs were recorded and put on the Internet.

If you check the Public Library's YouTube site you can see my videos as The Southern Gardener. The Facebook page for Longleaf Botanical Garden also has some great videos. Stephen Faughn has an interesting program about invasive animals.

Vice president Linda Wakefield has taken over the chairmanship of the program committee as described in the bylaws. If you have a suggestion, please let her know.

Please stay well and be safe. This virus is mean.



Cane Crew Volunteer Crew (not all) who worked on the new Sweet Tea garden



Another view of Sweet Tea Garden and volunteers



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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