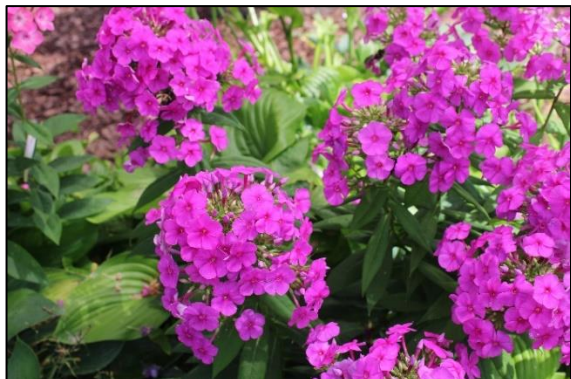

MG SPROUTS

Calhoun County Master Gardener Newsletter: Volume 22, Issue 9

September 2021



Phlox in Reflection Garden at Cane Creek Community Gardens

President's Message: Come On Fall!!

Anyone else tired of the heat and humidity? How about squash, okra, and tomatoes? I definitely am. I am at that point of pulling up my Summer garden, leaving only peppers and sweet potatoes and planting my Fall crops of collards, lettuce, carrots, and beets. I have a pretty good second garden going right now, with 21 pumpkin plants that have about that same number of white, orange, and yellow pumpkins of various shaped and sizes. So far, the deer have not found them in any way, but I expect soon the momma deer will bring their new fawns to the garden and yard to test out their palates. As I am writing this, it is well before September 1st, but I am watching a doe and new fawn transit the lower edge of our yard through the pine thicket. Again, I cannot wait for Fall to arrive!!

On those same lines, as I write this, it is about a month before Fall Fest – so there is no way to predict, much less guess, the status of Fall Fest. But we will continue to prepare our home grounds at Cane Creek to host the general public of Calhoun County for Fall Fest. This is our only fundraiser that supports the ongoing efforts of maintenance and improvements to the grounds at Cane Creek – so without it we become limited with what we can accomplish the upcoming year!! Let's all plan to come out and support Fall Fest!! We will need a host of volunteers on Saturday, September 18th from 9:00-2:00 p.m. to accomplish this event and make it a huge success. This will be one of the last opportunities this year to earn your volunteer hours; and the week prior there will be more opportunities to earn those hours as we finalize preparations for safety, traffic flow, and station setup on our home grounds. Everyone needs to be involved in making this event showcase our beautiful home site!!

Don't forget our meeting on September 8 under the pavilion at noon. We will begin collecting 2022 dues at this meeting and folks will be available to assist with hours entry if you have any questions. But you have to enter them yourself online for it to count annually. All hours and dues must be entered and paid by the November meeting. Contact Myra if you have any questions. We will be turning in all dues and reporting hours to state before the new year begins in 2022.

I know things are rapidly changing and sometimes hard to keep up with – so do your best to make the meetings and read the weekly emails. We'll be outside again for meetings – wear a mask, bring your chair, and socially distance – but come and continue to be an active part of Calhoun County Master Gardeners!

See y'all at the Creek!

MG Calendar

- MG Board Meeting, September 8, 10:45 a.m., Cane Creek Community Gardens
- MG Business Meeting, September 8, 12:00 p.m., Cane Creek Community Gardens. Lunch: Bring your own.
- Fall Fest, September 18, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Cane Creek Community Gardens.
- Lunch & Learn, September 22, 12 noon, Cane Creek Community Gardens
- Sprouts Deadline, September 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>

My Favorite Plant: Tim Kaylor, MG 2020

"This year I've discovered Zinnias. I'd heard of this beauty, but I'd never grown it in my own garden. There's so much to love about this tireless and lovely species. There are over 20 wild species, hundreds of cultivars and hybrids, in thousands of color combinations and they stand proudly on tall unusually strong stems. Deadhead the spent flower and they respond with more blooms. They bring so much joy to my heart and soul. They're easy to grow and show up with various patterns, shapes, and sizes. Though they are annuals, Zinnia's seeds can be harvested and used to plant the next season. A bonus is that butterflies and other pollinators love them. So, what's not to love about these incredible plants? Make them a part of your annual flower beds or include them in your veggie beds. I promise you'll love them too! "



Tim Kaylor's Zinnias

Gardening Humor

When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.

Recipe from Andrew Wackerle: Tasty Chicken and Rice

Ingredients:

6 cups cooked rice

Any chicken parts you like

2 cans Cream of Chicken soup, or 1 can of Cream of Chicken Soup and any other Cream Soup such as Mushroom, etc.

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Mix soups with cooked rice. Season as you please. I like black pepper, poultry seasoning, garlic powder and a small amount of salt.

Place rice mixture in a foil-lined 8"X12" baking pan.

Season chicken as you please. (salt, pepper, garlic powder, seasoned salt. I have been using Old Bay and really like it.

Place chicken on top of rice mixture and cover with foil. Place in oven and cook 30-45 minutes, depending on thickness of the chicken.

When the internal temperature reaches 160 degrees, remove the foil, and cook 5 to 10 minutes more to brown the skin.

Remove from the oven and cool 10 minutes.

Enjoy!

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

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

Gardening Inspiration

"Everything that slows us down and forces patience, everything that sets us back into the slow circles of nature, is a help. Gardening is an instrument of grace. "

May Sarton

The Next One: Musings on the Seasons

Guest columnist, Tim Kaylor, MG 2020 Class

As I'm writing this, we're coming off several days of 100+ heat index temperatures. Please don't misunderstand, I love spring and summer seasons because many lovely plants peak and put on their best show. Trees, shrubs, flowers and even veggies just "show out" in Alabama during these seasons. However, there's much to be said for fall, when leaves begin to turn beautiful shades of bright red, orange, gold, and yellow. The air begins to be a bit crisp, and I begin to enjoy being outside even more. With infinite wisdom, a plan was designed, "In the beginning..." to provide for those seasons and one more. Yes, I'm talking winter now! So, what's special about it? In a single word, I would say, renewal. This is the season when nature seems to calm down and allows us, animals, and plants to start the renewal process. In Alabama, we can enjoy a respite of sorts. Gardening isn't as frantic and chaotic. Chores become easier and less burdensome. For these reasons and so many more my favorite season is, the next one! So, bring on the Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer.

Mystery Gardener

August's Mystery Gardener is Dick Pritchett. Skeeter and Linda McDaniel identified him. Please let Sherry know if you can identify this gardener.

I am originally from Aurora, IL
My favorite part of gardening is growing things from seeds, whether it be vegetables or flowers.
My hobbies are reading, playing Sudoku and other games, and I am about to take a Bridge class.
I am retired now. Previously I was a typesetter/typography (obsolete now), software tester (proprietary software), tech support, RN, and proofreader.

Cane Creek Update

- Cane Creek Crew continues to work the grounds every Tuesday 9:00-12:30, weather permitting. We are in need of more hands to help as the Summer winds down Creek - down a weedeater (so need more), also we will begin to clear debris and expired plants soon for mulch refreshing before first frost, so that will take a large group of folks to do it efficiently and in a timely manner.

- Fall Fest is still on. So we are preparing for a large crowd and lots of guests willing to spend some money and help fund raise in support of maintenance and ongoing improvement efforts for our home grounds.

- When/if the weather cools off, we will begin cleaning, sanding and preparing both the Equipment and Coke Sheds for repainting and refurbishment. This will our last special project for the year and ALL HANDS are encouraged to come out and help, especially anyone needing hours before the end of the year!!

Master Gardener Happenings

Stay tuned for information on Fall Fest. The date is September 18th. Details to follow.

Dr. Susan Hagen, Professor Emeritus from Auburn brought us a program on the gardens of Italy at our August monthly meeting. After her PowerPoint in the clubhouse, we met for our monthly meeting under the pavilion.

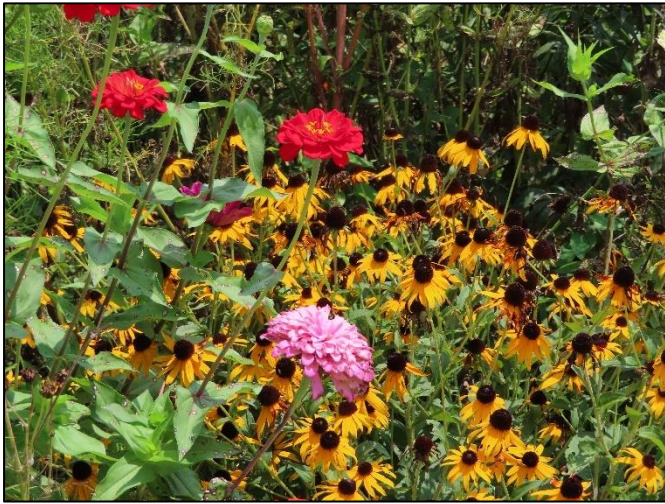
On September 8th at noon Louis Downing will bring us information on planting fall vegetables. We will have our monthly meeting under the pavilion following the presentation.

Our last Lunch and Learn of 2021 will be September 22nd Toni Bruner will talk to us about "Down Under in North Alabama, All about Cave Ecosystems."

Please join me at the Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County on Tuesday, September 7th at 2 p.m. in person. We will talk about invasive plants, a problem for gardeners and non-gardeners. The program is not live streamed but will be posted to YouTube. This program counts toward CEUs.



Tim Kaylor modeling the AMGA 40th anniversary tee shirts



Butterfly Garden at Cane Creek Community Gardens



Hosta in bloom in CC GOAT Garden



Hydrangea in the CC Serenity Garden



Encore azaleas in bloom by the gate at CC



Turk's Cap Hibiscus at CC Serenity Garden

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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