

MG SPROUTS

Calhoun County Master Gardener Newsletter: Volume 20, Issue 3

March 2019



Camellia

Master Gardener Activities



Carolyn presented Reach for the Stars



Speakers Jim and Linda Wakefield



Skeeter stepped in for our ailing president

MG Calendar

- All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar: Emerald Ash Borer. March 1, 1-2 p.m.
- "Southern Gardener: Fact and Fiction," March 5, Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County, 2-3 p.m. Speaker: Sherry Blanton.
- MG Board Meeting, 10:45 a.m., March 13, Cane Creek Community Gardens
- MG Business Meeting, 12 p.m., March 13, Cane Creek Community Gardens. Hayes Jackson, "My Namibia African Journey." Lunch is salads & sandwiches
- Sprouts Deadline, March 25, 2019

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Gardening Inspiration

“Some old-fashioned things like fresh air and sunshine are hard to beat.”

Laura Ingalls Wilder

Recipe of the Month:

Save this for your summer tomatoes:

Mozzarella and Tomato Salad

Margaret Mazikowski, 4 Maz Farms ~ Moo Shine Dairy, Madison County

Ingredients

1 packet garlic and herb dry mix
Olive oil
Red wine vinegar
4 medium fresh tomatoes
½ pound fresh mozzarella

Preparation

Mix garlic and herb mix with olive oil and red wine vinegar (a few tablespoons, to your taste). Slice or cube fresh cheese and tomatoes. Marinate tomatoes, cheese, and vinegar mix overnight in refrigerator. Bring to room temperature just before placing on serving dish or in bowl. Great to eat alone and wonderful in salads (green and pasta).

Find these and other fresh ingredients at your local farmers markets.



A great group from Jacksonville

Lunch & Learn



Lunch & Learn is a series of FREE gardening programs sponsored by the Calhoun County Master Gardeners and the Calhoun County Commission. Sessions are held the 4th Wednesday of each month (April through September) at Cane Creek Community Gardens, 77 Justice Ave, McClellan. Noon-1pm. Bring your lunch & learn with us!

April 24th: "200 Years of Alabama Agriculture." Dr. Charles Mitchell, Auburn University (retired)

May 22nd: "Residents of the Legacy Wildlife Room: A Visit with Some of Alabama's Interesting Creatures." Stephen Faughn, County Extension Agent. (Children welcome!)

June 26th: "A Guided Walk through Cane Creek Community Gardens." Linda McDaniel & Skeeter Sims (CCMGs)

*Speakers/topics subject to change. Call 256-237-1621 to confirm.

All Bugs Good and Bad 2019: Emerald Ash Borer

The Emerald Ash Borer is responsible for millions of dead ash trees in North America causing homeowners, cities, and nurseries many millions of dollars and heartache. Come learn where this exotic pest came from, its life cycle, and management plans being implemented. Webinar URL:

<https://auburn.zoom.us/j/615766171>

Note: The above URL might change. When it's time for the webinar to begin, please visit this page to get the correct URL.

Webinars will be on the first Friday of each month at 1 p.m. Central time. Click on the link below for the entire schedule.

<https://articles.extension.org/pages/74786/2019-all-bugs-good-and-bad-webinar-series>



From Our Advisor

Rain, rain, rain. Our yards are slush or worse. And wind. I am surprised we have not had more downed trees. Many farms are mud holes. Crops left in wet fields last fall have rotted and are under water in some cases. Grazing pastures are in poor condition. Don't be fooled by a few warm, sunny days. Winter will likely make a return, and soils are too wet to work. Curb your gardening enthusiasm!

The warmer weather has led to an explosion of weeds. While cloudy weather held them back for a while, longer days are now showing more weed germination. We've had the usual suspects such as henbit and burweed brought in for identification. Unfortunately, it is too late for winter pre-emergence herbicides and too wet for post-emergence treatment.

The MGs were treated to a very informative presentation on birds by Jim and Linda Wakefield at our monthly meeting. It is wonderful to have such knowledge and talent in our MG ranks!

Dick Pritchett, local MG President, reports that he is doing well following surgery. This weather isn't the best to get well in, but Dick is fighting through it. I'm sure he would appreciate a call or card.

The response to requests for volunteers for Earth Day has been awesome! Thank you for stepping forward to work at this event. I do apologize for the date change, but it could not be avoided. The later date was better for some and worse for others, but everyone communicated with us quickly to make necessary adjustments.

Plant sales will be coming up this spring. Check the MG calendar and mark your calendar!

Arbor Day events last week were well attended by citizens and volunteers. Thank you for supporting these efforts and for encouraging trees planting. Note that the apple tree selections given away by the Beautification Board are standard rootstock, so these trees will get quite large. Give them plenty of room.

Thank you all for your work and dedication!

David West

Mystery Master Gardener

Last month's Mystery Gardener was our Board secretary, Judy Shew. Dick Pritchett, Janet Evans, and Skeeter Sims recognized her.

Who is this month's Mystery Gardener?

- This gardener is from Calhoun County
- Favorite gardening activity is creating miniature gardens; least favorite activity is pulling weeds
- Rescuing animals is another hobby.
- This gardener has done many things, including working for Pike's Nursery.
- Our March gardener lives in Piedmont, Alabama. Drop Sherry an e-mail if you can identify this dedicated Master Gardener.

Favorite flower from Sarah Ballard

ANNUAL: Snapdragon (blooms in Fall, and again in Spring)

PERENNIAL: Coneflower (newer varieties are available in various colors and heights)

If dead headed, coneflowers will bloom until frost!

Garden Tip from Doris Baucom

Instead of planting a one species hedge, consider planting a border of all kinds of shrubs, small trees, and perennials.



Master Gardener Happenings

The very talented and knowledgeable Linda and Jim Wakefield gave a wonderful bird program at our February meeting. Charming bird sounds accompanied beautiful pictures and excellent information. Thanks to everyone who brought delicious food.

In March, Hayes Jackson will tell us about his spectacular trip to Africa. This should be a great

experience for all us. The meeting is March 13th at 12.

Guests from Clanton Master Gardener Association will be part of our March business program. They will offer an official invite to their 2019 conference. They will remain after the business meeting to answer individual questions. Please welcome them.

The 2021 conference program committee is compiling an impressive list of speakers. We appreciate the hard work of Kris Schmit, Patricia Patty, Emily Richardson, Linda Crow, and Sherry Blanton.

Gardening: Fact or Fiction. Tuesday, March 5 at 2:00 p.m. at the Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County. With the popularity of social media, there is much information printed that is just plain nonsense. We will share the most current research-based information (and a bit of personal experience) to help raise vigorous plants.

Carolyn Patton presented Reach for the Stars at our February meeting:

Bronze Stars: Joan Alexander, Angela Brewer, Ellen Cannon, Margaret Copeland, Martha Kilgore, Jimmy Nall and Sandra Walker

Silver Stars: Sarah Ballad, Don Crow, Jennifer Gann, Patricia Killian, Linda Williams

Gold Stars: Janice Cain, Klaus Duncan, and Susan Gibbins

Gold Badges: Mike Limerick and Jim Wakefield

And congratulations to Janet Evans and Linda Schiff for receiving their Platinum Badges. Badges are to be given at the state conference. A big round of applause for these wonderful volunteers.

Check in with Lisa at the office and see if more volunteers are needed for our Earth Day events.

Due to changes in the school system calendar, we will not have Dr. Harry Holstein this year for April Lunch and Learn. Never fear, he will join us next year. However, Dr. Charles Mitchell, popular Master Gardener intern class speaker, will be with us.

Please help spread the word about Lunch and Learn. Check your directory for information. We have great programs worthy of the support of all Master Gardeners.

Jacksonville will soon mark the one-year anniversary of the March 19th tornado. Please remember our community as it is still in recovery.

Get well wishes to our president Dick Pritchett, who is recovering from surgery. We look forward to having him back with us. Meanwhile, Skeeter is helping out with

Sprouts. We appreciate his stepping in to lead our February meeting.

Look for details in April Sprouts about the Tree Amigos and Longleaf Botanical Gardens plant sales.

Spring Garden Symposium

Smaller Spaces and Awkward Places: Selecting Unique Plant Varieties for Challenging Landscapes

8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Thursday, March 21, 2019, Longleaf Botanical Gardens, Anniston, Alabama

- Dr. Rudy Pacumbaba, Extension Specialist, Alabama Cooperative Extension, "Off the Wall, Methods and Uses of Espalier"
- Hayes Jackson, Director of Longleaf Botanical Gardens and Regional Extension Agent, "The Big and Small of Japanese Maples" and "20 Small Trees That Are Underutilized in Central Alabama"
- Carol Reese, Research Horticulture Specialist, West Tennessee Agriculture Research, "Aberrant Plant Forms"
- Dani Carroll, Regional Extension Agent, Alabama Cooperative Extension, "Get Off My Moss!"

Preregistration is required. Call 256-237-6766 or register online at <https://exploreamag.org/>. If registration is made by March 14, a box lunch will be provided. Admission is \$30. Members receive a \$5 discount.

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



Calhoun County Master Gardener Officers

President:	Dick Pritchett
Vice President:	Skeeter Sims
Secretary:	Judy Shew
Treasurer:	Myra Gann
Members-at-Large:	Gary Lawson and Jerry Williams

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