
MG SPROUTS

Calhoun County Master Gardener Newsletter: Volume 20, Issue 6

June 2019



Don and Dick flipping burgers for MG picnic

Message from the President By Dick Pritchett

The Calhoun County Master Gardeners are so pleased to welcome The Donoho School to our team. Sarah Ballard and I have agreed to be advisors for their project.

Donoho Middle School started the Raised Bed Gardens in mid-April. All Middle School classes met in the garden area and put down cardboard to suppress grass growth, and a mixture of "Super Soil" (from Miller Sand and Gravel), Black Cow and soil conditioner was placed in each bed. Walkways were also covered with cardboard and mulch. Individual classes have planted their gardens which include tomatoes, peppers, herbs, okra and squash. The teachers are developing a curriculum for teaching the importance of growing food for households, the need for large-scale farming, and health benefits from fresh vegetables. Master Gardeners will visit classrooms and will teach various aspects of gardening.

Dr. Vishwanath Reddy has been instrumental in organizing supplies and materials needed for this program to move forward. The photo on page 2 (May 20, 2019) illustrates the progress and planted gardens. Dr. Reddy's son Ash is installing drip irrigation to each of the raised beds.

The steering committee is working hard to get a budget together for early to mid-June reporting to the Master Gardener State Board. All committees are working overtime to complete their tasks. We learned a lot from the Clanton Conference. I was very impressed with their wonderful facilities!

'Til Later,
Dick



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MG Calendar

- All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar, June 7, 1-2 p.m.
- MG Board Meeting, 10:45 a.m., June 12, Cane Creek Community Gardens
- MG Business Meeting, 12 p.m., June 12, Cane Creek Community Gardens
- "Birds," June 18, Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County, 2-3 p.m. Speakers: Jim and Linda Wakefield.
- Sprouts Deadline, June 25, 2019
- "Daylilies," Third Thursday, Longleaf Botanical Gardens, June 20, 10 a.m.

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Ash Reddy installing drip irrigation in Donoho raised bed gardens

Garden Inspiration

From Louis Armstrong "What a Wonderful World"
 "I see trees of green
 red roses too.
 I see them bloom
 for me and you
 And I think to myself
 what a wonderful world."

Mystery Master Gardener

Mystery Gardener for May was dedicated gardener Janice Cain and she was recognized by Janet Evans.

Mystery Gardener for June

"I am from Talladega County. I live in Weaver. Propagation is my favorite garden activity. I am retired from law enforcement. I hike, canoe and I am presently the secretary for the Alabama Scenic River Trail."

Drop Sherry an e-mail if you can recognize this talented Master Gardener.



Recipe of the Month: Peach Cake

Peaches should be here soon!

½ cup sugar
 ½ cup flour
 1 teaspoon baking powder
 ½ cup milk
 ½ stick margarine
 2 cups juicy, ripe peaches
 ¾ cup sugar
 1 tablespoon lemon juice

Mix ½ cup sugar, flour, baking powder, and milk. Cut margarine into small pieces and place in bottom of a baking dish. Pour batter into dish (batter does not have shortening). Combine peaches with ¾ cup sugar and lemon juice. Spoon over batter in dish. Bake 30 to 35 minutes at 350 degrees F. The cake-like batter will rise to the top, and the peaches will be on the bottom. Combine lemon peel, juice, almond extract, and water; add to peaches. Place in a 400-degree F oven and heat while preparing dough.

Sift flour, baking powder, 1 tablespoon sugar, and salt together. Cut in shortening until mixture is like coarse crumbs. Combine milk and egg; add to dry ingredients and stir until flour is just moistened. Spread over peaches and sprinkle with 3 tablespoons sugar. Bake at 400 degrees F for 35 to 40 minutes or until peaches are tender. Serve hot or cold with or without ice cream.

HE-0576 Alabama Peaches

<https://store.aces.edu/ItemDetail.aspx?ProductID=15889>

All Bugs Good and Bad: Batty for Bats

Bats are one of the most interesting and important wildlife pests we encounter in pest control. At the same time, they play a giant role in agriculture - and eat a lot of our insect pests. Join Janet Hurley, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension as she discusses bat behavior and management strategies to keep them from the indoors. Webinars are moderated by Dr. Tim Davis, UGA Extension and Vicky Bertagnolli, Clemson Extension, and coordinated by Dani Carroll, Alabama Extension. The link to the event is

<https://auburn.zoom.us/j/615766171>. Note: the link to the live webinar opens about 15 minutes before the webinar. If you try to log in earlier, you will get an error message. For more webinars in this series, see 2019 All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar Series. The link to the series is here:

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



Volunteers get lunch ready for the Tennessee guests



A brave little girl pets Mr. Chompers



Linda and Judy show off our Bicentennial garden

MG Happenings

We thank all the gifted Master Gardeners who took part in our panel at the May business meeting. Janice Cain, Margaret Copeland, Sarah Ballard, Linda and Jim Wakefield, and I participated. Janet Evans brought a neat container filled with black mondo grass. (For all who want to try black mondo grass, it will be for sale at the Tree Amigo Plant greenhouse clearance sale this summer). We learned a lot and had a great time. Linda Wakefield shared Rice Krispies bars with the grateful attendees.

Stephen Faughn entertained us with the antics of his amazing animals at May's Lunch and Learn. His programs are always fascinating.

Our Master Gardener Association entertained a group from Tennessee for a cook-out and discussion of Cane Creek; Hayes arranged their visit to Calhoun County. Thanks to all the local volunteers (including the one MG baker who donated six beautiful cakes) participating. This was truly a great day for our Association. Dick and Sarah are great hosts; we are fortunate to have them see that all things are possible.

Our June business meeting educational program will be June 12th "Changes in Alabama Agriculture" with Dr. Chip East as we continue to celebrate Alabama's Bicentennial. Make sure to take a look at our Bicentennial garden. The Cane Creek crew has done a fantastic job. Lunch is brown bag but dessert would surely be appreciated.

June's Lunch and Learn (June 26) will be a guided walk through the Cane Creek Grounds led by Linda McDaniel and Skeeter Sims. We hope to get more folks in the community to know about Cane Creek. Please bring a non-MG friend and help them to get to know our facility.

Our deepest condolences to Carolyn Patton on the passing of her husband Arthur. Keep Carolyn in your thoughts in this difficult time.

The Master Gardener Association program committee is planning next year's programs. Linda Crow, Kris Schmit, and I are the members of the committee. Please share your thoughts, suggestions, and speakers too for our monthly business meeting or Lunch and Learn.

Jim and Linda Wakefield will be presenting their delightful bird program on June 18th at 2 p.m. at the Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County. Free; no reservations required. If you missed it earlier this year, plan to attend the library's offering.

Please remember the silent auction of a Gulf condo (donated by Amelia and Don Crow). The auction will be at our August Meeting. If you have a friend who is not a MG, we will take a bid from them too. Contact Dick or Don for details.

Sherry Blanton

Cane Creek Update from Skeeter Sims

Lots of change for our home grounds. In case you haven't noticed, the Cherry Laurel by the classroom front door at the entrance to Cane Creek has been taken down. It suffered significant snow damage in the snow from two Decembers back. The county removed the damaged limbs, but the tree remained stressed and began to show signs of a slow death. It had definitely outgrown its spot in the corner and was beginning to threaten damage to the building. Thanks so much to Theo and his crew for helping to safely, and with great consideration for the plants in the beds, remove this big old tree. Many of the large limbs removed were already hollowed out and several showed signs of disease and parasitic growths.

So where do we go from here?? Well, like life, we adapt, make changes and overcome. This bed had made some tremendous improvements and provided beauty to our entrance area as sun and partial to full shade was its category -- now it's full sun, all day and hot as all get out!! So, we are redesigning and rethinking some of the plantings. Camellias, hostas, and others will be removed and fostered at other homes for the summer while we look for a better spot to showcase those plants and begin to fill in their spots with more suitable replacements. The Cane Creek crew continues to seek improvements in maintenance, appearance, and uniqueness for our home site!! Thank them as we are few in number but great in need!!!



Skeeter turns "snake handler"

In My Mother's Memory from Margaret Copeland

The flowers I selected were in my mother's honor—"Evelyn's Basket." My love of gardening has come from her influence; all these plants were favorites in her beautiful yard. The sedum (Autumn Joy) blooms in late summer, is easy to propagate, is a favorite of bees and butterflies, and has dense pink blooms which fade to copper then to rust. I got my first cuttings from her yard. Other of her favorites were purple heart, vinca/periwinkle, and wandering Jew which complement the pink/purple color scheme. I adored her and her flowers!



Margaret Copeland and Evelyn's Basket

Lunch & Learn

"A Guided Walk through Cane Creek Community Gardens". Noon, June 26th. Linda McDaniel & Skeeter Sims *Speakers/topics subject to change. Call 256-237-1621 to confirm.

Calhoun County Master Gardener Officers

President:	Dick Pritchett
Vice President:	Skeeter Sims
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Treasurer:	Myra Gann
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