
MG SPROUTS

Calhoun County Master Gardener Newsletter: Volume 20, Issue 8

August 2019



Cheerful flowers at CCCG

Garden Inspiration

“The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul.”

— Alfred Austin



The Bicentennial Garden is really filling in.
Thank you, Cane Creek Crew.

MG Calendar

- 2021 AMGA Steering Committee meeting, 3 p.m., August 8, Cane Creek Community Gardens
- MG Board Meeting, 10:45 a.m., August 14, Cane Creek Community Gardens
- MG Business Meeting, 12 p.m., August 14, Cane Creek Community Gardens
- “Plants with Bad Habits,” Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County, August 6, 2-3 p.m., Sherry Blanton
- Lunch and Learn, August 28, 2019, Cane Creek Community Gardens
- Sprouts Deadline, August 25, 2019

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Bid on Beach Condo to Raise Funds for State MG Conference

Our MG group is working hard to raise funds for the statewide conference in 2021. To assist the effort Don and Amelia Crow are donating the use of their condo in Gulf Shores for a week. The opening bid for our auction is \$500.

The condo can be used October/November of 2019 excluding August 31 through Sept 2 and Oct 10 through the 14th. You will be responsible for a \$145 cleaning fee. The condo is very nice and is right on the beach. Time for a getaway. Fall is the best time at the Gulf.

The silent auction will be August 14th at our MG meeting. Anyone, however, can put in a bid if you cannot be present. If you want to place a bid, please contact Dick Pritchett.

To see the condo, go to <https://www.turnkeyvr.com/1272476>

Thank you, Don and Amelia

President's Message

WOW! I had an exciting week entertaining my favorite (and only!) granddaughter and her friend, McKinley. Horseback riding, swimming, Dutch oven cooking, gardening, Nocalula Falls, and a special trip to Watts Farms in Munford with Tree Amigos completed a fun-filled week! What fun I had with these two girls! It was my first time to entertain Morgan, (11) and friend McKinley (12) without parents.

I had always looked forward to having Morgan spend time with me, but it just couldn't happen with Sherron being sick for approximately 10 years. Morgan and McKinley attended "Lunch and Learn" with me today and got to visit the Sherron Pritchett Greenhouse. She is connecting so well with memories of her precious Nana.

Most Master Gardeners are grandparents' age and enjoy spending time with (and spoiling) their loved ones. We finished our days on the farm with visiting one of the area's treasures, the Anniston Museum of Natural History. What a perfect close to our visit! I AM TIRED!

'Till later,
Dick



Judy Shew helps keep Cane Creek beautiful

Mystery Gardener

Last month's mystery gardener was Jerry Gilbert. He was identified by Skeeter Sims, Linda and Jim Wakefield, and Ellen Cannon. Jerry is a bee expert and will be presenting a program in 2020 about bees.

Can you guess who August's mystery gardener is? Drop me an e-mail if you recognize this MG.

"I am from Boston. I enjoy working in the garden and being outside.

The best part of gardening is watching all the birds that enjoy the flowers, especially hummingbirds. I also like meeting the other MGs.

My hobbies include walking, reading, and traveling. Although I am a retired teacher, I have less free time now and am constantly on the go. I live in Wellborn."

Sherry

Garden Tip for August

From Eric Shavey, who spoke to our July Lunch and Learn, came this great idea. Fill the bottom of a container with plastic water bottles with no tops on them and add water to the bottles; add some pea gravel and then the soil. Plants will find the water and containers will have good drainage.

My Favorite Plant: Sheila Anne Webb

"A row of tree lilies adorning a fence line and emitting heavenly aromas is a favorite. Blooms are taller than I am so the fragrance wafts all around me."
(Editor's note-- a tree lily is an Oriental hybrid.)



Tree lily in bloom. Photo by Sheila Anne Webb

Cane Creek Update from Skeeter Sims

- Cane Creek crew has been busy. We've created a couple of new beds, shade beds, to support the plants moved from the bed where we lost the Cherry Laurel and its shade. This year has been a beautiful year for Cane Creek, plants have grown, bloomed and multiplied --- we'll be thinning again this Fall and early next Spring to maintain all the beds to optimum levels of performance.

- Our new mower has been a tremendous asset. Thanks to those who donated! We still are accepting donations to offset the cost of the new mower (we're about \$1000 short of our goals). Mowing and weed eating continue, anyone that would like to help please contact Skeeter to find out when and receive safety training on both mowers before you try to use them. The Zturn mower and tractor have had multiple flats and we must use caution when near the ongoing construction due to nails, screws and debris. Several others have had vehicle flats as well.

- FALL FEST is just around the corner, the 3rd Saturday in September at CC. Remember this is our only fund raiser to support ongoing efforts to maintain and improve Cane Creek grounds. We need all hands to participate in getting the grounds ready, preparing the site for the public, and on the day of Fall Fest we need your dedicated support/time/efforts to make this a successful event. Thanks to all in advance, let's make this the best year ever.

MG Happenings

We thank Marchale Burton from our local Extension office for her delicious treats and interesting and fun program at our July business meeting. Eric Shavey, Extension Agent from Etowah County, presented a very informative program on building great soil at our July Lunch and Learn. Lush gardens are ahead!

The 4H Tree Amigos program at Coosa Valley Attention Home is having a summer clearance/ clean out the greenhouse plant sale on August 9th from noon to 6 at the Coosa Valley Youth Services Green House on McClellan. Proceeds support the 4-H program with the female residents of the Attention Home. Come get a good deal and do good at the same time!

We send our get well wishes to MG Diana Martin for a complete recovery. We all miss seeing her at meetings. She is surely missed by the Tree Amigos volunteers too.

August will feature interesting programs. Alex Tigue of the Extension System will speak on GMO and its science and safety with the beef and poultry industry at our monthly meeting on August 14th. This is a very timely talk. It would be a nice treat if a member might bring a snack or dessert for the meeting as lunch is brown bag.

Hayes will be with us at Lunch and Learn on August 28th to present a program on "Glorious Groundcovers."

Please join me at the Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County for a program on "Plants with Problems." The program is August 6th at 2 p.m. and it is free; no registration is required. The library always provides delicious treats and gives away door prizes. We will talk about plants that spread, plants that are poisonous, plants that smell, and everything in between.

Our board elections for 2020 are coming up this fall. If you are interested in serving on the board, please let Skeeter know.

Our committees are hard at work on the 2021 conference. If you have not signed up and want to pitch in, please get in touch with Skeeter.

Sherry Blanton



One of Cane Creek's inhabitants

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Recipe for August

Beth's Macaroni and Cheese

Boil 8 ounces macaroni. Mix with 1/2 stick butter, 1 cup sour cream, 1 cup cottage cheese, and 10 ounces grated cheddar. Top with breadcrumbs. Bake at 350 degrees for 35-45 minutes until brown and bubbly.

Please share your favorite recipes for Sprouts. Our Association has some terrific chefs; we would welcome recipes.

August Recipe from Linda Crow

Lunch & Learn

Lunch & Learn is a series of FREE gardening programs sponsored by the Calhoun County Master Gardeners and the Calhoun County Commission. L&L is held 4th Wednesday of each month. Bring your lunch and learn with us. Cane Creek Community Gardens, 77 Justice Ave, McClellan. Noon-1 p.m. Speakers/topics subject to change. Call 256-237-1621 to confirm.

Hayes Jackson will present on "Glorious Groundcovers" on August 28



One of the visitors to Cane Creek's Butterfly gardens

"All Bugs Good & Bad" Webinar

"GMOs and the Effect on Insect Populations", Dr. Rudy Pacumbaba, Alabama Extension. Friday, Aug. 2nd, 1 p.m. 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>.



Extension Agent Eric Shavey and one of Cane Creek's beautiful crepe myrtles



Blast from the past: getting ready for the Tree Amigos Plant sale 2015



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