
MG SPROUTS

Calhoun County Master Gardener Newsletter: Volume 20, Issue 9

September 2019



Cane Creek Beauty

Message from the President By Dick Pritchett

One of the most important issues facing us as Calhoun County Master Gardeners is increasing our membership. **Please take this personally!** It is our responsibility to encourage and enroll a minimum of 15 students to fill the 2020 Master Gardener Class. Classes are expected to begin in Mid-January and will meet on Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Classes continue through mid-April. Pre-registration forms are available at the Extension office and can also be printed from a recent email from Lisa Sosebee. We probably need to have copies available with us to provide to prospects, rather than telling them to go to get forms at the Extension office.

The Steering Committee has been working hard to secure facilities, speakers, food, etc. for our final budget for the 2021 State Master Gardener Conference. Skeeter Sims is the Chairman for this project, and all questions concerning the 2021 Conference should be directed to him. He has been meeting with the State Officers and has been in contact with those leaders concerning progress of our Committees.

I will spend most of my time raising the funds needed to make this function happen. Our Calhoun County Commissioners will Co-sponsor our event. Please personally thank Tim Hodges, Eli Henderson, Fred Wilson, J.D. Hess and Lee Patterson for their support through their pledges. We have a great start on our goal to finance this venue. Linda Wakefield will keep us advised on our efforts and needs concerning the Conference as they become present.

Linda Gunnoe and others who have been so diligent in working in the greenhouse need help with the watering schedule. Please try to find a couple of hours each week to help with watering. If you can help, please contact Linda. August as usual has been brutal on our plants and gardens. Maybe we will be blessed with a few showers to get us into September!

'Til Later,
Dick



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MG Calendar

- MG Board Meeting, 10:45 a.m., September 11, Cane Creek Community Gardens
- MG Business Meeting, 12 p.m., September 11, Cane Creek Community Gardens
- "Berries and Grasses," September 17, Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County, 2-3 p.m. Sherry Blanton.
- Sprouts Deadline, September 25
- "Totally Tough Plants," Lunch & Learn, September 25th, noon-1 p.m. Hayes Jackson

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Garden Inspiration

If you think in terms of a year, plant a seed; if in terms of ten years, plant trees, if in terms of 100 years, teach the people.”

Confucius
(551 BC- 479 BC)

From Skeeter Sims

Lunch & Learn



Totally Tough Plants. Wednesday, September 25th, noon-1 p.m. Speaker is Hayes Jackson. This is our last Lunch & Learn Session of 2019).

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

My Favorite Plant: Linda McDaniel

This even surprises me that my favorite flower has become the zinnia. I just throw zinnias seeds out every year. I don't even cover the seeds and in the heat of summer when a lot of my perennials have stopped blooming the zinnias really start showing their beauty. Zinnias are supposed to be annuals; I always have some that return from the year before.

I have gardens full of zinnias at my house and we also use them at Cane Creek for added color and the pollinators love them.

Make yourself happy; plant some zinnias in the sun. You won't be disappointed.



Bright, beautiful zinnias

Cane Creek Update: Skeeter Sims

This month we have lots of work to do preparing our home grounds for the public at FALL FEST. We will be working every week to make the grounds safe, accessible, and looking great!! But the Cane Creek Crew needs your help. We not only have the routine maintenance and mowing but we will need to clean up the wooded area, clean up and remove debris from around the Sustainability/Wildlife building, refresh some of the landscaped beds with mulch and clear any/all unattended garden boxes that are an ongoing eyesore.

- Calling ALL Calhoun County Master Gardeners!! We have two major events a year - Earth Day and Fall Fest. FALL FEST is our only source of fundraising revenue for the improvement and maintenance of Cane Creek grounds, our home site and location for future Intern classes. We need every active Master Gardener (even those that haven't been that active this past year) to volunteer and make this year's Fall Fest the best one ever!!! If you need hours for the year, now is the time. We will be working multiple days to get the grounds ready, plus Friday (Sept 20th) will be final preps and set up; AND of course, Saturday (Sept 21st) from 0800-1500, we'll be hosting the public of Calhoun County and cleaning up after. Contact Lisa to volunteer for day of and contact Skeeter for work days and assignments.

- Don't forget September is a busy month, we also are in search of active MGs willing to be nominated for election to our local MG Board. Contact Nominating Committee if you are interested, we will also be taking nominations from the floor, so you don't want to miss the next 2 meetings or you might get a job!! Hours are due very soon, so make sure you are getting them into the digital system. We will hold our annual business meeting/election of officers at the November meeting.

Gardening Hint

Become familiar with invasive plants to be sure you do not add them to your garden. A great source is the Alabama Invasive Plant List. <https://www.se-eppc.org/alabama/>

It is surprising what plants are being added to this list.



Mystery Gardener for August

Janet Evans identified Ellen Cannon, a dedicated MG who brings a smile everywhere she serves.



Ellen Cannon

September Mystery Gardener

If you can identify this MG, please let me know.

“Originally, I am from Alabama (Heflin). My favorite part of gardening is watching a small plant that no one else wants come to life and become a beautiful plant.

My hobbies other than gardening are reading, playing musical instruments, and knitting.

In a prior life, I was a speech pathologist. After I retired, I continued to do contract work with school systems for another ten years.

Presently, I live in Heflin in the middle of nine acres of beautiful forest with a creek flowing on one side of the property. The squirrels, chipmunks, deer, dogs and cat are perfectly happy in our environment.”

Sherry

Recipe for September

From Marchale Burton, Calhoun County Extension Office

Tomato Guacamole Dip

2 medium ripe avocados (peeled and chopped)

1 T. lime juice

1 small tomato seeded and chopped

3T. Sour cream

½ Tsp, Salt

½ tsp minced garlic

Celery or tortilla chips

In a small bowl mash avocado and lime juice with a fork. Stir in tomatoes, sour cream, salt and garlic.

Cover and refrigerate for five minutes. Serve with chips or celery.

Please share your recipes. Gary Lawson will be the chef for October but we need lots more recipes!

MG Happenings

Join us at our monthly meeting, Wednesday, September 11th. Speaker is Dale Dickens of the Alabama Forestry Commission. His topic is "Your Trees & the Wind." Lunch is "garden fresh" – please bring a covered dish to share, perhaps something from your own garden. Remember your serving utensil.

Fall Fest is upon us. Volunteer! To provide cake for the cake walk, bake anything of your choice. Please wrap securely and label: for example, chocolate cake with vanilla frosting. Please mark with or without nuts. Janet is heading up the cake walk. Help her and her crew (me) make lots of money for Cane Creek. We need one more helper.

Bake sale cookies or candy should be bagged 4 items to a bag and labeled please (also label with or without nuts).

Remember, this is the only fund raiser for Cane Creek Community Gardens – our chance to fatten our bank account.

Alex Tigue was our guest at the August monthly meeting. He gave an important talk on GMO in food as well as other myths about meat and poultry. He is a great speaker, and provided a lot information regarding the food we eat.

Hayes Jackson spoke at Lunch and Learn on August 28. His topic was "Glorious Groundcovers." When grass does not grow, try a groundcover!

I will be speaking at the Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County on September 17 at 2 PM. My topic will be "Glorious Grasses (ornamental) and Beautiful Berries." Please attend; it is free and open to the public. No registration is required; there are door prizes and delicious treats. Teresa Kiser, Director of the Library, is a gracious hostess.

Linda Crow, Jim Wakefield and I are the nominating committee for this year's elections. Please share with one of us the names of possible candidates. We welcome your input and need your names this month please. Every office but Treasurer is turning over.

Congratulations to Judy Shew for having the winning bid for Don and Amelia's condo. Maybe we can all drop by. It is a beautiful place; we are grateful to the Crowes for their generosity.

I am looking for August to get over. I read July was 1.71 degrees higher than the 20th century average. NOAA said June was the hottest in record. I have a feeling August will be the hottest on the planet—or that is at least how it has felt.

Here's to cooler days with rain. In the meantime, happy watering.

Sherry



MGs welcome Alex Tighe



The Cane Creek groundhog has moved to greener territory



Blast from the past: building Coke's shed in 2015



Marchale Burton and Friends



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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