

The Germinator

A monthly publication of Cullman County Master Gardener Association, Inc.

Issue 23 Volume 2

Editor: Ellen Hall

February 2019

Current Month:

Feb. 20 12:00 Agriplex
Lunch & Learn
Pruning Ornamentals

Feb. 21 8:00 a.m. Agriplex
ARBOR DAY Tree Sale

Feb. 21 10:00 MG Mtg.
Pgm: Backyard Birds
By Herb Lewis

Looking Ahead:

Mar. 5 Living Landscape
Lasagna Gardening, p.5

Mar. 20 12:00 Agriplex
Lunch & Learn
Seed Starting

March 21 MG Mtg.

April 6-7, 2019
Bloomin' Festival

May 8-10, 2019 Clanton, AL
AMGA Spring Conference
"Party in the Garden"

ALABAMA GARDENING CALENDAR

From ACES publication ANR-47



FRUITS AND NUTS – Planting season continues for dormant trees. Fertilize fruit trees. Apply half of the fertilizer recommended for grapes now; apply the other half soon after fruit sets. Continue dormant pruning and grafting. Start strawberry plantings.

SHRUBS - Planting season continues. Visit camellia shows to learn of hardy varieties in your area. Graft camellias in Central and South Alabama. Spray all shrubs with a fungicide before new growth starts. Good time to prune all shrubs before new growth starts. Don't prune early-blooming species because flower buds will be removed.

ROSES – Prune hybrid tea roses in South Alabama; **delay pruning for a few weeks in North Alabama.** Continue planting.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS – Replant early plantings of hardy annuals. Prepare beds for summer annuals.

BULBS – Plant cannas, amaryllis, gladiolus, and zephyranthes in South Alabama; delay planting for a few weeks in North Alabama.

MISCELLANEOUS - Houseplants are beginning to show signs of activity. Fertilize with liquid or soluble fertilizer according to manufacturer's directions. Remember Valentine's Day. Why not send roses or a potted plant?

VEGETABLE SEED - Plant some vegetables listed for January in Central Alabama plus collards, salsify, and Swiss chard. Add tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, cauliflower, and Brussels sprouts to coldframes.

VEGETABLE PLANTS - cabbage, onions, lettuce, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts.

Arbor Day Tree Sale



The Arbor Day tree sale will be held on Feb. 21st at the Agriplex from 8:00 a.m. until it is sold out (usually by noon).

This year's selection of ornamental shrubs and trees is the largest ever, so hopefully Master Gardeners will take advantage of this sale. All plants are seedlings priced at \$2.00 each.

Come early for best selection *(or to assist with the sale before you have to leave for the MG meeting).*

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**General Membership Minutes
Cullman County Master Gardeners Association
January 17, 2019**

Meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Pat Sharpton, President. Everett Wier gave the Sunshine report, encouraging members to contact those who are in poor health, and read the MG prayer. There were no minutes from December; the Christmas party replaced the regular meeting. Treasurer's report for December 2018, which also appeared in the Germinator newsletter, was presented by Phil Gatlin. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the report as submitted.

Committee/Project Reports

Bloomin' Festival – Pete Douthit asked that everyone “plant plants.” He has pots and dirt and will bring labels shortly. Twenty plants per member would be a good start. We need 800 plants to meet the fundraising goal. He can supply about 500. Hydrangeas are simple to propagate and worth \$5 each; just clip the shoots and keep them in the garage, a little damp, until the weather is warmer. Ask friends, family, and neighbors for their hydrangea shoots. Look for plants to divide. For daylilies, we need a photo or at least to know the color. Iris in bloom are salable. Tomato plants in one-gallon pots sell for \$2.50 to \$5. Buy them at 3 for \$1 and re-pot. Pete will come and dig up wild hydrangeas if anyone can tell him where they are.

Bicentennial Garden project – Teresa Goodwin reported that the garden is completed. She would like to have a sign to say that the Master Gardeners planted it. There are several options, and she will obtain one soon. The tree needs fertilizer monthly; money is available to cover that cost.

Demonstration Garden – Ben Johnson reminded members about the pruning workshop by Tony Glover at 10 a.m. on Saturday, February 16. The focus is to bring in people interested in gardening. Tim Crow will also present training on tool sharpening.

Membership – Pat reported that Lora Raley, Membership chair, will organize an effort to call members we haven't seen recently. She will prepare lists of five members and ask other MGs to call them.

Extension Agent's Report: 2019 CCMG Class – The class has 13 paid members and needs 2 more. One member is re-taking the class and paid the fee for two others. Another member paid for one person to attend. Members need to encourage new people and remind them about the class. This often requires one-on-one effort. We will have scholarships, but the funds will not be available before class begins.

To publicize the class, Tony will provide an item to share on Facebook after Ben updates the graphic.

A suggestion is to combine the class with another county as was done with Blount county last year. If we don't have a class this year, perhaps Blount county could have one in the Fall. Other options: Divide the sessions between two locations, use a neutral location, or have half the class in live session while the other participates via Zoom from another location.

Budget for 2019 – Billy Tate presented the proposed budget prepared by the Board. Motion by Billy to accept the budget with second by Phil Gatlin.

Question: Should we approve a budget with a projected large deficit? Answer: We have funds carried over from 2018, and we usually don't spend all the budgeted amounts. Some expenses for 2019 are one-time (e.g., the tent). We often budget for expenses greater than income and rely on money left from previous years. However, cash reserves are becoming less and we will need other ways to make money.

Question: The Bloomin' Festival is basically our only source of income. We may not do the Strawberry Festival this year, as it is too expensive (\$250 for one day.) If plants are left from the Bloomin' Festival, can we rent a location to sell them? *Discussion:* Several people at the Strawberry Festival asked where the Master Gardeners were. Alternate venues require separate advertising. Some low-cost venues are available in March and September.

Question: Do we plan to participate in the Fair this year? *Answer:* Money for a Fair booth is in the budget.

Question: Why was the Junior Master Gardeners' grant reduced? *Answer:* The JMG program is getting smaller with less activity. Schools are taking over some of the JMG curriculum.

Decision: Motion passed to approve the budget.

Educational Trip opportunity –Herb Lewis, who will speak at the meeting on 2/21, has invited the MGs to visit his bird habitat near the Botanical Garden in Huntsville. He requests a donation to the birding trail organization in lieu of payment.

Announcements – The agenda lists educational and volunteer opportunities already scheduled. Pat provided forms to sign up to help with the Cullman County Water Festival on March 22. The Cullman Area Technology Academy (CATA) will hold a plant sale from April 1 until mid-May or when sold out. Location is Highway 31 N next to the Child Development Center. The State AMGA conference is May 8 – 10 in Clanton. Details are at alabamamg.org.

Newsletter delivery issues – Ellen Hall asked whether any newsletters sent by mail were not received on time. There were several, and some members didn't get the online newsletter, but it may have gone to Spam folders. Ellen could not send it via Yahoo. Beth and Tony assisted with a link to view it online.

Program – Tony Glover presented photos, diagrams and details about plans to develop an arboretum at Sportsman Lake park. Master Gardeners are encouraged to contribute ideas and to assist with fund raising for the project.

Meeting adjourned at 12:01 a.m.

Submitted by: Stefanie Light, Secretary

**Board Meeting Minutes
Cullman County Master Gardeners Association
January 17, 2019**

Attendees Present: Pat Sharpton, President
Ben Johnson, 1st Vice President
Susan Rodgers, 2nd Vice President
Stefanie Light, Secretary
Billy Tate, Treasurer
Imogene Hamilton, Board Member
Renee Lamar, Board Member
Michael O'Laire, Board Member

Meeting was called to order by Pat Sharpton at 9:05 A.M.

Topics discussed included:

- Pat explained the new format and content of the agenda for the general membership meeting.
- Party expenses – In the general membership meeting on June 21, 2018, a guideline was adopted for funds allocated for the social events (Spring Fling picnic, Awards dinner, and Christmas party.) Of the funds budgeted for each event, 25% is available for decorations, and 75% is available for food, paper and plastic products for the meal, and drinks. Letters were sent to the event chairs explaining the guideline. Expenses for decorations at the Christmas party in December 2018 were more than is allowed under the guideline. Some expenses may not have been for the party, but for sale items not related to the Master Gardeners. Also, no one on the Board knows what happened to the wooden centerpieces that are intended to be re-usable. Reimbursement was made based on the expenses submitted to the Treasurer with original receipts and signed by the President.

Options were considered for enforcing the guideline for future events. 1) If expenses exceed the budgeted amount, the chair is responsible for paying the overage. 2) Expenses would be submitted for reimbursement as they are incurred, and anything over the budgeted amount would not be reimbursed. 3) Apply a moratorium on all decoration expenses for at least one year.

Ways of limiting decorations expenses were cited: Members can bring flowers and greenery or other items they have on hand. Re-usable decorations could be stored in a central location to be available for multiple events. (Pat agreed to address what happened to the wooden centerpieces used at the Christmas party.)

Decision: Leave the guideline as is. Each party chair will sign a letter before the event agreeing to follow the guideline. We will not have a central location for reusable items.

- Food vendor – The company that has supplied the smoked chicken for several of our social events is becoming unreliable, i.e., not delivering on time and not providing enough food at some events. This may discourage members from attending the parties. We need to look for other vendors for future parties.
- Bloomin’ Festival – We lost a significant source of plants when the Auburn experimental station closed. Suggestion: That we buy plants at the Arbor Day tree sale. We can pay \$2 per item and re-sell for \$5. This should be limited to plants that are known to sell well. Examples: tea olives and hydrangeas. Tony Glover is willing to set plants aside for us, and Pete and Donnie Douthit have agreed to select the plants. Members will need to pot the plants and care for them until the Bloomin’ Festival. **Decision:** The Board approved purchasing 50 plants for a total cost of \$100.
- MG class 2019 – We have 14 paid reservations and need one more, which we expect to get. Our main sources of prospective members for the class include the County Fair, newspaper notices, recruiting at plant sales, and MG members inviting others to join.
- Scholarship for MG class – Availability will be announced in the class, and the winners will be reimbursed for the class fee. An important criterion for awarding the scholarship is expected longevity, the degree of commitment to Master Gardener activities. Suggestion: That the scholarship not be paid until the recipient has completed 50 volunteer hours. With this approach, the payment could be made at the Awards dinner.

Stefanie Light and Michael O’Laire, who served on the Scholarship committee for 2018 agreed to serve again. We may want to add more people to the committee so they can be trained on how this is done.

- MG class support – Joan Williams will coordinate the food and grade the tests.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Stefanie Light, Secretary



Treasurer’s Report for January

Submitted by Billy Tate

CCMGAI Checkbook Balance as of Dec. 31, 2018			\$ 9,463.18
Receipts from Jan. 1, 2019 – Jan. 31, 2019			
Donations	\$	50.00	
2019 Local Dues (7)	\$	70.00	
In-Out 2019 State Dues (6)	\$	60.00	
		Total Receipts	\$ 180.00
Disbursements from Jan. 1, 2018 – Jan. 31, 2019			
Donation–gift cards for FL MGA (from 2018 budget)	\$	78.49	
Postage for Germinator	\$	100.00	
		Total Disbursements	\$ 178.49
CCMGAI Checkbook Balance as of November 30, 2018			\$ 9,464.69



2019 Officers/Committees

Officers: President:	Pat Sharpton	256-734-0295	patmhs3@bellsouth.net
Immediate Past President:	Imogene Hamilton	205-647-1323	imoh1gfb@gmail.com
First Vice-President:	Ben Johnson	205-324-2366	sthrnss@bellsouth.net
Second Vice-President:	Susan Rodgers	256-841-1065	scrubsinksue@aol.com
Treasurer:	Billy Tate	205-757-6903	billy_tate@bellsouth.net
Secretary:	Stefanie Light	256-734-7551	stefanie.light@charter.net
Board Members:	Renee Lamar	256-737-9018	rebelinbama@hotmail.com 2019
	Mike O'Laire	205-590-1008	mmolaire@netzero.net 2020
	Imogene Hamilton	205-647-1323	imoh1gfb@gmail.com 2021
Extension Advisor:	Tim Crow	256-737-9386	tcc0029@aces.edu
AMGA Advisory Council:	Charles Wunderlich	256-734-7521	charles.wunderlich@yahoo.com
Committee Chairs:			
Auditing	Mike O'Laire	256-590-1008	mmolaire@netzero.net
	Mike Parrott	256-339-8023	mikeparrott42@gmail.com
Awards (2 nd VP)	Susan Rodgers	256-841-1065	scrubsinksue@aol.com
Bicentennial Garden	Teresa Goodwin	256-352-6591	plowgirl37@yahoo.com
Bloomin'Fest	Joan Williams	256-734-9784	bjwilliams5473@gmail.com
Class Refreshments	Joan Williams	256-734-9784	bjwilliams5473@gmail.com
Club Gear	Susan Rodgers	256-841-1065	scrubsinksue@aol.com
Communications: Germinator	Ellen Hall	256-590-3115	ellenhall55@aol.com
Garden Pathways	Jennifer Underwood	205-529-2189	jenka72@gmail.com
Publicity	Stefanie Light	256-734-7551	stefanie.light@charter.net
County Fair Booth	OPEN		
Crop Registration	Cynthia Tubbs	256-636-6058	lulutubbs@yahoo.com
Demonstration Garden	Ben Johnson	205-324-2366	sthrnss@bellsouth.net
Education Trip Organizer	OPEN		
Festhalle Soil Testing	OPEN		
Finance (Treasurer)	Billy Tate	205-757-6903	billy_tate@bellsouth.net
Intern Mentor Program	OPEN		
Jr. Master Gardener	Cynthia Tubbs	256-636-6058	lulutubbs@yahoo.com
Membership	Lora Raley	256-736-4576	jlraley2@aol.com
Nominating	Teresa Goodwin	256-352-6591	plowgirl37@yahoo.com
Programs (1st VP)	Ben Johnson	205-324-2366	sthrnss@bellsouth.net
Rain Garden	Holly Hirsbrunner	256-734-5396	hghirsbrunner@gmail.com
Scrapbook/Historian	Nancy Gatlin	256-339-1190	philgatlin70@gmail.com
Social: Picnic/XMAS Party	April Kimbril	256-734-7083	
	Alena Cook	256-747-2057	
Awards Banquet	Teresa Goodwin	256-352-6591	plowgirl37@yahoo.com
Strawberry Festival	Preston and Debbie Doss	256-507-0045	debbiedos44@yahoo.com
Sunshine	Everett Wier	256-739-8679	ewier@bellsouth.net
Volunteer Hours	Phil Gatlin or Ellen Hall		

Please contact **Ellen Hall** with corrections.



2019 Living Landscapes Programs at the Agriplex: A monthly educational series offering valuable information about sustainability in your own backyard. All programs are \$5 per person unless otherwise noted. Registration is required. Visit agripdex.org to register or call 256-297-1044. 1714 Talley Ho St, Cullman, AL.

Tuesday, March 5 Lasagna Gardening. This quick method of getting a garden bed started works great in the South.

Tuesday, April 16 Healthy Lawn Care. Tim Crow will cover basics on growing a healthy lawn.

Tuesday, May 7 Combat Invasive Plants.



**CULLMAN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION, INC. (CCMGAI)
2019 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Complete this form and either mail or hand this form and a check to the Treasurer by **Dec. 15, 2018**.

Mailing address: **CCMGAI Treasurer, PO Box 1483, Cullman, AL 35056-1483**

I. Contact Information

Name: (Please print) _____

Address: (Please print) _____

City: (Please print) _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (Home): _____ Phone (Cell/Other): _____

E-mail address: (Please print) _____

II. Dues for 2019

Category	Amount Enclosed
Local CCMGAI dues (\$10)	
State dues (\$10)	
Additional contribution to help fund CCMGAI projects	
Total	

III. Please indicate below your preferred newsletter delivery method for the *Germinator* newsletter:
 _____ **Print** _____ **E-Mail** (will be emailed unless you request a print copy)

**Cullman County Master Gardeners
Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 1483
Cullman, Alabama 35056**

Volunteers Making a Difference