

Spr^gs and Spr^ous

Newsletter for Limestone County Master Gardeners Association

Teaching - Caring - Sharing

October 2021



President's Corner:

Hasn't the weather been gorgeous! I trust you have been outside as much as possible, looking at what you might divide, what might propagate easily, and what you might decide to donate whole to the greenhouse for next year's plant sale. Some of you have done just that as evidenced by the number of plants that have already started coming in. There are a few I don't remember seeing in our inventory lately. Thank you to all that came out to Friday's workday. Looking good!

Several master gardeners have been choosing what to grow for next year's sale. When the order is in, a lot of hands will be needed to do some seed starting and repotting. October is when the greenhouse really starts gearing up, so look for notices about workdays.

Karen Malone has relocated to Arkansas, but as she and Randy were finishing loading the truck, they had to admit they did not have room for the large, heavy picnic table that had been in the family for many years. As Karen said, "Many a birthday was celebrated around that table." Bless her heart, they knew it would have to stay behind. So, long story short, she says "would the master gardeners like to have it?" I say "yes", I say "Rick, you've got a trailer, would you go get it?" Rick says "yes," and there it was, at the greenhouse. Thank you, Rick and Roz Pressnell. And thank you Karen and Randy. We'll miss you and will take care of her. (You know the table's name is now Kandy.)

The Saturday Market Ask-a-Master Gardener and Children's Corner are finished for this year.

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2021 LCMGA Officers

President:	Margaret McCrary
1 st Vice President:	Beverly Goodrich
2 nd Vice President:	Janis Dill
Past President:	Janet Hunt
Secretary:	Carol Wood
Treasurer:	Pam Gregg
Parliamentarian:	Cathy Heads



Website: www.aces.edu

For More Information contact:

LCMGA ♦ 1109 W. Market St. Suite A ♦ Athens, AL 35611 ♦ Phone: 256.232.5510

Find us On Facebook: Limestone County Al. Master Gardeners

Website: <https://mastergardeners-limestonecountyalabama.org/>

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Thank you, again, to Karen Malone for organizing the volunteers and to everyone who served.

And I want to thank Mary Ballard for heading up the Children's Corner and everyone who assisted. Mary is so good with kids and the projects were such fun.

At our next monthly business meeting we will be presented with a slate of officers for 2022-2023. The meeting is Tuesday, October 12, 5:30 to 7:00, Athens-Limestone County Public Library Community Room. Hope to see you there. Enjoy the weather!

Margaret



Request from member

I would like to see an article on Christmas Cactus-

how reducing light produces blooms. Is there a Writer interested? Hope so.

Thanks, Jerry Honeycutt



**Our next regular business meeting is
Tuesday, October 12, 5:30pm - 7:00pm
at Athens Limestone
Public Library**

The Charity Garden

Submitted by: Teresa Brown

The Charity Garden has been an awesome success this year! By the end of the season we will have provided well over 2,500 lbs. of produce to various food distribution groups in Limestone County! That is 1.25 tons! That is a lot of food! With the growing season coming to an end, we are down to okra, squash and eggplant. For the fall we have planted collards and turnip greens. These should be producing for several more months.

Anyone that would like to come "play in the dirt" is welcome to join us!! If you are interested, call me (Teresa Brown) at 256-520-7676.

Stolen Bird Feeders

Submitted by: Anita Siefert

We wanted to let all of you know that our bird feeders were stolen from the master gardener greenhouse. Here is the picture of the replacements. Please let me know if you see that they are missing. Thank you.



MEMBERSHIP DUES AND POSTING HOURS

It's that time of year again. Membership Dues!!! The state has asked that we step up to having our dues collected by December 31 for 2022. In the past we've been very loose with the date, and it plays havoc with their bookkeeping and membership rolls. So, plan to have your dues (\$20.00) in by the time you get your hours posted for the year. You can bring your dues to our monthly meetings, drop them off at the Extension Office, or send them to Pam Gregg, 9396 Bethel Road, Prospect, TN 38477.

Speaking of posting your hours. I know that many members have volunteer hours they have not been posting. Hours are important for state recordkeeping and it's a way for us to reward you for your hard work. If you are having problems accessing the service record site or don't have a computer to use, please let me know. I will be happy to help you access the site or input your hours, but you must get them to me by December 20 (earlier is always better). After that date, I will not be available. My contact info is csknox66@gmail.com or 256-426-1872. Happy Posting!

Carol Knox

Membership Chair

I have found an invasive shrub in my garden

Submitted by: Rick Pressnell

Thought it was something good with the honeysuckle flowers in the spring and now these small berries but it is a non native AND invasive. Others might want to get rid of theirs if they ever see it. Amur Honeysuckle Shrub (small tree)



Lonicera maackii, the Amur honeysuckle, is a species of [honeysuckle](#) in the family [Caprifoliaceae](#) that is native to temperate western [Asia](#); specifically in northern and western [China](#) south to [Yunnan](#), [Mongolia](#), [Primorsky Krai](#) in southeastern [Siberia](#), [Korea](#), and, albeit rare there, central and northern [Honshū](#), [Japan](#).

Lonicera maackii is a listed [endangered species](#) in [Japan](#). It has [escaped from cultivation](#) and [naturalized](#) in [New Zealand](#) and the eastern [United States](#); in the [woodlands](#) of the U.S. it is a significant [invasive species](#). I'll be cutting it out of my landscape soon.



Papercrete Workshop Success

Submitted by: Mary Ballard

Janet taught the papercrete workshop and the participants made flower pots to use at home and flower pots for the spring plant sale. Everyone enjoyed learning a new skill and several said it was a very fun and satisfying experience. Thank you Janet for being willing to teach a class.



I garden for the total environment not just the plants. One benefit is lots of different kinds of butterflies and of course other insects and small animals and birds. The type of butterfly is listed on the photo. Most were on Zinnias and Tithonia (mexican sunflower). Photos Taken today 23 Sep 2021.

Rick Pressnell

Silver spotted Skipper



Male Monarch



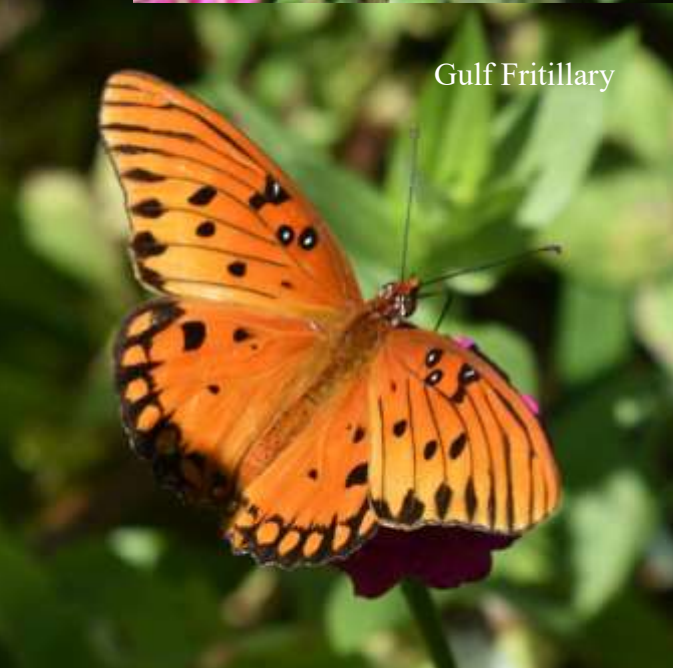
Variegated Fritillary



Red Spotted Purple Butterfly



Gulf Fritillary



Fiery Skipper Butterfly





*Black Swallowtail on
Zinnias*



Blue Pea

Photos from around the yard
Michael and Sharon McLean



Tropical Water Lily



*Black Swallowtail
caterpillar on Fennel*



Tropical Water Lily



Jay's Garden

Submitted by Jay Shaw

I've been building my greenhouse for the past two weeks. The panels are salvaged old ones removed from our greenhouse. It's about 8' x 8'. I have a kerosene heater for the freezing weather but at least

I don't have to haul all my pants in/out of the house. I also plan to grow all my veggies and landscape plants from seed this spring. I've about 50 succulents for our spring sale to root over the winter.



Latest but not the last harvest of peppers.



From eating to laying Gulf Fritillary of
Limestone Gardens and Panama City Beach
Florida 2021.

Submitted by: Beverly Goodrich



Home Grown Pineapple

Submitted by: Pam Gregg

Several years ago, I started a pineapple plant after a few days of drying the top of a fresh pineapple. After drying, I planted the base below the green foliage in potting soil. I keep it inside during the winter, outside during the summer. And now, a baby pineapple!



While sitting in the bright turquoise swing that Karen Malone's mother-in-law enjoyed for years, I composed a poem about Autumn. We bought the swing from Karen because there was no room on the van that they were driving to Arkansas.

It was such a beautiful day and I was inspired to write this poem:



Ode to Autumn

The first day of Autumn
Come out and be blessed!
The sky is so blue
With its fluffy clouds dressed!

The breezes are perfectly
timed as they blow
And make the leaves dance
to put on a show.

Zinnias are welcoming
Butterflies and bees.
Birds are singing
And flying through trees.

God made the seasons
To come and to go.
Autumn displays His glory
Before the first snow.

Pat Harrell
September 22, 2021

October in the Garden

Fruits and Nuts

- Planting season for strawberries starts in south Alabama.
- Clean up orchard area.
- Remove broken limbs, old fruit, and debris from orchard floor.

Shrubs

- Shrub plantings can be made.
- Water when needed.
- Note varieties of camellias in bloom.
- Start mulching all shrubs that do not have a mulch.

Lawns

- Continue to mow lawns until no new growth is noticeable.

Roses

- Continue insect and disease control practices.
- New rose catalogs will be coming in.
- Study closely; add some new varieties to your list.

Annuals and Perennials

- Visit flower shows and gardens.
- List desirable varieties of mums.
- Clean up flower beds immediately after first killing frost.

Bulbs

- Plant tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, crocuses, Dutch irises, anemones, and ranunculus's.
- Watch planting depth. Dig caladiums; clean and store in warm place.

Miscellaneous

Here are a couple of pics from the GH I took today. The caterpillar is on the dill plant and the obedient plants were covered up in bumblebees.

Submitted by: Carol Knox



- Renew mulch around shrubs and rose beds.
- Loosen mulches that have packed down.
- Spray with oils before freezing weather to kill scale, mites, etc.
- Remove all dead stems and trash from flower beds.
- Transplant into small pots any cuttings taken earlier.

Vegetable Seed

- Plant turnips, mustard, kale, rape, spinach, and onion sets.



Moving?

If your move or change your phone let us know so we can update the LCMGA directory.

Email any changes to:
bettyiowagirl@outlook.com

Save \$\$\$\$

Don't forget Master Gardener's Discounts.

The following businesses offer discounts to Limestone County Master Gardeners
Just be sure to show your badge to get your discount.

10%
Discount



Little Pink House is owned by a fellow LCMG,
Quentin Smith and his wife Traci.

Support a local business and a fellow MG!

<https://www.littlepinkhousesproduce.com/>



10% Discount
Catbird Seat Garden Center

8027 Madison Boulevard
Madison, AL 35758
256-461-7900



**15% on all bird seed
and bird food.
20% on 1 item
(in store only)**

Wildbird Center Unlimited

4800 Whitesburg Dr., Suite 9B
Huntsville, AL 35802
256-536-9128

Bennett Nurseries



7002 Memorial Pkwy NW
Huntsville, AL 35810



10% off

**Hi-Yield Brand and Ferti-Lome
Brand Products
Bulk, Mulch, and Rock**

**Master Gardener Helpline at
Athens - Limestone Public Library**

Come join us!

Submitted by: Diane Young

