THE PRAIRIE MUD Mid-Month Edition

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Volume 16, Issue 2-b

February 15, 2014

www.capcitymga.org



"Adding a Simple Terrarium to Your Home Decor"

Our program is being presented by CCMGA Members Brian Cooley 2012, Vickie Raney 2011 & Emily Brown 2013



Vickie Raney is a native of Charlotte, North Carolina. She has moved all over the United States both as an Air Force dependent and then as an Air Force spouse. Vickie and her husband moved to Montgomery, Alabama in 1997. After 27 years in the Air Force her husband decided to retire and make Montgomery their new home.

Vickie is a nature lover and was inspired by a hummingbird to turn her barren backyard into a nature's habitat. In 2006 Vickie was featured in an urban outdoor segment for Outdoor Alabama where she talked about plant, food, housing and water requirements (koi pond and boulder fountains) for a backyard habitat. Her urban backyard habitat has contributed to the sustainability of migratory birds in and around Deer Creek where she calls home.

Vickie worked in the credit union/mortgage banking business for more than 25 years holding various positions from teller to back office business support. In 2010 Vickie left the banking industry to follow her heart and pursue her passion for gardening.

She completed the Master Gardener's course in 2011, and then joined fellow Master Gardener Mom (class of 2006) as a member of Capital City Master Gardener Association. She enjoys volunteering her time and artistic skills to several CCMGA projects and fundraisers. Vickie's latest artistic endeavor is creating terrariums and fairy gardens where she recently made two for December 2013 CCMGA annual meeting and silent auction.

Vickie is married to retired Chief Master Sergeant John Raney and they have two sons Justin, Jonathan, and daughter in -law Amanda. She contributes the love and support from her family in helping turn her dreams into reality.



Emily Bedgood Brown is a lifelong plant lover and a 2013 graduate of the Master Gardener program. Her interest in gardening originates from a long line of green thumbs, including her late grandmother and her father. Emily recently transplanted amaryllis bulbs belonging to her great-grandmother in Mobile to her home in Montgomery. She has a special interest in herbs and wildflowers and recently planted a butterfly garden that has attracted winged visitors from across Old Cloverdale.

A native of Selma, Emily has lived in Montgomery since 2010 and also lived previously in Clanton. Prior to her current role as full-time homemaker, she worked as a draftsperson for a Montgomery architecture and design firm, drawing plans for buildings. She currently serves as a board member of Montgomery Trees and regularly volunteers at the Montgomery Arboretum. Emily is married to Lance Brown, also originally from Selma, and the couple have two children: Ariana (10) and Miles (5).

"Adding a Simple Terrarium to Your Home Decor"

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Continued from previous page.



Born from the unlikely union of a bear claw pastry and an old seed catalog, Brian spent his first few allegorical years living in a large patch of Chickasaw plums until he was rescued at a still formative age by a wonderful Montgomery family who lovingly raised him into the slightly eccentric turnip head that he is today. A product of the Montgomery public schools' magnet program, he

went on to earn an impractical yet rewarding degree from a far away school and, after many trial and error experiments in how to balance industry with artistry and still earn a living, he returned to his hometown to work with students at the hardest to pronounce facility in the public school system where he attempts to introduce students to the myriad and wonderful facets of the great outdoors. (He also tries to get them not to smush bugs and to smell the flowers.) When not working with students, or in time out himself, he enjoys most everything there is to do with plants and will talk about it at the drop of a hat, with almost anybody, just about anywhere, and for who knows how long. Most recently, his interest has returned to terrariums because they are really, really cool and it's been really, really cold outside. He still feels most at home in a big patch of Chickasaw plums.

JANUARY MINUTES

January Meeting was canceled due to weather



DECEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT



\$ 17,590.88

22.55



Jan Gill 2006 Treasurer

Treasurer's Report January 2014

BEGINNING BALANCE

Petty Cash

REVENUE

Dues \$ 425.00

TOTAL REVENUE \$ 425.00

EXPENSES

CHECKS

#1521	AMGA (State Dues)	\$ (1,060.00)

#1522 Dianne Bush (Plaques) \$ (36.74)

#1532 Terese Goodson (Lunch & Learn) \$ (25.00)

#1524 Void

#1525 AWF (Donation/Lanark/Fred Evans) \$ (100.00)

#1526 Cindy McKenzie (Seed Workshop) \$ (110.32)

#1527 Brian Cooley (Seed Workshop) \$ (240.53)

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ (1,572.59)

Petty Cash\$ \$ (22.55)

ENDING BALANCE \$ 16,443.29

Jan Gill 2006

Treasurer

INTERN CLASS OF 2014

CCMGA WELCOMES THE INTERN CLASS OF 2014



Barbara Barnes



Cecil Barnes

Andy Jackson



Julia Bounds



Shou-Lih Chuang



Peggy Funk





Janice Jackson



Kathy Gowan



Cheryl Hitch



Cary Kuhlmann

Cont'd

INTERN CLASS OF 2014



Caroline Lawson



Sadler McLemore



Gene Payne



Cathy Robbins



Justin Skipper



Emily Smith



Mirenda Tatum



Pamela Thornton



David Toellner



Evelena Webb



Georgia Young



Cheri Youngblood

Photos by Mac McLellan

Committee REPORTS

Plant Sale Committee Karin Carmichael, Chair



Due to the brutal winter that we have experienced so far and the winter that has yet to rear its ugly head, the Plant Sale Committee needs your help more than ever be-

fore. In spite of the great head start we had by potting all summer long, we lost a lot of plants

to the unusual weather patterns that are still occurring. We need perennials, pass-alongs, herbs and bulbs to name a few. Please be looking in your yards to see what seems to have survived. We lost all of our aloe, coleus, dragon-wing begonia, Mexican heather (probably) and surely much, much more.





We will get out a list of most requested plants by the printing of the March issue of the *Prairie Mud.* Please re-

member, the earlier you pot your plants, the better they look and the better their root systems will be. We will still come to your yard to dig if you let us know soon enough.



We also need the following: potting soil, used garden tools, decorative pots, cracked pots, garden art, plant stands and shelves, yard furniture, books and anything unusual that could serve as a pot such as colanders, boots, shoes, boxes, kitchen pots, etc. Also, if you don't have anything to share, we WEL-COME store bought plants and shrubs. Ask your neighbors if they have anything to share.



The public knows where we are and will be expecting more and better plants this year. We simply cannot fail them or ourselves.



Thank you in advance for all of your help and cooperation.







Committee REPORTS



SAVE THE DATE!

CCMGA BUS TRIP

MOBILE FESTIVAL OF

FLOWERS

AND

THE MOBILE
BOTANICAL GARDEN

Lynne Kuhlmann, Chair
Don't Miss Out, bring
your checkbook to the
February Meeting.
More info to follow.



THURSDAY
MARCH 20
ONLY 5
WEEKS

AWAY



COMMITTEE REPORTS



Lunch & Learn February 2014

House Plants: Good for body and soul
by Brenda DeRamus-Coleman 2013

Pictures by Carolyn Love Dorsey

I grow plants for many reasons: to please my eye or to please my soul, to challenge the clements or to challenge my patience, for novelty or for nostalgia, but mostly for the joy in seeing them grow."—David Hobson

The Capital City Master Gardener Association (CCMGA) held its second program of the 2014 Lunch and Learn educational series on February 5. Master Gardeners Barbara Witt 2010 and Maureen Emerson 2010 presented on the Care and Selection of House Plants. The program began with the question, "Why do you grow plants?" Whatever the reasons we give for wanting plants, in order to keep them healthy and to enjoy them, we must know how to select and care for them. The presenters provided information on plant selection, environmental conditions in planned locations, light requirements, and decorative benefits. The acreed bonus of learning about the functional and health benefits intrigued the 54 paragraph.

The presenters discussed using plants as screens, as well as for their foliage or beautiful blooms. They discussed the importance of location as an essential consideration for the health and function of plants. They provided the ESSENTIAL requirements to keep plants alive. Other significant topics included determining what plant is right for the gardener, choosing the best container, and maintenance of plants. ANR-1242 was the primary reference for the seminar. Additional resources provided included: "Greening & Cleaning You Indoor Air" and "Houseplants Proper Care and Management of Pest Problems." Resources may be found at www.ag.ndsu.edu. Several participants remained to learn about Care for Orchids.

Please join us and bring a friend on March 5 to learn about "Attracting Birds, Butterflies, and Hummingbirds to Your Garden."





COMMITTEE REPORTS



11Me Winter Color; Be A Master Gardener

Article by Chris Shoup 1999, Charter Member CCMGA. MG info - by Mallory Kelley



Daphne odora or winter Daphne is a winter-flowering shrub that can withstand our fickle weather

that may be balmy one day and downright cold the next. With its irresistible fragrance and sweet nosegay-type flower clusters, this plant brightens the winter landscape. But be warned: the plant's foliage is poisonous.

Winter Daphne is an attractive, sparsely branched evergreen shrub, reaching about three feet in height and spread. It's grown for its wonderful fragrant tubular flowers and glossy foliage. The most common cultivar, 'Aureomarginata', has leaves However, "pinching" or taking cutwith a narrow, irregular yellow margin. The plant produces terminal clusters of small flowers in February to early March that are crystalline white (Courtesy, North Carolina Extension inside and deep purplish-pink outside. Service)

The flower of winter Daphne is highly regarded for its strong scent, possibly the most delightful scent of any flower. The flower clusters keep well in water, allowing one to appreciate the scent indoors. In the landscape, winter Daphne is best located near a well-traveled path or an outdoor courtyard where its fragrance can be best appreciated.

Winter Daphne can be challenging to grow. It does not tolerate soils with poor drainage. Root rot diseases associated with poorly drained soils are with interest in increasing their garlikely the major cause of failure in the landscape. Ideally, a deep, welldrained woodland soil with plenty of humus is best for this shrub. Plant in slightly raised beds or amended soil to ensure adequate drainage.

Winter Daphne can tolerate full sun, but does best in a protected area providing moderate shade. The plant needs to be irrigated during periods of drought, but is considerably tolerant of drought episodes. It does not heal well from cuts into mature wood so it is best to avoid pruning. tings from the tips of long shoots on the current year's growth makes the plant fuller and more floriferous.

Become a Master Gardener

The Montgomery County Extension Office is offering the Master Gardener Volunteer Program beginning in February. Each of the classes is held at the county extension office off the Atlanta Highway, with applications accepted through January 24th. Master Gardener classes begin Thursday, February 13 and runs through May 8, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Master Gardener Program is a nationwide Extension Education Program designed for non-professionals dening skills and helping others with the knowledge they gain. The program consists of 13 weeks of class and hands-on training. After completing the courses, Master Gardener interns are expected to give 10 hours of service to the Master Gardener Helpline and 40 hours of volunteer service to the Extension and/or their communities.

The courses on gardening will be taught by specialists, county agents, and veteran Master Gardeners on subjects such as: Soils and Plant Nutrition, Plant Physiology, Plant Propagation, Care of Landscape Plants, Landscape Design, Lawn Care, Weed Identification, Vegetable Gardening, Water Gardening, Herbs, Composting, and many more.

There is a class fee of \$125 and lunch is provided. Contact the Montgomery County Extension Office at (334) 270 -4133 for an application.

Christine Shoup is a member of the Capital City Master Gardener Association. For information on becoming a master gardener, visit the website, www.capcitymga.orgor email capcitymga@gmail.com.



COMMITTEE REPORTS





KARIN CARMICHAEL, CHAIR

The following people have qualified for their next star or badge. Please let me know if you have not received your current star level award in past years. "Please note: if you earn enough hours in one year to skip over a star category, you will not receive the star you skipped over

(100-299)
Margaret Cully
Ruth Davis
Kitty Huffaker
Joan Hyatt
Lyl Parker
Katherine Pool
Vanessa Sanders
Dale Sheppard
Cindy Smith

Anna Trawick

Marie Updike

Bronze Star Award

Silver Star Award
(300-499)
Elaine Barron
Earline Clark
Brenda Coleman
Nancy Ellis
Mike Forster
Ginger Gammon
Wilma Howard
Carolyn Love-Dorsey
Mary Jane McCracken
Cindy McKenzie
Malcolm McLellan, Jr.
Audrey Shelnutt
Barbara Witt

Gold Star Award
(500-999)
Sara Brown
Jacqueline Buck
Maureen Emerson
Terese Goodson
Jane Martin
David Jones
Christine Shoup
Eileen Webb

Gold Badge (1,000-1,999) Betsy Coley Fom McLemore Platinum Badge (2,000-3,999) Mary Eleanor Hines Maggie Stringer Ruby Star (4,000-5,999) Jerry Belcher



ANNOUNCEMENTS



CCMGA Monthly Lunchcon



Tuesday, March 4, 2014 11:30 6854 Eastchase Pkwy Montgomery, AL 36117 (334) 356-2600



ry information.

2014 CCMGA Directory

The 2014 Capital City Master Gardener Association Directory will be available at the February meeting.

Going forward, if your contact information changes please inform Jane Shalhoop, jshalhoop@gmail.com or Suzanne Reaves, Suzanne.reaves@hotmail.com. They along with Jan Gill have done a monumental job of checking our list once, twice and even a third and fourth time. Thanks to their dedication we will be up to date with our directo-

With the new AMGA Database it is imperative that we keep accurate information.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



GOVERNOR'S MANSION

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

CCMGA, CAMGA & ACMGA have been invited to help maintain the Governor's Mansion gardens.

You will earn volunteer hours, however this is not an official CCMGA project.

The workdays will be on Mondays and under the direction of Jane McCarthy.

Due to security procedures you must let Jane know before noon on the previous Friday if you

intend to work on any particular Monday.

Your name will be added to the

Mansion Security list.

Walk-ins will not be admitted to the grounds.

Jane can be reached on her cell phone 334-221-9936, her email address is macandjane@att.net



ANNOUNCEMENTS

THINGS TO DO NOW



Montgomery
LABA County
OWater Festival
March 11-12
See the details
and forms at the back of this news-

Enjoy nature at its
best at the
I Oth Annual Alabama
Flora and Fauna Arts
Festival at Lanark
Millbrook, Alabama
Saturday,
April 12, 2014



Saturday, February 15, 2014 Tree Fruits in the Home Garden - Dr. Arlie Powell 10:30-12:00

Saturday, February 22, 2014, Antique Roses in the Garden - Jason Powell 10:30 -12:00

Saturday, March 1, 2014, 10:30am Sustainable Gardening (introduction to Permaculture) -Tracy Britnell

Saturday, March 22, 2014, Citrus in the Home Garden - Dr. Arlie Powell 10:30 - 12:00

Saturday, March 29, 2014, 10:30am Perennials for Every Spot in the Garden - Jason Powell

For more information on these and other events go to: http://www.petalsfromthepast.com/events.html



All information is on the Baldwin County MG website:

http://www.baldwincountymastergardeners.com/

Here is the hotel information for the 2014 Conference.
Click on the links for more information

Hotel Information

You have a "JUBILEE" of choices when it comes to accommodations for conference this year!

Hampton Inn Daphne

http://www.amgaconference.org/hotel.html#hampton

Fairfield Inn & Suites and Courtyard Marriott Hotels

http://www.amgaconference.org/hotel.html#fairfield

CCMGA Hospitality Room is at the Hampton Inn



Don't Shock Your Seedlings



Those seeds you're about to plant indoors will soon become tender seedlings. And eventually, they're going to

have to toughen up if they're going to survive outdoors when the weather warms.

One of the best ways to help them get tough, or harden off, is to use a cold frame. Think of it as a protected plant bed, kind of a mini

greenhouse but without any artificial light or heat.

Cold frames work by shielding plants from the elements and helping to keep the soil inside slightly warmer than it would be on its own. Not only are they perfect for hardening off seedlings, but they're also good for direct-sowing cold-tolerant edibles like salad greens and winter-sowing cabbage and other hardy crops that will later be transplanted.

The University of Missouri Extension explains how to set up and use a cold frame. You'll also find instructions for creating a hot bed, which is basically a heated cold frame. You can buy cold frame kits, or make your own.





CCMGA FEBRUARY

MARCH

Violets

Carnation

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Governor's Mansion 9am Call by Friday		9-Noon Every Wednesday AWF Lanark 9am	Lilly's Garden Workday, 9am	ARBORETUM Vol. Hrs. 8-11	
23	24	25	26		28	March I
	Governor's Mansion Pam Call by Friday	Meeting 10:00	THE PRAIRIE MUD Mar. Mud Submission Deadline	Intern Class	ARBORETUM Vol. Hrs. 8-11	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Governor's Mansion 9am Call by Friday	Monthly Lunchon	Lunch & Learn Attracting Birds Butterflies Hummingbirds	Intern Class	ARBORETUM Vol. Hrs. 8-11	
9	10	11	12		14	15
Aaylight- Saving Sime Begins	Governor's Mansion 9am Call by Friday	Water Festival Cou	ontgomery unty Water @ AUM	Intern Class	Vol. Hrs. 8-11	

Events & Occasions for Late February

Call Karen Weber and Cindy McKenzie to confirm Shakespeare and Arboretum Workday schedules.

25th - CCMGA Meeting, Frazer UMC. "Japanese Maples in the Home Landscape" with Donnie Tomlin of Tomlin Landscaping Service

26th - Last day for March Mud Submissions

Events & Occasions for Early March

- 4th Monthly Luncheon, 11:30, La Jolla @ Eastchase Pg. 8
- 5th Lunch & Learn, II:00am "Attracting Birds, Butterflies, and Hummingbirds to Your Garden"
- II & I2 Montgomery County Water Festival @ AUM.
 Information and forms on the next page.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY WATER FESTIVAL



Mission Statement: To educate students and their families about all aspects of surface water and groundwater and other related natural resources (i.e., wetlands, forestry, wildlife, etc.) and to instill in them a general environmental awareness and stewardship ethic.

What is a Water Festival? A Water Festival is an interactive educational learning experience consisting of hands-on activities for students to learn the role of surface and groundwater in the water cycle; the importance of water to all life; the interdependence of plants, trees, wildlife, soil and water; the effect of human actions on water and all nature; and that all individuals need to act environmentally responsible.

Who attends the Water Festival? The Montgomery County Water Festival is FREE for all 4th grade students of Montgomery County. It is felt that this age group is able to understand water resource concepts, while still young enough to form their own value system. We are expecting over 2,800 4th grade students to attend the Montgomery County Water Festival March 11th and 12th, 2014.

What do the students do at the Festival? The 2014 Montgomery County Water Festival will be held on two consecutive days. A total of four half-day sessions will be offered. Upon arrival to the Festival, a volunteer will greet each class at the parking lot and will act as "Tour Guide" for the day. This volunteer will escort the class to all their events/activities so that no one will get lost or confused. The classes/students will attend three 30-minute hands-on activities. The following activities will be presented by volunteers at the Festival.

<u>Edible Aquifer</u> – Students learn what an aquifer is, how it works, what non-point source pollution is, and how toxic wastes affect our groundwater. Then, using common food items, they build their own aquifer models.

<u>Mini-Filtration</u> – Students build a mini-filtration system and learn how pollutants enter our water supply, the process used to purify drinking water, and how difficult it is to remove the pollutants.

<u>Water Cycle Bracelets</u> – Students learn about learn about the different parts of the water cycle while the make a bracelet and also play Water Cycle Jeopardy.

The objectives of the activities are for students to learn the role of surface and groundwater in the water cycle; the importance of water to all life; the interdependence of plants, trees, wildlife, soil and water; the effect of human actions on water and all nature; and that all individuals need to act environmentally responsible.

There is a 5-minute break between each activity to allow the classes time to walk to the next activity room. After the third activity, the classes will attend a 45-minute performance by an eco-entertainer/magician.

What do the students, teachers, and volunteers receive? In addition to an exciting and educational half-day of fun-filled, hands-on activities and a magic show, every student, teacher and volunteer receives a free Water Festival T-shirt. A T-shirt design contest is open to all the students attending, and the winning designer and his/her teacher each win a \$50 savings bond.

What do you do if you would like to donate money, resources, or time? Please contact Dawn Stephens at 850-4429 (dstephens1015@yahoo.com), or Missy Middlebrooks at 394-4351 (mmiddlebrooks@adem.state.al.us).



2014 MONTGOMERY COUNTY WATER FESTIVAL

Many thanks in advance for volunteering at the 2014 Montgomery County Water Festival!! The following information should provide you with everything you need to know to make the day run smoothly. PLEASE READ EVERYTHING CAREFULLY!

<u>THE BASICS</u> - The Festival is Tuesday and Wednesday, March 11th and 12th, at the Auburn University in Montgomery campus. Over 2,800 4th grade students and their teachers will participate in activities from 9:00 am to 1:45 pm. All students will attend three activities: Edible Aquifer, Water Filtration, and Water Cycle Bracelets.

LOGISTICS - The activity schedule is as follows:

Session I		Session II			
8:15 – 8:45 am	Buses arrive at AUM	10:30 am	Buses arrive at AUM		
9:00 – 9:25 am	Activity 1	10:40 – 11:05 am	Activity 1		
9:30 – 9:55 am	Activity 2	11:10 – 11:35 am	Activity 2		
10:00 – 10:25 am	Activity 3	11:40 – 12:05 pm	Activity 3		
10:25 – 10:40 am	Break	12:05 – 12:45 pm	Lunch		
11:00 – 11:45 am	Entertainment	1:00 – 1:45 pm	Entertainment		
11:45 am	Buses depart AUM	1:45 pm	Buses depart AUM		

<u>VOLUNTEER TRAINING</u> – We will have volunteer training, if needed, on March 10th at 5:30pm at the Auburn Montgomery campus, Goodwyn Hall.

T-shirts will be distributed at the training. Please wear your t-shirt each day so you will be easily identified as a volunteer. If you are unable to make the training, you can pick up your shirt at registration.

VOLUNTEER CHECK-IN: You must report to Goodwyn Hall to check-in and verify your assignment. Please check-in by 7:45 a.m. each day.

Presenter Aides will be assigned a room in which they will assist. Tour Guides will receive a schedule and a sheet with their assigned classes. Entertainment guides will be directed to the gym and transportation guides to the bus drop-off location beside the gym. Runners will be directed to their assigned locations with instructions regarding extra supply bins on each floor. Runners should check with their presenters before the students arrive to verify that they have everything need to complete their activity and will need to check in with their assigned rooms between activities to empty trash containers and re-supply trash bags. Clean-up after the event is always something we can use help with, so stick around if you can!

<u>LUNCH</u> - Lunch will be provided to the volunteers beginning after the last session at the AUM University Center, courtesy of the Montgomery Water Works & Sanitary Sewer Board. Feel free to go and enjoy the Magic Show with the kids after lunch at beginning at 1:00 pm.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY WATER FESTIVAL 2014 VOLUNTEER FORM

Yes, I would like to take part in the annual Montgomery County Water Festival.
The Festival will be held on March 11th & 12th, 2014 at Auburn University Montgomery.
Tuesday, March 11 th
Wednesday, March 12 th
Both Days
Preferred Area of Participation (please check all that apply) Classroom Presenter
Will teach activities to the students and work in the classroom
Presenter Aide
Assists classroom presenter with student activities
Tour Guide
Responsible for leading a 4 th grade class from their school bus and to activities
Transportation Guide
Help coordinate transportation and buses. Responsible for getting children to and from buses
Entertainment Guide
Responsible for helping seat children during magic show
Runner
Check with classroom presenters to see what materials may need to be replaced
Serve as a floater to help where needed
Volunteers Name (Contact)
Name of Organization
Address
City, State & Zip
Phone: ()
Email:
T-shirt size: Small Medium Large X-Large XX-Large XXX-Large
(Adult sizes only)
Mail, Fax, or Email Volunteer Form to:
Missy Middlebrooks or Patti Hurley
Alabama Department of Environmental Management - Nonpoint Source Unit

PO Box 301463 Montgomery, AL 36130-1463

Phone: 334-394-4351 or 394-4350 Fax: 334-279-3051

Email: mmiddlebrooks@adem.state.al.us or pah@adem.state.al.us