

# THE PRAIRIE MUD

NOVEMBER 2014

## Next Meeting, Tuesday November 18th Frazer UMC 10:00am

### Thoughts from Tom

Hi ! Please see some of my calendar below.

Laurice Goorley , Lunch and Learn 11/5/14, 12:00 All about Terrariums

Citrus Expo Tifton Georgia 11/14, 11/15 see me for details or they are available on line

Governor's Mansion workday 11/17, Monday maybe last work day of this year 2014

CCMGA monthly meeting 11/18, one week early because of Thanksgiving

Fall is finally here and it's still hot off and on each week. I can't believe today is November 1st. I'm writing this column a few days before and it's 87' with cooler temps expected.

Many thanks to long time and now emeritus member Evelyn Watkins for donating her old Mud copies for our archives. Evelyn is now 96 and wanted CCMGA to have her old issues. She is a great lady and asked about many of you by name. She says she is missing gardening and our monthly meetings. The first regular CCMGA meeting was held at her home in January 2000. There were 19 in attendance ! There is an excellent CCMGA yearly history printed and updated by Suzanne Reaves in our 2014 membership directory. Please look it up. You will see that Christine Shoup, Maggie Stringer, and Karen Weber were there from day one and still remain very active. You will recognize several other friends, members and emeritus members too.

We are officially looking for a new Mud editor. Jerry needs a break and he is taking one this winter. He says the last two editions this year will be plain vanilla because of his time constraints. I have begged Jerry to reconsider and he said he would consider it but I think he was just being nice. Please call or email him if you have enjoyed his efforts the last five years. If you haven't just stay quiet or volunteer to take over The Mud! I'm sure none of us have thanked him nearly enough. He does a great job !

Please remember our November meeting is one week earlier than usual. We made the change to make it easier for families that need to travel for the holidays. Our program on 11/18 will be on 'Decorating for the Holidays'. Presenters are our own Ginger Gammon, Sandee Ferguson, and Elaine Barron.

Thank you for all you do for CCMGA and our community !

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## OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES:

### CCMGA Oct 2014

Tom McLemore called meeting to order.

Cathy Maddox gave the invocation "The Dash".

Guests: Katherine Cope, Robert's wife and Georgia Young's sister and brother-in-law, Marsha and Tom.

Minutes and Treasurer's reports were approved.

Terese Goodson introduced **Patsie DeMo from deVillery Farms** as our speaker. Patsie presented an interesting overview of raising and showing milk goats. She offered to host a soap making class at her house, if we are interested.

Reports from Committee Chairs:

Ginger Gammon and Anna Owen need a couple of men for set-up and tear-down for the Pike Road Craft Fair this Saturday.

Karin Carmichael needs everyone to enter their volunteer hours by Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> for CCMGA awards since they must be tabulated and awards must be ready for the **holiday luncheon** Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>. You can continue to post hours through the end of the year for total hours.

Karin Carmichael reminded us that the Plant Sale will be held Saturday, April 25, 2015. We still need more plants, pots, dirt, baby-sitters, and volunteers. Karin shared some plants with us that we might not have been familiar with so that we can better serve the public during the sale.

Ann Oldham reminded everyone to attend the 'Hot Diggity Dog' event at Lilly's Garden tonight 5pm to 7pm.

Laurice gave us an overview of the Flower Show awards and presented Robert Cope and Chris Shoup with awards.

Mallory Kelly discussed the signing out process for equipment kept at the ACES office. Apparently someone has 'borrowed' and not returned four tents purchased by CCMGA. Mallory is working with Jimmy Smitherman to replace them. Cathy Maddox made a motion to have Mallory check the price on a locking cabinet that could hold such items. The motion was seconded by Anna Owen. Mallory agreed to split the cost of the cabinet with CCMGA. The vote on this motion was unanimous. We must all be very rigorous about following procedures and signing out any and all equipment with either Lula or Karen at ACES. Call Lula if you need 25 or more copies of any publication.

Mallory reminded us to recruit and encourage people to apply for the Master Gardener program that will start this winter. It will need to be done online.

Lunch and Learn on Wed. Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> is on 'Terrariums' by Laurice Goorley.

Tom thanked the Refreshment Committee for the snacks.

Next meeting will be November 18, 2014 on Wreath Making and Other Natural Decorations.

There were 71 attendees.

## NOVEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Report will be mailed under separate cover.

## **Dangers of Moving Firewood** by Mallory Kelley

There are many invasive species of different kinds around us in Alabama whether we are talking about insects, animals, or plants. I had a family relative from the East coast who came to town recently who had never been this far south. They were talking about the beautiful countryside and this beautiful, lush “ivy look-alike” growing everywhere, all over the trees and covering the hillsides and they wanted to know what it was. It took me a second, but I soon realized they were talking about our beloved Kudzu!

Kudzu is probably the first plant that pops in your mind when I say invasive. Can you believe this plant was introduced to the South in the 1930-50's as a good plant for helping reduce soil erosion? The legal definition of an invasive is, “a species that is non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.”

Invasive pests pose a major threat to Alabama's natural ecosystems. “Whether they are plants, animals or insects the damage they cause can have significant impacts to the native flora and fauna. The challenges associated with invading insects are the lack of natural predators to control their populations. Additionally, their hosts or trees impacted have few natural defenses due to the pest not being a natural component of the ecosystem. This combination can result in large pest populations causing significant mortality of host species” said Beau Brodbeck, Forester and Regional Extension Agent, Alabama Extension.

All this talk leads me to an invasive insect that we all need to be aware of as we move into the fall. The Emerald ash borer (EAB) is already in Georgia and Tennessee, so it's just a matter of time before it will be discovered in Alabama. The EAB is an exotic invasive from Asia that was discovered in Michigan in 2001 and has been recorded in 24 states and 2 Canadian provinces. According to Herms and McCullough, “Because ash is one of the most common tree genera in North America, the pest's prolific nature and fatal impact on trees make it the most economically and ecologically costly forest insect to invade North America.” If there is good news... EAB feeds only on ash trees. The three North American species most vulnerable are the white, green and black.

The EAB adult females deposit their eggs on the bark of ash trees, usually high in the canopy of trees in the thin branches. When the larvae hatch, they bore into the tree and feed on the inner bark. The feeding disrupts the nutrition system of the tree and as more larvae infest the tree, this causes a slow death, usually 2-4 years from the time of infection. At the time you realize you have this insect in your forest, it will be too late for any measures of control.

Although EAB can fly, its flying radius is fairly minimal, but where our awareness of these insects comes into play is when we could be the ones transporting them.

The public can be a valuable asset in slowing the spread of EAB and preventing the pest from entering non-infested states. This time of year people are heading to the mountains to see the fall foliage and may pack firewood to take or purchase firewood upon arrival.

Check the map and know where the EAB has been found. If you are in an area that is noted as having EAB, do not buy firewood or take firewood from that area to another. If you do buy firewood, use it only in the county where you bought it. Ash firewood that has dried naturally can still harbor larvae.

Below is a link to view where the EAB has been identified: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/map.cfm#sthash.rjaji95n.plyl5Lfl.dpbs>

According to Herms and McCullough, “Researchers have estimated that if EAB continues expanding at its current rate, it is likely to have an economic impact of \$12.5 billion by the year 2020.” Researchers and regulators can do their part, but we also need you, the citizens.

For more information, go to <http://www.emeraldashborer.info>.

Source for information: Herms, D.A. and McCullough, D.G. (2014) Emerald ash borer invasion of North America: History, biology, ecology, impacts and management. *Annu. Rev. Entomol.* 59: 13-30. Doi: 10.1146/annurev-ento-011613-162051.

Beau Brodbeck, Regional Extension Agent, Forestry and Natural Resources, Alabama Extension.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Lunch & Learn** - Wednesday November 5. Make Your Own Terrarium w. Laurice Goorley

**Plant Committee** - A kickoff meeting was held and each group leader will be working on their assigned tasks. We are very busy digging up plants at donors gardens, we will be happy to come to your garden if you have plants to donate and are still in the ground. Just call Karin to set up a convenient time and date. We have so much to do and believe it or not, we do not have a lot of time within to do it. Please contact a group leader or Jerry Belcher, the coordinator, to volunteer in an area of your choice.

**Christmas Luncheon, Dec. 9** - Things are moving along, Cathy Maddox reports that the menu is set, Debbie Wakefield has the Silent Auction organized but she needs everyone's help with donations. Mallory is organizing the Intern Certification and Tom McLemore will have the program all ready to go by game day. Be prepared to have a great time at one of the best days on our entire schedule of events.

### Governor's Mansion

There will be a gardening workday at the Governor's Mansion on Monday, 17 November 2014. It is an event open to all Master Gardeners, or people interested in becoming one. We will meet at the mansion's parking lot (entrance is on Finley St). We'll start at 9AM, and work throughout the gardens until about 2PM, or when we run out of steam. Don't feel obligated to work the whole day...any time you can offer will be greatly appreciated. Please bring your personal tools (clippers, favorite trowel, shovel and/or rake, etc.), your lunch and/or snack, and a drink. We will move roses, hydrangeas, ferns, hostas, etc. among other gardening tasks.

If you have worked with us at the mansion before, you are on the Master Gardener list with security. However, if this is your first visit, please let Jane McCarthy (221-9936) know by 14 Nov, so we can put you on the list.

Rain date is 24 November, 2014.

**No Other Committees Reported.**

## **Announcements**

### **Bellingrath Hosts 51st Annual Cascading Mum Display**

Bellingrath Gardens, Theodore, AL - If you have never quite thought of a garden as a work of living art, come visit Bellingrath Gardens and Home during the Cascading Mum Display this November.

The Bellingrath nursery staff work for nine months to create three weeks of spectacular chrysanthemum color. Every November for the past 51 years, Bellingrath has perfected the art of growing cascade mums resulting in the largest outdoor display of cascade mums in the country.

Guests to the Gardens can see hanging spheres of mums, trailing cascades of mums hanging from balconies and bridges and 6-foot towers of mums standing alongside garden beds full of fall foliage and garden mums.

Cuttings of mums that are growing in production greenhouses as early as January are trained for six months to grow along frames to create the trailing cascades, columns and spheres. Every two weeks, the nursery staff shears the mums to encourage multiple branching. The last shear is done around Labor Day in order for flower buds to form and bloom in November. The timing and preparation is what makes Bellingrath's Cascading Mum Display so spectacular.

Like a painter thinking of the details he will need to include to create the end product of his masterpiece, it's incredible to think of all of the detail-specific preparation that goes on for months to create three weeks of unique and breathtaking fall color.

The Bellingrath Cascading Mum Display is truly spectacular and is certainly not to be overlooked by art and garden enthusiasts alike.

## 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Fall Flower Show

October 3-13, 2014

The Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs completed another successful flower show at the Alabama National Fair. The Federation wishes to thank everyone who participated.

Maureen Emerson, Wayne Henderson and Karen Weber assisted Georgia Young, (2014 intern), the Flower Show Entries Chairperson in identifying the plant specimens.

CCMGA members Robert Cope, Carolyn Love-Dorsey, Laurice Goorley and Chris Shoup, won top awards at the flower show.

Robert won an Arboreal Award, Carolyn won an Award of Merit and the Rose Award. I won two Awards of Merit and a Master Gardener Award (container) and an Award of Merit and an Arboreal Award. Chris Shoup won an Arboreal Award, two Growers Choice Awards, President's Award and a Master Gardener Award (container). The container specimen that won a Growers Choice and a Master Gardener Award was for a bat flower (*Tacca chantrierei*) which was given to Chris by Judy Youngblood.

Thank you to all the CCMGA members who entered specimens in the show. Robert Cope, Carolyn-Love Dorsey, Chris Shoup, Karen Weber and I won Horticulture first place blue ribbons. All told, I received with 54 blue Horticulture ribbons, the highest number awarded.

Mary Long, Central Master Gardener Association, (CMGA) won the other two Master Gardener Awards as well as six other top awards.

CCMGA is to be commended for sponsoring the Master Gardener Awards. Each of the four awards were won by Master Gardeners. Thank you for your support.

Laurice Goorley

Flower Show Awards Chairperson

## To Do's In The November Garden

### Fruits and Nuts

Select sites for plantings.

Start mulching strawberries, blackberries, and grapes.

### Shrubs

Plant shrubs, trees, and vines.

### Lawns

Some homeowners like lawn paints.

Have you thought about having a green lawn this winter?

Use proper herbicide to kill germinating winter weeds.

Periwinkle, nasturtium, four o'clock, cocks-comb, begonia, coleus, marigold, impatiens.

### Hardy Vegetables

Peas, turnips, mustard, rape, collards, kale, beets, carrots, spinach, onions, radish.

### Tender Vegetables

Butter beans, snap beans, pole beans, squash, field peas, watermelons, cucumbers, cantaloupes, corn, New Zealand spinach.

### Heat-Loving Vegetables

Okra, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, pumpkins, field peas, sweet potatoes.

### Roots and Tubers

Asparagus, horseradish, artichoke, Irish potatoes, onions.

### Root Crops

Beets, carrots, turnips, radish, salsify.

### Roses

Get rose planting underway.

Use a soil test as a basis for fertilization.

Look for new varieties.

### Annuals and Perennials

Plant hardy annuals such as larkspur, poppies, pansies, anchusa, and candytuft.

Get sweet peas into the ground.

### Bulbs

Continue spring bulb planting.

Put lilies of the valley in a shady place.

### Miscellaneous

Plant screen plantings for privacy on the patio.

### Vegetable Seed

Plant cabbage and lettuce in the cold frame.

## November Events - CCMGA

1st - Pike Road Arts & Crafts Fair

5th - Lunch & Learn

7th - Bug Webinar

11th - Veterans Day

18th - CCMGA Meeting

DECEMBER

9th - Christmas Luncheon

Silent Auction

Installation of Officers

Intern Class Certification

*Below is what I would have like to see CCMGA become. This is one month of activities of the Santa Clara County Master Gardeners (CA). Compare their Nov. Public activities to ours above. The only thing stopping CCMGA from doing things at this level, is CCMGA itself. We are a volunteer organization, why is 90% of the work being done by 10% of the membership? Find a project or committee and join in.*

## November Events - SCCMGA

Sat., 11/1, 10:00am-12:15pm [Dividing Perennials and Prepping Garden for Winter](#)  
Palo Alto Demo Garden, 851 Center Drive, **Palo Alto**

Wed., 11/5, 7:00pm-8:30pm [Winter Fruit Tree Care](#)  
Morgan Hill Library, 660 W. Main Avenue, **Morgan Hill**

Wed., 11/5, 7:00pm-8:00pm [Vertical Gardening](#)  
San Jose Public Library, Evergreen Branch, 2635 Aborn Road, **San Jose**

Sat., 11/8, 9:00am-11:00am [Garden Soil Basics](#)  
Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley Street, **Palo Alto**

Sat., 11/8, 10:00am-12:00pm [Pressed Flower & Leaf Art](#) (\$25, \$20 GRPC members)  
Guadalupe River Park Conservancy, 438 Coleman Ave, **San Jose**

Mon., 11/10, 7:00pm-9:00pm [Winter in the Vegetable Garden](#), three Mondays: Nov, Dec, Jan, (\$60)  
Palo Alto High School, 50 Embarcadero Road, **Palo Alto**

Fri., 11/14, 1:00pm-2:30pm [Holiday Flower Arrangements](#)  
Avenidas, 450 Bryant Street, **Palo Alto**

Wed., 11/19, 7:00pm-8:30pm [Household Pest Management](#)  
Cupertino Community Hall, 10350 Torre Avenue, **Cupertino**

Sat., 11/22, 1:00pm-3:00pm [Lose the Lawn: How? What next?](#)  
Sunnyvale Public Library, 665 W. Olive Ave., **Sunnyvale**






### CCMGA Officers, 2014

Tom McLemore	President
Terese Goodson	Vice President
Jan Gill	Treasurer
Janine Koslofsky	Secretary

Send articles & items for newsletter to  
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### November Birthdays

Barbara Witt	11/1
Cathy Maddox	11/3
Elaine Galt	11/3
Mandy Griffin	11/4
Cary Kuhlmann	11/7
Janine Koslofsky	11/15
Joan Hyatt	11/17
Jean Smyth	11/17
Anna Trawick	11/20
Dixie Bryan	11/22
Randy Merijanian	11/23
Karen Weber	11/25
Laura Dean Waters	11/27
Vanessa Sanders	11/28



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*Happy Thanksgiving*



## 2015 CCMGA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please give or mail this completed form and dues to the Membership Chairman, Suzanne Reaves, 702 Green Ridge Rd, Montgomery, AL 36109, not later than Dec. 1, 2015. Dues are \$25.00 for full members and \$15.00 for interns, provisional members and any dual members who have their primary membership in another county. Checks should be made payable to CCMGA. Email [suzanne.reaves@hotmail.com](mailto:suzanne.reaves@hotmail.com) with any questions.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email (please print legibly) \_\_\_\_\_

Year of your Master Gardener Class \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: Check \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I am a dual member. County of primary membership \_\_\_\_\_

Approximately how many volunteer hours will you report from 01/01/15 to 12/31/15? \_\_\_\_\_

REACH FOR THE STARS award hours will be calculated from the ACES volunteer database and awarded in Feb., 2015.

To help in future planning, please provide the following information: What topic(s) would you like to see presented at a meeting? Do you know a person who could present a program on this topic? Also indicate any ideas you may have for CCMGA projects.

(a) \_\_\_\_\_

(b) \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the areas where you worked last year \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What special skills do you have that could be used to help our organization? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Use the back if necessary.)