

August 2015 CCMGA Newsletter

THE · P r a i r i e M u d ·

Mark Your Calendars!

August 25th CCMGA Meeting,

Frazer UMC, 9:30 Social, 10:00 Program - Basket Weaving - Elaine Barron

September 2nd Lunch & Learn - Cool Weather Veggies

September 18th, Extravaganza Workshop, See article in this newsletter for more details

President's Message

Greetings All!

As we all begin to wind down our summer and prepare our gardens for fall let us not forget that now is the time to also prepare for the Spring Plant sale. I know that Suzanne and her team are available to assist if needed!

I have been enjoying the 'dog days of summer' sitting inside and watching the hummingbirds as they flitter around the feeders and trees. They just amaze me! I certainly have not been outside unless it is absolutely necessary!!! I am so ready for cooler weather so that I can tend to the weeds that have seemed to invade my beds.

I hope you all have been able to enjoy your summer and travel to exciting places or plan to do so soon. I look forward to seeing everyone on the 25th.

With warm regards, Margaret

Upcoming CCMGA Meeting Program

August 25th

Elaine Barron will share her love and tips for basket weaving. To check out her posts on Pinterest, use this link. <https://www.pinterest.com/alabsktwvr/weaving-ideas/>

Fall Extravaganza

Central Alabama Community College

Alexander City, September 18th

\$25.00 Registration Fee

8:30a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Come listen to some great speakers including Walter Reeves, P. Allen Smith, Dr. Arlie Powell and Dr. Nancy Loewenstein. You can register using this link:

<http://www.aces.edu/tallapoosa>

[View the Extravaganza Flyer](#)

July CCMGA Meeting July 27th

Montgomery Botanical Garden

Update





July 2015 Treasurer's Report prepared by Jan Gill

Jan also provided the Reimbursement/Payment Request Form to be completed if you incur out of pocket expenses related to CCMGA activities and need to be reimbursed by our treasurer.

[View the Reimbursement Form](#)

July 2015 Minutes prepared by Brenda Coleman

[View the Minutes](#)

Blue Butterflies Take Over Callaway Garden's Cecil B. Day Butterfly Center



**Brilliant Blue Butterflies Provide Beautiful Sight for Guests;
Overnight Package Includes Butterfly-Theme Gift**

September is Blue Morpho Butterfly Month at Callaway Gardens' Cecil B. Day Butterfly Center. Typically there are more than 1,000 tropical butterflies of various kinds flying freely throughout the conservatory; however, this month it will be filled exclusively with spectacular Blue Morpho butterflies.

During September, visitors to the Day Butterfly Center will witness the largest display of Blue Morphos on the planet at that moment, said Michael Buckman, manager of the Cecil B. Day Butterfly Center. This is our seventh year filling the Center with Blue Morphos. I've been told by suppliers that we are receiving all that they have of these beautiful butterflies. When I heard that, I knew we were doing something very special.

The Blue Morpho (*Morpho peleides*) is a spectacular iridescent blue butterfly native to the rainforests of South and Central America. The undersides of the wings are brown with eyespots, but the contrasting upper sides could be considered the most brilliant, vivid blue that nature has to offer. This iridescent color actually results from microscopic scales on the back of their wings reflecting light, giving the brilliant shimmering blue appearance. As a Blue Morpho flies, its contrasting wing colors of brilliant blue and dull brown fool the eye and make the Morpho look as if it is appearing and disappearing. The word 'morpho' actually means to change or modify.

This tropical butterfly is usually a forest dweller but will occasionally venture into sunny areas. They are diurnal, or active during the day, and they spend much of

their time in flight because they can be territorial. When courting, they often fly in long chains of five or more making a spectacular sight.

As one of the largest butterflies, with a wingspan of five to eight inches, the Blue Morpho is a wonderful subject for photos and video. They feed on the juices of rotting fruit making them easy to locate at the fruit feeders in the Day Butterfly Center. Butterflies are most active between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. For best results taking photos, consider visiting when the butterflies are resting, before 10 a.m. or after 3 p.m.

General admission* to Callaway Gardens, home of the Cecil B. Day Butterfly Center, is \$20 per adult (ages 13-64); \$15 per senior (65+); \$10 per child (ages 6-12); and free for children 5 and younger (admission prices include tax). Annual Passholders, with their pass and valid ID can enter the Gardens with up to five guests in the same vehicle for free per day. Military and their spouse receive free admission and half price admission for up to four guests in the same vehicle. This price includes access to Callaway Gardens and its many attractions and activities. The Day Butterfly Center is open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Take a break and enjoy the Day Butterfly Center and the many other attractions of Callaway Gardens. Ask for the special Blue Morpho Butterfly Overnight Package, available September 7-30, 2015, in the Mountain Creek Inn and includes lodging; breakfast buffet at The Plant Room Restaurant, a special gift from the Cecil B. Day Butterfly Center, use of the Mountain Creek Inn Fitness Center and admission to Callaway Gardens and its many attractions for each day of stay and day of departure.

For more information or to make a reservation, call 1.800.463.6990 or visit our website:

<http://www.callawaygardens.com>.

Rachel M. Crumbley

**Director of Marketing and Public Relations
Callaway Gardens**

Direct: [706-663-5187](tel:706-663-5187) |

Main: [706-663-6881](tel:706-663-6881) or [1-855-421-3120](tel:1-855-421-3120) | **Fax:** [706-663-5068](tel:706-663-5068)

Email:

rcrumbley@callawaygardens.com

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PO Box 2000, Pine Mountain, GA 31822-2000

August Volunteer Opportunity Bulletin

hello all!

Attached is the August edition of MG Vol Opp's Bulletin – thank you to everyone for your contributions – please keep the info flowing – we (ACES) love to see what outreach Alabama MG's are doing – thank you! – Kerry and Kira

Kerry Smith

Home Grounds Team Co-Coordinator &

State MG Program Coordinator

Alabama Cooperative Extension System

101 Funchess Hall

Auburn University AL 36849

smithkp@auburn.edu

www.ACES.edu

[View the August Volunteer Ops Bulletin](#)

Fall Master Gardener Classes

Offered in Elmore/Autauga Counties

If you know of anyone who can't make the spring Montgomery County Master Gardening

classes, Elmore and Autauga counties are offering fall classes. The deadline for applications for both classes is today, August 20th. Call the Elmore County or Autauga County ACES office for more information.

Prime Magazine Gardening Articles

Thank you to Cathy Maddox for her article on the development of the Montgomery Botanical Gardens at Oak Park entitled, *You Never Get a Second Chance to be the First*, for publishing in the September Prime Magazine edition. To read her article (after September 1st) and previous gardening articles written by CCMGA members in Prime Magazine, go to: <http://primemontgomery.com/>

August Lunch And Learn, August 1st

The Camellia, Our State Flower by Phil Easter





Plant Propagation Workshop Autauga County, August 28th

Check out the link below if you are interested in this workshop. The deadline to sign up is August 25th.

[View the Plant Propagation Flyer](#)

Xerces Society Article

Thank you to Lynette Morse for sharing an interesting newsletter article from the Xerces Society about endangered pollinators.

GARDENING IN THE FACE OF CHANGE

Photo Courtesy of Anna Owen.

*Your backyard can be part of a national movement
Recently published research suggests that climate change
is contributing to the disappearance of bumble bees from
southern parts of their ranges in Europe and North America.
The latest study from Britain predicts that the combination
of drought and habitat fragmentation puts a half dozen*



species of butterflies at risk of being lost from that country within the next three decades.

Faced with such a situation, you might wonder what can be done. We can all find ways to reduce our carbon footprint to help address the root causes of climate change in the long term. Also, we can all help build resilience into our landscapes by creating habitat that will support insects. The more habitat there is and the better its quality, the better chance bees and butterflies will have to adapt to a changing environment.

The Xerces Society's Bring Back the Pollinators campaign promotes four principles that can be adapted to any location - grow flowers, provide nest sites, avoid pesticides, and share the word. Fill a window box with flowers. Add planters to a deck. Create a colorful garden border. Mix flowers with the vegetables in a community garden. Enhance the grounds of a school or church. You can do this in a city park, golf course, corporate or university campus, or farm.

Insect habitat doesn't need to be big, but it should offer a mix of nectar-rich flowers and be free of insecticides. The importance of flower choice was underscored during a recent visit to a large show garden. There were acres of gardens but butterflies and bees were limited to a very few plants. Woodland skippers loved the Pacific aster, as did a variety of bees and flies. Bumble bees were happy on purple coneflower, English lavender, and catnip. Black-eye susans and sneezeweed were humming with all sorts of bees. In between, the brightly colored bedding plants and flower-less shrubs were quiet, devoid of interest for passing bees.

Another important consideration is ensuring that your landscape is drought tolerant. My own garden offers some hints on which plants need less water during a dry summer. Aster, coneflower, goldenrod, coreopsis, and bear grass are among the plants that have coped best, deep-rooted perennials that reach below the parched surface layers. Of course, this varies by region, so please check out our regional plant guides.

If you are creating a pollinator garden, you're not alone. In June, First Lady Michelle Obama issued the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge on behalf of the newly created National Pollinator Garden Network. One million pollinator gardens (or other habitat

patches) scattered across the U.S. will provide a safety net for bees, butterflies, and many other insects.

To make your garden count, go to [Bring Back the Pollinators](#) and sign the Pollinator Protection Pledge. Your garden will be added to the one million. If you've already signed the Pledge (and some 3,500 people have), don't worry, your garden will still count; existing gardens are being grandfathered in.

*Matthew Shepherd, Communications Director
The Xerces Society*

For more information, you can go to their website at:

<http://www.xerces.org/>

Don't Forget to Record Your Hours!

This link will be in all future newsletters as a reminder for us all to record hours. Here is the link:

<https://ssl.acesag.auburn.edu/mgmanager/login/>

Member Information Updates:

Please make the following changes in your member directory: This will be a regular posting in our monthly newsletter including all year-to-date updates and corrections.

Elaine Barron - phone number [334-294-9797](tel:334-294-9797)

Anne Hamner's Correct Birthdate is September 8th

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Tallapoosa County



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Plants from the Past

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Fall Gardening Extravaganza

The 2015

will be held at the

Betty Carol Graham Technology Center

located on the campus of

Central Alabama Community College

1675 Cherokee Road

in

Alexander City, Alabama



The Betty Carol Graham Technology Center (X) is on the east side of campus. Parking for the building will be on the left just past the pond.

Fall Gardening Extravaganza

Extravaganza

September 18, 2015



Hosted by

Tallapoosa County Extension Office and
Tallapoosa County Master Gardeners Association

Extension
ALABAMA A&M & AUBURN UNIVERSITIES

Dr. Arlie Powell is a retired Extension Fruit Specialist having worked in Texas, Georgia, and Alabama.

He served as an Auburn University Extension Fruit Specialist for twenty-two years. He worked his last years as an Assistant Director for Alabama Cooperative Extension and Associate Dean for Extension in the College of Agriculture. Dr. Powell has authored over 200 papers, articles, books, circulars, bulletins and other scientific writings in his field of horticultural science. He is also established the Alabama Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association.



P. Allen Smith is an award-

winning designer, gardening and lifestyle expert. He is the host of two public television programs, *P. Allen Smith's Garden Home*, *P. Allen Smith's Garden to Table* and the syndicated 30-minute show *P. Allen Smith Gardens*. He is one of America's most recognized and respected garden and design experts, providing ideas and inspiration through multiple media venues. He is the author of the best-selling *Garden Home* series of books published by Clarkson Potter / Random House, including *Bringing the Garden Indoors: Container, Crafts and Bouquets for Every Room* and the recently published cookbook, *Seasonal Recipes from the Garden* inspired by the abundance of food from his farm and a family of great cooks.



Dr. Nancy J. Loewenstein

works at Auburn University as a Research Fellow and Invasive Plant Extension Specialist. Her interests include invasive plant identification, ecology and control. She also teaches Dendrology (tree ID). She holds a PhD in Tree Physiology from the University of Missouri, MS in Forest Biology from Virginia Tech, and a BS in Forest Management from Auburn University. She is also the Executive Director of the Alabama Invasive Plant Council and Secretary of the National Association of Invasive Plant Councils.



Fall Gardening Extravaganza

Friday, September 18th

- 8:30 a.m.** Arrival / Registration
- 9 a.m.** Welcome and Introductions
- 9:15 a.m.** **Dr. Arlie Powell**
'Fruit Growing in Alabama Gardens'
- 10:15 a.m.** **P. Allen Smith**
'Share the Bounty'
- 11:15 a.m.** Recognize Sponsors
- 11:30 a.m.** Lunch
- 12:30 p.m.** **Walter Reeves**
'How to Be Sherlock Holmes in Your Garden'
- 1:30 p.m.** **Dr. Nancy Loewenstein**
'Invaders at the Garden Gate'
- 2:30 p.m.** **Conclusion**

Walter Reeves is retired from the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, where he worked for 29 years. He hosts "The Lawn and Garden Show", a radio call-in show on Atlanta's NewsTalk WSB, every Saturday morning and has done gardening radio shows for 25 years. Walter writes a weekly column of garden questions & answers for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He also manages www.walterreeves.com, which contains over 10,000 articles and answers to garden questions. He is the author of *Month by Month Gardening in Georgia*, *The Georgia Gardener's Guide*, *Georgia Vegetables*, *Fruits*, *Herbs and Nuts*, and *501 Garden Questions and Answers for Georgia*. And he is an Honorary Master Gardener.



Event Registration

\$25 per Person
(Includes Lunch)

Register online at:

www.aces.edu/Tallapoosa

OR

Register by calling Tallapoosa County Extension at (256) 825-1050.

DO NOT MAIL REGISTRATION FORM WITHOUT CALLING FIRST
SEATS ARE NOT RESERVED UNTIL PAYMENT IS RECEIVED
SPACE IS LIMITED TO FIRST 350 PARTICIPANTS

Registration Deadline: September 11, 2015

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Phone Number: _____

e-mail: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Tallapoosa County Extension Office
125 N. Broadnax Street, Room 23
Dadeville, AL 36853

Make check payable to:
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

THE AMERICAN VILLAGE: Kitchen & Medicinal Herb Gardens



Left: Before planting at American Village. Right: After planting with signage and lots of room to grow!

The American Village is located in Montevallo, Alabama, has over 300,000 visitors each year and extends educational outreach to the public about life during the colonial period. The Jefferson County Master Garden Spring 2015 class at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens decided their project would be to plant and maintain the colonial herb garden at the American Village. The project was led by Beth Hamer, Tommie Ruth Blackwell, Eric Milton, Nancy Natter, Cathy O'Sheal, Mindy Bodenhamer, Karen Smith, Julia Dettling, and Cameron Strouss, each of whom had valuable skills to contribute to the project. The overall plan included planting six herb beds with signage, developing classroom lessons for teachers, providing herbal recipes for the public, training docents to present on the herbs, and making other resources available for additional study. Because everything at the American Village must be accurate to the colonial period, Mindy contacted Mount Vernon to learn of the herbs Washington used in his gardens, Tommie Ruth found historic recipes, Beth created lesson plans for herbs and other members researched herbs that are best suited for the South. The project was started in January with planting in April. After the project was completed, the Shelby County Master Gardeners readily agreed to collaborate and ensure the garden would continue to flourish to be a beneficial addition to the American Village.

(Photo and story credits: Tommie Ruth Blackwell)

The Fight Against Chinese Privet

Shelby County Master Gardeners go on offense with the invasive species.

2

Garden Spotlight: Caroline Dean Wildflower Trail

Caroline Dean Wildflower Garden is located in Opelika.

3

Mark Your Calendar!

Make sure you don't miss upcoming events like the Lunch & Learn and the fall seminar.

4



Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinensis*) listed as an invasive species and is seen here growing in the wild.

(James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org)

SHELBY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FIGHT TO COMBAT CHINESE PRIVET INVAISON

The Shelby County Master Gardeners are partnering with Ricky Colquitt, County Extension Coordinator, the county, and trade school horticulture students this fall to sponsor an eradication of invasive Chinese privet workshop in the woodland behind the Shelby County Extension Office. Shelby County Master Gardeners will fund supplies used to teach four eradication techniques, help coordinate the workshop, and further enhance the outdoor 'classroom' and bog garden (minus privet!), with guidance from member Michelle Hill & valiant MG volunteers.

Volunteer Opportunities at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Bruno Vegetable Garden

Amanda Clark, who is in charge of the Bruno Vegetable Garden at BBG, is expecting her second child in August. She is in need of Master Gardener help on **Thursdays starting at 9 AM** to plant and harvest vegetables. [The Magic City Harvest](#) is the recipient of the vegetables being grown in the Bruno Vegetable Garden. She has a core group of people who will continue on the work for Magic City Harvest when she is out on maternity leave, but they need more help. For information on ongoing workdays, contact Amanda Clark at Amanda.Clark@ci.birmingham.al.us.

Plant Adventures

Interested in helping adults with special needs to learn valuable life skills while working in The Gardens? Contact Brooke McMinn, Plant Adventures Program Specialist for The Birmingham Botanical Gardens, at bcmminn@bbgardens.org or 205.414.3914 for more information on our volunteer opportunities!

Get Into the Gardens!

Master Gardeners are needed to help facilitate demonstration activities and talks on the weekends at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Contact Volunteer Coordinator, Taylor Steele at tsteele@bbgardens.org or 205-414-3962.

Claybank Master Gardener Volunteer Opportunities

There are several projects in your area where you can become a great asset as a volunteer! There is always a need for additional help! These projects are listed below, along with a contact number if you are interested in volunteering.

Dale County Lake Walking Trail

Contact Carole Ball at (334) 774-5353

Ozark First United Methodist Church Meditation Garden

Contact Jan Lisenby at (334) 774-6998

The Ozark-Dale County Public Library

Contact Carole Ball at (334) 774-5353



Left: Entrance to the Caroline Dean Wildflower Trail where native wildflowers such as oakleaf hydrangeas, native azaleas, and native perennial flowers can be seen. Right: In one of the few sunny spots of the woodland area grow cardinal flowers (*Lobelia cardinalis*).

Garden Spotlight:

Caroline Dean Wildflower Garden

The Caroline Dean Wildflower Trail was started as a dedication by the Kiwanis Club to recognize Caroline Dean for her contributions to the city of Opelika and the state of Alabama in 2007. It is located just behind the Salem Shotwell Covered Bridge exhibit in Opelika's Municipal Park. Caroline Dean is a resident of Opelika who has a passion for wildflowers and educating the public on their uses and importance to the environment. In 2010, Caroline Dean became an honorary Master Gardener and requested the Lee County Master Gardeners take on the care and maintenance of the garden. Since 2011, that's exactly what they have been doing along with some help from the city of Opelika. Spencer Roy is the current director of the garden and says its main purpose is a demonstration and teaching garden for native wildflowers. He hopes in the coming year to increase the diversity of the plants and keep up with the maintenance. Some of the current species include several varieties of native azaleas, Savannah hollies, ferns, and perennial blooming flowers.

If you are interested in volunteering at the garden, the Master Gardeners meet every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 8:00 AM. Contact Spencer Roy (334-744-0769) for more information.

Autauga County Volunteer Opp's

- Demonstration Garden work days every Tuesday at 8am
- Prativillage Garden work days every Thursday at 9am
- Governor's Mansion work days every Monday



Mark Your Calendar!

Alabama Master Gardener 2015 Fall Seminar

When: September 9, 2015
8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Where: Clanton, AL
Clanton Conference & Performing Arts
Center

Topics will include bulbs, seed saving & propagation, pollination permaculture and much more!

Registration is \$25.00 and includes lunch.

For more information and to register visit:
www.alabamamg.org/2015-fall-seminar/

Alabama Master Gardener ANNUAL CONFERENCE May 12-16, 2016



More information yet to come.

August Lunch & Learn:

Lunch & Learn occurs once a month, shares a new topic every event, and takes place from **12:00—1:00 p.m.** These programs are a great opportunity to meet new people and expand your gardening knowledge! Drinks are provided, but **bring a sack lunch**. L&L are a cooperative effort between Regional Extension Agents and several hard working crews of Master Gardeners. Are you hosting these in your area?

5 **Montgomery:**
Topic: Camellias, Our State Flower
Where: Armory Learning Arts Center,
Montgomery

6 **Autauga County:**
Topic: Bulbs
Where: Christ Lutheran Church,
Prattville

11 **Dale County:**
Topic: Basics of Irrigation
Where: Dale County Extension Office

11 **Elmore County:**
Topic: Organic Solutions
Where: Elmore County Extension Office

12 **Morgan County:**
Topic: Pest Management
Where: Aquadome Recreation Center,
Decatur

17 **Mobile County:**
Topic: Seed Saving
Where: Jon Archer Ag Center, Mobile

26 **Calhoun County:**
Topic: Saving Seeds
Where: Cane Creek Community Garden
at McClellan

(Produced by Kira Chaloupka, Intern, Auburn University Department of Horticulture)



Capital City
Master
Gardener
Association
Montgomery, Alabama

The Prairie Mud will be published monthly on the 15th. Please send photos and announcements to Eileen Webb at capcitymga@gmail.com. If you have a flyer to submit, please make sure it is in a PDF format.

This publication would not be possible without the help from our photographers Janice Jackson, Carolyn Dorsey and Mac McLellan. Thank you to Sara Brown for seeing that printed copies are mailed each month to those requesting them.

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