

February 2018 CCMGA Newsletter

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• P r a i r i e M u d •

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- Most Viola species are small perennial plants, some are annual plants, and a few are small shrubs. A number of species are grown for their ornamental flowers in borders and rock gardens; the garden pansy in particular is extensively used spring and autumn / winter bedding & pot plant.
  - This month is associated with St. Valentine's Day and red roses. However, the flower for the month is Violet. The flower symbolizes faithfulness, humility and chastity. Gifting violets in the Victorian era conveyed the message 'I'll always be true'. The flower is found in shades of blue, mauve as well as yellow and cream.
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**February 27th , CCMGA Meeting,**

*Social 9:30, Meeting 10:00,*

*Program: Different Types of Propagation by Chip Ellis, County Extension Agent*

**March 7, Lunch & Learn Noon,**

*Program: How to Add Color in the Landscape - Variety & Presenter: Jane  
McCarthy, Horticulturist,*



Watch out for the big BADGE wolf!

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**President's Message**

Success! Thank you to everyone who helped to get the word out about the upcoming Master Gardener classes in Montgomery County. On Tuesday at our meeting we had only 12 applications. By Friday there were 20! Our intern class will commence on Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. It is likely that we will need a few more mentors so please think about volunteering for this important role to support our new recruits. It is the mentor's job to stay in contact with their intern in order to answer questions, give support and help them get involved

with volunteer opportunities and hopefully attend our monthly meetings. It can make the difference between a successful future involved master gardener and a possible dropout. We need YOU!!

As you all recall, at our last meeting we passed around a birthday card for Anne Waldo a member who recently turned 90 years old. I had never met her as she is unable to drive and rarely attends meetings anymore. About 3 days later I was working at the Visitor Center downtown and a lovely woman with a small dog and 2 younger women came in to watch our tourist movie about Montgomery. In talking to her I discovered that she was Anne. Imagine her surprise when I wished her "Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday". She got such a kick out of the fact that she would run into a Master Gardener at the Visitor Center and that I would know who she was. We had a delightful conversation and I want to thank Ann Oldham again for initiating the birthday card idea and taking a basket over to Ms. Waldo. She was truly touched by the kind gesture.

Janine Koslofsky  
President CCMGA

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## **Moments with Mallory**

### **The War against Lawn Weeds**

Many of you have given up the battle to treat your lawn on your own, and many of you are still waging war yourself and wondering what am I doing wrong? Well, if you want to get ahead of the game, a pre-emergent in February is the way to go! This article will hopefully give you several tips from pre and post emergent products to fertilizers to help you achieve the beautiful lawn you are hoping for. The most popular product out there that seems to have it all, the "one stop shop" for all your lawn needs is the "Weed and Feed" products. I am often asked if this is the correct way to treat the lawn. In central Alabama, there is not a large window of time when this product would be beneficial, but it can be used in May or early June when an extra application of fertilizer would not hurt and the application of the pre-emergent chemical in the product will help prevent weed seeds from germinating through the summer and into the fall. The best and most effective control of weeds in the lawn may take a little more effort than the "Weed & Feed" all-in-one products, but you can save money and time in the long run applying them separately. Pre-emergent weed killers should be selected based on the type of grass you have. These weed control products are preventative, so they should be applied before the weeds are visible in the lawn, as they prevent the seeds of the weeds from germinating. These and can be applied any time of year except during "Green-up" or to newly seeded or sprigged lawns, but, again, February is a great month as we will soon have spring like temperatures and spring weeds will start to germinate. Do not reseed a lawn for 4-6 months after a pre-emergent chemical is applied and remember to always read and follow all label instructions when making applications of any

chemical. I have provided information below to access our website for a list of all Pre and Post-emergent chemicals on the market so you can correctly select the chemical that is best for your lawn situation. Don't forget, a post-emergent herbicide is only going to kill a weed that has already begun to grow in the lawn. Fertilizers are generally applied twice throughout the year, first in early spring during green-up and then again in mid-summer. Fertilizer type and amounts should be based on soil test results, not guess work, and anytime is a good time to have a soil test. Soil tests will provide you with the correct type of fertilizer and amounts needed for your specific lawn and if lime is needed, lime can be added at any time of year. Remember, lime raised the soil pH. A soil test will help you be more accurate in your fertilizer application, provide your grass with the exact nutrients it needs, and save you money down the road. For information on proper care of your turfgrass, visit our publications online at [www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu) and search for the type of grass you have. Also for a list of pre and post-emergent chemicals that are available and the type of lawn they can be applied to, visit our website and search for: IPM Weed Control or access this link:

[http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0500-B/VOL2-2011/home\\_lawns\\_weed.pdf](http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0500-B/VOL2-2011/home_lawns_weed.pdf)

Join us in February for our lunch and learn gardening programs in Central Alabama.

All Programs are FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

EVERY MONTH from 12:00-1:00, Bring a Sack Lunch. Drinks Provided!

**February's Topics and locations:**

**Montgomery:**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of EVERY month, Armory Learning Arts Center, 1018 Madison Ave. For more information: (334)270-4133

**Topic: Home Gardening Facts, Mallory Kelley, Regional Extension Agent**

**Wetumpka:**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of EVERY month, Elmore Co. Extension Office, 340 Queen Ann Road For more information: (334)567-6301

**Topic: Backyard Birding and Wildlife, Hal Smith, Wild Birds Unlimited**

**Prattville:**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of EVERY month, Trinity United Methodist, 610 Fairview Ave.,  
Prattville AL

For more information: (334)361-7273

**Topic: Rose Gardens, Gloria Purnell, Master Rosarian**

**\*\*\*Coosa:**

Monday, February 26 from 11:00-1:00 Coosa County Extension Office, 13999  
AL Highway 22, Rockford, AL

For more information: (256)377-4713

**Topic: Seed Starting and Grafting Techniques, Mallory Kelley, Regional  
Extension Agent**

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## **Announcements, Links, and Things**



Autauga Lunch and Learn, Thursday, March 1. [Butterflies, Bees, and Other Pollinators](#), Anna Thurmond Entomology Dept.

- Lee County Master Gardener Fundraiser Feb 24, March 17, March 24 MULCH SALE
- Pizza Party February 27 at Extension Office to celebrate 2017 Volunteers!!
- HELPLINE starts March - First session March 5. Volunteer and have fun! Sign Up!
- The Chapel at the Waters in Pike Road. Felder Rushing on April 12.
- Webinar in the All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar Series, March 2, 1:00pm Central: Misidentified Pests in the Landscape by Dr. Erfan Vafaie



**BOOM Magazine** All gardening articles for Boom magazine should be sent to Mary Jane McCracken at: [mjmccracken@knology.net](mailto:mjmccracken@knology.net).

February Edition Article: "Patience" by Cheri Youngblood (Just click on the title to read the article.)

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## CCMGA Membership



For information on joining, contact Janice Jackson at [janice.jackson.al@gmail.com](mailto:janice.jackson.al@gmail.com).

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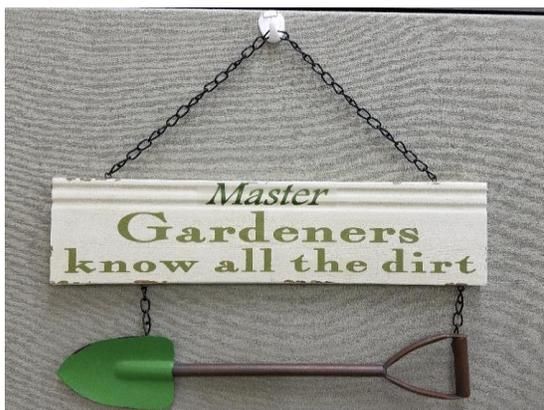
## The Gallery

### February Lunch and Learn

Home Gardening Facts presented by Mallory Kelley,  
Horticulturist, ACES

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## HelpLine



**Coming Soon to a Sign Up Sheet Near You!!**

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### **Communications - Who to Call**

**Communications Co-chairman**, website: **Eileen Webb**. email: [eileenwebb88@gmail.com](mailto:eileenwebb88@gmail.com)

**Communications Co-Chair: Cary Kuhlmann**  
email: [caryofmtgy@gmail.com](mailto:caryofmtgy@gmail.com)

**Photography: Janice Jackson -**  
email: [janice.jackson.al@gmail.com](mailto:janice.jackson.al@gmail.com)

**Photography: Carolyn Love Dorsey -**  
email: [cdorsey637@charter.net](mailto:cdorsey637@charter.net)

**Sunshine Committee: Mary Eleanor Hines -**  
email: [mariaeleonor@cs.com](mailto:mariaeleonor@cs.com), phone # 272-7927

**BOOM! Magazine Gardening Articles: Mary Jane McCracken**  
email: [mjmccracken@knology.net](mailto:mjmccracken@knology.net)

**Lunch and Learn emails & AMGA Newsletter articles: Maureen Emerson**

email: [tommo8000@gmail.com](mailto:tommo8000@gmail.com)

**Birthday emails: Kate McLean -**  
email: [khmcln1@gmail.com](mailto:khmcln1@gmail.com)

**Prairie Mud Newsletter: Ruth Padgett -**

email: [padgettre@aol.com](mailto:padgettre@aol.com)

**Prints and sends our hard copies of the Prairie Mud as needed: Sara Brown -**

email: [sdbrown8652@yahoo.com](mailto:sdbrown8652@yahoo.com)

**Assisting with Publicity: Claire Hubbard -**

email: [larryandclairehubbard@gmail.com](mailto:larryandclairehubbard@gmail.com)

- **Accidentally Unsubscribe from Mail Chimp Emails?**

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## **Changes/Corrections to the Member Directory?**

If you have a correction or change to make in the directory, please contact Janice Jackson at: [janice.jackson.al@gmail.com](mailto:janice.jackson.al@gmail.com) or phone her at 271-1549 or 462-3000.

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## **Reminder! Record Your Hours**

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



### **Master Gardener Service Report Login**

**First Visit?** [CLICK HERE](#) to register and begin participating.

E-Mail

Password

Remember Me  Yes (see note below)

**REMEMBER ME?:** Checking the "Remember Me" box will allow this page to preload your e-mail address on subsequent visits. It does not remember your password. Still, **DO NOT** use this when logging in from publicly accessible computers (Library, Ext. Office, etc.). If this has already happened, use the **Forget Me** function below.



The Prairie Mud will be published monthly on the 15th. Please send photos and announcements to Eileen Webb at [capcitymga@gmail.com](mailto: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 and Carolyn Dorsey . Thank you to Sara Brown for seeing that printed copies are mailed each month to those requesting them.

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