

March 2018 CCMGA Newsletter

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THE  
• P r a i r i e M u d •

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The first flower to lead the way through the cold snowy ground to scream out "It's Spring." In some countries the yellow is associated with Easter. Brilliant yellow blooms of all kinds symbolize friendship, a new beginning, and happiness.

March Explanation: This month is synonymous with the onset of spring (in the Northern Hemisphere). Accordingly the flower associated with this month is Daffodil also known as Jonquil or Narcissus. The colours of the bloom include white, yellow and orange. A gift of these flowers conveys the hidden meaning of friendship and happiness.

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**March 27th , CCMGA Meeting,**  
*Social 9:30, Meeting 10:00,*  
*Program: Camellias by Charles Mitchell*  
**April 4, Lunch & Learn Noon,**  
*Program: Tomatoes, Tomatoes, Tomatoes!*  
*Presenter: Mallory Kelley, Horticulturists, ACES*

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## **President's Message**

Do you think it is possible that spring will actually be over before it technically even begins? It kind of looks that way right now. Easter is still three weeks away, and the dogwoods are already in bloom! It sure is beautiful, but I'd like it to take it's time about coming and going - a more leisurely, slow-paced parade of each type of flower budding out and blooming; time to enjoy the pear trees and tulip magnolias before the azaleas come out. Did we even have the chance to notice the daffodils? We need time to 'ooh' and 'aah' over the azaleas before the dogwood and the wisteria take over center stage. Why the rush to unleash all of Mother Nature's most beautiful work at once? I'm hoping that, like a marathon runner, Mother Nature, will start to slow down a bit now that spring is clearly off and running. Set the pace, enjoy the race, and finish.....no need to be first! Just enjoy the process.

**Janine Koslofsky**  
**President CCMGA**

## Award Photos



### **2016 Intern of the Year**

Claire Hubbard

172.5 Hrs.



### **2017 Intern of the Year**

Leonard Shannon

223.5 Hrs.



### **2016 Top Hours of the Year**

Carolyn Love-Dorsey

500.75



### **2015 Top Hours of the Year**

Anita Ward

1239



**The Catherine Maddox 2015  
Lifetime Hours Award**

Maggie Stringer  
2292.5



**Bronze Star 100-299 hours**

Romae Bush, Fran Copeland  
Sheila Davis, Ann Eaddy  
Clyde Eller, Rose Levanduski  
Susan O'Connor, Floyd Payne  
Paula Sexton, Leonard Shannon  
Bobbie Speziale, George Szabo  
Sharon Watford, Evelena Webb  
James Williams



**Silver Star 300-499 Hours**

Cecil Barnes  
Emily Brown  
Catherine Kleinmann  
Richard Moore  
Ruth Padgett  
Gloria Szabo  
Laura Dean Waters



**Gold Star 500-999 Hours**

Cheri Youngblood  
Wilma Howard  
Mary Jane McCracken



**Platinum Badge 2000-3999**

Anna Owen

Carolyn Love-Dorsey



**Ruby Star 4000-5999 Hours**

Karin Carmichael



**Moments with Mallory**

**The War against Lawn Weeds (In case you missed it!)**

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 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!

**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

**Wetumpka:**

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

**Prattville:**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of EVERY month, Trinity United Methodist, 610 Fairview Ave., Prattville AL -- For more information: (334)361-7273

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## Announcements, Links, and Things



**HELPLINE** started March 5. So far we've had willing an enthusiastic volunteer, yummy snacks, and lots of fun! Sign Up! You, too, can play with the vetch and ID that black stuff dripping off the crepe myrtles! A Special thank you to our very knowledgeable volunteers. I am constantly impressed!!

**The Chapel at the Waters** in Pike Road. Felder Rushing on April 12.  
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM CDT – Tickets - \$ 12.00

**CCMGA Plant Sale** April 20 Set Up and April 21 Sale at Frazer  
Methodist Church.

**Webinar** in the All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar Series

Montgomery County Water Festival May 8th and 9th. Volunteers  
needed! [CLICK HERE](#) for volunteer form.

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

### March Lunch and Learn

Adding Color to Landscape by Jane McCarthy, Horticulturist





## Lilly's Garden March 13





**Lilly's Garden Repairs Before**



## Lilly's Garden Repairs After



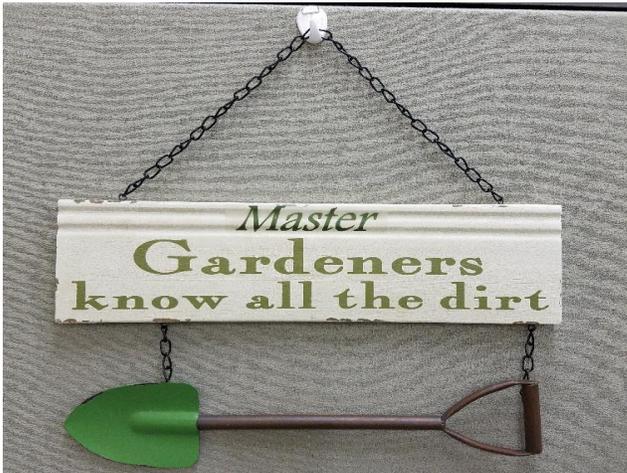
## CCMGA Meeting





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## Helpline



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## Communications - Who to Call

**Communications Co-chairman** website:

Eileen Webb [eileenwebb88@gmail.com](mailto:eileenwebb88@gmail.com)

**Communications Co-Chair:**

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**Photography:** Carolyn Love Dorsey -  
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**Sunshine Committee:** Mary Eleanor Hines -  
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**BOOM! Magazine** Gardening Articles:  
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[mjmccracken@knology.net](mailto:mjmccracken@knology.net)

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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/>

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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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