

November 2018 CCMGA Newsletter

THE
• P r a i r i e M u d •



All that we behold is full of blessings.
William Wordsworth



President's Message

It's funny how fall seems more like the beginning of the year than the end. It must stem from our years in school starting a 'new year' in September and not in January. This is the time of year I like to think about starting new activities and projects, reassess what I've been doing, and decide what to keep and what to change.

With our [CCMGA elections](#) coming up this month it is a good time to reflect on where and how you want to contribute your time and energy next year. Maybe you've been volunteering for the same project for a while and would like to try something different. Maybe you've been on a committee but would like to try chairing it this year. Now's the time to try something new. We will have our lists of projects and committees available at the 🎄 **Holiday Luncheon on December 11th**. Be sure to put your name on anything you are interested in helping with or running.

The more the merrier.



Janine Koslofsky
President CCMGA

NEXT CCMGA Meetings

CCMGA Meeting November 27



Holiday Luncheon December 11

Regular CCMGA Meeting January 22

Snack Volunteer Links:

Volunteer Links for Meeting Snacks:

- January - [*Click Here*](#)
- February - [*Click Here*](#)



Check flyers for educational and volunteer opportunities



CCMGA sponsored opportunities



Other MG opportunities

DEADLINE FOR 2018 VOLUNTEER HOURS

December 1, 2018 for CCMGA Plaque Awards

These are eligible to be awarded to members who have not won previously.

1. Intern of the Year 2018
2. Top Hours of the Year 2018
3. Lifetime Hours (total lifetime hours up to and including 2018)

These awards will be announced at our Holiday Luncheon December 11, 2018

December 31, 2018 for AMGA Star and Badge Awards

These awards are announced at our February 2019 CCMGA Meeting.



CCMGA Christmas Luncheon and Silent Auction

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Wynlakes Country Club

Buffet - \$26 per person

Reservations can be made at the November CCMGA meeting. Bring your checks and make your plans to be there for the fun, food and fellowship.

EVENTS! Click on the event for additional information.

- **CCMGA PROJECT:** [Fall Planting Day](#) at Montgomery Botanical Gardens!!
- **CCMGA** - 9:30 - Meet and Greet 10:00 - Speaker - Randy Merijanian - Beekeeping- Nov 27
- **Master Gardener Class** - February 21-May 2 - RECRUIT!!
- Party in the Garden Annual Conference - **May 9** preconference

LINKS

- **AMGA Pathways** Click For Current Issue
- **Extension Blog**
- **Alabama Master Gardener Helpline Ext. Link**

- **Volunteer Opp's Bulletin**
- **ACES**
- **Montgomery County Extension Newsletter**
- **Webinar** in the All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar Series
- **BOOM Magazine** All gardening articles for Boom magazine should be sent to Mary Jane McCracken at: mjmccracken@knology.net.

[November BOOM!](#) Click for current issue

["Fertilization and Mulching" by Robert Speziale](#)

- **AMGA Pathways** [Click Here For Current Issue](#)

Reports



Mallory Kelley

MG Coordinator/Regional Extension Agent

What makes Beautiful Fall Foliage?

Fall weather in Central Alabama has finally arrived. There is nothing like those first few cool crisp mornings after the long hot summer months. As we all know, our September and October can often times be just as hot as August. Looking around the last few days I am starting to see the first few vibrant colors of fall foliage. The initial plant that tells me fall is here is the terribly invasive popcorn tree!

It is almost guaranteed to have a showy year! You will start to notice them along fence rows and out in pastures along the road sides. That is one great characteristic of this plant is its beautiful fall color. Many times I am asked to make a fall foliage prediction for Alabama. To explain how to make an accurate fall color prediction let me remind you of the days in science class. The green color in leaves that we see all throughout the spring and summer is chlorophyll. Photosynthesis, the food-making process in the plant, takes place in the green, chlorophyll-containing leaves. As the day length changes and the amount of sun available to the leaves for photosynthesis begins to decrease. The living plant cells do not receive food and as a result they change colors and then eventually die and fall to the ground. As daylight hours shorten and temperatures drop, chlorophyll breaks down and disappears allowing the yellow color (which has been there all along) to show through. The potential for the yellow color has always been there, just covered up by the green chlorophyll. So now you know that the leaves do not actually change colors by magic, but rather by a chemical process in the plant that cause chlorophyll (the green color) to break down. So when someone asks you your projection for the fall colors this year, you can always say with certainty that it will be a great year for yellows!

Now, what is it that brings along the amazing shades of red and orange that we all love to see in the fall of the year? While the process of photosynthesis is decreasing due to light changes causing yellow to appear, other chemical changes cause red, orange or even purple pigments to form. This is what gives plants such as dogwoods, sumacs, sweet gums, and other trees the ir red to purple fall colors. Sugar maples take on a fiery orange color, hickories will only show yellow colors, while oaks are primarily reddish brown to brown. So what triggers leaves to form the beautiful shades of red, orange, and even purple? Warm sunny days with cool night temperatures, especially below 45 degrees. While we have not quite gotten down to 45 degrees, the nights in the 50s are definitely starting the process. These day and night temperatures tend to raise the level of red coloration. The cool night temperatures trap the sugars produced during the warm sunny day inside the leaves. The interesting thing about fall color is that it can vary from tree to tree because of things such as genetics or physical location. Colors can even vary on the same tree. For example, leaves directly exposed to the afternoon sun may turn brilliant red while those on the shady side of the tree may only turn yellow So now the mystery is solved and next time someone asks you for your projection for the fall foliage you can always say, the yellow fall color is guaranteed to be GREAT, but the red, orange and purple foliage will depend upon the warm day temps and cool night temperatures.

Announcements, Things, ETC.

- **HELPLINE** starts in March and ends August. Co-Chairs and continued willing and enthusiastic volunteers, yummy snacks, and lots of fun will be needed for 2019! [Sign Up!](#) You, too, can play with the vetch and ID that black stuff dripping off the crepe myrtles!

Webinar in the All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar

BOOM Magazine All gardening articles for Boom magazine should be sent to Mary Jane McCracken at: mjmccracken@knology.net.

CCMGA Membership



For information on joining, contact Janice Jackson at janice.jackson.al@gmail.com.

Membership Form below

The Gallery

Photos from the National Resource Tour



The 30th
Annual Montgomery County
Natural Resources Tour

Thursday, October 25, 2018
1:15 PM
Stephan & Joyce Turnipseed Property
16413 Old Pike Road, Mathews, AL 36052

TOUR TOPICS:

- Controlling nuisance animals through trapping
- Dinosaurs through the Black Belt!
- Sharing your property through Education
- Bee Presentation
- Educational Exhibits – Everything from tractors to trees!





Somebody looks cold!



Critters?

Communications - Who to Call
(Please do NOT "reply" to Newsletter)

Communications Co-chairman website:

Eileen Webb eileenwebb88@gmail.com

AMGA Correspondent:

Betsy Coley betsycoley@gmail.com

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Janice Jackson - janice.jackson.al@gmail.com

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Sunshine Committee: Mary Eleanor Hines -
mariaeleonor@cs.com, phone # 272-7927

BOOM! Magazine Gardening Articles:

Mary Jane McCracken

mjmccracken@knology.net

Lunch and Learn emails/AMGA Newsletter articles: Maureen Emerson
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Birthday emails: Kate McLean - khmcln1@gmail.com

Prairie Mud Newsletter: Ruth Padgett - padgettre@aol.com

Prints and sends our hard copies of the Prairie Mud as needed:

Sara Brown - sdbrown8652@yahoo.com

Assisting with Publicity: Claire Hubbard -

larryandclairehubbard@gmail.com

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

Use this link to get back on: <http://eepurl.com/uXfnL>

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 or phone her at 271-1549 or 462-3000.

Reminder! Record Your Hours

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



Capital City
Master
Gardener
Association
Montgomery, Alabama

The Prairie Mud will be published monthly on the 16th. Please send photos and announcements to Eileen Webb or Ruth Padgett at capcitymga@gmail.com. If you have a flyer to submit, please make sure it is in a PDF format. Articles, Photos, and Flyers should be submitted 1 week prior to publishing.

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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