



June 2015

Volume XXIII Issue VI


WWW.BALDWINCOUNTYMASTERGARDENERS.COM
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Intern Class Coordinator

Pam Tucker

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President's Notes by Myra Lassere

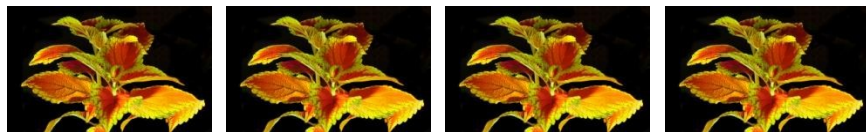
In the words of Pablo Neruda..."Green was the silence, wet was the light. The month of JUNE trembled like a butterfly." This is the time to consider foliage and to show off your leaves!

Foliage enriches a garden. Carefully chosen and combined, leaves become a point of interest that last long after seasonal flowers fade. The interplay of leaves, their sizes and patterns, makes for intriguing textured displays. And leaves are not simply green; shades of blue, red, grey, silver and gold are offered. Color contrasts between foliage are striking and definitely last longer. The key is to develop combinations that look good and grow well together. Variegated leaves will grab your attention, too.

In the South our growing season is long, and lush foliage abounds. Colorful leaves in imaginative combinations will bring your garden depth and accentuate its texture. Think of the colors and leaf shapes of coleus, caladiums and liriopse.

Lastly, no longer interns but Master Gardeners that have joined our ranks, we welcome the Class of 2015. Please make an effort to introduce yourself. They will be receiving their badges in July. I've had the privilege of working with many of them and they are a delight!

Then Followed the beautiful season...Summer...Filled was the air with a dreamy and magical light; and the landscape lay as if new created in all the freshness of childhood ~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow ~



Garden Torches

If you are looking for flower colors to match the heat of June, [Red hot poker](#), [Kniphophia uvaria](#) has the blooms that match the season. Also known as the torch lily, this perennial performs well in full sun areas with well-drained soil. Leaves about 3 feet long and 1 inch wide form a clumping plant over the years to about 3 feet in height and 2 feet in spread. The highlight of the plant are the flowers that form in May and June.

Master Gardener General Meeting May 14, 2015

Meeting was opened by President, Myra Lassere, at Diane Crenshaw's Daylily Gardens. She asked the group to take a look at the antique store and that Diane would explain the prices later on the daylilies. The June meeting will be on Bonsai at the regular meeting place on HWY 104. The Awards and Education Dinner in July will be July 9th, starting at 11:00 at Barnwell Baptist Church which is located where Hwy 98 and Scenic Hwy. 98 cross. Members are also urged to get hours in, especially if you are due for a badge or star. Only 60 have entered hours, and a lot of them are interns compared to 99 at this point last year. [As of 6/3, 75 have entered hours.]

Tanys Waldron reported on the Heritage Museum in Alberta, Old time festival on Oct 31, where Master Gardeners have been asked for an outreach booth. She needs volunteers.

John Fitzhugh reported on the Membership Development Committee which now has a questionnaire on-line and will get more information out. Only takes 5 minutes or less for members to fill in. The committee is in the process of testing the system. The questionnaire will come out in early September. It will help members identify what areas they would like to be involved in.

Barbara Comstock, introduced, Wilson, her white Cockatoo, who promptly started talking. The Fall Seminar will be Saturday October 3 and will be about children and gardens. Steve Griffith on will speak on hardscapes, Carol Reese, UT ornamental Horticultural Specialist will speak, and John Fitzgerald, who has 7 children that are involved in their gardening, will present. She also asked for help. Myra suggested a number of committees. She has several sites that she is checking for the fall seminar location. Please volunteer. Barb also brought feed molasses to share (for making compost tea.)

Myra asked for volunteers to serve on the AMGA Board of Directors. There is also a form to fill out, and Myra will send those who are interested.

Sam Andrews asked Myra to let members know that he has two recipients for the scholarships. They will be at the July Meeting with their parents.

Volunteers are needed for Habitat of Humanity's Home Improvement Expo, Saturday, May 30, at EMC Building in Summerdale on HWY 59. Hours will be from 9 am to 1 pm.

Diane Crenshaw welcomed us and wanted us to enjoy the beauty of her farm. She started the farm 8 years ago and it was all woods. Daylilies grow themselves. She has 16,000 pots of daylilies at a reasonable price. Her daylilies are 5 and 10 dollars per pot. Daylilies do hybridizing themselves. Abundant Daylilies in Bonifay, FL is another large daylily garden that she has gotten starts from. She does not ship. Daylilies need 6 hours of sunshine. They don't bloom as much in the shade. They can take full sun. Every 4 to 5 years they clump up. Divide in fall and winter. She does not identify re-bloomers. She showed the members present how to hybridize. Don't dead head if you want seed pods. Let dry and put in refrigerator. Leave a couple of weeks. Put seed in the ground by the end of September. Take a pot, put ten seeds in pot. She demonstrated dividing daylilies. Plant the daylilies with the crown above the ground. If it does not bloom, then make sure that the crown is visible. She reuses soil unless it is full of weeds. She use 13-13-13 fertilizer when potting. Use 8-8-8 or 10-10-10 or Osmocote on pots. Fertilize in January for blooms in April. Use Snapshot or Preen to keep grass from germinating. In the ground, they are drought tolerant, although if they are in pots, not so much. Daylilies have rust in the south, which is an air borne spore. Use liquid Dawn (more Dawn than water) to spray on daylilies. It will get rid of rust. Deer like to eat daylilies but don't bother hers. Almost every daylily is evergreen. Space the daylilies 12 inches apart. Cut everything back in the fall to weed and fertilize. One last note from Diane: Snails have 200 babies, so get rid of them if you see one.

Gary Wallace was presented with the Busy Bee award for May. He worked diligently at the plant sale and has been very active in acquiring our speakers, especially Captain Compost for our plant sale in April. The meeting was adjourned and we walked around the farm to admire the daylilies and several of our members purchased quite a few for their gardens.



July Award Luncheon—July 9, 2015

There is a change in venue!

Barnwell Baptist Church

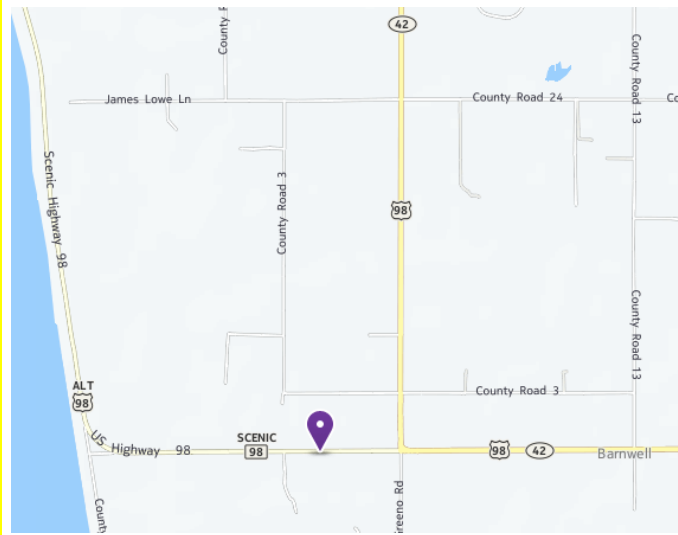
7780 US highway 98, Fairhope

Social time will begin at 10:30, lunch will begin at 11 a.m., with program to follow

The church is just off the corner of Greeno Road and Scenic Highway 98, south of Fairhope. There will be lots of parking available.

Fried chicken and biscuits will be served. Please bring your favorite side dish to share. Please mark your dishes and serving utensils.

If you have questions, please contact Anita O'Connor at 626-0381 or Tampa Sykora at 421-8055.



A Geek In The Garden

For his Intern presentation, Jim Whitson presented a talk on the changes in the use of computers and phones over the last several years, and the adaptations that are useful to gardeners. Some of his recommendations are:

Plant ID On Mobile Devices

- ☐ Leafsnap for iPad – identifies trees.
- ☐ Like That Garden for iPad, iPhone, iPod touch
- ☐ PlantNet—Plant Identification for Android (4100 species of wild flora of the French territory)
- ☐ Plantifier — A crowdsourced plant recognition tool. It allows you to upload a photo of an unknown plant. The MyGarden.org community behind it will try to recognize it as soon as possible and give you an answer to your question!

Planting Instructions On Mobile Devices

- ☐ SOW – from ACES. Vegetable gardening
- ☐ Garden Pro HD – iPad
- ☐ Vegetable Tree – Gardening Guide – iPad, iPhone
- ☐ Garden Plants Growing Guide – Android
- ☐ GardenateHD – iPad

Pest and Diseases On Mobile Devices

- ☐ Bugs in the Garden – iPhone, iPad, iPod touch

2015 B.C.M.G. Herb Nall Scholarship Awards

The B.C.M.G. Scholarship Committee on May 7 chose this year's Baldwin County Master Gardener *Herb Nall* Scholarship Award winners. The year, 2015, is the 16th reiteration of the B.C.M.G.'s *Herb Nall* scholarship program. Two high school entrants earned a total of \$4,000 in scholarship awards. They are Foley's, Alysa Gauci, and Robertsdale's, Dylan Richard Nelson. Alysa will study bio-engineering at Auburn beginning this fall. Dylan will seek a horticulture major starting at Faulkner State Community College. Both students have been invited to attend this year's July Award luncheon.

Our Baldwin County Master Gardener, Inc. organization earns the monies paid out to these students primarily through our Spring Plant Sale. Since 1999, our Baldwin County Master Gardeners organization continues to promote plant-based education to the public with our scholarship program being an important part of that effort. The Awardees and your Scholarship Committee thanks each Master Gardener for your dedication and hard work that makes this worthwhile program possible.

For 2016 Application forms, information and contact information, please visit our website www.BaldwinCountyMasterGardeners.com.

Introducing some of our new Master Gardeners! By Barb Comstock

I asked the new Master Gardeners to send me a short introductory paragraph—such as would be included on the useful Pictorial Directory that Loree Hadley puts together for us. These are a few of the responses I received:

Introducing:



"C" Fogarty

"C" Fogarty: My real name is Reba, but I go by the nickname, "C" [a capital C with quotation marks...! Always use quotation marks]. I'm originally from Mobile, but my husband and I left there in 1976. We've lived in South Carolina, Florida, Texas, and New Jersey. We moved to Baldwin County in 2013 and have been in our home for two years come August. I am not much of a gardener, but I enjoy learning and volunteering. My passion is duplicate bridge, but I have yet to play since moving here. Hopefully that will change soon.



Sharon Thoele

Sharon Thoele: I am one of 13 children born and raised on a grain, dairy, chicken, and hog farm in Illinois. My mother always planted a 5 acre garden to feed all of us, the hired hands, and the 5 foster children she took in over the years. Gardening, both vegetables and flowers, has always been a love of mine. The climate and growing season is so much different from Illinois. After 18 years of frustration when the plants that I grew in Illinois would not flourish here, I decided to take the Master Gardener class to become a better gardener of the South. I just came into the house after spending four hours turning my compost. It is definitely a labor of love. I have many seedlings I need to get into the ground, but the days never seem long enough. I have a son and daughter-in-law in Colorado, and a daughter, son-in-law and 12 year old grand daughter in Oregon. They, too, love to garden. My husband has lived in the South since he was 17 years old. We dated in high school and stopped dating because I was grounded. We got back together after 30 years and married in 1996, which is when I moved to the South. I love it here!



Lynn White

Lynn White: I moved here three years ago from McLean, Virginia (south of Washington, D.C.) after 28 years there, but I am from this area originally (my mother was born right here in Fairhope.) I won't say I know a lot about gardening, but I love to work in the yard and see things grow! In the past, I've had a fairly large vegetable garden and could easily lose myself in it for hours; I even wrote an essay when taking a course at the local university about the peace I found there. Now I have a small lawn and lots of flowerbeds and container plants which my husband and I (mostly) attempt to maintain ourselves. Other than the yard, I enjoy my church, my family, reading, traveling, and as much exploring as we can fit in. And we love to relax and laugh!



Mike White

Mike White: My wife Karen and I moved here from Kentucky four years ago. We bought a new house with no landscaping. After over 33 years of working outside in all kinds of weather, yard work was a new hobby. We found out plants and climate here are totally different. Since I spent so much time outside it was suggested I join Master Gardeners. Karen said we could do it together. We learned a lot from the classes and enjoyed it very much, even though classes put a crimp in my Wednesday motorcycle rides!



James Whitson

James Whitson: My wife Kathie and I moved to Fairhope last June from Birmingham, where I had lived all my life. We decided to take the course and become Master Gardeners because Kathie's dad became a MG when re retired from the Air Force in Colorado Springs. Being new to the area we thought it would be a good way to meet people, too. I simply hoped to be able to use the knowledge to maintain my own lawn and garden, but certainly received much more than that. And the folks we've met are great fun to be around. My primary hobby is wood working.



By Jere Trigg

Light: Adequate light is important for good growth and bloom. Plants may survive in inadequate light, but will grow more slowly and not bloom well. Any window that has strong, bright light is good. Try to provide bright indirect light, but not hot sun. Grown under fluorescent light, plants may constantly bloom. Place a two-tube fixture about 12-18" above the plants, and keep on about 12-13 hours a day. A four foot shop light with one warm white and one cool white tube on a timer is an inexpensive and convenient way to grow violets. For

larger violet collections, more expensive plant stands with multiple fluorescent lighted shelves can be purchased from online suppliers such as <http://indoorgardensupplies.com/>

Watering: Use room temperature water. Water when the soil surface becomes slightly dry to the touch, about every 4-7 days. Soil must be well drained or roots will rot. Therefore, don't let the plant pot sit in a saucer of water for more than 30 minutes. There should be a small air gap between the drainage holes on the bottom of the pot and the surface it is sitting on to ensure air can get to the roots. Plants may be watered from the top, from the bottom, or by using wicks or other "constant" watering methods. Be very careful not to get water on the center of the violet, because this can lead to crown rot, which is fatal. Use the point of a paper towel to immediately absorb any water that accidentally falls on the crown.

Feeding: Each watering, use a fertilizer with a balanced formula, having relatively equal amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Every 4-6 weeks, water from the top with plenty of plain water to flush out the excess fertilizer salts that migrate to the soil surface.

Environment: Most African Violets will thrive in the same conditions in which you are comfortable — not too hot nor too cold, with moderate humidity. Ideally, this means between 60 and 80 degrees, though most plants will tolerate more extreme temperatures.

Soil: Use a sphagnum based, soil-less mix, consisting of at least 30-50% vermiculite and/or perlite. Go by the ingredients, not the label! A bag of good soil should feel like a nice, fluffy, soft pillow. If wick-watering, using violet pots, or other self-watering methods, you must use a mix containing at least 50% perlite! A good online source for violet potting mix and fertilizer is <http://www.selectivegardener.com/>

Grooming: Except for trailing violets, do not allow extra crowns, or suckers, to form on violets. This will only spoil that natural, flat, rounded appearance of the plant, and prevent it from blooming to its full potential. With a little experience you will be able to distinguish between what is a sucker and what is a new bloom bud.

Potting: Most plants will need repotting every 6-12 months because the soil gets old and packed, preventing proper root growth and because the plant has outgrown its current pot size. Your violet diameter should be not greater than 3 times the diameter of the pot it is in. Avoid deep pots because their roots grow relatively shallow.

When repotting violets, you can use this opportunity to remove any old leaves from the lowest row, which are damaged or have turned yellow. If needed, you can eliminate the stem, or neck, that appears above the soil where older leaves were once attached. To encourage new root growth directly from the old neck, use a dull knife to scrape off the brown outer skin. Then remove enough soil from the bottom of the root ball to compensate for the length of the neck you are covering with soil. Lower the plant into the pot, and then add fresh soil at the top, covering the bare stem. Never use pots significantly larger than their root system - this can lead to over-watering and root rot.

Propagation: You can produce more violets by leaf cuttings or suckers placed in moist vermiculite or by cross pollinating flowers to produce seed, and then planting the seed. For more information on this and other details on violet culture, visit the African Violet Society of America (AVSA) website at <http://www.avsa.org/>





Mobile
Botanical
Gardens'

June 26-27 — 1st Annual Upscale Yard Sale

Spring cleaning? If you have good give-away items, please help the gardens and programs at MBG by bringing the items to the MBG offices anytime M-F.

Also needed are small to medium size boxes, newspapers without inserts, and plastic bags.

Questions? 251-342-0555 or email them at mbg4@bellsouth.net

They are also looking for volunteers! And your hours count!

Calendar of future events:

- June 9 Green Drinks 5-7 Fairhope Brewery**
- June 11 General meeting at 104, 'Bonsai'**
- June 13 Tomato Tango at MBG 8 am to noon**
- June 15 Mobile CMG Lunch & Learn 'Hibiscus'**
- June 20 Articles into *Grass Roots* for publication**
- June 22-26 'Nature Blast!' Camp at MBG**
- July 9 July Award Ceremony and Luncheon
 10:30 social, 11 am lunch**
- July 14 Green Drinks 5-7 Fairhope Brewery**
- August 5 or 6 Board meeting 9:30 am**
- August 13 General Meeting and tour of 5 Rivers**
- August 20 Articles into *Grass Roots* for publication**
- Sept 9 AMGA Fall Seminar in Clanton, AL**
- October 3 BCMG Fall Seminar at Foley Civic Ctr.**

Grass Roots is compiled and edited by Barb Mühl Comstock. The publisher is Sandra Walton at the Baldwin County ACES office in Bay Minette. The newsletter is available before the monthly general meeting on our website: www.baldwincountymastergardeners.com.

Submission of articles, items of interest, photos of BCMG events, garden tips, garden jokes, etc. are greatly encouraged and appreciated. Send to grassrootsnews@gmail.com



Baldwin County Master Gardeners
% Baldwin County Extension Office
302-A Byrne Street
Bay Minette, AL 36506
Attn: Sandra Walton

Next meeting:

Bonsai!

June 11, 2015 10 am

Location: 104

If your contact information changes, please contact Jane Wright.

251-965-3003 or

Janwri98731@gmail.com

or bcmginfo12@gmail.com