



April 2015

Volume XXIII Issue IV


[WWW.BALDWINCOUNTYMASTERGARDENERS.COM](http://WWW.BALDWINCOUNTYMASTERGARDENERS.COM)
**2015 BCMG Elected Board**

President:

Myra Lassere

President Elect:

John Fitzhugh

Vice-President:

Gary Wallace

Treasurer:

Gene Sellier

Recording Secretary:

Mary Hamilton

Corresponding Secretary:

Jane Wright

Members at Large:

Sherry Arnold

Judy Smith

Past President:

Gordon Cooper

Gene Sellier

**2015 Appointed Board Members**

Continuing Education Chair:

Barb Comstock

Finance Committee Chair:

Myra Hannah

Intern Class Coordinator

Pam Tucker

Outreach Coordinator

Tanys Waldron

Project Coordinator

Joyce Price

## *President's Notes by Myra Lassere*

Think Spring – April showers and May flowers. Easter time is here and with that our plant sale is upon us. We have many more great opportunities to volunteer. Besides the plant sale, Earth Day, on Saturday April 18, at the pier in Fairhope will need our assistance with the outreach booth.

This year at our Plant Sale there will be lots of annuals for sale. Although they are frost tender, many annuals provide continuous bloom through the warm and hot summer months.

The Victorians mass-planted the annual flowers to create colorful patterns and designs. You'll see this technique called "bedding out" or "carpet bedding" used at theme parks and in

municipal plantings. A massed planting of annuals makes a dramatic statement. Because the plants die at the end of the season, you can try new plant and color combinations each year. For little effort and a few dollars you can create different looks in your garden with annuals – a flashy blend of bold colors one season or a soft blend of pastels the next. So mix the annuals with perennials and have some fun doing so!

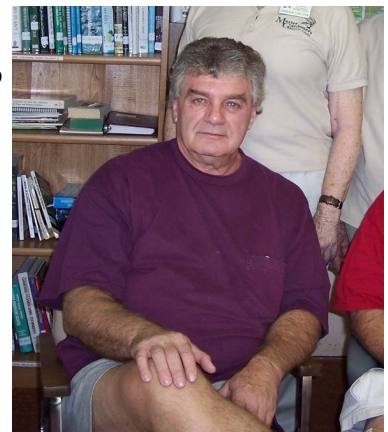


One of our longtime and hardworking BCMG members died last week.  
**Ed Wirgowski was a big man with a big heart.**

We will be doing a tribute and remembrance for him at our April MG morning meeting at Weeks Bay on Thurs. Aprils 9 at the end of our business meeting. Prior to the meeting, please be sure to sign the sympathy card for his wife, Diane, that will be in the main dining room at the plant sale. Ed's wife Diane will presented with a flower arrangement created by Tampa Sykora and Anita O'Connor.

The tribute to Ed will be presented by Sam Andrews. Sam and Ed worked together on the HelpLine every Monday afternoon for years. The tribute will include a Power Point presentation of photos which will be organized by Laurel Fleming. Tanys will be collecting the photos. If you have any pictures of Ed could you please send it to me: [tanyswaldron@yahoo.com](mailto:tanyswaldron@yahoo.com)

After Sam's tribute there will be an opportunity for any of our Master Gardeners to add a story or remembrance about Ed.



**Notes from BCMG Board Meeting, March 5, 2015 9:30 a.m. Written by Mary Hamilton, paraphrased by Editor:**

Jay Sowers, Gulf Coast Media attended briefly to take candid shots of the board meeting. He interviewed Myra before the meeting. Items discussed were Master Gardner projects, the intern class...

Pam Tucker reported on the Intern class which is now down to 15.. There is a concern that not a lot of interns showing up at the help line. Master Gardeners are needed to sign-up to be there with the interns and they need to put it into the computer that they plan to be there so that interns will sign up to be there as well. Help line is a difficult thing for interns. We all need to help them to feel good about the help line. Mobile County has the same issues and it is all over the state. Most people are using technology to find the answers to their questions. Master Gardner certification on-line training and certification is coming. We need to do what we can take the anxiety out of help line. The phone hardly ever rings and the interns usually watch and observe until they feel comfortable and in the meantime great friendships are formed.

Pam passed around the Festival of Flowers sign-up for March 26-29 . Mobile is doing it this year and we are helping.

John Fitzhugh talked about the Membership Development Committee. Interest questionnaire, Mission statement of the committee and questions as a basis for short discussions were handed out to board members. They have had two meetings. They wanted to keep it simple and easy to complete and not require a lot of soul searching but to see their talents that could be used for the organization

Gene is addressing the Spanish Fort Garden Club. He sent out a Treasurers Report for the board to peruse.

Tanys Waldron stated that Gary Wallace has the flu and was not present. He is in charge of the speakers for the club meetings and she congratulated his efforts as excellent. She passed around a copy of the flyer being sent out to the garden clubs for the speaker at the April meeting. She also had an amended and updated copies of what the Master Gardeners are doing for the year and copies of the Spring Plant Sale and the Tuesdays with Master Gardeners. She is color coding all her flyers. Tanys also gave the board some of the Mobile Flyers and said that MBG really needs help for their sale, Plantasia. The post cards for the Tuesdays with Master Gardeners were finally ready after several problems with getting them made.

John Meyer talked on Grant Writing, Impact 100, a philanthropic organization of 100 Fairhope women that each donate \$1000 and ready each application. Must be self supporting as time goes on and must be philanthropic. A work shop will be held on March 25<sup>th</sup>. John needs a group of folks willing to work on a worthwhile philanthropic cause. John says he will not work alone, but will lead a group in working on a 25 to 50 page document. Needs the ideas to get started. Suzie Wallace volunteers at the Garden of Eatin' feeding Seniors over 200 lbs. of fresh produce that goes to Prodissee Pantry each year is a possibility. The grant must spend \$100,000. It must help Baldwin County. Once our part is done, it must be self- sustaining. It must be based on our mission as a club. Children, Seniors, Abused Women have won in the past. This is an annual thing. A letter of intent must be in by April 30. The grant application is due on June 5th. Finalists are listed in September. We need the concept. Stretch your thinking. Think out of the box but, include what we, as Master Gardeners, are about. Can we join with another organization? We need research base to support our request. Go on-line, do some research.

Barbara Comstock will send out an email to the board on the fall seminar. Barb has sent out emails to people who have written books about children and gardening. Walk and the talk, Andrew Saunders son, has seven children and they participate in everything that has to do with the garden. October 3, 2015 (Saturday) is the tentative date for Seminar. We have a whole target group that we are missing having the seminar only on Thursdays.

Long Leaf Pine Project at Weeks Bay--Pat Greer, Thursday, March 20. There are 12 1-gallon sprayers, eye protectors, round-up, but need lopers. Please wear appropriate clothing. Lunch afterwards will be provided.

**Notes from General Meeting on March 12 at 104:**

Presentation by Danny Doege, creator and owner of "Boo 4 You" bamboo gardens, started in 2003. He created his farm as a tribute to his late wife, Peggy. His goal is not to sell you bamboo, but to show you what bamboo can do for you. Danny prides himself on being a "garden" rather than a nursery and that means that you, the customer,, will see specimen plants that are already huge. That means you will not have to guess about the future look of the plant in your own garden.

Danny has over 230 varieties of bamboo along with bananas, gingers, ornamental grasses, elephant ear plants, and ground covers. He also sells cut and dried bamboo. His website is [www.Booforyou.com](http://www.Booforyou.com). The address of his gardens is 3055 Robertson Road, Pensacola. His phone number is 850-497-9009 .





## The Baldwin County Master Gardener Spring Plant Sale

is just around the corner. Pray for good weather and bring your gloves & hats! Lunch is provided everyday.

Anyone willing to lend your garden carts to the sale, please drop them off to the sale location at Weeks Bay campground when convenient.



Plant Sale Questions? Contact Selena Vaughn [selenacvaughn@att.net](mailto:selenacvaughn@att.net) 605-6243

Kitchen Volunteers or cart drop off question contact Moe Nation [frednmoe@bellsouth.net](mailto:frednmoe@bellsouth.net) 610-6955



### Set up days are:

**Tuesday / April 7** 9 to 2 (Superior Truck may come at 8 – Waiting for confirmation.)  
**Wednesday / April 8** 9 to 2

### Set up continues on our meeting day:

**Thursday / April 9** at 9 AM  
& presale for members and garden clubs begins after lunch

### Official Sale Days:

**Friday Saturday Sunday/ April 10, 11, 12**  
9 to 4

## Roast Pork with Rosemary, Garlic & Fennel Rub

By Gene Sellier

Select a pork roast with a thin layer of fat left on (I like the rib end of pork loin roasts with the bone in but a boneless pork shoulder will work as well. Boneless roasts should be tied with string at about one inch intervals.) Score the fat with a sharp knife about ½ inch deep in a diamond shape pattern about ¾ inch sections.

### RUB

2 tablespoons olive oil  
3 tablespoons fresh rosemary leaves, well chopped  
2 tablespoons fennel seed, place in plastic bag and crack with a smooth meat mallet or small skillet  
2-4 cloves of garlic, chopped  
1 teaspoon kosher salt  
½ teaspoon fresh ground black pepper



Preheat oven to 450°. Lightly oil a heavy-bottomed roasting pan. Place all rub ingredients, except olive oil, in a food processor or blender. Turn appliance on and process for about one minute then add the olive oil slowly until a thin paste forms. Rub the paste over the top of the roast, making sure that the scored areas are filled.

Place the roast in the oven for 25 to 30 minutes. When the roast is well browned, lower the temperature to 300° and continue cooking for about 2½ hours or until the internal temperature reaches 170°. Remove roast to a board and cover with aluminum foil. Pour off excess fat in roasting pan and deglaze the pan with ½ cup of good white wine. Make your favorite gravy or pan sauce with the drippings.

### The **HELP LINE** NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!

Please consider doing this to encourage our Interns. They have been left alone to man the lines. It's scary enough with MGs present. Can you imagine being by yourself and new to the organization? It is a requirement that they put in 20 hours at the Help Line. I know it is not among our favorite things to do but please consider helping the interns – it is a great opportunity to meet and mingle with them. Plus 99.9% of the time there is NOT a single call that comes in. Plus you could do research there using the books that are available besides online searching. How about entering your hours? Maybe help them with questions they have about gardening. And the list goes on.

Thank you!!! Myra Lassere



## Weeks Bay Foundation Presents a **Taste of Weeks Bay!**

**Party for Preservation - Saturday, April 18, 4 pm to 7 pm.**

With Gulf shrimp dishes from your favorite local restaurants!

Tonsmeire Weeks Bay Resource Center at the Fish River Bridge on U.S. 98 in Fairhope. Music by the Modern Eldorados!

\$40 in advance, \$45 at the gate. Tickets may be purchased at Page & Palette, the Foundation office, and the event website:

[www.BaldEagleBash.com](http://www.BaldEagleBash.com) 251-990-5004



The weather cooperated and we had sunshine and warm temperatures for the 2nd night of the 2015

## Spring Education Workshops "Tuesdays with Master Gardeners"

Many thanks go to the workshop speakers John Kitch and James Miles for giving their time and expertise which made it a very educational evening. In total there were 42 attendees. There were 25 Master Gardens and Interns attending. The MG's brought food so there was an excellent selection of refreshments. Peggy Loefstedt was given a donation of 100 do-nut holes by Dunkin' Donuts.

The Workshop titles were 'Container Vegetable Gardening: Growing Root & Row Veggies' by John Kitch and 'Cool Gardening Tools' by James Miles. As part of the Workshop series there was a short bonus talk that we call a Gardening Infomercial. The topic for the Infomercial was "Growing Herbs on the Gulf Coast" presented by Gene Sellier.



Everything went well because of our MG & Intern Volunteers. A big thanks go to Pat Cotton, Reba Cunningham, Gayle Floyd, Jim Greer, Pat Greer, Carolyn Koch, Myra Lassere, Peggy Loefstedt, Anita O'Connor, Gene Sellier, Tampa Sykora, Tany's Waldron, and Gary Wallace.

Second photo - Workshop Instructors: John Kitch & James Miles and Workshop Team Coordinators Gene Sellier and Tany's Waldron.



The 3rd night of the Spring Education Workshops "Tuesdays with Master Gardeners" was another successful evening with 40 attendees. There were 24 Master Gardens and Interns who attended the classes. The MG's brought food for the Refreshment table so there was a great selection of snacks. It was St. Patrick's Day and Gayle Floyd brought a cake with green icing to help celebrate the day.

Our BCMG Past President Gene Sellier started the evening with a Gardening Infomercial on "Growing Herbs - Chives & Oregano" plus some great recipes on using the herbs.



The Workshop talks were 'Growing Daylilies' given by Dianne Crenshaw, owner of the Crenshaw Daylily Farm, and 'Tropicals all Year Long' given by Barb Comstock. Many thanks go to Dianne & Barb who provided the informative educational workshops. Thank you both for bring live plants to your presentations. It definitely makes a big difference when everyone can see "up close and personal" what plants you are talking about. Thank you both for the plants you gave away. A lot of the attendees

went home very happy with new treasures.

A big Thank You to the wonderful 3rd night volunteers who made it happen, Gayle Floyd, Pat Greer, Jim Greer, Caroline Koch, Peggy Loefstedt, Anita O'Connor, Gene Sellier, Tampa Sykora, Tany's Waldron, Gary Wallace, Karen White & Mike White.



### Tuesday, March 24 was the 4th night of the Spring Workshops

and it was a successful evening with a total of 45 attendees. There were 28 Master Gardeners and Interns attending so we had a full refreshment table. The weather cooperated with sunshine and warm temperatures so we had a good turnout.

We had two excellent speakers and a Gardening Infomercial. The Topics were 'Raised Bed Vegetable Gardening' given by Susie Wallace, and 'Garden Art - Do It Yourself (DIY)' by Mary Hamilton. The Gardening Infomercial was taught by Diane Hall and her topic was 'Composting & The Importance of a Soil Test'. This evening was truly a Master Gardener event as all three instructors are current Baldwin County Master Gardeners.

Many thanks to all the Volunteers who helped make it happen: Gayle Floyd, Pat Greer, Caroline Koch, Anita O'Connor, Gene Sellier, Tany's Waldron,

Gary Wallace, Jim Whitson & Kathie Whitson and our three instructors: Diane Hall, Mary Hamilton & Susie Wallace.

## Spring Education Workshops "Tuesdays with Master Gardeners"

It was the **5th and final night of the Spring Education Classes**, "Tuesdays with Master Gardeners" with great reviews from the audience. There were 53 attendees; 30 Master Gardens and Interns attended. The MGs brought food for the refreshment table, so there was an excellent selection.

The topics for the evening were '*Growing Culinary Herbs*' by Rain Keane and '*Native Plants for Baldwin County Landscapes*' by Fred Nation. A grateful thank you goes to the instructors Rain and Fred for their excellent presentations. They had lots of question asked by the audience and nobody left their seats until every word was spoken. Rain Keane brought many plants to show everyone what healthy herbs looked and smelled like. She brought some catnip which gave the Hwy 104 'biting' cat some happy moments. Fred's power point presentation on Native Plants included many that will be on sale at our upcoming plant sale next weekend. He got the audience enthusiastic to attend the plant sale.

Gene Sellier gave a Gardening Infomercial on 'Controlling Fire Ants'. A new fact learned was a fire ant can bite over and over but it does not die. Not good news - but definitely good information.



A big Thank You to the wonderful 5th night Volunteers who made it happen.

They are: Carl Floyd, Gayle Floyd, Jim Greer, Pat Greer, Mike Keane, Rain Keane, Carolyn Koch, Fred Nation, Maureen Nation, Anita O'Connor, Don Ouellette, Pauline Ouellette, Gene Sellier, Tampa Sykora, Jere Trigg, Tany Waldron & Gary Wallace.



The Jubilee Shores Community Garden of Eatin' has been awarded a grant from Kitchen Gardeners International. They were one of 70 gardens world-wide to be awarded a full grant out of 1100 applications. A full grant award consists of \$300 cash, a \$100 gift card from Gardener's Supply, \$50 in seeds and a \$25 subscription to KGI's garden planner. KGI also gave out 130 partial grants. The cash award will be used to put in an automatic drip irrigation system in the food pantry plot. If you have experience with drip irrigation systems and can help, please call Susie Wallace at 970-5860.

From Judy Stout, Mobile Master Gardener, "It's really been great having opportunities to get to know many BCMG's through your generous volunteers at the MBG plant sale and then as we shared duties in the booth at the FOF!"

Attached is information about a Mobile MG excursion to "Petals from the Past" in Jemison on Wed. April 22. We still have some room on the bus and would love to have those interested from BCMG to join us.

Reservation information, cost and lunch selections are included below. Seats are available on a first come basis. Make your reservation quickly.

Jane Wright received a letter in the mail this week from **Melvin Long** stating he has been sick since January and will not be able to participate in the plant sale this spring. He has been plagued with a sinus infection and a nerve problem in his feet that has left him unable to drive. He spent a week in the hospital and three in a rehab facility. He now has home health care services and wants us all to know he won't be able to participate in our projects and meetings in the near future. If you would like to send a note or card to Melvin to cheer him up, his address is P O Box 86, Foley, AL, 36536.

### 'PERENNIALS AND EDIBLES IN THE LANDSCAPE'

**Tour arranged by Mobile County Master Gardeners. Program presented by Petals from the Past. Visit includes 2 hours to browse and shop with a \$10 discount!**

**Box lunch included. The choices are Chicken Salad Sandwich, Roast Beef Croustant, Club Sandwich, or Chicken Ranch Wrap, plus beverages.**

**Register by Wednesday, April 15. Send checks to Susan Morrison, 12915 Dauphin Island Pkwy, Coden, AL 36523.**

**If you have questions, you may contact Judy Stout, 973-0354 or 401-0811**

**Departure will be a 7 a.m. from Mobile. Meet at the back parking lot of Dauphin Way Baptist Church (off the I-65 service road).**



When in South Carolina, Be Sure to Visit  
 “The Pearl Fryar Topiary Garden”

By Jane Denmark

Topiaries have always interested me. Having watched the documentary film *A Man Named Pearl*, I was still only a little prepared for the property of Mr. Pearl Fryar! It made a magnificent presentation of topiaries and the ingenuity of the man who produced them.

My husband and I were the first visitors of the day. As we slowly walked the gardens that surround his home, we came upon Pearl Fryar. He talked with us for least twenty minutes. With a down-to-earth presence and not a touch of arrogance, Pearl Fryar explained how his interest has grown giving him unbelievable opportunities; a long list of speaking engagements, awards, and notable articles written about him.

This modest man has literally put the small town of Bishopville, South Carolina on the map. A brochure states, “With no previous topiary experience, Pearl Fryar started work on his garden in the early 1980’s. In 1985, Pearl was awarded Yard of the Month . By the mid 1990’s, Pearl’s garden garnered national attention and was featured in numerous newspaper and magazine articles and appeared on several television shows. Today, visitors come from around the world to meet Pearl and to see his garden. “

“Many of the plants were ‘throwaways’ that Pearl rescued from the compost pile at nurseries. Pearl took the plants that were too ‘ugly’ or too sick to sell and turned them into impressive topiaries.”



## Calendar of Upcoming Events

*Volunteer opportunities in **BOLD***

- April 7 **Tuesday, Plant Sale Set up day at Weeks Bay, 9 to 2**  
 April 8 **Wednesday, Plant Sale Set up day at Weeks Bay, 9 to 2**  
 April 8 Wednesday, Board Meeting, 9:30 am at Weeks Bays Preserve  
 April 9 **Thursday, continued set up, 9 am, bring salads**  
**General Meeting, 10 am, tribute for Ed.,**  
**Presale for garden clubs after lunch. Captain Compost 2 pm**  
 April 10, 11, 12 **BCMG Spring Plant Sale, 9 am to 4 pm**  
 April 11 Plant Exchange at Dauphin Way Baptist Church  
 April 14 Green Drinks Earth Day Celebration 5 to 7 pm at Fairhope Brewery  
 April 18 Bald Eagle Bash, 4-7, at Tonsmeire  
 April 18 **Earth Day, Outreach booth at Fairhope Pier Park, 10am to 6pm**  
 April 20 or so... Submit your *Grass Roots* articles, cartoons, comments, NOW!  
 April 29 **Intern Presentations and luncheon.**
- May 7 Board Meeting  
 May 12 Green Drinks, 5-7pm at Fairhope Brewery  
 May 14 **General meeting with Field Trip to Crenshaw Farms**

Buddy Stallings of Lillian, Alabama passed away March 24<sup>th</sup>. He graduated as a BCMG in the Class of 1996, but after a car accident, he was left with so much pain that he was unable to continue with his gardens and BCMG's. Loree Hadley included a picture of the class photo from that year. Buddy Stallings is in the purple shirt close to the center-right with sun glasses propped on the top of his head. He went to the same church as Loree Hadley. He was a wonderful, kind man.



*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](http://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](mailto:grassrootsnews@gmail.com)



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

Next meeting:

BCMG Plant Sale Mtg

April 9, 10 am

Location: Weeks Bay, at  
 former campgrounds across  
 from Headquarters.

If your contact information  
 changes, please contact  
 Jane Wright.

251-965-3003 or  
[Janwri98731@gmail.com](mailto:Janwri98731@gmail.com)  
 or [bcmginfo12@gmail.com](mailto:bcmginfo12@gmail.com)