



January 2015

Volume XXIII Issue I



NEWSLETTER OF THE BALDWIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, INC.

[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 from Myra Lassere*

Can it be that another year has come and gone? As Master Gardeners, we accomplished so much in 2014 and yet we still have much to do. Another intern class is upon us and they will need our support and guidance. When making your 2015 resolutions, keep in mind all of the MG Projects. Your help is needed no matter how much or how little you can volunteer.

With winter approaching, as we know it, take time to make your garden plans, do some indoor seed planting, clean and sharpen your tools, and, if time allows, transplant those dormant trees and shrubs to their "right" place. Pruning hardy trees and shrubs is good, also.

Perhaps you have a great time or money-saving tip you are willing to share. The Grass Roots Newsletter and your MG Board welcomes your ideas and suggestions. We appreciate your time, your talent, your treasure of knowledge and wisdom!

Happy Gardening and I look forward to serving as your 2015 President.

Loree Hadley is a new—first time—grandma!

Loree's daughter and son in law had a baby girl. They have named her Hadley Grace Adkins. She was born December 28th (her expected birth date was February 28th). She weighed in at 3 pounds, 14 ounces, and 17 inches long. She is currently at NICU at UAB. She is doing well; she is just small.

Loree is so proud. Let's give her lots of congratulations and support!



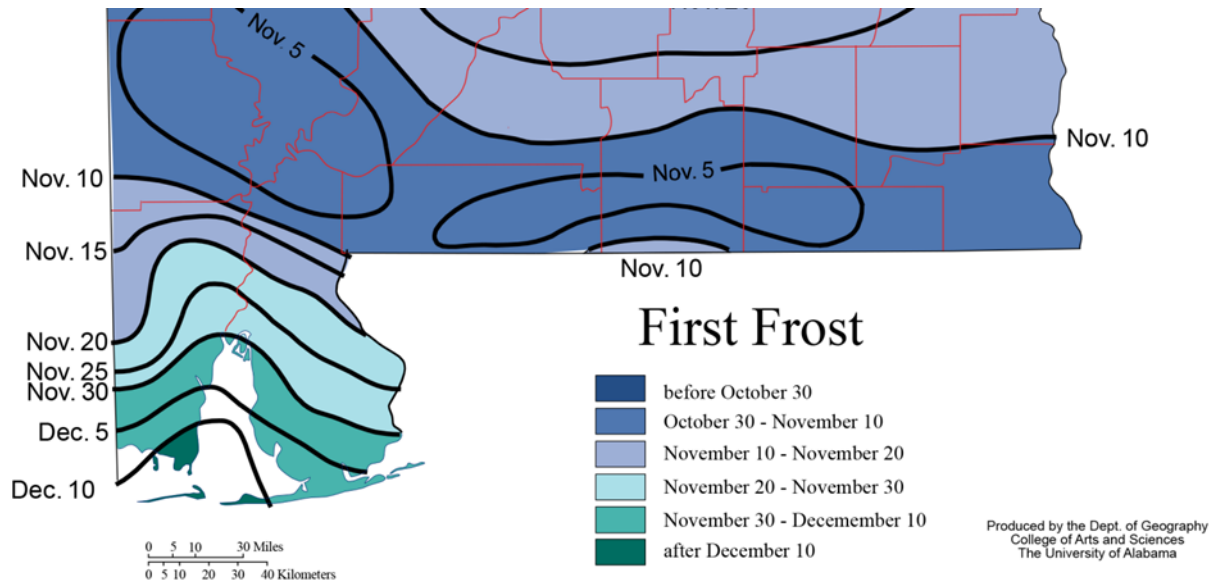
## HOT & COLD—WEATHER TRENDS IN BALDWIN AND MOBILE COUNTIES

### Part 1 by Samuel H. Andrews, IV

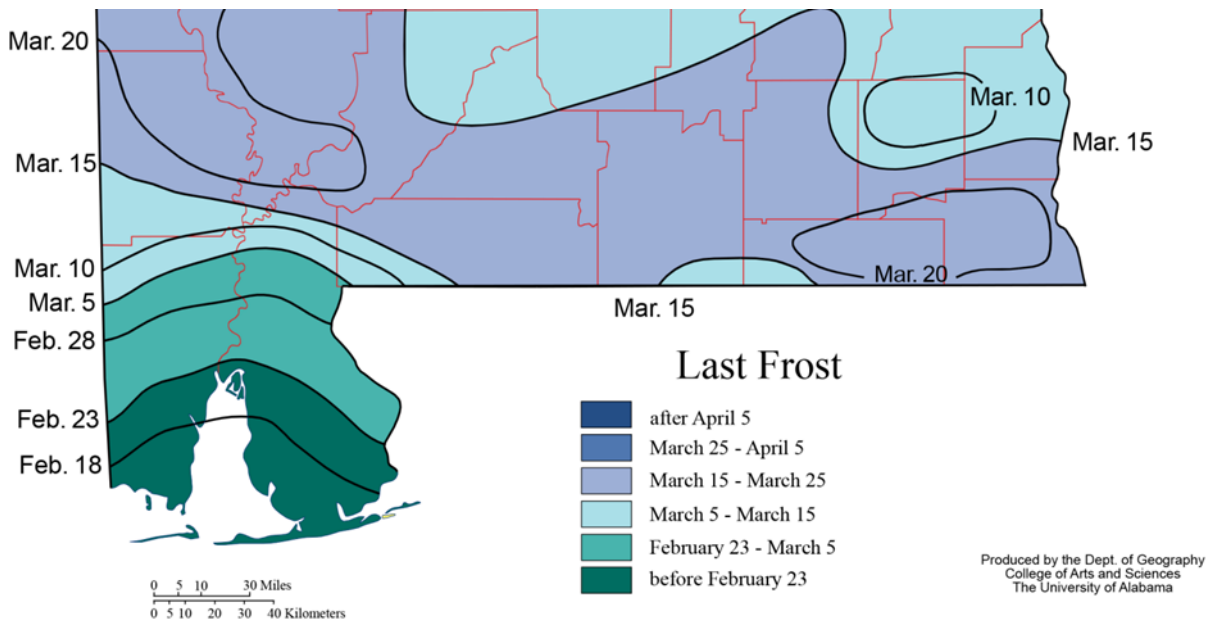
The 2014-15 winter season is certainly a puzzle this year with an early cold period particularly in November. Mobile for the month was an average 5.2 degrees Fahrenheit cooler than normal. Fairhope set a new low record of 22 degrees on November 20, 2014 breaking a record of 26 degrees. Yet, we have experienced a generally warm December. Who can say what surprises the weather will have for our plants and for us this year?

To give some guidance regarding our South Alabama weather, I want to show you a few charts sourced below that provide a good indication of our "typical weather patterns". Frustratingly, we are not consistently sub-tropical or temperate making plant choice a challenge. Please look at the charts below. Perhaps you will gain a better understanding of the appropriate plants to grow in our "in-between climate". More importantly as a Master Gardener, you will know better how to advise others concerning appropriate plants and the challenges of the inevitable person trying to grow citrus (e.g., oranges, grapefruit) or a semi-tropical palm (e.g., Pygmy Date, Queen). The "big box" stores seem determined to stock many such inappropriate plants for our area's climate. (Continued Page 2)

### First Average Frost Date:



### Last Average Frost Date:



In my next article on our local weather patterns, I will discuss chill hours (average hours of under 45-degree temperature) important in the types of fruit that we are able to grow in Baldwin, as well as Annual Cooling Days.

END NOTE: Maps used in this article are extracts from larger statewide maps. Cutting out the larger portion of the state is necessary in order to fit the space of this Newsletter and to focus your attention on our particular section of Alabama.

SOURCE: Contemporary Maps of Alabama; © 2014 University of Alabama: <http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/contemporarymaps/alabama/index.html>

“Alabama Maps is an ongoing project of the Cartographic Research Laboratory, which operates under the auspices of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Alabama.”

**Baldwin County Master Gardeners Elected and Appointed Board Members for 2015:**



Myra Hannah, Loree Hadley, Pam Tucker, Jane Wright, Gene Sellier, Sherry Arnold, Myra Lassere, Gordon Cooper, Barb Comstock, Ed Pickle, Joyce Mudrak, Larry Lutz, Pat Greer, Dooley Berry, Connie Griffin. Not pictured: John Fitzhugh, Gary Wallace, Mary Hamilton, Tanys Waldron, and Joyce Price.

**Official handing over of the gavel by Gene Sellier to our new president, Myra Lassere.**



**Ottie Dailey**

**Awarded 2014 Wayne de la Rua Award**



**Let us all take a moment to congratulate Ottie, in person, by email, or by snail mail.**



## Award Winners for 2014:

**8000 Volunteer Hours**

**Tanys Waldron**



**5000 Volunteer Hours**

**Jimmie Van Valkenburgh**



**3000 Volunteer Hours**

**Pat Greer and Gene Sellier**



**1000 Volunteer Hours**

**Joy Zeanah and  
Theresa Sims**



**500 Volunteer Hours**

**Pam Tucker**



**300 Volunteer Hours**

**Judi Smith, Anita O'Connor, Dooley Berry, Julian Walthall**

**Not pictured: Veronica Herndon**



**100 Volunteer Hours**

**Connie Griffin**



**Rookie of the Year:**

**Linda Bender**



**Busy Bee**

**Award of Merit**

**Margaret Griffin**



**Busy Bee Awards**

**Brenda Pisarkiewicz, Linda Bender, Margaret Griffin, Gene**

**Sellier. Not pictured: Charlie Parris and Carol Sledge**





Photos from our December Award Ceremony and Holiday Banquet:

Truly Outstanding and Festive Decorations by Anita O'Connor and Tampa Sykora.

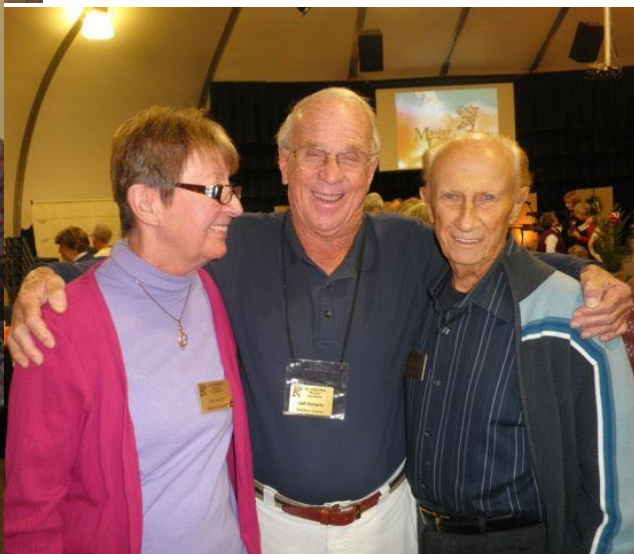


Delectable desserts:

Delicious foods:



And superlative companionship!





## More Photos from the 2014 December Award Ceremony and Holiday Banquet:

**Our outstanding Agent**  
**Mike McQueen**



**Honorary Master Gardener**  
**Carl Floyd**



**Past President**  
**John Meyer**





**More Photos from the 2014 December Award Ceremony and Holiday Banquet:**



**Happy New Year to all of the  
Baldwin County Master Gardeners**

## Volunteer Opportunity:

### Tree Research Project with

#### Beau Brodbeck

Starting in mid to late January, Beau will be looking for volunteers to help inventory trees in parks and along streets in Fairhope and Orange Beach. This is part of a research project conducted with Mississippi State in urban forestry.

Volunteers will be needed to locate with GPS, measure diameters, heights, and note specific types of trees. This will take multiple weeks of part time work. It should end in early March.

Beau is looking for about 5 or 6 people who are interested in trees and learning more about tree identification, measurement tools, and urban forestry. There shall be an explanatory meeting on Thursday, February 12 in Fairhope.

If you are interested, please call Beau at

(251) 259-6507

Beau Brodbeck—ACES Forester

brodbam@auburn.edu

Www.aces.edu/ucf

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 6	BCMG Board Meeting, Bryant Bank, Daphne, 9:30 am
January 8	BCMG General Meeting at 104, 10 am
January 20	Grass Roots Article Submission deadline
January 27	James P. Nix Center Volunteer Fair 1-3 pm.
February 3	History of Marietta Johnson School, Giddens Aud. 6 pm
February 5	BCMG Board Meeting, Foley Library, 9:30 am
February 12	BCMG General Meeting at 104, 10 am
February 17	1st Mardi Gras Parade. Dauphin Island 1 pm
February 20	Grass Roots Article Submission deadline
February 28	Arbor Day
March 2	Tuesday Evenings with MG begins 6 pm at 104
March 5	BCMG Board Meeting at Bryant Bank, 9:30 am
March 12	MCMG General Meeting at 104, 10 am
March 20	Grass Roots Article Submission deadline

**Dues are due! \$30 Payable in cash or check to our Treasurer, Gene Sellier.**

**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:

February 12, 2015 10 am

Location: 104

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)