



May 2015

Volume XXIII Issue V



NEWSLETTER OF THE BALDWIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, INC.

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

Judi 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*

May Day, Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, Full Flower Moon, National Maritime Day and Memorial Day – Time to celebrate May from the 1<sup>st</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup>!!

The heat of the summer will be here shortly and for those of you who were among the lucky ones who purchased Salvias from 'Plantasia!', Festival of Flowers and our own Plant Sale here's a bit of "sage" advice. Salvias are hard working plants that fit most any garden situation you may have. Salvias, some called sages, are from a large and diverse family. They require minimal care and produce tons of color and lush and fragrant foliage. They are long blooming and will attract attention all summer long. Perennial types are for those who want a long lived low maintenance border. Annual types are for those who like to change the looks of their garden yearly. So why not mix both annual and perennial? Deer and rabbits ignore them but the bright colors are hummingbird magnets. The purple sage is a culinary cultivar with a soft purple tint on new growth. Use it fresh as a garnish or chop into a dish for a boost of flavor. Plant a few while they are still available.

Finally, a big "Thank You" to all who worked and attended the BCMG Plant Sale at Weeks Bay! I look forward to seeing all of you at our Field trip to Crenshaw's Daylily Farm on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

*May the wings of the butterfly kiss the sun and find your shoulder to light on,*

*To bring you luck, happiness and riches*

*Today, tomorrow and beyond ~~ Irish Blessing*

Jeanette Catlow passed away April 22, 2015 of ovarian cancer. She graduated with the 2007 Master Gardener class and has been very active with the Master Gardeners ever since. She lived her life in a most positive energetic way. She was a person so filled with energy and life. Jeanette cared deeply for everyone she knew. She had the kindest heart and cared about us all. Everyone knew her. Everyone loved her. She has touched the lives of so many people and even though she is gone, her spirit has not left us.

Loree Hadley wants to put on a video for the June BCMG meeting with pictures of Jeanette. Everyone, if you have pictures of yourselves with Jeanette, please send them to Loree to be put into the video. lhadley8@gulftel.com.

**Jeannete Catlow**

## Minutes from General Meeting on March 12, 2015 by Mary V. Hamilton, Recording Secretary

Reminder to Master Gardeners, parking in the driveways block people from getting into the other parking areas, and if you were one that did it, please move your vehicle during the break.

Tampa Sykora asked the interns to stand, there were seven present. They introduced themselves to the group. The interns had provided a wonderful mentor lunch on Wednesday. Tampa also has the sign up list for the Festival of Flowers.

Myra Lassere talked about the April meeting which will be held at the Plant Sale. Selena Vaughn talked about the Dodd's retirement and that the consignment of plants that we had from them in the past is going away. We will have some new varieties of plants from some new sources. We will continue to search for more new sources of plants. Everybody please come and sign up to help.

Dooley Berry had an article in the Baldwin County News Magazine and it was excellent.

Gordon Cooper contacted the Gulf Coast Newspaper resulting in newspaper articles. We are in the calendar of events in the Gulf Coast Newspapers listing the Tuesday with the Master Gardeners.

Gene Sellier gave the treasurers report with 140 members currently paid.

Julie Ford announced the coming Yard Sale for The Haven. In the past the Dodd's had also supported their yard sale with plants. She asked for plants to be contributed by Master Gardeners and she especially asked for plants to be labeled with names. She also asks for yard tools, gardening books, and gardening magazines.

Barb Comstock, announced the Baldwin County Water Festival to be held at the Robertsedale Collesium,. It is held for Baldwin County 4<sup>th</sup> graders. She asked for volunteers to help as over 800 4<sup>th</sup> graders are expected that day. The focus is on ground water pollution. The Water Festival is supported by environmental non-profit organizations.

'Plantasia!', Mobile Botanical Garden's Spring Plant Sale is March 20-22. They are asking for our help.

Jim Greer asked for helpers for Weeks Bay Long Leaf Pine Project for March 20. Bring loppers, wear long sleeves and boots. Please come, as food is provided.

President, Myra Lassere, reminded Master Gardeners to sign up on-line to help with the Help-Line. Experienced Master Gardeners are needed to help the interns answer the phone. The interns need those hours and there is the added benefit of getting to know the new people in our club by spending time at the help line answering their questions and talking about common garden interests while waiting for the phone to ring.

Gary Wallace introduced Danny Doge, 'Booforyou'. He currently has over 417 species of Bamboo and works on enlightening the public about bamboo. He usually turns down opportunities to talk to groups, but accepted our request. His garden and website started after he lost his wife of over 30 years and wanted to make a memorial to her. The garden focus turned out to be Bamboo. Information gleaned from Mr. Doge's talk is as follows:

There are now over 2000 varieties of bamboo. There are many wonderful varieties of Bamboo. The bad rap that bamboo gets is over the fact that people have put the wrong varieties in the wrong places. The monopodial type of bamboo is running and there is more than one type, (you want a smooth cane which makes a vertical stick), and Symopodal is the clumping variety. Growth rates are the same. Clumping bamboos kick in in June and go until Christmas, but they stay green all year. Bamboo grows fast. It is like most perennials which sleep the first year after planting, creep the second year, and leap the third year and thereafter.

When planting, plant the clumping bamboo on 5 foot centers. Some bamboos grow well in the shade. Bamboos were first introduced to the USA to stop soil erosion. Golden Goddess is used on Mobile Bay for erosion. There are two indigenous bamboos, but they are both small. Bamboo came from Asia and South American. The clumping bamboo is not invasive. Atlanta and Montgomery are at the top of the zone that bamboo can be grown in. There are red and black bamboos. The cane has a branching node, and an inner node; a comb. Bamboo likes nitrogen for fertilizer. Chinese have used bamboo for pipes for many centuries. Bamboo has a very strong tensile strength. Barriers of Poly-vinyl chloride is used to contain bamboo or round deep cement borders has also been used. Some varieties of bamboo flower and some die after they flower.

Water requirements, once plants are established in the ground, depends on the amount of fertilizer you use. Roots are a water pump to the leaves. Bamboo will shade and protect a house from the heat enough to affect the utility bills for a homeowner. Winters have been colder for the last few years which affects bamboo and may cause some varieties to die back to the ground. Some of the "big stuff" wants to be a little farther south. Booforyou also does a lot of pole business from bamboo. Pole arbors last a long time if they don't touch the dirt. You can put a spar varnish on them to get them to last longer. Bambooforyou has a website but no pricing and there is nothing for sale online. The website is informational and is a memorial. See it at Booforyou.com.

Seminole squash seed has been provided by the Holmans for members to take. The squash won't rot; you can store the squash for a long time.

Three door prizes were given away in a drawing for those attending: Rodney Brower won tulips from an anonymous donor. Dooley Berry won garden chimes. A book, Wild Flowers, was donated by John Fitzhugh and, humorously, he won it. Rosemary Hart was then selected as the recipient of the book.

## Minutes from General Meeting on March 12, 2015 (Continued)

Tanys Waldron talked about Outreach events: Tuesdays with Master Gardeners. Plant Sale needs lots of volunteers. Tanys needs help on Wednesday to clean chairs, and the raffle needs help. The raffle now has 15 different plants. Gary Wallace, arranged for the speaker. Captain Compost will speak Thursday, he will be selling compost and his book. Our Outreach booth needs volunteers for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Also, Earth Day is the same day as the Bald Eagle Bash, so please sign-up for Earth Day and come work before going to the Bald Eagle Bash. Joy Zeanah explained the Bald Eagle Bash have never turned anybody away, however, the food disappears quickly. Come early.

Busy Bee goes to Tanys Waldron for March.

We welcome, Barbara Phillips, a Master Gardener from Georgia and Clemson, South Carolina. She came to join us and will be taking the class with the next group of interns..

**NatureBLAST!** A wonderful opportunity for fun and an educational summer event for your kids or grand-kids. June 22-26, 2015. Daily from 8:30 am to 3 pm at the Mobile Botanical Gardens. Topics cover "Bees, Butterflies, and Botany", "Reptiles and Amphibians", and "Woodland Monsters and Fairy Houses". Participants bring bag lunches for a picnic in various interesting locations. Cost is \$175 for the entire week and includes daily snacks, take-home family related activities, and a NatureBLAST! Tee shirt. Participation is limited to 22 students and the deadline is June 12. Download details and application materials from [www.mobilebotanicalgardens.org](http://www.mobilebotanicalgardens.org) or call Judy Stout at 973-0354 or 401-0811, [judystout@mchsi.com](mailto:judystout@mchsi.com)

### May 14th General Meeting:

#### Tour of Crenshaw Daylily Garden

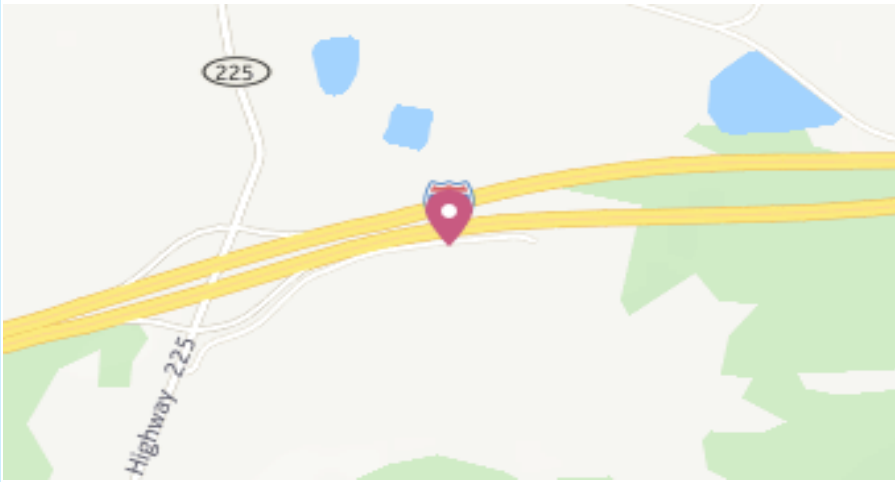
We will meet at the usual 9:30 social time, followed by a short business meeting at 10 am at the Crenshaw Daylily Garden. Beyond daylilies, the Garden also has an entertaining antique and gift store. A map and directions to the farm are to the left.

Remember to leave room for all your new daylily purchases!



### The Crenshaw Farms Daylily Garden.

It is located at 9880 Scarborough Lane In Stockton. They are located right off I-65 at exit 31. This is the Highway 225/Stockton exit. Take the off ramp, watch for their sign, and for the frontage road. They have picnic tables if you want to bring a bag lunch, otherwise the Stagecoach Restaurant is nearby, as is the Splinter Hill Bog and Perdido Winery. Some people are car-pooling from 104 or from the Daphne Home Depot.



Derek Norman came to our BCMG plant sale and sat on the water's edge and sketched one of our wild flowers that was growing there.

Derek Norman was born and educated in England, where he developed a lifelong love of wildflowers. Simultaneous with a career in advertising and marketing, Norman brought his skills as a designer and draughtsman to painting wildflowers. Today he is the principal of The Midwest Center for Botanical Documentation and is devoted to graphically documenting the native flora of Illinois and the Midwest. Among his many awards is a gold medal from the Royal Horticultural Society for his pen and ink drawings of the urban flora of the Midwest. In addition to pen and ink drawings and studies of native flora, Norman does water-color and oil paintings of a broad range of botanical and horticultural subjects. His illustrations appear regularly in Midwestern newspapers. He is represented in the permanent collections of the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, Pittsburgh and Brooklyn Botanic Garden.



Information from Loree Hadley



This poem was read at the service  
for Jeanette Catlow April 25:

**'Celebrate' by Clyde Reid**

(Paraphrased by Dr. Jerry Blacklaw from  
*Celebrate the Temporary*)

Don't wait until tomorrow  
Live today  
Celebrate the simple things  
Enjoy the butterfly  
Embrace the snow  
Run with the ocean  
Delight in the trees  
or in a single lonely flower.

Don't wait  
Until all the problems are solved  
Or all the bills are paid

You will wait forever  
Eternity will come and go  
And you  
Will still be waiting

Live in the Now  
With all its problems and its agonies  
With its joy  
And its pain

Celebrate your pain  
Your despair  
Your anger  
It means you're alive

Look closer  
Breathe deeper  
Stand taller  
Stop grieving the past

There is joy and beauty  
Today  
So celebrate it  
While you can.

**Tour of The Grand Hotel in Point Clear, with the Camellia Club**

By Barb Comstock

Sunday, April 12, a tour of the grounds around the main building and lagoon of The Grand Hotel was conducted by Chare Parkins. Although Chare has only worked at Grand Hotel for 4 years as their Head Grounds -keeper, she comes from a very experienced horticulture background. She explained that the grounds and her duties have changed quite a bit over the four years. There is a move to reduce the amount of work, due to budgetary and time concerns.

Besides the regular and concerted work involved in maintaining very clean and tidy grounds, the flower beds and hanging pots are changed out six times a year. While there are some plants, such as Sedums or Joseph's Coat, that might be kept over two or three seasons, there is a total turnaround at least twice a year.

Another change that has been a cost and time savings, is to reduce the number of flower beds and replacing some annuals with perennials (which also keeps the plant predation by the ducks at a minimum.)

We were very impressed by the Chef's Garden. Very large and beautiful looking herbs and vegetables. While we were at the Chef's Garden, one of the cooks came out and harvested parsley. The Grand Hotel has tried to reduce their herbicide/pesticide usage to just Roundup and only when absolutely needed. They are trying out different organic methods of ridding the grounds of fire ants.

In general, Chare is very impressed by the Southern Living Plant Collection's offerings for the Deep South. Chare recommended the Nandina 'Obsession', the Golden Abelia 'Francis Mason', and the Mahonia

'Soft Caress'. Most of us found the **Redbud 'Forest' Pansy'**, with its deep red color, to be breathtaking. Another recommendation was the 'Drift' roses, especially the coral. Chare said they don't do anything with the 'Drift' roses other than give water and Aquagel and fertilizer... they take care of themselves and seem to be disease and pest free.

The Grand Hotel does have beds of red Knockout roses. Chare said they prune about four to six times a year, with the first pruning reducing the size by at least a half. Large canes are removed every three or four years since they don't produce as many flowers.

Even in the light rain, we enjoyed our tour. If you get a chance to tour the grounds of The Grand Hotel, you won't be disappointed.





On April 28th, there was a graduation luncheon and presentations by the 2015 Interns; The food, as usual, was excellent (is that a requirement for graduation?) The presentations were spirited and enlightening. *The graduates will be featured individually in the June Grass Roots newsletter.* Until then, here are some photos from the graduation:

Group photo of the interns (plus Mike McQueen in the middle and Pam Tucker at the right):



The interns are (not in photo order but alphabetical order) : Donna Aplin, Patricia Cotton, Nicki Feast, C. Fogarty, Freya Sonenstein, Sharon Thoele, Verna Thwaites, Jere Trigg, Karen White, Mike White, James Whitson, and Kathleen Whitson. Reba Cunningham, Bernie Fogarty, and Lynn White could not attend and are not pictured.



And here are the “helpers” responsible for the successful graduation of the Intern class of 2015: Tampa Sykora, Judi Smith, Pam Tucker, Darlene Anderson, and Diane Hall.

Gift presented to Pam Tucker





**LONGLEAF IN THE PARK:  
FAIRHOPE'S PINEYWOODS HERITAGE  
MAY 16, 2015  
9:00 TO 1:30  
AT KNOLL PARK IN FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA**

**Please attend all of these sessions, but all are welcome to join in at any point in the day.**

- 9:00 Donnie Barrett - "Fairhope's Pineywoods embodied in Knoll Park"
- 9:35 Austin Rainwaters- "Tapping the Pines: Harvesting Sap for the Turpentine Industry"
- 10:10 Bill Finch - "Longleaf Ecology and the habitat value of Knoll Park"
- 10:45 Mark Hains - "Fire and Herbaceous Groundcover: Keys to Survival for the Longleaf Ecosystem"
- 11:20 Mark Bailey - "Signature Wildlife Species of Longleaf Forests"
- 11:55 David Dyson - "Saving the Longleaf: Managing Knoll Park"
- 12:30 A Walk in the Pineywoods: plant identification and discussion of the longleaf forest plant community

**Please bring a folding chair for sitting and wear some comfy shoes for the guided walk-around. Dress for the weather since outside is where you will be.**



**PLEASE REGISTER AT FOLLOWING THE LINK: [HTTP://WWW.GULFCOASTALTRAINING.ORG/DETAIL.ASPX?ID=86](http://www.gulfcoastaltraining.org/detail.aspx?id=86)**

**AND JOIN US AT THE PARK. THERE IS NO FEE. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT MIKE SHELTON AT 928-9792. BROUGHT TO YOU BY WETLAND RESOURCES ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING, GREEN NURSERIES, AND WEEKS BAY NERR.**

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 7 9:30 am BCMG Board Meeting, Foley Library, Foley  
 May 14 10 a.m. BCMG General Meeting & Tour at Crenshaw Daylily Garden  
 May 16 9 am Knoll Park Walking Tour in Fairhope, see flyer.  
 May 16 9 am to noon, Lillian Plant Sale, United Bank, Hwy 98 and St. Fran.  
 May 18 Noon to 1 pm, Mobile County 'Lunch & Learn', "Ask the Agents"  
 May 20 *Grass Roots* Article Submission deadline

June 4 9:30 a.m. BCMG Board Meeting, Bryant Bank, Daphne  
 June 12 10 a.m. BCMG General Meeting at 104, 'Bonsai' by Joe Day  
 June 20 *Grass Roots* Article Submission deadline  
 June 22-26 NatureBLAST! At Mobile Botanical Gardens

July ? 9:30 a.m. BCMG Board Meeting, Foley Library  
 July 9 Membership meeting and award ceremony

August 8 9:30 am Board Meeting, Bryant Bank, Daphne  
 August 13 10 am BCMG General Meeting at 104,  
 August 13 Baldwin Schools—First Day back

Sept 3 9:30 a.m. BCMG Board Meeting, Foley Library  
 Sept 10 10 am BCMG General Meeting at 104  
 Sept 22-26 Baldwin County Fair in Robertsdale

## Snickerdoodles

1/2 c. softened butter or margarine  
 1/2 c shortening  
 1 1/2 c sugar  
 2 eggs  
 2 1/4 c. flour  
 2 t. cream of tartar  
 1 t. baking soda  
 1/4 t. salt  
 2 t. cinnamon  
 2 T. sugar

Cream butter, shortening, 1-1/2 c sugar and eggs until fluffy. Blend in flour, cream of tartar, baking soda, and salt. Shape dough into rounds with one heaping teaspoon of dough. Roll in a mixture of 2 t. cinnamon and 2 T. sugar. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 8-10 minutes at 400 degrees. Makes four dozen cookies.

***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:

Crenshaw Daylily Tour

May 14, 2015 10 am !

Location: Crenshaw's farm

If your contact information changes, please contact

Jane Wright.

251-965-3003 or

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