
MG SPROUTS

Calhoun County Master Gardener Newsletter: Volume 21, Issue 4

April 2020



New Addition to Cane Creek Grounds

President's Message

Spring is officially here, and it shows all around us!! April's Pink Moon is on the 7th. Never in my wildest dreams did I have a plan to talk about our many talents/skills, impacting our community, sharing our knowledge/mentoring others and changing our world over the first 3 months of 2020 to realize how much our world would change and how much we would be forced to modify our lives and behaviors!! Welcome to the new world order or as I like to call it the "new" normal of life.

Everything is changed. Stores closed or modified hours back to the 60s/70s time frames where they actually closed and opened; and people actually were home by 9 p.m. and not out all night long. Restaurants are delivery or takeout only; which means I bet more of us have had more home cooked meals and actually sat down at the table, just like we used to do in the 60s/70s. Everyone is more aware of physical distance, washing hands, and taking care of others; just like my Grandma taught me!! I, for one, am turning off the TV more and more – just tired of the same old thing, which is more like my parents than I care to admit.

All our opportunities for learning and volunteering have been shut down and curtailed beyond our imaginations – which means we've all had more time to deep clean the house, fix up our yards, plant our gardens, throw out all those clothes we haven't worn in years, plan meals and actually cook from scratch – but it doesn't mean we still can't get things done, we just have to do it differently, like online webinars, Facebook Live sessions, and Auburn's ZOOM live.

So, what does all this mean?? FAITH = believing without seeing, trusting in something besides ourselves. It means we will come to appreciate the simple things in life more. It means we will enjoy our times together (when we get back together) more. It means we will appreciate our loved ones and the time we have with them; even if of short duration, we make every minute count! It means spending more time outside in nature and seeing that the world is changing with new life everywhere and some things are as reliable as ever! New plants coming alive, new births on the farm, new birds building nests/laying eggs and raising their young - things come and things go and so shall this "pandemic". Our healthcare workers are working hard to keep us all safe, and I hope you all have worked hard as well, staying at home, to keep them safe.

Not really sure when all this will end but I know it will. Until then, stay safe, take care of yourselves, get your hands dirty (and don't forget to wash them), plant, plant, plant!!

See y'all at the Creek!

MG Calendar

- Alabama Smart Yards Webinar Series, April schedule TBA on the [Facebook page](#)
- Stay at Home Beekeeping Series, [Link to info](#)
- Sprouts Deadline, April 25, 2020

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Garden Inspiration

"If the bees disappear, we'll all be stung." – David Suzuki

Reach for the Stars Program

The Stars were given out at the February meeting. If you do not have your Stars yet, please see Carolyn Patton. Badges are normally given out at the yearly state conference.

Bronze Star Awards

Jerry Gilbert
Martha Lipham
Patsy Hudgins
Robbie Medders
Lorrie Moody
Judy Papic
Angela Patten
Laurel Phebus
Jana Tyson
Don Gay

Silver Star Awards

Ellen Cannon
Jimmy Nail
Gold Star Awards
Sarah Ballard
Mary Banks
Myra Gann
Jerry Williams
Amelia Crow

Gold Badge Awards

Nancy Gillespie
Linda McDaniel
Ruth Sarro
Judy Shew
Linda Wakefield
Platinum Badge Awards
Skeeter Sims
Sheila Webb
Marge Lyons

Diamond Gem Stone Award

Patricia Patty

April Recipe:

Sarah Ballard shared this delicious recipe.

BAKED BEANS

6-8 slices bacon, cut into small pieces (optional)
1-2 medium onions, diced
2 garlic cloves, minced; or 1/2 tsp. Of garlic powder
1-28 oz. can pork and beans

1 16 oz. can of each of the following, drained:

- 1) black beans, RINSED and drained
- 2) light red kidney beans
- 3) dark red kidney beans
- 4) cannellini beans
- 5) navy beans

3/4 cup dark brown sugar

1 Tbsp. prepared mustard

3/4 cup barbecue sauce

Cook bacon in large skillet until crisp. Remove bacon and sauté onion until tender. Add garlic and cook one minute.

Preheat oven to 350*.

Combine bacon-onion mixture and next 9 ingredients in a large bowl. Spray a 9" by 13" baking dish with Pam. Spoon mixture into dish and bake for 45 minutes. (Can be cooked in crockpot on low for 1 1/2 to 2 hours).



Cane Creek beauty

MG Mystery Gardener

March's Mystery Gardener was Lyn Webb. Dana Williams and Landon Rivers recognized her. If I got a guess from someone else and did not name you, I am sorry. Between my phone and my desktop some messages vanished.

April's Mystery Gardener.

If you recognize this person, please let Sherry know. This Master Gardener was born in Ozark, Alabama. This MG enjoys watching the spouse garden. Attending gardening programs and events are also favorites. Aside from gardening this member is an avid reader. This MG is retired from major soft drink company. This member's current home is in Anniston.

Sherry Blanton



My Favorite Flower: Ruth Sarro

My favorite flower is the Camellia. These photos are of two camellias I planted in my yard because they remind me of bushes that my mother and grandmother had in their yards. I enjoy my white camellia sasanqua bush that blooms from late fall into winter. My other four camellias bloom early in the year, January/February/March depending on the weather. Growing up in south Alabama, we had camellia bushes as large as trees so we played in their shade during the summer time. I enjoy having flowers that we can enjoy in the winter!



MG Happenings

- We thank Jerry Gilbert for his informative talk on bees in March.
- Our April MG monthly meeting has been cancelled.
- The annual state Master Gardener meeting in Mobile has been cancelled.
- Lunch and Learn on April 22 has been cancelled.
- Since Governor Ivy has closed schools for the rest of the year, Earth Days are cancelled.
- Longleaf Botanical Gardens is closed to the public until April 30, at which time the City of

Anniston will reevaluate. All April programming will be postponed.

- Please watch for updates on the Tree Amigos plant sale. Tree Amigos is currently closed to the volunteers.
- Extension agents are working from home until around April 10. (Date is subject to change.)
- Cane Creek Gardens is closed through March 30. That date may change by the time you get this issue of Sprouts. You will be informed via e-mail.
- Linda will keep our Association informed via e-mail.
- Check our Facebook page for updates.

Another reminder about our July summer social. We have gotten just a handful of photographs. For those who do not know what I am talking about, here is the note.

“Summer Social July 8th regular meeting”

The program committee is sponsoring a summer social for our July meeting. There will be trivia contests to test our gardening know-how (with prizes), watermelon, and ice cream treats. We have also planned a “Brag Book” PowerPoint. Please send via e-mail a picture of something in your garden you are proud of (one flower, a pond, a flower bed, a container garden, or a special tree or shrub). Everybody has a photo or two on their phone. Please send your photos to Sherry. Celebrate your garden; start taking pictures now and join in the fun. Photos must be e-mailed in a jpg format. (Please do not text them.) Please put “photos” in the subject line. We do not often get to visit each other’s gardens; this is an ideal way to share. Photos from any season are welcome. We need the photos by the end of May to give Janet time to prepare the power point. Thank you, Janet, for offering to compose the PowerPoint. We hope to see something from everyone’s garden!”

If anyone has gardening tips to share, please do so. Also, if you have recipes to share, please send them in also. We do need those typed, please.

Message from AMGA Membership Chair Mary Howe

There is a continuing problem with the mailed edition of the AMGA Pathways newsletter being undeliverable to many active and lifetime members. The primary cause appears to be incorrect or incomplete mailing addresses in Dues Tracker. The contact information in Dues Tracker is pulled from registrations for the ACES Service Report, so those members who have incorrect or incomplete contact information in their Service Report record will not receive any postal mailings from

AMGA. Contact information in the Service Report record is easily updated by selecting "My Page" after logging on and "Edit My Contact Info" on the next page. Any members who failed to receive a mailed copy of the winter edition of the Pathways should verify their contact information. Particular attention should be paid to the entry of the correct zip code. Contact information should be updated any time there is a change. If there are questions or issues regarding updating contact information, please send the information to amgamembership@gmail.com

If your association has not received membership cards for 2020 or needs additional cards, please provide a name and address for mailing to the AMGA Membership email address above.



Sweet Tea Garden at Cane Creek

Gardening Tip for April

As you plant, remember to group plants with the same watering needs together. Some plants prefer moist soil and others prefer dry.



MG Intern Geri Jones



Bloodroot blooming in our new native garden

Calhoun County Master Gardener Officers

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Vice President:	Linda Wakefield
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Cane Creek

