



MG SPROUTS

Volume 19, Issue 3

March 2018

Message from the President ***By Dick Pritchett***

WOW! Congratulations Calhoun Master Gardeners, you logged over 7,000 volunteer hours in 2017. Skeeter Sims, MG Vice-President, was the top volunteer with 460 hours. Thank you Skeeter for all you do to beautify our grounds and to make our organization one of the best in Alabama. Our total of 7,304 hours ranked number 11 within the State organization.

I had several members who mentioned to me that they would like to post photos of flowers and plants on our CCMG website. We have a "block" on posting due to security of our site. However, you can send your photos to Lisa Sosebee at: sosebmg@aces.edu. Lisa will screen and post to the website. Thank you Doris Baucom for this valuable information.

We have a great 2018 Intern class underway. We welcome them to our organization. We can do much as individuals but do "wonders" as a group. Most importantly, we can have FUN while giving back to our community. We can contribute, we can teach, and we can learn!

The main reason I joined the MG family was to sharpen my gardening skills. I love my garden, but when I think of the ultimate vegetable garden, I think of Mike Limerick's "Garden of Eatin'"! He has taken a concept that he knew very little about and made it exceptional. He has set a high standard for all to follow. Please visit the garden this season and help maintain and harvest over 4,000 pounds of vegetables which are given to needy families in the Jacksonville community.

As your President, I will try my best to visit each segment of our organization this year to learn more about what happens in each area of the total MG community. I encourage each member to reacquaint themselves with all segments, to find your niche within the total picture. I will attend all three days of the 2018 Alabama Master Gardeners conference in Birmingham this year from May 3-5. Hope to see you there!

We had a brutally cold January (and part of December). I, and many others in our area, had burst water lines due to extremely cold temperatures which are unusual for our area. It is important to keep a close watch on irrigation and all other water sources.

February has had lots of rain, some cold, and a few days which have reminded me of glorious Spring days! We are so blessed to live in this part of beautiful Alabama! This has to be the ultimate part of our great state.

Our March 14th speaker will be Eddie Hardee from Alabama Power, who will speak on, "Making Your Home More Energy Efficient". We all can certainly appreciate this topic. The April 11th meeting will be, "What's Not to Like? My Favorite Plants", hosted by a panel of Master Gardeners.

Like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CalhounMGs>





MG Calendar

MG Board Meeting	10:45 a.m., March 14, Cane Creek Community Gardens
MG Business Meeting	12 p.m., March 14, Cane Creek Community Gardens
Sprouts Deadline	March 25, 2018

Plant Sale

Tree Amigos Plant Sale April 14, 8 to noon @ Cane Creek Community Gardens.

Gardening Inspiration

“A garden is a delight to the eye and a solace for the soul.”

Sadi

Garden Tip

Remember to use your insect repellent, the ticks are already with us.

“Who Am I?” Identify this Master Gardener

Doris Baucom and Janet Evans both identified last month’s mysterious gardener as Skeeter Sims. As you read some of the descriptions you will realize that our organization has some remarkable and talented members.

Now for this month’s mystery gardener. Take a guess and e-mail Sherry with your answer.

Where are you from?

Anniston until I was in the 9th grade, then Jacksonville

What other hobbies do you have besides gardening?

Reading, quilting, traveling and painting

What is your favorite gardening activity?

Seeing the finished results.

If you worked what did you do before retiring?

Education

Where do you live now?

Anniston

March MG Meeting

We will welcome Eddie Hardee from Alabama Power to our March meeting. He will talk about a topic dear to our hearts, saving money on our homes. His program is “Making Your House More Energy Efficient.” Please bring salads and sandwiches for a covered dish lunch. Please remember your utensil. We plan on starting lunch at noon. If you possibly can, please have your dish there by 11:50.

Longleaf Botanical Gardens Spring Garden Symposium

MIND, BODY, AND GARDEN
THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018
LONGLEAF BOTANICAL GARDENS

Come join us for a day filled with speakers who will discuss the home garden from a slightly different perspective. Gardeners are often overrun by the tasks of maintaining the perfect garden. We want to help make gardening relaxing and a little easier. For the aging, the overworked, or the stressed, the garden or landscape can sometimes overwhelm us with tasks. This symposium will address some of those issues whether it is better garden tools, meditation or reflection time in the garden - or simple garden hacks that remove a bit of stress.

AGENDA

8:30 AM - Registration and Vendor Shopping
9:00 AM - Welcome and Introductions
9:15 AM - Sherry Blanton
10:00 AM - Mike Rushing, “Aging in the Garden: Coping With Your Garden As You And Your Garden Mature”
11:00 – 11:15 AM – Break and Vendor Shopping
11:15 AM - Lori Corley, “Aging Gracefully, It’s a Matter of Balance”
NOON - Lunch
1:00 PM – Patricia Patty and Hayes Jackson, “Tools and Tips for the Wiser Gardener”
1:30 PM - Julie Brown, “Yoga in the Garden”
2:15 PM – Hayes Jackson, “Long-lived Plants that Thrive on Neglect”
3:00 PM – Support Our Vendors!

Mark your calendars for March 15, 2018. Pre-registration is a must!

To reserve your spot, call Anniston Museum of Natural History at 256-237-6766. Reservations are required, and if made by March 8, 2018, a box lunch will be included in the cost. No lunch will be provided with later registration. Lunch sandwich choices: ham, turkey, or Mediterranean vegetables. Cost is \$25.00 to members

and \$30.00 to nonmembers. Payment is to be made at the time of registration and may be made by cash, check (made payable to Longleaf Botanical Gardens and earmarked for educational programs) or charge card in person or by phone.

Recipe of the Month: Marinated Asparagus

Fresh asparagus will soon be abundant. Try out this recipe from Shelby County Extension.

- 1 pound fresh asparagus
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 3 tablespoons white wine vinegar
- 4 tablespoons water
- 2 teaspoons vegetable oil
- 2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano, crushed
- 1/2 teaspoon parsley flakes
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Cook asparagus, drain and place in a shallow baking dish. Combine mustard with vinegar and stir to blend well. Add the remaining ingredients and mix thoroughly. Pour over asparagus, cover and marinate in refrigerator for several hours or overnight. Drain asparagus and serve on salad green with a dressing, if desired. Use French or some other tomato-base dressing or use a light cheesy dressing.

Makes 5 serving. One serving: 4 or 5 spears.
One serving contains: 42 calories, 0 mg cholesterol; 129 mg sodium; 5 g carbohydrates; 2 g protein; 2 g fat or 41% of total calories. Analysis includes all of the marinade on the asparagus; draining will reduce calories, fat, and sodium. However, analysis does not include salad greens or dressing.



Thank you to the hard working folks who helped clean up and mulch the Jacksonville Pocket Park. It is ready for spring. A special thanks to Skeeter Sims for bringing us a truckload of pine straw and to Mike Limerick who pruned all our shrubs. You are all very appreciated!



Camellia Japonica 'La Peppermint'



Daffodils galore!

Cane Creek Update

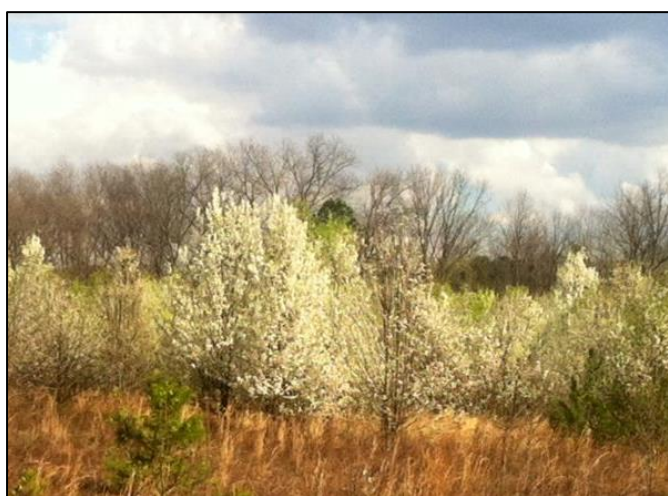
“Thanks to all interns who assisted with pruning roses, butterfly bushes and crepe myrtles!! Y’all did a great job and were a great group to work with ---- because of your help we are well ahead of where we hoped to be for having Cane Creek ready for Spring!! You have only 7-8 months left to get your hours, don’t wait until the end. Get started now, all three places work about 3 hours a week so it adds up quickly; Get started now and don’t be left behind!!!

We will be re-roofing the equipment shed this month. Need helping hands, roofers, and fetch and toters too! We’ll put out an ALL HANDS call when the weather works and dates can be set. It should only take us a

couple of days depending on how long we can work per day but it's a fairly straight forward project. We will also be building the picket fence for the concrete pad this month. Again fairly short order project once we get supplies and set the date. Billy will let us all know via an ALL HANDS email when we are ready for extra help.

Construction of a walk over bridge is planned, but we expect that to be later in March or early April. The goal is to have all building projects complete before Earth Day and have the grounds ready to accept our community guests in a safe and fun learning environment. See Y'all at the Creek!"

Skeeter Sims, spokesperson for Cane Creek



An invasive tree is taking over many vacant areas. It is a good time to ID and apply control to invasive Callery Pear seedlings.
<https://www.uaex.edu/publications/pdf/FSA-6124.pdf>



'Tiny Princess' Camellia

All Insects Good and Bad

Pests in the landscape?? We deal with it every day. Did you know that many pesticides are often misused simply because the pest was not identified correctly? Beneficial insects also feel the wrath of our misuse. Let's learn about some of our **Misidentified Pests in the Landscape** in this webinar presented by [Erfan Vafaie, Texas A & M Agrilife Extension](#). Moderated by Mallory Kelley and Dani Carroll, Regional Extension Agents, [Alabama Extension](#). The link to the event is: <https://auburn.zoom.us/webinar/209793415>

March 2, 1 p.m. Central time.

Lunch & Learn

A series of free gardening programs sponsored by Calhoun County Master Gardeners and Calhoun County Commission. Held the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Cane Creek Community Garden at McClellan, 77 Justice Avenue. Noon to 1 p.m. Bring your own lunch!

April 25
 Continuing the Saga of Alabama's Native Americans
 Dr. Harry Holstein, JSU Professor of Archeology



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