



# MG SPROUTS

Volume 19, Issue 5

May 2018

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

### **Life Goes by so Fast: Focus on the Positive**

Every decade or so, I stop to evaluate my life. I'm amazed at what has happened to me and how life changes. I try my best to focus on the positive. I think of a 52-year successful marriage and an amazing son who is now a successful businessman. I focus on my grandchildren and how much I enjoy following their activities. I focus on activities like the Master Gardener Program that has been a total blessing to me. I look forward to each Wednesday to greet my Master Gardener friends at Tree Amigos. I try to focus on what I can do to help some young person to become a better citizen. I focus on helping a struggling college student pay their tuition for another semester. I focus on growing beautiful flowers and fresh vegetables in my garden.

I look forward each month to meeting my Dutch Oven friends and cooking vegetables from my garden, and to sharing and receiving great recipes with them. I focus on traveling through our beautiful countryside. I am especially enjoying our Alabama State Parks and those in surrounding states.

I would like to share a poem I wrote a few years ago which relates to this topic:

#### **Focus on the Positive**

Focus on the sunshine, not on the rain.  
Focus on the healing, not on the pain.  
Focus on the rewards, not on losing.  
Focus on your good friends of your own choosing.  
Focus on the Heavens, not on below.  
Focus on the beauty of a fresh-fallen snow.  
Focus on the good things taught by your father and mother.  
Focus on the good things we get from each other.

I'm asking each Master Gardener to focus on the positive. Find out where you fit within the organization and get more involved in the Master Gardener Program. Don't let some little distraction affect your positive attitude. **You can make a difference!**

*"The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor".* Vincent T. Lombardi (1913-70)

March is the month to take a soil sample. Soil sample boxes are available at the Extension Office. Hummingbirds will soon be in our area. Fill your feeders with a homemade solution. Mix one-part table sugar with four parts warm water.

*Friendships Blessed by God Last Forever!*  
**Until later!!!**



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



## MG Calendar

MG Board Meeting	10:45 a.m., May 9, Cane Creek Community Gardens
MG Business Meeting	12 p.m., May 9, Cane Creek Community Gardens
Sprouts Deadline	May 25, 2018

### From Our Advisor

The last weekend of April was our breakthrough weekend, where winter finally ended and warm and sunny weather dominated. The cool, rainy, cloudy weather has been a problem for commercial producers as field were too wet to work, greenhouse crops required supplemental lighting and forage grasses delayed their emergence. The danger of frost should finally be past, soil temperatures should begin to rise and sunshine should overcome clouds, so enjoy your planting!

MG President Dick Pritchett reported that there were 20 Master Gardeners located in Jacksonville, Alabama, the most highly populated area in the County that was impacted by recent tornadoes. Several MGs have teamed together to lead a ReTree Jacksonville program. Please help them raise funds or provide some other service to assist them with replanting community forests. They have a Facebook page where you can keep in touch with their progress. It is wonderful to see MGs make the best of a poor situation and provide leadership for their community!

The Master Gardener 2018 Intern training class is in the books, and I owe a big debt of gratitude to Ruth Sarro for providing leadership for the class and to the class members for making it a great experience. Some of these interns already have their 50 hours of service. Ruth can provide more details. Thank you, Ruth!

Did you get fruit trees from the Calhoun County Beautification Board Arbor Day event? If so, how are they doing? The Beautification Board wanted to do something different for this year, and we would like some feedback on how the trees are performing. Any input will be appreciated.

Earth Day 2018 was successful, as usual. While cool and windy weather discouraged some students on Monday, warm and sunny weather made it great for day 2. I appreciate the children, teachers and volunteers who chose to "hang in there" on Monday. Checking the

weather forecast is an important skill for safely enjoying outdoor activities, so that was another teachable moment. Children need to learn to be prepared. There were some that would say that adults like me need to learn to reschedule! I thank you for making our 19<sup>th</sup> year a success. Let's plan something special for our 20<sup>th</sup> year of the Earth Day Field Trip for 4<sup>th</sup> graders.

We have asked our local MG team leaders to provide reports from our various work sites and projects. I hope you will find these reports helpful and thank these volunteers for their work to keep you informed.

Thank you to our MG Board members for making a smooth transition into 2018. Board members do a lot of work what is not often seen by the membership, so be sure to thank them for giving what it takes to keep things operating smoothly.

I often neglect to thank Paula Barnett-Ellis for being our newsletter editor. Paula has served in this capacity for many years. She is a librarian at JSU, and she loves giant dogs. Thank you, Paula for keeping our newsletter looking great, and thanks for my monthly reminders to send in information! (Editor's note: Saint Bernards!)

Renovations are almost complete at the County Administration Building. We are grateful to the Commission for our improved workspaces. The Extension Auditorium is available for use again, and it has a little bit different set-up. You will notice it looks much roomier because we were provided with storage space for all the tables and chairs. If you need the auditorium for community meetings, please reserve it by calling Lisa at 256-237-1621. Likewise, if you need to use facilities at Cane Creek, please reserve those through Lisa, as well.

Be aware that Extension will be re-structuring this fall, if not before. Each county will continue to have an office. Regional agents will be moved into more standardized sets with County Extension Coordinators. With each program area staff member working in the same regional set team with other agents, CEC's and 4-H Agents, we hope to gain greater efficiency. Calhoun County is currently in Set 5 which includes Calhoun, Cleburne, Talladega, Coosa, Clay, Randolph, Chambers, Tallapoosa, Lee, Macon and Russell Counties. This is useful information for you as you work with various staff members.

Thank you so much for the work you are doing in Calhoun County. Your work is noticed and appreciated!

**David**

## **Gardening Inspiration**

"All gardeners live in beautiful places, because they make them so." *Joseph Joubert*

### **MG UPDATE from Sherry Blanton**

Our thoughts are with the 20 MGs and their families who live in the tornado affected areas of Jacksonville. There is going to be a long road to recovery for them. Regardless of the amount of damage each person had, this was a traumatic event. Offer to give them a hand restoring their yards or just a helping hand in general.

RETREE Jacksonville is getting started. Volunteers Truman Norred and Sherry Blanton and the Jacksonville Tree Commission (including Truman, Dick Lindblom and Janice Cain) will offer Jacksonville residents whose landscapes have been destroyed beautiful new trees. Hayes Jackson is the group's advisor, choosing trees and giving the committee the benefit of his vast knowledge of trees. Tammy Hall will be in charge of care and maintenance; the residents at Coosa Valley and the Tree Amigos volunteers will assist in raising the trees. Dick Pritchett will represent the Master Gardeners and Sheila Webb will be the contact for the Jacksonville Garden Club. Doug Sheffield from Alabama Power is also involved on the committee and will be helping with trees as well as his experience as a forester.

Lee Patterson, our commissioner, has given the project generous financial support. Many thanks to the MGs who have already given donations which will be used to purchase larger trees for the give-away; we hope to have many trees for distribution next fall.

The Calhoun Beautification Board donated 500 beautiful trees that Tammy and her crew are raising at Coosa Valley Youth Services. We appreciate the MGs who helped pot up the trees. We are grateful for the financial support we have already gotten. If you would like to help our tornado ravaged community in this positive way, please contact me, Sherry, as I am the treasurer. If you are a member of a club or garden group, please consider asking them to help restore our neighborhoods. Donations are not tax deductible. (Checks should not be made out to the City of Jacksonville.) More information to follow.

We thank our talented panel who talked about their favorite plants at our April MG meeting. David West will present our May monthly meeting (May 9th) program "Update on Quarantines and Invasives, Plant, Animal and Diseases." Lunch is brown bag. Dessert is always fun if someone would like to bring some.

Harry Holstein was informative and entertaining for the opening session of Lunch and Learn. On May 23rd Dr. Chip East will talk about "Gardening on a Budget". We do need help promoting our Lunch and Learn series. Please share on your Facebook pages and with friends. Thank you!

Tree Amigos and Longleaf Botanical Gardens both had very successful plant sales.

We welcome photos from your projects. Please share with me or Paula.

Our sympathies to Linda Emanuel, whose husband recently passed away.

## **All Insects Good and Bad**

Join us as Dr. Nancy Hinkle, Professor Veterinary Entomology, University of Georgia, gives a webinar filled with information to help us get flea populations under control BEFORE they escalate. Moderated by Bethany O'Rear and Evan Ware, Regional Extension Agents, Alabama Extension. The link to the event is: <https://auburn.zoom.us/j/209793415>  
This month's webinar will be on May 4th at 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 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at the Cane Creek Community Garden at McClellan, 77 Justice Avenue. Noon to 1 p.m. Bring your own lunch!

May 23  
Gardening on a Budget  
Dr. Chip East, ACES Regional Agent

June 27  
Sassy Sarracenias (Pitcher Plants)  
Hayes Jackson, ACES Regional Agent

## **Gardening Tidbits**

This has been an unusually long winter. Please wait until the soil and night air have warmed up before adding tender tropical plants to the landscape. Caladium bulbs should not be planted until after for Mother's Day.

**Longleaf Botanical Gardens**

Yoga for Gardeners, Third Thursday, May 17, 2018 from 2 to 3:30 taught by Sharon Wilkins at LBG. To reserve your spot, call Anniston Museum of Natural History at 256-237-6766. Reservations are required. Class size is limited to twenty-five. If you have your own yoga mat, please bring it. Cost is \$5.00 per person or free to members. 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.

**Who is this MG? for May**

March's mystery gardener was Janet Evans and her identity was guessed by Sarah Ballard.

Where are you from originally? South Georgia  
What other hobby or hobbies do you have besides gardening? Knitting, sewing, crochet, cooking  
What is your favorite gardening activity? Growing tomatoes and basil!  
What is your present occupation or your past occupation if you are retired? Librarian  
Where do you live now--city or community? Centre

**Recipe for May**

Strawberry Pie (from the Chilton County Master Gardeners)

Posted on April 1, 2016 by Tyler Weldon  
When strawberries are in season and available locally it is time for a Strawberry Pie. So head out to a U-Pick, Farmer's Market or grocery store and get some yummy strawberries.

- 1 baked pie shell
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 T. cornstarch or flour
- 4 T. dry strawberry gelatin
- 1 quart fresh strawberries, (Chilton County Strawberries!)

Mix dry ingredients; add boiling water, bring to a boil. Chill until cool. Add whole or sliced strawberries. Pour into baked pie shell and chill several hours. Serve with whipped cream if desired.

Posted in Recipe Corner with permission of Trisha Williams <http://mg.aces.edu/chilton/category/recipe-corner/>

**Rehabilitating Storm Damaged Landscapes**

Extension Agents Dani Carroll (256-458-6043) and Eric Shavey (256-547-7936) will present a program on May 1 from 5:30 until 8 PM Jacksonville at the ALFA Building on Highway 21 on rehabilitating storm damaged landscapes. There is no admission charge but preregistration is required.



2018 MG Intern Class



Linda Schiff helps a customer at the Tree Amigos plant sale

\*\*\*\*\*

**Officers—Calhoun County Master Gardeners**

- President: Dick Pritchett
- Vice President: Skeeter Sims
- Secretary: Judy Shew
- Treasurer: Ruth Sarro
- Members-at-Large: Gary Lawson and Jerry Williams

**Sprouts is published by:  
Master Gardeners of Calhoun County**

- Editor: Paula Barnett- Ellis
- Copyeditor/Proofreader: Sherry Blanton

Advisors: Dr. David H. West, County Extension Coordinator/Mr. Hayes Jackson, Urban Regional Extension Agent