
MG SPROUTS

Calhoun County Master Gardener Newsletter: Volume 21, Issue 11

Nov./Dec. 2020



Mexican sunflowers from the butterfly garden at CCCG

MG Calendar

- MG Board Meeting, 10:45 a.m., November 11, Cane Creek Community Gardens
- MG Business Meeting, 12 p.m., November 11, Cane Creek Community Gardens.
- MG Awards Meeting, 12 p.m., December 9, Cane Creek Community Gardens.
- Sprouts Deadline, December 28, 2020

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President's Year End Message

2020 is about over! I don't know whether to celebrate or cry...it's been a rough and tough year in many ways but also a return to simpler times for some, a chance to focus on the things that matter the most and a year to remember in more ways than I can count. But here's the wrap up of information that every Master Gardener needs to read, know, and take actions as required:

1. Dues are due for all Active Master Gardeners. \$20 for annual dues (10 for County, 10 for State). There are other options, too many to cover here so ask if you have questions.
2. Hours are due as well. All MG hours are to be recorded online by every MG in an active status. This year AMGA authorized webinars, recorded or live, to be counted for your 25 volunteer hours (so if you have 35 CEUs you are good to go). Remember every year an active MG must have a minimum of 25 volunteer hours plus 10 CEUs.
3. Resolutions will be up for membership vote at November meeting. Here's the summary of those resolutions handed out at last meeting:
 - a. Change in policy and bylaws to reflect moving to Standard Calendar Year (Jan-Dec) for all areas (finances, hours, awards, elections, etc.).
 - b. Change in policy for interns and awarding of name badges, t shirts, and recognition. Provisional Master Gardener will designate all interns that achieve their required 50 volunteer hours, immediately upon this achievement. At this point, they will be allowed to wear name badges, t shirts, etc; but until they have actively paid dues, they will be provisional without full benefits of voting, serving on committees, etc.
 - c. Change in election of Executive Board. Even and Odd year elections such that the Board will evenly turnover annually to provide greater continuity and consistency. This will begin in November 2021, post conference completion and financial records settlement. COVID numbers are going up so Holiday Awards Banquet is not going to happen, shouldn't surprise anyone; but we are looking for a way to recognize the new class and others, stay tuned to weekly emails as we may have a short awards meeting on our regular 2nd Wednesday in December.

Lastly, as we end this year and begin the next, we must actively focus on the upcoming Conference in April 2021. We need all Active Master Gardeners to participate in committee planning, attend the event, and work each day to make this State Conference a success for AMGA and Calhoun County!!! Every single person will be needed to accomplish this huge task. There is a task for each and every one of us, each and every day of the Conference, so be ready to step up, volunteer and help out -- we simply cannot do it without YOU!!! See y'all at the Creek!

Skooter

Garden Inspiration

"To forget how to dig the earth and to tend the soil is to forget ourselves." *Mahatma Gandhi*

Favorite Plant: Lavon Brown (Member of 2020 Intern Class)

My favorite flower is the bearded iris. The delicate petals and fragrance are my reasons for loving irises. The bearded irises are an early welcoming of the spring season.

My garden consists mostly of flowering ornamental shrubs. Among my favorite are hydrangeas. Lace cap hydrangeas form a row of profuse blooms along my deck.



Lacecap hydrangea

Cane Creek Update from Skeeter Sims

- Thanks to everyone who helped with the work on the Sweet Tea Garden!! The porch has been closed in and barn doors are hung!! This is going to be a great feature for Cane Creek Gardens, don't miss it!! Check it out and have a seat to enjoy the view!!

- It has been an awesome year for improvements at Cane Creek. This year's class of new Master

Gardeners have worked hard, sweated a lot, and really achieved new levels of accomplishments for Cane Creek, our home grounds.

- There's still lots of work to be done in the new year as we prepare for the 2021 AMGA Conference tours. If you are interested in getting weekly updates and goals for our weekly workdays at Cane Creek, contact Skeeter to be added to the distribution.



Native sunflowers from the CCCG Sweet Tea Gardens

MG Happenings by Sherry Blanton

If you know anyone who might be interested in attending the 2021 Master Gardener training class, please ask him/her to contact the Extension Office. Volunteers are again at Lingle Botanical Gardens. Just show up at the usual Monday time with your mask.

The Tree Amigos volunteers have returned to Coosa Valley Youth Services. If you want to join them, please contact Vanessa or Hayes for guidelines for working with the female residents. Volunteers must wear masks.

Two sites to earn CEUs are: Alabama Smart Yards - Alabama Extension and Urban Affairs and New Non-traditional Programs. Both are on Facebook. There are also horticultural programs on the Lingle Botanical Gardens FB page.

You are invited to join the Public Library of Anniston Calhoun County at 2 p.m. on November 3 for a livestream virtual tour of my garden as we talk about "Winter Interest in the Garden." We will do another live stream "Paint the Garden Red " December 1 at 2pm. All are recorded and available on the Library's YouTube page.

Thank you to the shoppers and all the volunteers who supported the Country Store sponsored by the Cane Creek Community Gardens Volunteer Crew. There are still some nice items left. If you were not able to attend, please contact Linda McDaniel for more information on those items.

Now that it is more difficult to know events in advance because of the current health crisis, please read Linda McDaniel's weekly e-mail for information as it is up to date.

For our next two MG business meetings we will be under the pavilion. Please bring your lunch if you desire, a lawn chair, and a mask. We will maintain social distancing.

This issue of Sprouts is for November and December; thus, there will be no newsletter in December. See you in January. Everyone have a safe and healthy holiday season.



Thank you, Lyn Webb, for this beautiful board on the Clubhouse



The Masked Gardener, Landon Rivers (class of 2020)

Recipe of the Month: Rice Casserole

Recipe submitted by Linda Kaylor (a member of the 2020 intern class)

This recipe is a family favorite - because it is so very easy and delicious!

Rice Casserole

- 1 cup long grain rice
- 1 can French onion soup
- 1 can beef broth
- 1 stick butter, cut in pieces

Spray a 2-quart casserole dish with cooking spray. To make a double recipe I use a 9 x13 casserole dish. Put rice in dish and add soup. Stir to combine. Drop butter pieces on top. Cover with aluminum foil and bake for 1 hour at 400 degrees.

Who is November's Mystery Gardener?

Landon Rivers identified last month's mystery gardener as Tanya Johnson. Tanya was a member of the 2020 intern class.

Can you identify November's mystery gardener? Please let Sherry know via e-mail if you recognize this talented member of the 2020 intern class.

"I am from Heflin."

"My favorite part of gardening is learning about the huge variety of plants and forming friendships."

"Other hobbies are photography, woodworking, judging pre-BBQ competitions and cooking."

"I am retired from real estate and food management services."

"I am still working at 'living at my best life possible.'"

"I currently live in Anniston."



Volunteers installing barn wall (completed 10- 24)

Garden Gigue

“When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.”

Gardening Tip

Beware the mulberry weed (*Fatoua villosa*). This non-native invasive weed (from Asia) reproduces by seeds which can scatter near and far. It reproduces rapidly in flower beds and in container plantings from nurseries.

Mowing it will scatter the seeds which can still germinate. If happy and not removed, it can reach two feet. The best form of removal is manually, making sure to get rid of roots and crown. Do not compost. Since the seeds need light to germinate, mulch can help stifle it unless it gets on top of the mulch in which case mulch cannot help.

Mulberry weed, which looks a lot like a mulberry tree, will keep a gardener very busy.



Mark Czarnota, University of Georgia, bugwood.org



The beautiful containers are still for sale. Contact Linda M. for details



The Masked Gardener, Linda Gunnoe, greenhouse manager.



Volunteers at the Country Store

Calhoun County Master Gardener Officers

President: Skeeter Sims
Vice President: Linda Wakefield
Secretary: Judy Shew
Treasurer: Myra Gann
Members-at-Large: Gary Lawson and Linda McDaniel

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