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# MG SPROUTS

Calhoun County Master Gardener Newsletter: Volume 20, Issue 11

November 2019

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A visitor to Cane Creek's Butterfly Garden

## President's Message

The past two years have gone by swiftly. It seems as though it has been a blink of the eye, and it is almost over! It has been an absolute pleasure serving as your President for the last two years. In reflection, I have enjoyed my tenure, but I must move on. I am spending more and more time volunteering as Calhoun County's representative with the Regional Medical Center and Stringfellow Hospital Boards.

We have so many talented individuals in our 60 plus Master Gardener organization and we will only get bigger and better in the future! Our intern class beginning in January is completely filled with 24 applicants! Thanks to everyone who promoted the Master Gardener program!

We have a great opportunity to showcase our McClellan property in the coming years. As a member of the Steering Committee, I will continue to support our new President, officers and Board for the 2020 year. Thank you all for allowing me to serve as your President for the years of 2018 and 2019!

'Till Later,  
Dick

## MG Calendar

- MG Board Meeting, 10:45 a.m., November 13, Cane Creek Community Gardens
- MG Business Meeting, 12 p.m., November 13, Cane Creek Community Gardens
- "Non Native Invasive Plants" Third Thursday at Longleaf Botanical Gardens, 12 p.m., November 21. Sherry Blanton
- "Garden Tools," Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County, 2 p.m., December 3, Sherry Blanton and Skeeter Sims,
- Sprouts Deadline, December 28, 2019

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My favorite flower from Linda Emanuel  
"I love an iris. They have delicate petals and beautiful color . . . and easy to grow."

## Garden Inspiration

"Gardens are not made by singing 'Oh, how beautiful' and sitting in the shade."

**Rudyard Kipling**

### From our Advisor

Rain has finally arrived in Calhoun County after 6-8 weeks of unusually hot and dry weather. It seemed like the whole month of September was filled with 95+ degree days, and some of that lingered into October. September and October are usually our driest months barring a tropical event, and those breezy upper nineties wiped out any rainfall surplus we had. Naturally, the drought conditions were worse for some areas, and that varied by region, county, community and individual landowner across the State. Anyway, you can get your winter color plants in the ground now and do any overseeding you had planned.

We have an extra full class of MG interns for 2020. We have 24 locals, and we may add a few from other counties. Classes will begin in January. Thanks to all of you for promoting the program and getting the word out about Master Gardener!

I met Linda Gunnoe at the Cane Creek greenhouse Wednesday morning, and we loaded 1,106 variegated liriopse which I delivered to a local grower. The greenhouse crew has been busy and had a very successful 1<sup>st</sup> year.

The new porch area on barn # 2 at Cane Creek is completed. We hope to add some picnic tables there, and we may make a few more improvements. This will make some nice additional outdoor meeting space, and it preserved and stabilized the end of that barn. That area is near where the barn fell in on me when we were first opening it back up. It had been closed, and was used as a lumber storage area. That is where we got a lot of the lumber we used to restore the MG classroom. I was pushing the plywood walls of the barn, and several of the posts had not been completely repaired at some point during the past. The barn gently sat down on the roll-bar of the tractor, and the highway department had to bring the track hoe to lift the building and dig me out! The end of that barn had 2 paint booths inside, and it looked like the barn was built around the equipment. We took a chainsaw and cut that end of the building loose. The highway department had the walls, roof and some flooring removed and loaded for disposal the next morning before 8 a.m. They have provided a lot of help to us at our CCCG community development project! That's your history lesson for today.

Hayes has had to work a lot of extra hours at the Botanical Gardens this summer as they searched for employees. The gardens seem to be a popular spot for events, and I am sure that you are proud of your work there to add this resource to our community. I hope the project will continue to bloom and grow!

The Tree Amigos group continues to meet on Wednesdays. Hayes and Vanessa Woods are working with the Attention girls, and the greenhouse project there looks to be in good shape. We have another group of employees and volunteers working with the Camp Lewis boys on workforce development, and this has been going on for about 15 years. We hope to expand that program in the coming year.

Thanks for all the work you do to improve your community!

**David West**

### MG Happenings

November Sprouts is the issue for November and December. Sprouts will return the first of January. Paula and I welcome submissions from members with information that would be useful to our Association. We are having more member participation with mystery gardener, garden tips, flowers, and recipes. Thank you for being part of Sprouts.

Oct 31 is the end of our 2019 counting year. All 2019 hours must be completed. Hours and dues should be submitted for our November 13 meeting. Dues are \$20 (ten for local and ten for the state). Checks should be made to Calhoun County Master Gardeners. If you cannot attend the meeting, please mail your dues to Myra. Hours should be submitted online. If you need help, please ask.

Please remember to report your activities. To remain an active MG, we must report 25 service hours in a MG approved activity. We all must report ten hours of CEUs from a garden-related program. Lifetime members do not pay either local or state dues.

The November 13 monthly meeting is our annual business meeting. In addition to paying our dues and accounting for hours, we will be voting for a new slate of officers:

President: Skeeter Sims

Vice-President: Linda Wakefield

Secretary: Judy Shew

Member at Large (two): Ellen Cannon, Linda McDaniel, Gary Lawson (Members-at-large represent the membership on the board)

We say a heartfelt thank you to retiring board member President Dick Pritchett. Dick has done an outstanding job as a leader and we have accomplished much in his term as our president. He is not leaving us, as he is lead fund raiser for the 2021 Conference. Also thank you to retiring member at large Jerry Williams.

Our treasurer's position is not up for election this year. We will take nominations from the floor. Please be present to accept or decline a nomination.

Our November meeting will be a "finger food" covered dish lunch.

Conference committees are all busy making plans for the 2021 meeting. This is going to be a big job and we need all hands on board. Please offer to help in some way. Thank you to all involved. Our theme is "How does Your Garden Grow?" Janet Evans has created a gorgeous painting to be used with our logo. Thank Janet for contributing her considerable artistic talent for this project. Attendees will all be sporting her painting on tee shirts during the conference.

I will be presenting a program at Third Thursday at Longleaf Botanical Gardens on "Non Native Invasive Plants" at noon on November 21st. Non native invasive plants have become a terrible hazard to native plants and animals and the environment. Come learn which plants to avoid. Plants that were considered safe a few years ago no longer are. Contact the Anniston Museum to make reservations.

On December 3 at 2 p.m. Skeeter and I are presenting a program on "Garden Tools" at the Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County. We will be showing some great tools and making suggestions for gifts for gardeners. Skeeter will demonstrate how to properly care for our tools and even teach us how to sharpen our tools. No registrations are required; no fees and there are always door prizes.

We do not have a monthly business program in December. Our annual awards dinner is Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m. It is a covered dish supper with David supplying the meat and the members bringing the sides (and utensils please). Spouses are welcome. The board will present the Red Bandanna Award to volunteers who have given exemplary service to our Association. As usual there will be a spirited game of "Dirty Santa." Bring a gift under ten dollars to play.

The Tree Amigos volunteers will provide their annual holiday luncheon for the residents of Coosa Valley Youth Services. Proceeds from their plant sale will be used to purchase items for the home.

By now everyone knows we can expect a lot of new faces at our meetings. Welcome the upcoming intern class and encourage them to get involved in a project.

Dani Carroll will be our speaker at the first meeting of the new year. She will talk about saving and sharing seeds. Lunch will be pot luck: soup and salad.

Paula and I wish you all a healthy and peaceful New Year.

**Sherry Blanton**

## **Cane Creek Update from Skeeter Sims**

- Fall/Early Winter is upon us, as well as the Holiday season. We will be cleaning and decorating Cane Creek on 3 December starting at 9 a.m.- until finished. There will lots to do both inside and out, so if you are available that day come out and help the Cane Crew Gang. Wednesday the 4th will be our backup day for weather if it's raining, snowing and/or ice storm.

- The Cane Creek Gang has met and planned our projects and timeline for 2020. It's going to be an important year and full of activities on our grounds. We will need all MGs to help with many of our tasks as we prepare our grounds for the 2021 Conference. We will be revitalizing some of our landscape beds where the environment has changed from shade to full sun, etc and also those that are due for a makeover as well. We will begin in January and work hard through April on projects that are outside and require a lot of labor because once things start blooming and growing, we move into the maintenance and reaction phases. Glad we have a big intern class; this is the year we really need them!!!

- A weekly Cane Creek update goes out via email with our plans and expectations for each week of work. If you are interested in joining the Gang, getting dirty and working hard on our beautiful home grounds, let Skeeter know and he will add you to those updates so if you can't make it every Tuesday then at least you'll know what the Gang is working on for that week and you can support those efforts on another day!!!

**Skeeter**





## MG Mystery Gardener

Our October mystery gardener is Lorrie Moody. Skeeter Sims, Dick Pritchett, and Janet Evans guessed correctly.

Who is November's Mystery Gardener?

Where are you from originally? Wellborn Community

What is your favorite part of gardening? Container gardening. Allows to move them around and create different combinations as often as you like.

What other hobbies do you have beside gardening? Computers and Puppies.

What was your occupation before you retired? Service Manager/Systems Administrator at an automotive dealership. (I have retired twice; the first time was after 21 years in the U.S. Army.)

Where do you live now? Alexandria/Anniston area.

Drop me an e-mail with your guess.

Sherry

## November Recipe of the Month

CHICKEN SOUP from Sarah Sloan

1 tablespoon butter

1 large onion, chopped

3 cups chopped cooked chicken (cook or use one whole rotisserie chicken from Winn-Dixie, Wal-Mart, Costco, etc.)

3 cups chicken broth (3 cups water and 3 bouillon cubes) (Sarah's note – I use Swanson's Chicken Broth and add a good bit more to get as thin as I want. Remember you will add milk later. Do not thin too much.)

1 can cream of mushroom soup, undiluted

1 can cream of chicken soup, undiluted

1 package chicken flavored Ramen noodles (also add seasoning in package)

4 celery ribs, chopped

2 carrots, grated

1 teaspoon pepper

1 teaspoon lemon rind

juice of one lemon

2 cups milk (add after soup is cooked)

Simmer 45 minutes without milk.

Sarah's note – I sauté carrots, onions, and celery for a few minutes before adding the rest of the ingredients.

## Gardening Tip

When planning to dig in your yards always call 811 first to have underground lines marked. Take care to make certain you are not planting under a power line either.



Blooms at Cane Creek



Lyn Webb at Cane Creek

### **Calhoun County Master Gardener Officers**

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

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