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# MG SPROUTS

Calhoun County Master Gardener Newsletter: Volume 20, Issue 4

April 2019

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Bicentennial garden and Cane Creek team

## Message from the President By Dick Pritchett

I just returned from the 2019 Spring Gardening Symposium and I was delighted to see a great turnout. The room was filled with Master Gardeners and other guests statewide! Our State President was in the audience and enjoyed being in Anniston. She and I talked about Calhoun County Master Gardeners having the 2021 Conference here. The programs were excellent and our own Hayes Jackson deserves a round of applause for his efforts in planning the program with excellent speakers! Thanks to Longleaf Botanical Gardens and their dedicated workers to field such an event!

Our committed efforts to hold the 2021 Conference is looking great! Most of the committees are filled and each group is now meeting to determine chairmen and working on the 2021 budget which is due in June. Our Chairman, Skeeter Sims is on top of all details to meet State requirements. Hopefully, we will vote on the dates to hold the Conference on Wednesday, April 19, 2019. The steering committee has narrowed the date to either April 20-22 or April 27-29, 2021. We need a Chairman for the Publicity Committee. Please contact Skeeter or myself ASAP if you are interested.

I want to personally thank the following for providing funds for monthly kitchen and restroom cleanup for the following months:  
December, 2018- Sherry Blanton  
January, 2019- Dick Pritchett  
February, 2019- Sarah Ballard  
March, 2019- Sandra Walker & Robbie Medders  
April, 2019- Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Williams

We may be through the cold weather, but don't be surprised if Mother Nature blasts us again. I have planned my garden, but haven't planted yet!

Until next time!

Dick

## MG Calendar

- All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar  
April 5, 1-2 p.m.
- "All About Azaleas," April 9, Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County, 2-3 p.m. Speaker: Sherry Blanton.
- MG Board Meeting, 10:45 a.m., April 10, Cane Creek Community Gardens
- MG Business Meeting, 12 p.m., April 10, Cane Creek Community Gardens.
- May Sprouts Deadline, April 25, 2019

## In This Issue

From Our Advisor	4
Cane Creek Update	3
MG Happenings	3
Recipe of the Month	2



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## Garden Inspiration

Doris Baucom shared this thought. It is one to pass along with all our tornado survivors and gardening friends who may be going through difficult times. "As the garden heals, so does the gardener." Thank you, Doris.

## Recipe of the Month

April reminds us of eggs! This is an easy recipe (Try some of Skeeter's farm raised eggs in this one; once you have eaten one you will not go back to store bought; he brings them to meetings and takes orders and has many dedicated fresh egg fans.)

Microwave Egg, Cheddar and Sausage Tortilla

### Ingredients

1 flour tortilla (6-inch)  
1 egg  
1 tbsp. shredded Mexican cheese blend  
1 tbsp. salsa

Yields: 1 serving

### Directions

Line 2-cup microwave-safe cereal bowl with microwave-safe paper towel. Press tortilla into bowl. Break egg into center of tortilla. Beat egg gently with a fork until blended, being careful not to tear tortilla. Microwave on HIGH 30 seconds; Stir. Microwave until egg is almost set, 15 to 30 seconds longer. Remove tortilla with paper towel liner from bowl to flat surface. Top egg with cheese and salsa. Fold bottom of tortilla over egg, then fold in sides. Microwave ovens vary. Cooking times may need to be adjusted.

From: <https://www.incredibleegg.org/recipe/microwave-egg-sausage-cheddar-breakfast-tortilla/>

## All Bugs Good and Bad 2019: SSSnakes - Identification and Environmental Importance.

April 5, 2019. Snakes may be one of the most misunderstood animals in our gardens and landscapes. Learn more about their identification and importance to our ecosystem in this webinar presented by Dr. Tim Davis, UGA Extension. Webinars will be on the first Friday of each month at 1 p.m. Central time. Click on the link below for the entire schedule.

<https://articles.extension.org/pages/74786/2019-all-bugs-good-and-bad-webinar-series>

Webinar URL: <https://auburn.zoom.us/j/615766171>

## Lunch & Learn



Lunch & Learn is a series of FREE gardening programs sponsored by the Calhoun County Master Gardeners and the Calhoun County Commission.

Sessions are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month (April through September) at Cane Creek Community Gardens, 77 Justice Ave, McClellan. Noon-1pm. Bring your lunch & learn with us!

April 24th: "200 Years of Alabama Agriculture." Dr. Charles Mitchell, Auburn University (retired)

May 22nd: "Residents of the Legacy Wildlife Room: A Visit with Some of Alabama's Interesting Creatures." Stephen Faughn, County Extension Agent. (Children welcome!)

\*Speakers/topics subject to change. Call 256-237-1621 to confirm.

## Favorite flower from Janet Evans

One of my favorite plants is the hydrangea. As a child I was excited when they appeared in my mother's flower shop. The mophead blooms always reminded me of ladies' Easter hats. I loved the variation of the colors of pinks and watching them change slightly while sitting on display. Because her shop was my frame of hydrangea reference as a child, I was thrilled when I discovered wild oak hydrangeas. I think my favorite color now are the white ones. I love the 'Annabelle' and wish I had a 'Gatsby Moon' oak leaf hydrangea since they stay white. In the summer time, I keep vases of fresh cuttings of any type of hydrangea in my house so that I can enjoy them. I've tried keeping some of my dried blue mop heads but evidently my cat enjoys them too.



Anabelle hydrangea

## April Garden Tip

Spring is a prime time for planting both flowers and vegetables. Please remember "plant the right plant in the right place." Following this simple guideline encourages happy plants and happy gardeners.

## Cane Creek Community Gardens

We have such a hardworking crew out there. If you see them, please thank them.

\*Cane Creek is coming alive. That means blooms, new growth and more weeds!! We could use as many extra hands on Tuesdays as possible to catch up, keep up and prepare for Earth Days. Every Tuesday in April and possibly Thursdays, we will be working to prepare the grounds for our County 4th Graders. These kids look forward to this event all year long and are ready to have some fun and learn during those days!! Our priorities for CCCG grounds are safety, cleanliness and accessibility during this event. So, we will focus on getting the grounds ready with those priorities -- we need ALL CCMGs to commit to making our home site ready for these children!!

\*Due to limited volunteer labor at CCCG, we are reducing the size and therefore the maintenance workload of the tropical bed. We will most likely have extra tropical type plants available. If you are interested contact me and I will set up a time/date for you to come out select plants, remove plants and restore that area of the bed. Sweat equity is the cost of lush tropicals at your home!!

\*The Creek Revitalization and Preservation Crew may be looking to repair or most likely purchase a "new" riding mower to maintain our grounds. We have the Zturn mower that handles a large portion of the grassy areas (thanks to Stephen and his time) but we also need a more adaptable and smaller deck to mow between boxes and around some of the trees/bedding areas. If anyone has or knows of someone that might be interested in donating or helping fund the purchase of a working, reliable and efficient riding mower - let us know!!

Thanks for all y'all do making CCCG such a valuable asset to Calhoun County!

And as always, see y'all at the Creek!

Skeeter



## Master Gardener Happenings

April is the month for plant sales Plan to shop for a good cause and because there will be great plants available and folks to help.

- Tree Amigos Plant Sale, Cane Creek Gardens, Saturday, April 13th, 8 a.m.-noon
- Longleaf Plant Sale, Longleaf Botanical Gardens Greenhouse  
April 25th (Members Only) 11 a.m.- 5 p.m.  
April 26th, 8am-5pm  
April 27th, 8am-noon

### Lunch and Learn Returns

Lunch & Learn begins on Wednesday, 4/24, noon at Cane Creek Community Gardens. Our speaker will be Dr. Charles Mitchell, and his topic will be "200 Years of Alabama Agriculture." Celebrate the Bicentennial with our Association. Please invite a friend and bring lunch. Lunch and Learn is the 4th Wednesday of every month from April through September. For all expecting Dr. Holstein scheduling conflicts caused a change in programs. We will try to get him again next year.

**Pecan Workshop**, Monday, April 15th, 9am-noon, at Cane Creek Gardens. Topics to be discussed: Site selection, varieties for low input plantings, proper planting, fertilization, weed control, irrigation, grafting, insects, and disease. Speakers include Dani Carrol & Chip East. There is no registration fee, but seating is limited and pre-registration is required. Please pre-register by calling the Calhoun County Extension Office at 256-237-1621 by Friday, April 12th. Pass the info along to your friends & family who may be interested.

Our **Earth Day** event is this month. Thanks to all who volunteered.

Our Association will meet on April 10th at noon. Renee Raney, supervisor for Cheaha State Park will speak on "Connecting the Master Gardeners to Alabama State Parks." Lunch is brown bag. It would be wonderful if we had a dessert donation. Anyone interested?

Please join Sherry Blanton at the Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County on April 9th for another in the library's gardening series. The Master Gardeners have been an amazing support for these programs and represent the MG program well to our community. The topic will be "All about Azaleas." We will discuss planting, selections, care and maintenance, and problems with these wonderful bloomers. The free program is at 2 p.m.; no reservations are required and the library provides terrific snacks and a door prize or two.

### Third Thursday in the Gardens: Garden Photography

Join us at the Anniston Longleaf Botanical Gardens for our Third Thursday, April 18, 2019, 5-6 pm program "Garden Photography" presented by Pam Smith, a self-taught photographer, who will share tips and skills for improving your nature photography. Preregistration is required. To reserve your spot call 256-237-6766 or register via [www.ExploreAMAG.org](http://www.ExploreAMAG.org). Cost is \$5 per person. Free to museum members.



March speaker Hayes Jackson and Skeeter, our computer expert

### From Our Advisor

After what seems like months of rain, I used a fair-weather Sunday to put out fertilizer. Naturally, it didn't rain at my house as predicted on Monday. Hopefully we will not enter months of dry weather after enduring months of wet weather, but such is the weather in Alabama.

April will be a busy month for our local Master Gardeners. We have plant sales and Earth Day events coming up, and we need as many as can to be prepared to assist with getting things ready for our events. While all our volunteer places for Earth Day and plant sale really need your support. Check with Skeeter or Billy regarding what needs to be done at Cane Creek. Your help will be needed in transporting plants for the plant sale, as well. Check with Hayes regarding what needs to be done there.

Contacts have begun to be made regarding the 2021 Master Gardener Conference. Your Board and several committees are working hard to get this project up and going. Please support the organization by promoting the event and the possibility of bringing up to 400 gardeners to Calhoun County!

David West

### Mystery Master Gardener

Mystery Gardener. Linda McDaniel was last month's mystery gardener. Janet Evans, Dick Pritchett and Skeeter Sims identified her.

This month's mystery gardener gave me the following information. If you know who this person is, please let me know. I really appreciate folks taking the time to send me an answer. This is another way that we can learn something about each other!

1. I grew up in Fairhope, Alabama.
  2. My favorite part of gardening is the enjoying the sounds of nature, feeling the breeze/sunshine, and thinking about friends/family as I am working.
  3. Hobbies besides gardening include reading, sewing, hiking, and cooking.
  4. I work part-time at Jacksonville State University as an Adjunct Instructor.
  5. My mailing address is Wellington. I live in the Webster's Chapel community.
- Drop Sherry an e-mail if you can identify this dedicated Master Gardener.



Barbara and Gary enjoy a visit before the meeting



### 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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