
MG SPROUTS

Calhoun County Master Gardener Newsletter: Volume 20, Issue 5

May 2019



Cane Creek's new resident from Linda McDaniel

MG Calendar

- All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar
May 3, 1-2 p.m.
- MG Board Meeting, 10:45 a.m.,
May 8, Cane Creek Community
Gardens
- MG Business Meeting, 12 p.m.,
May 8, Cane Creek Community
Gardens.
- "Perky Perennials for the Entire
Year," May 21, Public Library of
Anniston-Calhoun County, 2-3 p.m.
Speaker: Sherry Blanton.
- June Sprouts Deadline, April 25,
2019

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Message from the President By Dick Pritchett

The Lunch and Learn program by Dr. Charles Mitchell was awesome! He took us through history from "Cotton to Catfish," spanning 200 years of Alabama's Statehood. What an interesting program pitching historical slides with perfect music. Each series of slides brought on a new song and a new twist to Alabama agriculture through the years. Thanks to Mrs. Sherry Blanton, our program director for another outstanding program.

As Chairman of our Steering Committee, I can assure you that all of our Committees are working hard to get our 2021 State Conference on track. The Program Committee has nailed a perfect list of Speakers and programs designed to encourage a great number of Master Gardeners to visit Anniston-Calhoun County in 2021. The dates are April 20, 21 and 22 (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) 2021. We will be ready and will have the hotels, meeting center, vendors and food and snacks lined up to please our Master Gardener friends from across Alabama. The program is looking awesome and we will submit for the State's approval of our programs and budget in early June. We expect a huge support from all Calhoun County Master Gardeners to attend.

The Spade and Trowel Garden Club from Heflin visited Cane Creek Community Gardens after the Lunch and Learn program. All members were impressed with our facility and many bought flowers and plants from the greenhouse.

I am pleased to announce that our Master Gardener members Mr. and Mrs. Don Crow have agreed to donate a week's rental of their condo in Gulf Shores for the months of October, November or December, 2019. The only Exception will be the week of the Shrimp Festival. A cleaning fee of \$115 will be required and added at the week's end. A minimum bid of \$500 will start the auction. Consider getting together with your favorite couple and bidding the Sky for this 2-bedroom treasure. We will auction to the highest bidder during our August Master Gardener meeting. (You do not have to be a Master Gardener to bid on this).

Until next time!

Dick

Follow us on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/CalhounMGs>

Garden Inspiration

Doesn't matter what you do, or how you do it, your neighbors are gonna talk about you ANYWAY."
— Felder Rushing

MG Happenings from Sherry Blanton

Earth Day 2019 is a fond memory. Thanks to all who braved the heat and volunteered. A very special thank you to the hard-working Cane Creek team who got the grounds in such beautiful condition.

Dr. Charles Mitchell presented an interesting slide program complete with music on the Alabama Bicentennial and the changes in agriculture over the last 200 years at our April Lunch and Learn. We had a full room which was a great way to start our series. We all know Dr. Mitchell from his soil lecture for the intern class. We look forward to seeing him again.

Mandy Pearson stepped in for Renee Raney for our April meeting. She spoke about using the forests and "Leaving No Trace Behind." Good lessons for all of us.

The May MG monthly business and education meeting on May 8 will be brown bag. Our program will be presented by a group of enthusiastic Master Gardeners who will talk on all aspects of "The Garden Life." Linda Wakefield, Margaret Copeland, Janice Cain, Sarah Ballard, and I will be speakers. We invite and encourage all our Master Gardeners to bring a show and tell item. If you have gardening questions, maybe we can help solve them too.

As always, we would welcome dessert if any Master Gardener would care to bring it.

Stephen Faughn is bringing creatures from the Legacy Wildlife room to the May 22nd Lunch and Learn. One never knows who will be dropping by with Stephen. Bring your kids or grandchildren for one of Stephen's fascinating programs.

Help Lunch and Learn continue to grow by sharing this series with others. Social media is a good way to spread the word.

From the full carts leaving the Tree Amigos plant sale and the Longleaf Botanical Gardens sale, many people supported these two programs. Enjoy those newbies. Thanks to all shoppers.

Please join me Tuesday May 21 at the Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County for "Perky Perennials for the Entire Year." It is from 2 to 3 p.m.; no registration and

no charge. Door prizes and snacks are always part of the afternoon.

I am personally delighted to see so many trees from Retree Jacksonville planted around the neighborhood. Thank you so much to all the MGs who helped with this effort. Your kindness and hard work will be here for centuries.

All Bugs Good and Bad 2019: The Ins and Outs of Termite Treatments

Termites and termite control cause homeowners a lot of worry and even more questions. What kind of termites do I have? Are termite controls worth the money? Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension, will discuss termite controls in this webinar and how they work.

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 4th Wednesday of each month (April through September) at Cane Creek Community Gardens, 77 Justice Ave, McClellan. Noon-1pm. Bring your lunch and learn with us!

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.

Gardening Hint for May

Give plants a good drenching before and after they are planted. Try a swimming pool to give plants a thorough soaking or to keep them from drying out until they can be planted.



Recipe for May: Strawberry Chicken Salad

Strawberries are in the farmers' markets now and there are also u-pick places.

From Southern Living Magazine, April 2012

Strawberry Chicken Salad is the quintessential spring salad, celebrating the sweet taste of the season with fresh strawberries and fresh-from-the-garden basil.

Ingredients

1/2 cup bottled poppy-seed dressing
1/4 cup minced green onions
3 tablespoons chopped fresh basil
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
4 cups chopped cooked chicken
2 cups diced fresh strawberries
Salt to taste
1 cup chopped toasted pecans

How to Make It

Stir together poppy-seed dressing, minced green onions, chopped fresh basil, and freshly ground pepper in a large bowl. Fold in chicken and strawberries; add salt to taste. Cover and chill 2 hours. Stir in pecans just before serving.



Strawberries from Jacksonville Farmer's Market

Mystery Master Gardener

Ruth Sarro was our April mystery gardener. She was identified by Dick Pritchett, Skeeter Sims, Linda Wakefield, and Janet Evans.

Our gardener for May was born in Kentucky, enjoys propagating plants as a favorite gardening activity. When not gardening, this volunteer enjoys reading; our

gardener was a teacher by trade and now lives in Jacksonville.

Drop Sherry an e-mail if you can identify this dedicated Master Gardener.

Something Beautiful



This Clematis 'Sugar Candy' is meandering through a Knock Out Rose. It is one of several I have growing into shrubs. No trellis needed.

Doris Baucom



MG Activities in Photos



April Lunch & Learn speaker Dr. Charles Mitchell



Cane Creek Bicentennial Garden is growing; peanuts and corn are coming up. Stay tuned and watch for more. Thanks Cane Creek team.



Janice Cain leads the way to Earth Day activities



Hayes Jackson and 2 Lindas at Tree Amigos plant sale



Skeeter Sims conducting the popular Earth Day Birds and Worms activity



Calhoun County Master Gardener Officers

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

Sprouts is published by:

Master Gardeners of Calhoun County

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Earth Day honeybee lesson from Jerry Gilbert