
MG SPROUTS

Calhoun County Master Gardener Newsletter: Volume 20, Issue 7

July 2019



Sunflower at CCCG greenhouse

Garden Inspiration

“The hum of bees is the voice of the garden.”
Elizabeth Lawrence



Members of the Cane Creek crew are excited to have a new lawnmower. It is a beauty!

MG Calendar

- MG Board Meeting, 10:45 a.m., July 10, Cane Creek Community Gardens
- MG Business Meeting, 12 p.m., July 10, Cane Creek Community Gardens
- Over the Rainbow, Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County, July 9, 2-3 p.m., Sherry Blanton
- Lunch and Learn, July 24, 2019, CCCG
- Sprouts Deadline, June 25, 2019

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Bid on Beach Condo to Raise Funds for State MG Conference

Our MG group is working hard to raise funds for the statewide conference in 2021. To assist the effort Don and Amelia Crow are donating the use of their condo in Gulf Shores for a week. The opening bid for our live auction is \$500.

The condo can be used October/November of 2019 excluding August 31 through Sept 2 and Oct 10 through the 14th. You will be responsible for a \$145 cleaning fee. The condo is very nice and is right on the beach. Maybe it is time for a getaway. Fall is the best time at the Gulf. Thank you, Don and Amelia

The live auction will be August 14th at our MG meeting. Anyone, however, can put in a bid if you cannot be present. If you want to place a bid, please contact Dick Pritchett. To see the condo, go to <https://www.turnkeyvr.com/1272476>

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From Our Advisor

The beginning of summer brought rain and storms our way, but the rain was needed. After a wet winter, we were headed into a drought situation as crops were maturing. The rain is good for our lawns and gardens, and for our farmers!

The wet weather in the corn belt of the country is for real. Fields are under water across Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota. There will be little corn "knee high by the 4th of July" this year. Did that phrase apply to corn or cotton? Grain bins have fallen apart in flooding, and wasted grain lies in piles around them. A crop will be hard to come by, and the clean-up will linger for years. Hard times for these farm families!

Thanks to Officer Theodore Smart for removing the large Cherry Laurel at the entrance of the MG classroom. I hated to see it go, but it was not safe. Theo worked with Charlie to save a significant cost for removing the tree, as tree companies talked about bringing in a crane to remove it. Theo also thinned the Trident Maples by the new old barn, and the highway department chipped those up.

Charlie, Gary, Jimmy and others worked on repairs to the 2nd barn at CCCG this month. This work will continue, and hopefully be complete by Fall Fest.

The greenhouse crews at CCCG, LBG and Tree Amigos have been busy. Crops look good and are well organized. Greenhouse work is a challenge this time of year!

Tammy Hall, who had been working with the Tree Amigos crew, has accepted a job as a SNAP-Ed Agent Assistant with Extension. She will be going to schools teaching the Body Quest program this school year. Congratulations, Tammy! Vanessa Wood will be our new employee at Tree Amigos. Please meet her and help her feel welcome!

The CCCG Tuesday crew completed a very attractive renovation of the tropical bed at Cane Creek Community Garden this month. Check it out! I say Tuesday crew, but they're there lots of other days, too. That gives you more opportunities to work with them.

The 4-H Shooting Sports group is connecting water to the Shooting Sports Building. This gives us extra water spigots in the wooded Outdoor Classroom area at CCCG. Anyone interested in working in the outdoor classroom can let me know. It needs a hero.

4-H day camps have been going on at CCCG this month, and Camp Cane Creek will occur during July.

Day Camps were ALL full, and Camp Cane creek is already filling up. If you need to sign up a student, do so soon! It is great to have all these young people at our facility!

Let me remind you that Crystal is regularly testing the creek water at CCCG. If you are interested in learning about this or working on this, let her know at 256-237-1621. Water monitoring is important.

That's a lot going on. Thanks for all your work to make Calhoun County better!

David West



Skeeter and Linda made great tour guides for our Lunch and Learn stroll through Cane Creek

Lunch & Learn

Lunch & Learn is a series of FREE gardening programs sponsored by the Calhoun County Master Gardeners and the Calhoun County Commission. Held the 4th Wednesday of each month (April through September) at Cane Creek Community Gardens, 77 Justice Ave, McClellan. Noon-1 p.m. Bring your lunch & learn with us! Speakers/topics subject to change. Call 256-237-1621 to confirm.

Eric Shavey, Extension Agent from Etowah County, will help us become even more successful gardeners with his Lunch and Learn program on July 24th, "From the Ground up: How to Have Great Soil."



Janet Evans created this wall hanging for the 2019 MG State conference. Dick Pritchett bid on it and brought it home so we could all enjoy it. Thank you Dick and Janet!

Mystery Gardener

June's mystery gardener was Linda Gunnoe. Janet Evans, Dick Pritchett, Linda Wakefield, Jerry Gilbert, and Patricia Patty identified her.

July's mystery gardener

1. I'm from rural West Texas.
2. My favorite part of gardening is harvesting a bountiful crop produced by a few small seed.
3. My hobbies are beekeeping, reading, and farming.
4. I have been and still am a college professor, auctioneer, farming/cattle.
5. I am from the Jacksonville area.

Please drop me an e-mail if you recognize this Master Gardener.

Sherry

MG Happenings

We had a great time with Dr. Chip East at our June business meeting. He provided some interesting statistics on changes in Alabama agriculture. We have had a good Bicentennial Celebration and learned valuable information about Alabama's agricultural history.

We thank Linda McDaniel and Skeeter Sims for giving us a tour of Cane Creek Community Gardens for Lunch

and Learn. We hope to get more residents of our community become aware of the jewel we have as a home site.

Please remember if you have any extra time, the crew at Cane Creek needs additional hands. We have 17 acres out there and that is a lot of garden to manage.

Our July business meeting (July 10) will be very special as Marchale Burton will be demonstrating healthy snacks with fruits and vegetables. Marchale always does a wonderful program and shares delicious treats.

Most of us have too many black nursery pots; please remember that the Tree Amigos program, our CCMG greenhouse, and Longleaf Botanical Gardens always need one-gallon pots.

We would very like much to have recipes from our members. We have so many great cooks; please share a recipe. I would need it by the 20th of the month. I hope you will participate.

Over the Rainbow, Tuesday, July 9th, 2-3 p.m., Anniston-Calhoun Public Library. Most people are thoroughly charmed by the beauty of a rainbow. Sherry Blanton, The Southern Gardener of The Anniston Star will help you choose plants with foliage or flowers in the rainbow to bring that magnificent rainbow to your garden.

Cane Creek Update from Skeeter Sims

- Summer is really upon us!! For Cane Creek, that means mowing and weed eating at least once a week. We could use any help possible, especially for weed eating as it takes about 14 hours to trim the grounds both inside and out every week. So, if we can divide that up by more than 2 folks, it would make it much more reasonable. Mowing is usually completed by Stephen but we could always train someone else on what, how, and when mowing needs to be done. You must be trained for safety and operation of the Z Turn mower before you are allowed to use it!!!

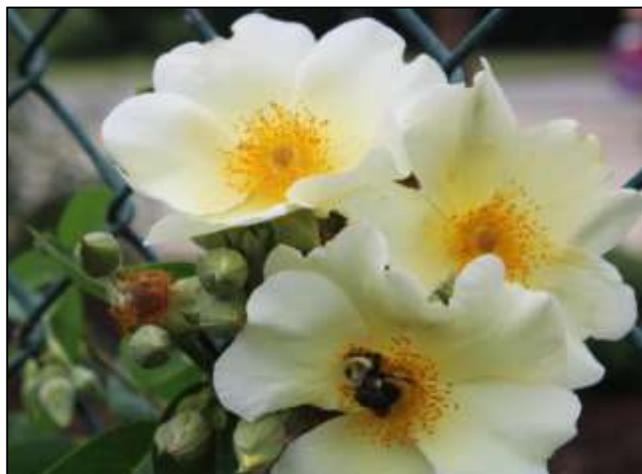
- The Serenity Bed has been revitalized from shade bed to full sun bed with new plantings and removal of others. However, we have found that the resident groundhogs prefer the new plants over the old ones and they have decimated many of the new plantings. We are looking for anyone that is interested in adopting this family of groundhogs, even if it's your neighbors!!! Just kidding, but they have been quite destructive.

- Please check out the new Tropical Bed, it's been a struggle to keep up with that bed but we think we've

made some changes that should help us maintain that bed while showcasing some of those plants as well.

- The Butterfly and GOAT beds out front are doing really well. Something's always in bloom and many of the plants have already doubled and tripled in size. We most likely will have to divide and relocate some plants in the Fall; but that all depends on the rest of Summer.

- Lastly, thanks to all the dedicated workers at our home grounds of Cane Creek and a huge thanks and so much appreciation to those who donated to the purchase of the new riding mower!!! It's going to take a tremendous load off some of our maintenance efforts and it has been long overdue in need. Your support both in words and finances are greatly appreciated by those of us pouring our hearts and sweat into Cane Creek.



'Mermaid' Rose on CCCG fence

Recipe for July

Fig Pudding from MG and great cook Gary Lawson

Sift together 2 cups flour, 1 tsp salt, 1 1/4 tsp soda, 2 1/2 tsp baking powder, 1 1/2 cups sugar, 1 tsp cinnamon, 1 tsp nutmeg, 1 tsp allspice.

Add 3 eggs, 3/4 cup cooking oil, 1 cup buttermilk, 1 pint fig preserves, 1 cup nuts. Mix well; pour in greased and floured 9 x13" pan. Bake 40 minutes at 325-degree oven.

Glaze: 1 cup sugar, 1/2 cup buttermilk, 1 Tbsp white karo, 1 stick butter, 1/2 tsp soda.

Bring the mixture to a boil. Spread over pudding while pudding and glaze are still hot.

Garden Tip for July

Watering new plants is crucial during this hot and often dry month. The best time to water is between 4 a.m. and 9 a.m. Watering at night is not good for plants as plants that stay wet overnight often fall victim for diseases. Water deeply and less frequently. Use the finger stick test to see if your soil is moist; stick your finger into the ground as far as you can. Just feeling the top of the soil is not enough.

A healthy lawn requires about an inch of water per week. Set small cans around the lawn to check the amount of moisture the turf is receiving.

My Favorite Plant by Linda Crow

My favorite plant is the Japanese Maple because of color, variety, and beauty. Many display a different color in spring, summer, and fall. They can be weeping, a ground cover, dwarf, medium, tall, or upright. Needing loose acidic well drained soil and favoring morning sun and afternoon shade or filtered sunlight these trees can make a yard beautiful.



Calhoun County Master Gardener Officers

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