
MG SPROUTS

Calhoun County Master Gardener Newsletter: Volume 21, Issue 1

January 2020



The Cookie Lady, Carolyn Patton, at Fall Fest

President's Message

Well, this is 2020! (the year, not the show) I can't help it but every time I write the new year down, I hear Barbara Walters' voice.

2020 is not only a long running show but it is also about vision... the New Year is too! As we begin a new decade, it is a good time to reflect on previous years and set goals for the upcoming years. 2020 will be our Association's big planning and preparation year for the 2021 AMGA State Conference. So, we need every Master Gardener to participate and support these efforts. Our group has such depths of knowledge and diverse backgrounds that I am always amazed and learning from each of you!! From teachers/educators, private business owners, farmers, engineers, accountants/bookkeepers, management, and service providers - it is such an amazing group with knowledge that far surpasses most expectations.

We have tremendous depth of knowledge in our group; but knowledge without practical application is wasted. It is the practical application of knowledge and our sharing that builds those life experiences (both good and not so good) in which we learn the most valuable lessons. With age comes experience and the most valued commodity - Wisdom. Life is a learning process. If we stop learning, we start dying. I've always loved the "Peanuts" cartoon, where Charlie Brown says to Snoopy, "You only live once," which is how many in our society live; but Snoopy responds, "No, you only die once. You live every day!!".

So, let's make this year our best year ever! We need each and every one of our active Master Gardeners to make this group a real game changer for Calhoun County. And with one of the largest intern classes ever, we need everyone to be present at all our monthly meetings, planning sessions, etc. to help build relationships and share our corporate knowledge and, more importantly, our wisdom with others!

Thanks for allowing me to serve alongside each and every one of you! See y'all at the Creek!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Skeeter".

MG Calendar

- "The Backyard Conservationist," Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County, 2 p.m., January 7, Sherry Blanton.
- MG Board Meeting, 10:45 a.m., January 8, Cane Creek Community Gardens
- MG Business Meeting, 12 p.m., January 8, Cane Creek Community Gardens
- MG Intern Class begins January 15
- Sprouts Deadline, January 25, 2020

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Garden Inspiration

"The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies."

Gertrude Jekyll

New Year's Resolutions from our Members

"To finally finish the construction and replanting on the hill behind my house." Janet Evans

"I'm recovering from knee surgery. Hope to be well soon. I tripped on a stump in my yard. Resolution is to be aware of where I am digging." Margaret Copeland

"My project for next year is a succulent village. I am going to make a large miniature garden of succulents and fairy houses not in a pot. I am going to berm an approximately 8 foot by 4 foot area and put a lot of different succulents with a mixture of top soil, soil conditioner and cactus dirt and when I get everything planted and placed I am going to use as the top dressing pea gravel so the succulents will have good drainage and will not be sitting on dirt." Linda McDaniel

Cane Creek Update from Skeeter Sims

- Time to get started on our special projects. We could use all the extra hands we could get; we have a new landscape area to improve, remodel, or develop (whatever term you prefer). It's a fairly large area at the end of the barn area and it's going to take a lot of work and effort but this time of the year is when we can best accomplish it.

- We also are looking to reorganize, clean out/up, and inventory both sheds. Plus, we are planning to touch up the equipment shed and paint it to match the other building as well as seal it from some weather issues. The cleaning up and organizing part should take about 4-6 hours each as we have to empty each shed separately, clean up/out all the collected "stuff", and return to some resemblance of order; then pray that others will keep it organized and not destroy our efforts.

- Lastly all our valuable equipment will be getting serviced before the growing season really kicks off. I know I'm already seeing daffodils breaking through the ground which makes me feel very far behind on routine maintenance and servicing. It's going to be a big year for Cane Creek so come on out and be a part of it. See Y'all at the Creek!

Skeeter

January Recipe: Broccoli Cornbread

Recipe of the Month from Linda Crow. Linda brings this delicious cornbread to our covered dish lunches.

1 stick butter, melted
3/4 c. small curd cottage cheese (can use fat free)
1 box Jiffy cornbread
4 eggs
1 10 oz. pkg frozen chopped broccoli (did not use this much)
1 small onion finely chopped
1 c. Cheddar cheese

Mix all ingredients well. Pour into cornbread pan (iron skillet) sprayed with Pam or greased. Bake at 375 degrees for 40 -60 minutes. Refrigerate leftovers. Good hot or cold. Broccoli spears chopped in a food processor are easier to drain.

MG Mystery Gardener

November's mystery gardener was Jimmy Nail. He was identified by Skeeter Sims.

Who is January's Mystery Gardener?

I am from originally from Ohatchee, Alabama.

My favorite part of gardening is seeing good results.

My other hobbies include a love of reading!

I am a retired Account Clerk. I worked for the Calhoun County Commission. In my younger days I was a long-distance operator with South Central Bell. I now scan documents part-time for the IT Department of Calhoun County.

I currently live in Wellington, AL

If you recognize this person, please drop me a note and let me know your guess. One more hint: our mystery gardener is extremely talented and creative.

Sherry Blanton

My Favorite Flower from Angela Davis

"My favorite is a night blooming jasmine. In the late spring and summer, even before hard freeze the plant blooms near the time of full moon.

The fragrance of the white flowers scent the neighborhood and attract lots of nighttime feeders. I have had my shrub for 15 years, growing outside in Texas where it grew to about 8 x 8 in the ground. It dies back in winter, if in the ground. I keep mine in the garage.

Every spring I remove it from its pot and saw the large root into pieces which I share with friends.”

MG Happenings

Our first monthly meeting of the year will be January 8th; Dani Carroll, our speaker, will talk on “Saving and Sharing Seeds.” We will have a covered dish lunch of soup and sides.

The intern class begins January 15th. The intern class will be joining us for lunch for the February, March and April meetings. Please make the trainees welcome. Invite them to join your project.

We welcome our new board with Skeeter Sims as President, Linda Wakefield as Vice President, Judy Shew as Secretary, Myra Gann as Treasurer, and members at large Linda McDaniel and Gary Lawson. We appreciate the hard work from Dick Pritchett and Jerry Williams, who are retiring from office.

The Holiday Award Party was an evening of fellowship and recognition. Judy Shew and Linda Crow each received a Red Bandana for extraordinary service to our Association. Our Greenhouse Gang represented by Jerry Gilbert, Linda Gunnoe, and Jimmy Nail received a Red Bandana award. We thank all these hardworking Master Gardeners for their dedication to our organization.

Linda McDaniel and her group of volunteers turned the clubhouse into a winter wonderland for our awards party. There are lots of beautiful photos on our MG Facebook page. There is also an album of photos from the holiday party. If you have not visited our Facebook page (Calhoun County Master Gardeners), please do and Friend us.

Looking ahead to spring; there will be plant sales, symposiums and the return of Lunch and Learn.

I will be at the Public Library of Anniston-Calhoun County on January 7 talking about “The Backyard Conservationist.” With effort, gardeners can help preserve our environment and our wildlife. The program begins at 2 p.m.; there is no charge and no reservations needed. These programs can count as CEUs. The Library gives door prizes and provides delicious snacks.

We send our heartfelt sympathies to Sandra Walker on the loss of her husband.

We have had several members who are recuperating from surgeries, etc. We hope to have them with us again soon.

As we begin 2020 with a few resolutions, consider resolving to become more active with our Association. There are never too many hands.

Registration for the 2020 conference is on-line. alabamamg.org, Just click on the 2020 Conference – Mobile, AL link on the home page to be taken to the insert and the Planet Reg link.

Great News Corner!
Congratulations to Skeeter and Madge Sims on the birth of their third granddaughter Blakely Ann Duggins. Welcome to the world Blakely.

Exciting Monthly Meeting

Our program committee is sponsoring a summer social next July for our Association monthly meeting. We will have trivia contests to test our gardening know-how (with prizes), watermelon, and ice cream treats.

We have also planned a “Brag Book” PowerPoint. Please send via e-mail a picture of something in your garden you are proud of (one flower, a pond, a flower bed, a container garden, or a special tree). Everybody has a photo or two on their phone. Please send your photos to Janet Evans (or to me and I will pass them on to Janet). Start taking pictures now and join in the fun.

We do not often get to visit each other’s gardens; this is an ideal way to share. Photos from any season are welcome. We need the photos by mid-June to give Janet Evans time for her preparations. Thank you, Janet, for offering to compose the PowerPoint. We hope to see something from everyone’s garden!

Sherry Blanton

From Our Advisor

Happy New Year! I am looking forward to our 2020 MG class and watching our established MGs grow as they plan the 2021 State Conference. I encourage everyone to find their place with our MGs and programs. I hope each of you has a successful new year involved in as many MG activities as you can manage. Keep it fun, and have a great 2020!

Thanks for your work!

David

Gardening Tip for January

As long as the ground is not frozen, we can continue planting ornamental shrubs or trees. If Mother Nature does not provide sufficient water, it may be necessary to provide supplementary water for newly installed shrubs (even those planted last spring or summer).

Gardening Gigue

Plant and your spouse plants with you; weed and you weed alone.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau



Past President Dick Pritchett presents a Red Bandana award to the Greenhouse Gang: Jimmy Nail, Linda Gunnoe, and Jerry Gilbert.



Past President Dick Pritchett presents a Red Bandana Award to Linda Crow



Welcoming Mandy Pearson to a monthly meeting January 2019



Past President Dick Pritchett presents a Red Bandana Award to Judy Shew

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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