



Coffee County Cultivator



All the Dirt from Coffee County Master Gardeners Association

Volume 7 Issue 1
January 2015

Ona Garwood—Editor

NEW PRESIDENT INSTALLED



Price Tuley, Sr. was installed as the President of the Coffee County Master Gardeners Association on November 18th, 2014. He is originally from Cincinnati, Ohio

where he met and married his wife of 46 years, Margaret. They lived in Corpus Christi Texas 36 years. Price retired 12 years ago as an elevator mechanic. He has Electronics degree from Delmar College in Corpus Christi, Texas. They have three children, Natasha, Rachael and Price Jr. Grandson Nick by Natasha and Granddaughter "J" by Price Jr. The Utley's reside in Troy. He completed his Master Gardeners Program in 2013, he took the Master Gardeners Class because he wanted to know more about "farming".

Thanksgiving has come and gone, the artic blasts have turned the reds, oranges and browns around my front yard to dirty brown and bare trees. My winter vegetable garden has suffered severe blows and may or may not survive the 17 degree temperature I read on my back porch thermometer. So life goes in L.A. (Lower Alabama).

As the new President, it falls on me to write this letter for the Coffee County Master Gardner Association. I can say unequivocally that I have taken

the responsibility of representing one of the best, most active and dedicated Master Gardner groups in the Country. Every Saturday in March, our members set up tables at the local Lowes store, to present Ask the Master Gardener to answer questions and distribute information about all aspects of gardening.

April brings the Spring plant sale where our members grow and donate all types of plants to help finance other projects. One ongoing project is the planning and assisting in the implementation of landscaping of Habitat for Humanity's housing. Another is the landscaping of the City Cemetery in Enterprise. A new project started this year is the "Giving Garden" in Elba. Our members have helped plan, construct, and maintain vegetable plots that have provided produce for the local food bank. This project will be ongoing and requires extensive supervision and participation of a good portion of our members. The Enterprise High School FFA staff was interested in beginning a program to use the expertise of the Master Gardeners to help the students develop interests in gardening. Our members stepped up to the challenge and provided leadership which resulted in a successful and excellent program that looks like it will turn into another ongoing, permanent program. Landscaping at the Habitat houses was another volunteer program.

In September, The Coffee Coun-

(Continued on page 2)

NEXT MEETING OF
the Coffee County Master
Gardeners Association
(CCMGA) Will meet on
February 28, 2015 at the
Community Room in
New Brockton at 12:00 p.m.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>New President Installed</i>	1
<i>The past year in pictures</i>	2
<i>Prune after Bloom</i>	
<i>5 Ways to use Coffee in your garden</i>	7
<i>Mock Orange</i>	8
<i>Happy House Plants</i>	9
<i>Medicinal Value of Plants</i>	10
<i>Gardening Tips</i>	11
<i>Meet our Members</i>	12
<i>Announcements</i>	13
<i>Links</i>	14

ACES has a new logo with the focus on Extension that will be used for marketing purposes. MG assistance is needed in using/promoting this new logo to help more Alabamians become familiar with it. Alabama Cooperative



(Continued from page 1)

ty Master Gardeners (CCMG) presented a display at the Farm City Petting Zoo where the local farmers bring baby chicks, turkeys, cows and horses to introduce the local school children to the different aspects of farming and agriculture. Hundreds and hundreds of children come in by bus from around the area. The display for CCMGA show cased a mature peanut plant; cotton, corn and sesame seed pods on stalks; herbs for smelling; rye grass for touching; and lots of local garden plants and flowers. Approximately 1,600 kindergarten and preschool students, parents, and teachers attended the two-day event and each child was given a bag of vegetable/ flower seeds to take home and plant and was then presented with a sticker for being such good listeners.

They also volunteer at the Coffee County Water Festival, sponsored by the Coffee County Soil & Water Conservation District each Spring. Both County and City Schools attend this event and the fourth graders truly enjoy all the activities of the four days of activities.

Our Coffee County Forestry and Wildlife Field Days was held at the National Security Recreation Area in Elba. Master Gardeners help teach and or assist with the Enviroscape, a table top model of a watershed. This program covers the 5th graders of the County and City Schools of Coffee County. The Coffee County Soil & Water Conservation District, the Coffee County Forestry Advisory Committee, Alabama Forestry Commission, Wiregrass Rural Conservation & Development, Alabama Forests Forever, and National Security Insurance Corporation sponsor the event.

Our Master Gardner group has always provided a hands-on presentation of agriculture from seeds to final products. It is a real experience to be inundated with hundreds of grade school children all wanting to touch and handle everything. As the commercial says, the experience is "priceless." Last but not least, our members participate in manning the Dothan Peanut Festival "Fire Ant Booth" proving information on their habitat and control. The participated in the Landmark Park over three days during their Living History Program.

As the year ends, it is time to think of new beginnings in life, As Winter comes, so does Spring. What to plant, when to seed, how to nurture becomes the focus of our attention. Now is the time to plan and sharpen our tools for the year ahead. The Coffee County Master Gardeners look forward to continuing to contribute to the local communities in our existing programs and any new challenge that may present itself.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2014

The Coffee County Master Gardeners - presented a display at the Farm City Petting Zoo- 2014



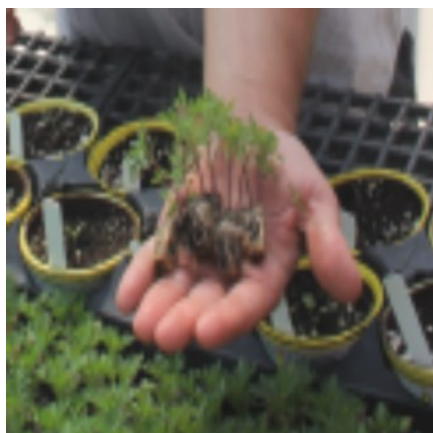
Enterprise High School Agriculture Project



The Enterprise High School Agriculture Teacher, Whitney Donaldson, Agriscience Instructor/FFA Advisor, at Enterprise High School was contacted about helping out at the green house. This is her 2nd year teaching at EHS. We are trying to help her connect with the excellent resources of our area to help enhance learning opportunities for our High School students. Coffee County Master Gardeners planted approximately 8,400 plugs over the past two days!!! :) In both classes combined, there were approximately 45 students.

“Thanks again, we couldn't have did it without you guys!” “FFA”

Bonnie Plant Farm Tour - from seeds to plants!



GIVING GARDEN

Coffee County Master Gardeners at "Giving Garden" Project in Elba. Our bed was planted with collards and Nell Gilmer has volunteered to be the coordinator for this project. Water lines were installed for ease of watering at each of the 7 beds currently installed. Plans are for 7 more beds to be put in place.



Landmark Park Living History Program



THE CONECUH NATIONAL FOREST WILDFLOWERS



HABITAT HOUSE



COFFEE COUNTY PLANT SALE



ASK THE MASTER GARDENERS AT LOWES



Wild Mock Orange

The beautiful white color and fragrance of the flowers of the wild mock orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*) appear in late spring to early summer and are reminiscent of orange blossoms. This shrub is native to the west coast, in particular the states of Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and California, and is a member of the Hydrangeaceae (Hydrangea) family. Wild mock orange is also known as Lewis's mock orange, and is sometimes referred to as *Philadelphus californicus*. It is hardy to USDA zone 5.

Wild mock orange is a fast growing and loosely branched shrub that grows to a height of about 12 feet and is drought tolerant. In the wild it grows on rocky slopes and canyons in yellow pine forest at elevations between 1000 and 4500 feet. These shrubs are prized mainly for their flowers, which bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies love. The fruits are brown dry capsules and autumn color is not outstanding. The wild mock orange can be used as a foundation planting or massed in an informal hedge.

The leaves contain saponins and when crushed and mixed with a bit of water make an effective, yet gentle soapy lather that you can wash with to remove dirt from the skin.



5 Ways to Use Coffee Grounds in Your Garden

When you are done brewing a pot of coffee, do you typically toss those used coffee grounds in the trash? Well next time, don't. Coffee grounds can actually be one of your best friends in the garden, and can help you grow plants that are healthy and strong. Let coffee grounds make your job easier, take a peek below at 5 ways to use coffee grounds in your garden. You may be surprised at how versatile this item is!

1. Make a worm farm.

Why on earth would you want a worm farm? Worms will turn and aerate your soil for you, making less work for you. In a bucket, add some soil, your coffee grounds, and a few worms. The worms will love it. Then, just add the mixture around your plants and the worms will do the rest.

2. Pump up your compost.

Coffee grounds are chock full of nitrogen. This nitrogen is what your compost bin needs to be at its best. When you are done with the coffee grounds, simply pour them in and give the compost a good stir.

3. Make pests take a hike.

You can sprinkle coffee grounds around the perimeter of your garden and flower beds so pets won't want to cross it. Slugs, snails, and other bugs won't want to climb over the acidic mixture and instead will head over to the neighbors house!

4. Make your own fertilizer.

You can add ½ cup of coffee grounds per 1 gallon of water. Mix well. Allow the mixture to sit for about 24 hours and "brew." You can then pour it directly onto the base of your plants. They will love sipping on this homemade fertilizer and it won't pose any harm to children

or plants playing in the yard.

5. Fight off fungus.

Coffee grounds can help fight off various types of fungus that can grow on your plants. To enlist their help, all you need to do is sprinkle the grounds directly into your soil. As the grounds break down in the soil, they will help fight various molds and fungus colonies that could be at war against your plants. Coffee gives you a pick me up each day, now let it pick up your plants! Try some coffee grounds in your garden today and see what results you can come up with.



Prune After Bloom

With spring just around the corner, gardeners are readying their sheers for the inevitable chopping of wild branches, but don't get ahead of yourself!

Not all plants should be pruned in late winter or early spring. As a matter of fact, flowering plants should be pruned according to their flowering cycle. What does this mean exactly and how do you know when the flowering cycle ends and begins?

For the sake of a starting point, your plant blooms in early spring. After all blooms are naturally spent, the plant stops producing new blooms in summer; however, it starts setting new buds for the following blooming season.

There's a delicate balance – if you prune too early you will remove buds for the upcoming blooming season and if you wait too late, you will remove buds for the following blooming season. The best time to prune flowering shrubs is immediately after the last flower drops.

Luckily, the Southern Living Plant Collection offers several varieties of dwarf plants that require little to no pruning and so you don't have to worry about cutting off the blooms while trying to manage a huge overgrown mess.

Put away your sheers with this Plant Collection of flowering favorites:

Purple Pixie Loropetalum – the compact size growing only 1 – 2 feet high and 4 – 5 feet wide in a weeping habit requires little to no pruning, but you can shape after magenta ribbon flowers complete blooming in spring.

Purple Diamond Loropetalum – not quite as compact as Purple Pixie, but still smaller than other Loropetalums, grows 4 – 5 feet high and wide with pink flowers in early spring. Prune after spring blooming.

Mountain Snow Pieris – growing 3 – 4 feet high and 2 – 3 feet wide, it's a little more obvious when and where to prune since the buds appear in summer and do not open until early spring. Prune after spring bloom.

Jubilation Gardenia – another plant requiring little pruning as its compact size reaches 3 – 4 feet high and wide. Blooming in multiple seasons from spring to late summer, prune immediately after the last bloom falls.

Encore Azalea Care

1. Reduce Water:

Alter your watering schedule to help Encore Azaleas “harden off.” About a month before first frost, decrease the amount of water given to your plants. After a few hard freezes, increase the amount of water to add moisture to the plants and the surrounding ground. This process helps your plants harden off and go dormant as the initial decrease in water moderates the drop in temperature and then provides needed moisture when the ground is frozen.

2. Add Mulch

Add mulch to protect the roots. Mulch can be applied anytime, although it's good to add about 4 inches of mulch in fall to protect the roots from first frost. Mulch keeps Encore Azalea's shallow roots safe from the outside environment while providing some moisture as the watering schedule decreases and the temperatures drop. To learn how to make your own mulch and compost, [click here](#).

3. Cover or Drape:

Drape material to protect plants from severe weather. When the temperature suddenly drops and

maintains 25 degrees or below, provide additional protection by driving stakes into the ground around the plants and draping material over the stakes. Choose burlap or any cloth material so the azalea receives air flow. Be sure the cover does not have direct contact with the plants as this can injure the foliage. Cover is especially beneficial for new azaleas or azaleas that were recently transplanted and have not had enough time to establish a strong root system.

Going green in 2015 starts with happy houseplants!

After putting all of your colorful holiday decorations away, your house can look a little dull and dreary. So pick up a houseplant or two (or three! Or four!), and let them give your lackluster décor a bright green boost. Then treat them like the treasures they are with these get-growin' tips:

Say "hey!" to ray. Make the most of the winter sun's rays by placing each plant on a mirror. The sun will bounce off the glass and reflect onto the foliage, giving your potted pals the sunshine they crave.

Make a squeeze play. Add a few drops of lemon juice to your watering can. It'll lower the water's pH, thereby allowing the plants to

take up more nutrients from the soil.

Pencil it in. If you need a stake for a floppy young houseplant, grab a pencil. Just shove it into the soil, and tie the plant loosely to the pencil with soft yarn.

Going somewhere? Before you take off on a trip this winter, line your bathtub with trash bags, and cover them with a big wet towel. Set your plants on the towel, and just before you leave, water them thoroughly. Assuming the pots have drainage holes in the bottoms, your fern, ficus, and philodendron should stay in fine fettle for two weeks or so.

Throughout the year, keep your green friends looking their

very best with this old-time tonic.

Houseplant Perk-Up Potion:

- 2 crushed multivitamin-plus-iron tablets
- ¾ cup of ammonia
- 1 tbsp. of baking powder
- 1 tbsp. of Epsom salts
- 1 tbsp. of saltpeter*
- ½ tsp. of baby shampoo
- ½ tsp. of unflavored gelatin
- 1 gallon of water

Pour the water into a bucket, then mix in the remaining ingredients. Pour the mixture into several jars with tight-fitting lids, then once a month, replace your regular fertilizer with 1 cup of this potion per gallon of water. Your plants will jump for joy!

*Available at drugstores.

SOUTHEAST ALABAMA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

In Cooperation with
the American Camellia
Society



PRESENTS

THE 2015 CAMELLIA SHOW

AT

First United Methodist Church
- Family Life Center

1380 West Main Street -
Dothan, AL

Saturday, March 7, 2015 -
From 1:00 - 4:00 pm

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!
ADMISSION IS FREE!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
ENTER SOME OF YOUR
BLOOMS,

PLEASE HAVE THEM AT THE
CHURCH-FLC BETWEEN 8:00
- 10:30 AM TO REGISTER
YOUR BLOOMS.

Be sure to Know the
Name of your Entry Bloom.
We will have a Novice Category. It is Open to an Exhibitor that has never Won an Award.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE
INFORMATION ABOUT THE
SHOW,

PLEASE CALL: Linda Nichols
- 334 - 677-3333

WE WILL HAVE OLD AND
NEW VARIETIES OF
CAMELLIAS FOR SALE AT
THE SHOW!

INFORMATION ABOUT
JOINING (SEAL) CAMELLIA
SOCIETY, DOTHAN AL

Meets the second Tuesday -
(Sept-May) at 6:00 pm First United
Methodist Church - Dothan, Alabama.

We have speakers that
share the knowledge of grafting, air
layering, and how to plant and care
for our camellias.

If you have a seedling we
have information about how to
register it. We strive to continue the
legacy of our old plants and new
varieties.

Medicinal Powers of Plants

We've all heard about the pharmacological implications of plants from tropical rain forests, but did you know that many modern day medicines are derived from plants in more temperate climates as well? Some are well known, others are relatively new, and some have been around since ancient times and their use has persisted into the present day leading to the creation of modern medicines.



1. Madagascar Periwinkle

The Madagascar periwinkle (*Cathartus roseus*), native to the island of Madagascar, but also grown here in the US, is the source of vincristine, a chemotherapy agent used to fight certain cancers including childhood leukemia.



2. Snowdrop

Galanthamine is a chemical that was isolated in the bulbs of snowdrops (*Galanthus woronowii*), a plant

native to the Caucasian Mountains.

It is one of the medicines that help slow down the effects of mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease by increasing Acetylcholine, a neurotransmitter in the brain whose levels are significantly decreased in people with this disease.



3. Foxglove

Although it is no longer used, digitoxin, derived from the dried or fresh leaves and ripe dried seeds of foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*, was used for many years to treat heart conditions by strengthening the heart muscle. Foxglove is actually a very poisonous plant and was discontinued because the therapeutic dose and lethal doses were too similar.



4. European Yew

Taxotere is derived from the European yew (*Taxus baccata*) and is used in treating breast and other cancer tumors. Yew trees in general have yielded several powerful cancer therapies. Taxol, another anti-cancer therapy) is derived from the bark of the Pacific yew (*Taxus brevifolia*).

Aspirin is derived from salicylic acid, a substance found in willow (*Salix spp.*) bark as the source of aspirin. It is said that Ancient Egyptians chewed willow bark to relieve fever and headaches and Greeks used it to combat rheumatic aches and pains.



5. Willow

Aspirin is derived from salicylic acid, a substance found in willow (*Salix spp.*) bark as the source of aspirin. It is said that Ancient Egyptians chewed willow bark to relieve fever and headaches and Greeks used it to combat rheumatic aches and pains.

January - February Gardening Tips

January

Fruits and Nuts

- Set out apples, peaches, pears, and grapes.
- Start grafting pecans. Prune dormant trees.

Shrubs

- Plant shrubs and trees, including broadleaf, narrow leaf, and deciduous.
- Graft camellias in south Alabama.
- Spray all deciduous shrubbery with a dormant spray to control diseases and insects.
- Spray when weather is on warming trend.

Lawns

- Soil test before setting up fertility program.

Roses

- Visit nurseries and garden centers to select varieties.

Annuals and Perennials

- Plant hardy annuals.

Bulbs

- Late plantings of Dutch bulbs will flower if planted now.
- Lilies of all types, except Madonna, may be planted.
- Check stored bulbs and discard rotten ones.
- Make indoor plantings of amaryllis, callas, and gloxinias.

Miscellaneous

- Prune winter-damaged limbs.
- Give houseplants a bath in lukewarm water to wash off dust.

- To keep poinsettias that have finished flowering, turn pots on their sides and let them dry completely. Cut them back lightly. Keep in a temperature of 55 to 60 degrees.

Vegetable Seed

- Plant hardy vegetables, root crops, roots, and tubers in southern-most areas.
- Plant lettuce, cabbage, and broccoli in cold frames.

Vegetable Plants

- Set out cabbage plants.

February

Fruits and Nuts

- Planting season continues for dormant trees.
- Fertilize fruit trees.
- Apply half of the fertilizer recommended for grapes now; apply the other half soon after fruit sets.
- Continue dormant pruning and grafting. Start strawberry plantings.

Shrubs

- Planting season continues.
- Visit camellia shows to learn of hardy varieties in your area.
- Graft camellias in central and south Alabama.
- Spray all shrubs with a fungicide before new growth starts.
- Good time to prune all shrubs before new growth starts.
- Don't prune early-blooming species because flower buds will be removed.

Roses

- Prune hybrid tea roses in south Alabama; delay pruning for a few weeks in north Alabama. Continue planting.

Annuals and Perennials

- Replant early plantings of hardy annuals.
- Prepare beds for summer annuals.

Bulbs

- Plant cannas, amaryllis, gladiolus, and zephyranthes in south Alabama; delay planting for a few weeks in north Alabama.

Miscellaneous

- Houseplants are beginning to show signs of activity.
- Fertilize with liquid or soluble fertilizer according to manufacturer's directions.
- Remember Valentine's Day. Why not send roses or a potted plant?

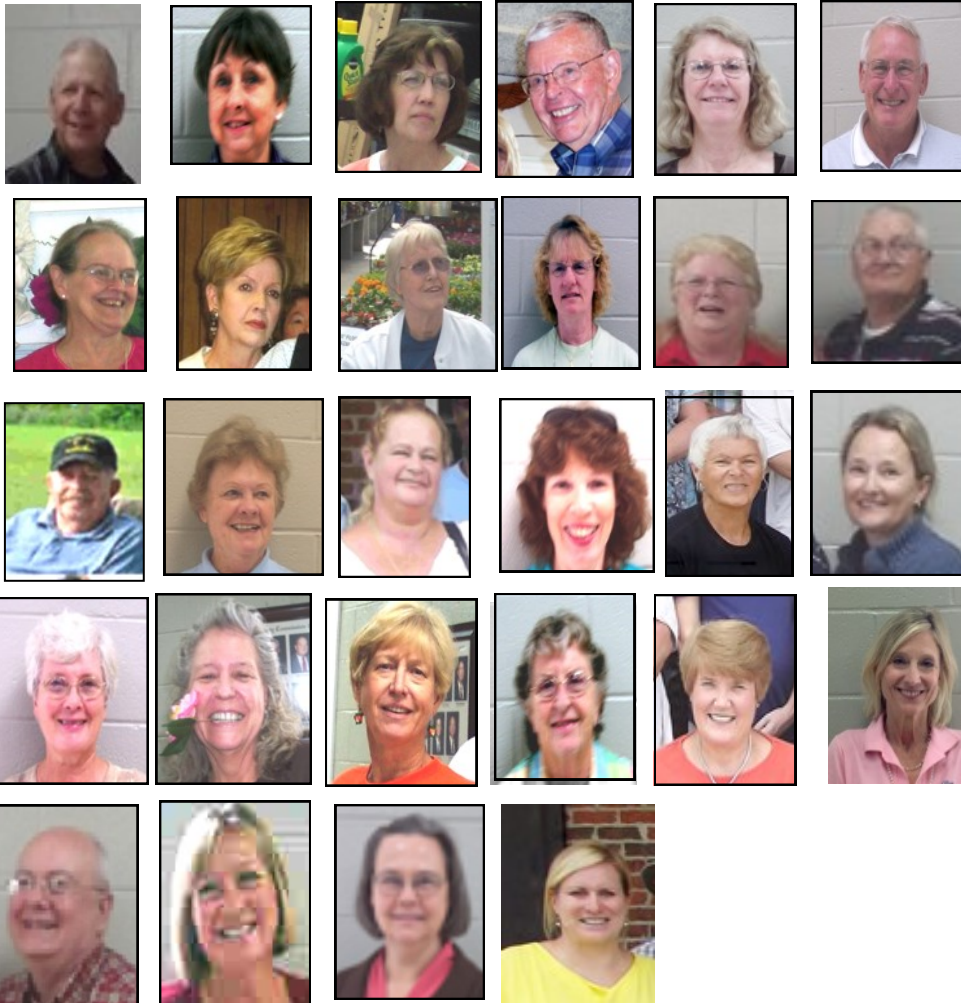
Vegetable Seed

- Plant some vegetables listed for January in central Alabama plus collards, salsify, and Swiss chard.
- Add tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, cauliflower, and Brussels sprouts to cold frames.

Vegetable Plants

- Plant cabbage, onions, lettuce, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts.

Coffee County Master Gardeners Association



PRICE TULEY -- President
 Ann Edwards - Vice President
 Maggie Sickler - Secretary
 Charles Block - Membership & Awards
 Brenda Evans - Programs
 David Ellis - Treasurer

Ona Garwood - Editor & Publicity
 Glenda Ellis
 Delores Swensen
 Brenda Evans
 Connie Ford
 Curtis Slawson

Jim Coles
 Dee Martin
 Mia Poston
 Harriet Patterson
 Jacque Hawkins
 Michelle English

Alice Hersant
 Sheren Enfinger
 Barbara Oliver
 Nell Gilmer
 Wanda Maddox
 Sue Gilder

Ed Speigner
 Suzanne Beckinger
 Suzanne Clark
 Dawn Stirling -Smith

**Coffee County Master Gardeners
 Meet the Fourth Wednesday of
 January - October at Noon at the
 Community Room of the
 Extension Office.
 Unless Otherwise Announced**



Lucy Edwards, Regional Extension Agent,
 Home Grounds, Dale County Extension Office
 202 South Hwy 123, Suite D
 Ozark, AL 36360
 Phone: (334) 774-2329

UP COMING EVENTS

The 2015 Camellia Show

at
 First United Methodist Church -
 Family Life Center
 1380 West Main Street - Dothan, AL
 Saturday, March 7, 2015 - From 1:00 - 4:00 pm

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! ADMISSION IS FREE!

The Coffee County Groundwater Festival

3/11/2015 - County Schools & Elba
 3/18/2015 - Hillcrest, College St,
 & Rucker Blvd
 3/19/2015 - Harrand Creek, Pinedale,
 & Holly Hill

Sue Leverett

Education Specialist
 Coffee County Soil & Water
 Conservation District
 3 Coffee County Office Complex
 New Brockton, AL 36351
 Phone: 334/894-5581 x3

Coffee County Master Gardeners Association Annual Plant Sale



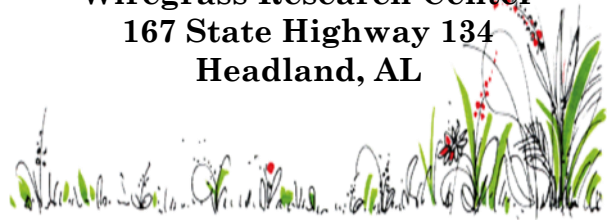
**Saturday
 April 11, 2015**

(TENTATIVE)

Native, Medicinal, and More - Plant Workshop

February 19, 2015
 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 Cost: \$15

Wiregrass Research Center
 167 State Highway 134
 Headland, AL



Providence Hospital Foundation's
Festival of Flowers
 March 26-29, 2015

Celebrating 22 years, the 2015 Festival of
 Flowers presents "*Southern Roots*"

March 27, 2015
 (Friday), Azalea Garden Club
 will be taking a bus (Southern
 Coaches, 36 passenger) to
**Providence Hospital
 Campus,
 6801 Airport Blvd.,
 Mobile, AL, for the 2015**

"Festival of Flowers".

We will leave from the former Food World Parking Lot at 7 AM, arriving in Mobile around 10 AM. We will have lunch at the Flowers Garden Cafe. We will leave to return to Enterprise at 3 PM.

Cost per person will be \$56. This includes your -

- ◆ transportation,
- ◆ entrance fee
- ◆ lunch.

Checks are to be made out to Jacque Hawkins and mailed to be below address. The total amount will be due by March 1, 2015.

Jacque Hawkins
 123 Sioux Street
 Enterprise, AL 36330

jhawkins07176@roadrunner.com

334-470-7095

The beauty of the South showcased in Mobile with Southern traditions of garden splendor!

Master Gardener Volunteers are...

- **Motivated** to share their knowledge and expertise.
- **Accessible** to other Master Gardeners, horticulture and Extension professionals, and the public.
- **Service-oriented** to enhance their communities and the environment.
- **Trained** by Cooperative Extension in current horticultural practices.
- **Excited** about meeting other people who enjoy gardening
- **Research ambassadors** who provide cutting-edge horticultural information to consumers.

COFFEE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

Coffee County Cultivators
ACES -Coffee County Extension Office
5 County Complex
New Brockton, Alabama 36351
334-894-9956
Ona Garwood - Editor
Email: ogarwood@roadrunner.com
Phone: 334-475-3801
312 Bellwood Trail, Enterprise, AL 36330

HELPLINE

If you've got home garden questions, we've got answers!

**Call 1-877-252-GROW
1-877-252-4769**



Alabama Cooperative Extension System
202 South Hwy 123, Suite D
Ozark, AL 36360
Office: (334) 774-2329
Fax : (334) 445-1031

OFFICERS

President: [Price Tuley](#)
Vice President: [Ann Edwards](#)
Secretary: [Maggie Sickler](#)
Treasurer: [David Ellis](#)

COFFEE COUNTY CULTIVATOR NEWSLETTER:
<http://www.aces.edu/counties/Coffee/mq/>

NOTE:

Click on all Blue Underlines for a link directly to the web page or email.

Mission Statement:

The Alabama Master Gardeners Volunteer Program is an educational out-reach program provided and administered by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

Garden Pathways
AMGA State Newsletter

DEADLINE
March 15, 2015

NEWSLETTER LINK

