

The Dirt | June, 2023

Mobile County Master Gardeners



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Bill Fink. *Our own Master Gardener, Class of 2021 will be our featured speaker at the next MG general meeting. Bill's talk will be on Vegetable Gardening in Coastal Alabama. Bill will talk about his successes and more importantly his failures. And as always with Bill, there will be some humorous comments so come and learn and enjoy. There will be no meeting in July.*

Gary Bachman. A retired Mississippi State University Extension Horticulture professor, urban farmer, homesteader, and author, who has informed and delighted gardeners with his YouTube videos will be our speaker for our August general meeting. He loves gardening and talking about gardening. Plan on Dr. Bachman sharing tips, ideas, and great plant ideas to make our gardens more enjoyable and beautiful.

Mentors: The 2023 mentor training class is planned for Tuesday, June 13 at 1:00 pm in the Small Auditorium at the Jon Archer Center. Jackie Jenkins is looking for mentor volunteers. Please call her at (251)422-6675, email her at jjackiejenkins108@gmail.com or see her at our June meeting. Sign up to be a mentor. Mentors need to be certified Master Gardeners and willing to come to one or more intern classes. Intern classes start Thursday, August 10. It is best to have a mentor for each intern, so they have the best experience during their internship and certify within the allotted time.

Mentors help make future Master Gardeners shine. *Mentors lead by example, inspire, share knowledge, help interns reach goals, offer friendship, listen to concerns, and encourage professional behavior.*

Spring Gardening Lectures: I want to thank our Master Gardeners who have volunteered to speak at the Ben May Library (downtown) during their Spring Gardening Lecture Series. **Barbara Boone** was well-received on April 29, speaking about "Let's Get Started with the Basics." Coming up are **Bill Fink** on "Vegetable Gardening In Coastal Alabama" on May 27, and on June 17, **Annette Grow** speaks about "Gardening In Small Spaces, The Front Porch And Beyond." It speaks well for all Master Gardeners when we are represented to the public by these volunteers. Please plan to attend and support them. If you have a topic which you would like to share through our Speaker's Bureau, please contact our ACES agent, **Jack LeCroy**.



I have a request for those Master Gardeners and Interns who purchased plants at our Urban Nano Gardening Festival. Please go out and take a photo of your plants or your container garden. A few examples are attached. Then send the photos to me by June 15th. I would like them in the July edition of *THE DIRT*.

Continued below...



Harry's Eros peppers



Carol's Multipik squash



Dirt Diva's cucumbers

~~~~~Harry's Corner~~~~~

Kenny Helton, Alice Marty, and Jackie Jenkins answered the question: What kind of flower looks like it just came back from a fight? They answered *Black-Eyed Susan*. **Karen Ruckart** had a different answer to the question. She answered *Black & Blue Salvia*. Congratulations to Kenny, Alice, Jackie, and Karen for their answers.

In closing, here are the bad jokes or riddles with a humorous gardening question. Help! I am running out of jokes and riddles, so please share your gardening jokes or riddles.

Joke: It's just not worth it to argue with a cactus...they have too many great points.

Gardening question: Why is the letter "A" like a flower?

Send your answer to the gardening question to h.surline@gmail.com.

All Photo sources: Constant Contact, Master Gardeners, owner Red Oak Farm, Opp, Al.

Editor's Note: Yes, it's still relatively early in the year, however the Greenery Sale is the major fund raiser for MCMGs, so early attention to detail is important. **Emily Arellano** and **Paula Reeves** are heading up the sale this year. Updates for upcoming Greenery Sale planning will be made periodically in *The Dirt*.

NEWS FROM THE HOLIDAY GREENERY SALE TEAM

No new updates for sale planning to date except to ask for spray paint cans as indicated in the photo below. Also bamboo skewers needed. **DONATIONS GLADLY ACCEPTED!** Please choose the exact brand and color paint cans as shown. Purchase now ensures availability, possible sale prices, and the color needed, as closer to the holidays availability and prices are subject to change.



Grandma's Pass Along Garden had an issue recently, an apparent dead Confederate Rose. So, lumberjills, **Theresa Davidson** and **Mariana Parker**, chopped it down and maneuvered it away from the garden. Mind you, the tree trunk was approximately 5 inches TIMMMM-BERRRRRR!.



Tiny But Mighty by *Dirt Diva*

Recently while shopping at a local supermarket produce department, Dirt Diva saw an interesting item labeled microgreens. She didn't buy any that day, but decided to do some research with the idea of growing some herself. Lo and behold, Diva found out that these greens are a trendy item because seeds are readily available from vendors, they are super easy to grow in a short time, and best of all, they are nutritious with vitamins and anti-inflammatory benefits. Diva found out that there are different microgreen collections, depending on plant family. For her trial run, she chose the Brassicaceae seed family which included mustard, cabbage, radish, broccoli, bok choy, and kohlrabi. Diva planted the seeds in a flat tray outside in a sunny spot, kept it moist, and within 2 days saw seed germination. Then about 12



days later, Diva was snipping greens for a salad with a light vinaigrette dressing. Tiny but mighty flavor!

Diva observed aphids on Hansel and Greta eggplants, so she tried diy remedies (baking soda, Dawn, water, milk wash) which did not work. The next step was Neem oil; the jury is still out on Neem, but then Diva observed a lone Ladybug marching over the leaves gorging on her favorite entrée. She must have sent a memo to her friends because more showed up for lunch. Tiny but mighty!

Diva also observed Hummingbirds attracted to new feeders. By the way, Hummingbird nectar should be made in a 1:4 ratio of white sugar to water. NEVER add red coloring or any sweetener other than white sugar.

Hummers...tiny but mighty and so much fun to watch!

/dd

Chronicles by Barbara Boone

Hello, fellow Master Gardeners! I wonder if you are as excited about the summer harvest bounty as I am. Large growers are "farm to table" but in my house, it's "garden to plate." Summer squash and zucchini cooked with garden fresh herbs, well, just delicious! Maybe along side Conecuh? Cucumbers marinated in a vinaigrette equally good. Whether you grew your veggies from seed or Spring Festival seedlings, they are fun to watch grow, and best of all--EAT!

Zoom presentations made and facilitated by **Jack LeCroy** have been interesting and enlightening. Check out the topics on scheduled Thursdays at 6:00 PM.

On May 16, twelve members of Crew 22 met for lunch at Callaghan's for camaraderie and to discuss their next plans for the Mulherin Home. Vickie King, Executive Director of the Mulherin Home, was also at the meeting and she gave a brief description of the home. Crew 22 is planning a site visit on May 22 to discuss future landscaping projects.

Editor: Crew 22, y'all are amazing!

Three Saturdays at the Ben May library have been scheduled for a gardening series. Check out the remaining topics to be presented by Bill Fink and Annette Grow. Mark your calendars for both May 27 and June 17 at 2:00 PM. The librarians at Ben May are interested in our input for topics, especially seed saving. More on this later.

I hear something growing in my garden calling my name, or maybe it's a garden pest looking for its next meal. I hope your vegetable and flower gardens are flourishing. Remember, plant with love, and harvest with wonder and joy.

/bb

Master Gardener of the Month

by Carol Williams

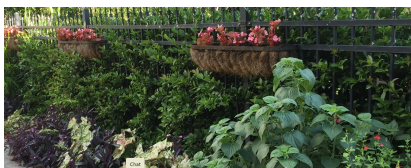
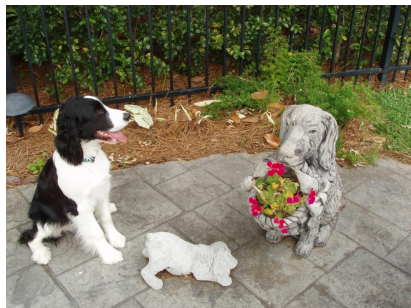
Joy Earp is from the MCMG class of 2019. She retired as a biologist from the Army Corps of Engineers in Mobile and enjoyed plants, so she had been volunteering at the Mobile Botanical Gardens for their plant sales. She worked alongside several Master Gardeners who also volunteered at MBG. They encouraged her to pursue MG certification. Joy recruited two friends to join with her, **Donna Kelly** and **Melissa Bailey**. Joy says that she enjoyed the class and her project: Growing a Native Garden. All three friends certified in 2019.

Joy is continuing her volunteering, participating in the Spring Festival, and volunteering in the greenhouse at MBG where she says she learns so much from Candy Dolan. Whenever she is asked, Joy gladly responds to volunteer requests. Congratulations, Joy, for being chosen as June's Master Gardener of the Month!



Master
Gardener
of the
Month:

Joy Earp



From the Greenhouse: Dirt and Decor

Editor's Note: This month From the Greenhouse focuses on how Master Gardeners choose to display plants and accent their surroundings, hence the name "Dirt and Decor." Some choose vintage, some choose modern, but all choices enhance relaxation, greenery or flowers, and are based on individual taste and personality.

Read on:

At the top of the photo array is a picture of **Jane Finley's** statuary with her English Springer Spaniel fur baby, Nick. Note the flowers included. Also next down the photos see Jane's flower planter placed on her fence. Both photos are reminiscent of a shade garden which it is.

The third photo down is **Linda Kloter's** back yard. This is a yard where one could sit, beverage in hand, and relax.

In the fourth photo down, note **Cindy Findley's** preference for vintage elements. She is always on the prowl for statuary that can be repurposed and integrated into her landscape.

Mary Townsley submitted a photo of a



bird bath in her yard. It appears that the male Cardinal cavorting in the water is enjoying a swimming lesson and showing off to his female partner.

Editor's Request: I know there are more MGs out there with landscape elements that are meaningful to them and increase curb appeal. Please submit labeled photos to boonebama@live.com for future "Dirt and Decor" articles.



In the Loop

by Theresa Davidson

Event (Category)	Date/Time	Contact(s)
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Speaker Change June Meeting	When-same	Contact-same
<p>MCMG June Meeting: Rudy Yates, Regional Extension Agent located in Marengo County, will speak on "Poison Plants in the Yard". (CEU for speaker, usually 1 hour; .5 hour for MGA meeting)</p>	<p>Thursday, June 8, 10:00 am Jon Archer Center, 1070 Schillinger Rd. N. Mobile, AL 36608</p>	<p>President: Harry Surline, 251.605.4667 h.surline@gmail.com</p>

No Meeting in July!!

<p>MCMG August Meeting: Dr. Gary Bachman, our keynote speaker for the Spring Festival, returns! (CEU for speaker, usually 1 hour; .5 hour for MGA meeting)</p>	<p>NOTICE!! Meetings change to Wednesdays in August and run through November! Wednesday, August 2, 10:00 am, Social time: 9:30 am</p>	<p>President: Harry Surline, 251.605.4667 h.surline@gmail.com</p>
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<p>August Board of Directors Meeting (MGA Administration)</p>	<p>Tuesday, August 1, 10:00 am</p>	<p>President: Harry Surline, 251.605.4667 h.surline@gmail.com</p>
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Mobile Botanical Gardens Marketplace (Community Special Project)	MAY: Fridays and Saturdays, 10:00-12:00 (Closed May 27)	Theresa Davidson MBG Volunteer Coordinator 251.510.4961 theresadavidson80@gmail.com
Market in the Park (Municipal Event)	Saturdays during May and June, 7:30-noon	Bob Howard, 251-423-2605, rwhoward51@gmail.com
Monthly Garden Zoom Class (CEU)		Diane Anthony, jda0002@aces.edu, 251.574.8445
Gulf Coast Herb Society (CEU for (Presentation)	4th Tuesday every month, except July and November; 5:30 pm; Mobile Botanical Gardens Botanical Center	Beth Poates, 251-342-6508, poates57@hotmail.com
Orchid Society Meeting New attendees welcome! Info available on FB: Mobile Area Orchid Society (CEU for the presentation)	4th Sunday every month (except June & December), 2:00 PM, 1260 Dauphin St.	Lynn Coleman 251.622.3939, lynncolman411@gmail.com
First Friday at MBG: Palms- James McInnis and Veronica Wilson will present on palms that grow well in our area (CEU)	Friday, June 2, 10:30 a.m. Mobile Botanical Gardens	Mobile Botanical Gardens; Call to register 251-342-0555
Mobile Japanese Garden Planning and Touring, 700 Forest Hill Drive, Beautify this community and educational garden and help teach college students Community Gardening (community landscape)	Weekly: Mondays and Fridays, and As Needed	Don Fry 251.422.8466 don.fry@comcast.net YouTube tour: https://bit.ly/3bhyKWA Website: https://mobilejapanesegarden.com Facebook: https://facebook.com/mobilejapanesegarden Twitter: https://mobile.twitter.com/mobjapangarden
DREAM GARDEN: Join a Garden Room (education/demonstration)	Contact a Garden Leader or Marsha Stolz to join a team. Volunteer and work as needed.	Marsha Stolz 251.689.5993 marshastolz@msn.com
Grandma's Pass Along Garden		Catherine Moates 251.366.6163 memo366@att.net & Olivia Reinhaus 251.458.7383 omcvea@gmail.com

Native Garden

Melissa Nichols
251.680.7779
indigigardener@gmail.com

Shade Garden

Bob Howard 251.423-3108
rhoward51@gmail.com

Vegetable Garden

"Marsha Stolz
251.689.5993
marshastolz@msn.com
& (below)

Mary Ann Days
251.391.5806
masdays@comcast.net
"

Herb Garden

Jackie Jenkins
251.422.6675
jjackiejenkins108@gmail.com

Cottage Garden &
Formal Garden

Glenda Eady
251.342.4248
jerryeady2@comcast.net

Building Garden

Marsha Stolz
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Community Gardens

Carol Dorsey
251.209.3483
bcdorsey63@gmail.com

Mobile Medical
Museum: Robert
Thrower Medicinal
Garden

Carol Dorsey
251.209.3483
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Grow More Give More

Ambassadors Needed!

Carol Dorsey
251.209.3483
bcdorsey63@gmail.com

Therapeutic Horticulture

Carol Dorsey
251.209.3483
bcdorsey63@gmail.com

Classroom in the Forest
(youth programs)

Mary Jo Broussard
251.574.8445
mjb0054@auburn.edu

Speakers Bureau
(program or workshop
for public)

Office Manager/Phone
Lines

Cindy Findlay
251.786.4245
cndyfindly@att.net

Updates on the
Volunteer tab or
Calendar tab at Master
Gardener Service
Report Login
(acesagmg.site)



Connections

In addition to the events and activities highlighted *In the Loop*, occasionally there are requests made to which Master Gardeners and interns can additionally respond.

Please note the following:

- **Need items for raffles. Contact Jackie Jenkins-251.422.6675
jjackiejenkins108@gmail.com**
- **Donated coffee mugs for Cuppa Cheer for the 2023 Greenery Sale. Contact
Peggy Wright-251.679.2985 (c) 251.463.4230pwright2273@comcast.**
- **Now only VERY SMALL pine cones needed for Pine Cone Party.**
- **Need snacks at monthly MG meetings. Lydia Criswell 251.610.5543**



Mobile County Master Gardeners | 1070 Schillinger Rd. N., Mobile, AL 36608 251.574.8445

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