

The Dirt | December, 2023

Merry
Christmas

Mobile County Master Gardeners

The President's Message

by Harry Surline

MCMG
Officers



President
Harry Surline
251.605.4667
h.surline@gmail.com

Vice President
Carol Williams
251.367.0473
readingweeder72@h
otmail.com

Rec Secretary
Karen Ruckart
251.377.2312
kzruckart@gmail.com

Corr Secretary
Brenda Howard
251.423.3108
eeks89tl@gmail.com

Treasurer Jane
Finley
251.605.0625
janehfinley@bellsouth
.net

This is my last President's Comments. I want to recognize all the Master Gardeners and Interns who have made so many contributions to the Mobile County Master Gardeners this year. I am not going to list those who have made contributions because I might forget someone, so I am only going to write about this year's activities. Hopefully, those involved will know their volunteering activities are recognized and very much appreciated.

The year started off with a "Y'all Come Back Breakfast" which everyone enjoyed, setting the tune for us to have fun volunteering.

One of the big events of the year was the first "Spring Festival" featuring our Nano Gardening plant sale where dwarf vegetables were sold. MGs helped plant the seedlings, organized an advertising campaign, transported vegetables from the Auburn Ornamental Research Station, organized the plants for sale, and stood out in the heat to help people select vegetables. This first sale educated the public about container gardens and unique vegetables, plus increased funding available for other opportunities. Let's all help to make the second Festival even better and educate more of our community about container gardening.

The Intern Class of 2023 graduated on November 16. They are going to be outstanding MGs because of the training and support of their mentors and ACES Agents **Jack LeCroy** and **Carmen Flammini**. Jack and Carmen did a great job teaching and encouraging the interns. We quickly learned that Carmen has a great sense of humor which she will be sharing with Baldwin County next year as their home grounds agent and leader of their spring intern class.

My thanks to the volunteers who brought food and snacks to the meetings and intern classes. This year's refreshments were the best I can remember, and I hope volunteers will continue to bring food and snacks to encourage interns and members.

Preliminary information from the Greenery Sale Chairs suggests that this is going to be an outstanding Greenery Sale. My outsider's view is the Greenery Sale has been well-planned and organized. Thank you.

The Dream Garden is a remarkable resource for displaying the horticulture skills of Master Gardeners. If you haven't visited the Dream Garden lately, put that on your list to do. Thanks to those volunteers who were watering the Garden or were planting and harvesting the vegetables on those hot, dry days of summer.

Masters Gardeners are involved in many outreach programs that need to be recognized. Market in the Park, Community Gardens, Grow More, Give More, Mulherin Home gardens, UHC Health

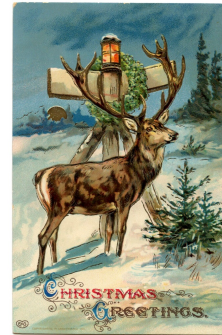


Fair, Three-Mile Creek Revival, Strickland Youth Center, Satsuma Library, Gardening for Health, and speaking at community events, are some of these programs. Thank you, all MGs who have helped in so many places in our community and the Cooperative Extension Office and HelpLine.

Several times this year, I have asked MGs to take charge of a committee or event and have given them an idea of what needs to be done. They have taken on the responsibility and made that committee or event even more successful and useful.

One person I would like to thank by name is **Carol Williams**. This year, she has edited each of my President's Comments, making them more readable and understandable. Thank you, Carol.

The Mobile County Master Gardeners is a remarkable organization because of its members and their skills and compassion. I am proud to have served as MCMG president this year. It has been an honor. **Thank you all.**



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

Now, as usual I would like to end the President's Comments with a little humor, hoping for a big smile when you read this joke.

Riddle for November:

The more of me you take, the more of me you leave behind! What am I? Footprints!
Congratulations to Gudrun Russell for sending in the correct answer.

Joke for December:

Almost all garden gnomes have red hats. It's a little-gnome fact.

Riddle for December:

What does Santa Claus like to do in his garden?

Please send your answer to readingweeder72@hotmail.com

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

All Photo sources: Mobile County Master Gardeners.

How to Dispose of Gardening Chemicals

We are all well versed in IPM, the hierarchy of science-based pesticide application. The other side of pesticide application is how to dispose of these chemicals in a responsible manner. For many of us year's end is the time to clean up and organize for the next year and that includes the "wall o' chemicals" probably located in your garage or wherever pesticides and fertilizers are stored. The following bullets follow guidelines established by state and local pesticide disposal:



- **READ LABEL DIRECTIONS!**
- Do not mix more than needed for the job.
- If you no longer need the pesticide, consider sharing with another gardener.
- Do not reuse pesticide containers, as residue can contaminate any additives to the container.
- NEVER dispose pesticides down the sink, toilet, or sewers because they will enter waterways impacting fish, plants, and humans.
- Wear appropriate PPE when disposing.
- Call the HHW Household Hazardous Waste disposal site nearest you for further information. 1-800-253-2687

Compiled by Dirt Diva

Sources: Citizen's Guide to Hazardous Waste and Recycling-Mobile County UC Extension, 2019
UF/IFAS 2020



Chronicles
by Barbara Boone

Where did 2023 go? Well, I know for a fact that this year was a busy year for MG activities. Lots of plant sales, a festival, interns to mentor, and many opportunities to learn and teach something new everyday, both at Jon Archer and venues off site in the community.

Jack LeCroy continued to present Same Page sessions on Fridays at Jon Archer. He also hosted Zoom sessions on Thursday evenings. Jack covered the new accounting of volunteer hours which was followed up by **Kerry Smith** on Oct. 19 or 20 on the same topic.

On Oct. 23 the Ornamental Research Center had a plant sale for MG members. Lots of shrubs sold that day. Following up the only problem was making sure purchases did not succumb to the cold snap we had. Fortunately we had enough weather forecasted to work around the temps.

Mobile Botanical Gardens was the venue for the annual Fall Plant Sale Oct. 26-28. Many MGs volunteers were on site assisting customers with their plant purchases. Kudos to **Theresa Davidson** who made sure there were enough volunteers at specified times throughout the sale. Some volunteer MGs are pictured below.

Oct. 30 the Lotus pod collectors, **Alissa Gochey**, **Kristen Coats**, **Cindy Findlay**, and **Barbara Boone**, visited the Japanese Gardens to gather this year's lotus pod bounty, *Nelumbo nucifera*, for the Greenery Sale. No water incidents this year, thank goodness. See Lotus Girls below.

Nov. 1 the monthly general meeting was held at Jon Archer with **Joel Potter** presenting "How to Plant a Tree" which covered planning, digging a proper hole, correcting root defects, proper planting technique, and aftercare.

Nov 2 was the scene at Jon Archer for the bow making and swag making class led by **Nina Ward**. Everyone went home with a bow and enough demo to be able to make a bow and to cobble together their own evergreen swag supplemented with other greenery or natural elements.

Nov. 3 **Theresa Davidson** and **Marion Platt** organized the first Okra Painting Party at Jon Archer. The whimsical painted okra will be used as part of the Greenery Sale upcoming Dec. 1-3 at Mobile Botanical Gardens. Who knew **Leslie Maycock, Jan Wood, Ted Atkinson, Gail Atkinson, Marion Platt, Theresa Davidson, Gudrun Russell, Mary Ann Tompkins, Marianna Parker, Lisa Davis, and Barbara Boone** had so much talent! We sure had fun! See okra pod painting in progress below.

Interns from the Master Gardener 2023 class gave their presentations on Nov. 16. Each 5 minute presentation was a learning opportunity for the interns as well as their mentors and anyone else in attendance. Kudos to the class! See interns and their topics below.

The Jon Archer auditorium was set up on Nov. 16 in preparation for the Pinecone Party held Friday, Nov. 17. MGs and interns started arriving at 8:30 on Friday and worked until about 1:30 painting pinecones as elements for the Greenery Sale to be held Dec. 1 and 2 at MBG. Kudos to everyone who drilled, glued, painted, and provided snacks, lunch, and dessert. See below for photos of all the fun.

Year's end is approaching, but no matter the season, plant with love, harvest with joy!



Some like It Hot!

Move over Carolina Reaper 'cause there's a new pepper in town! According to late breaking news, Pepper X is recorded in the Guinness Record Book as the world's hottest pepper. See the top and second photos which are Pepper X, the 3rd photo the dethroned Reaper, and then the bottom is the common bell pepper.



Ed Currie, the creator of the Carolina Reaper and Pepper X and owner of Puckerbutt Pepper Company*, says that Pepper X gives "immediate and brutal heat." He won't give away his propagation trade secrets, which was a cross between the Reaper and another hot pepper, and says that the Reaper averages at 1.64 million Scoville Heat Units while Pepper X averages at 2.693 million SHUs. Currie tested Pepper X himself and it is reported he laid on the ground moaning in pain and cramps for 6 hours, so, kids, this is not something you want to try at home.



The Scovill Scale measures the spiciness of peppers which is really a measurement of the capsaicinoid (cap-say-ci-noid) content within peppers. This chemical is made up of the compound which gives



the pepper its heat. SHUs were originally measured by simple subjective taste testing. A more scientific, precise method used today is HPLC, High Performance Liquid Chromatography. To give you a reference, below are SHUs of a few common peppers:



- Bell pepper-0
- Poblano-1,000-2,000
- Jalapeno-2,000-8,000
- Serrano-10,000-25,000
- Tobasco-30,000-50,000
- Habanero-100,000-350,000

Currie sells Pepper X hot sauces and salsa at Puckerbutt, however a recommendation before consuming this pepper in any form is to have EMS on speed dial.



Compiled by Dirt Diva

Source: Scientific American, Oct 2023
 UF/IFAS Extension
 National Gardening Assoc. Oct 2023
 Pepper Joe's Pepper Co.
 * actual name

SAVE THE DATE!

SPRING FESTIVAL MARCH 23, 2024

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Master Gardener of the Month *by Carol Williams*

Carolyn Rooks, class of 2022, is our November Master Gardener of the month. She first learned of Master Gardeners watching Studio 10 television. Julie Conrey, MCMG past president, was inviting people to join Master

Gardeners. Carolyn had retired from over 30 years with the IRS and now had time to spend on her gardening and pursuing her love of flowers. She called the number Julie offered and Diane signed her up for the class. Carolyn found the intern class enjoyable, amazed by the vast amount of information presented, and appreciates all the friends she has made. She likes to help wherever she can: at the MBG sales, the greenery sale activities, the Helpline, and many other projects for MCMG. Carolyn enjoys the company of her husband and two boys as she cares for her own favorite flowers, hibiscus and roses. Congratulations, Carolyn, for being our MG of the Month!

A History of Christmas Greenery

"Oh, Christmas tree, Oh, Christmas tree,
 How lovely art thy branches."



We are all familiar with these lyrics which extoll the beauty of the quintessential evergreen of the season. The sight and scent of terpenes found in pine resin from popular evergreens (all family Pinaceae) like Douglas fir, Frasier balsam, Scotch pine, or Colorado blue spruce evoke memories and motivate us to pull out treasured ornaments stored away since Christmas a year ago. But the sight and smell aside, how did Christmas trees and evergreens in general become a tradition?

Christmas trees did not make their recent appearance after a clever marketer decided a touchy-feely holiday commercial would motivate customers to buy a tree. Actually, the history of Christmas trees goes back to the symbolic use of evergreens in ancient Egypt and Rome, then later in northern Europe, and even later German use of Christmas trees incorporating candles.

Egyptians worshipped a god called Ra. At winter's solstice, Ra worshippers filled their homes with evergreens as a symbolic homage to overcoming death and celebrating life.

Romans marked the solstice with a feast called Saturnalia to honor the god Saturn, the god of agriculture. Since Romans knew that the growing season meant green, they festooned their homes with evergreen boughs.

Before Germany became the originator of Christmas trees, Druids in the northern part of Europe, the priests of Celts, decorated their temples with evergreen boughs as a symbol of everlasting life. Continuing the tradition, Scandinavians thought evergreens were a special plant of the sun god, Balder.

Germany is credited with the Christmas tree tradition in the mid 1500s when Christians brought evergreen trees into their homes. It is thought that Martin Luther, the Protestant reformer, first added candles to a tree after he observed stars twinkling between evergreen tree branches.

Christmas trees were first seen in American homes of the Pennsylvania Dutch around 1830. At the time, Christmas trees were not whole heartedly accepted, as they were considered a pagan and heathenistic tradition. However in the mid 1800s, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert adopted a holiday tree. These royals were what we would call the "influencers" of the day, so the Christmas tree became a holiday tradition in British and East Coast society. The tree arrived!

The Christmas tree is not the only symbolic greenery of the season. The wreath harkens back to victory, power, and resilience observed among Grecians and Romans in literature and sporting events. Later the wreath was added to a tree as an ornament, and even later the larger circular shape was used to represent eternal life.

Ancient Greece is the earliest known culture to venerate mistletoe, its white berries thought of as a fertility symbol. Now we know that mistletoe (*Arceuthobium spp.*) is a parasitic plant on woody trees and shrubs. Why it became the greenery to grab a kiss while standing under it is a little complicated. Suffice it to say that this tradition signifies love and romance, reminding us that some relationships are spontaneous, so take a chance and kiss the one standing under the mistletoe with you!

As you can see, Christmas tradition did not become entrenched by merely watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade or shopping Black Friday sales at your favorite retailer. They evolved over many centuries and through many belief systems. So, this year deck your halls and start your

own traditions with seasonal and local greenery!

Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!

Compiled by Dirt Diva

Sources: PA Extension, 2020

The History of Christmas Trees, Nat'l Christmas Tree Assoc.



Bugs 'n' Hisses!

Just because the calendar says Fall does not mean we need to forget about yellow jackets. They are still out there doing what yellow jackets do, which is to terrorize our backyards if their nests have been disturbed.

Eastern yellow jackets, *Vespula maculifrons* and the southern species, *squamosa* frequently build nests underground which is a hazard when mowing, but they also can be found in hollow logs, tree stumps, and trash bins.

Yellow jackets are scavengers seeking out sweet, sugary liquids such as fruits, nectar, and tree sap. Foraging workers also seek out proteins which will help equip the queens and the new generation of insects.

A sting from a yellow jacket is not easily forgotten. It hurts! They are very aggressive and will sting anything perceived as a threat. In fact, yellow jackets can be more aggressive in the Fall, since some members of the nest may be dying off. The sting releases pheromones which exacerbates the pain for hours and even encourages other yellow jackets to fly in and sting.

How to prevent being stung? If it is an underground nest, first be observant and then pour bacterial soap in the nest hole. Make sure trash bins are tightly closed. Purchase traps as a preventative alternative. If all else fails, only then use aerosol sprays designated for wasps, hornets, and yellow jackets.

Compiled by Dirt Diva

Source and photo: aces.edu/resources/yellow-jackets by Zing Ping Hu, 2021

Holidays Are For Designing





Leslie Maycock



Barbara Boone



Jan Wood



Mary Ann Tomberlin



Lisa Davis



Ted and Gail Atkinson



Marion Platt and faithful
Boudreau



Marianna Parker



Gudrun Russell

Fall MBG Plant Sale



Barbara Boone, Cindy Findlay, Brenda Duncan at MBG Plant Sale



Kathy Deckbar, Jane Finley, Marion Platt, Theresa Davidson, Carolyn Rooks, Shirley Reynolds at MBG Plant Sale



Sharon Clasemen still painting okra



Joy Earp and Janine Brunet at MBG Fall Sale

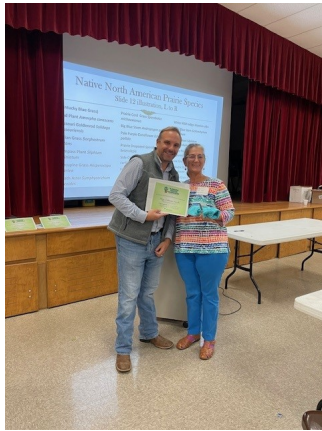


MGs assisting MBG Fall Plant Sale Customers



Carol Dorsey and Mary Townsley Directing MBG Fall Sale Customers

Intern Presentations



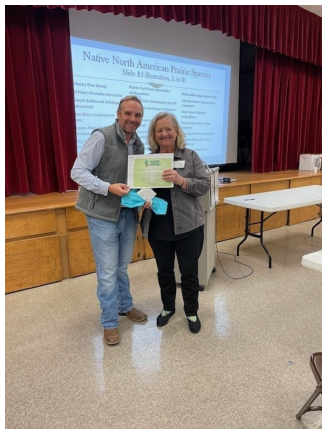
Mary Catherine Faralli-
Daylilies



Rynn Toifel-African
Violets



Gudrun Russell-
Propagation Firespike



Carolyn Davidson-
Pollinators



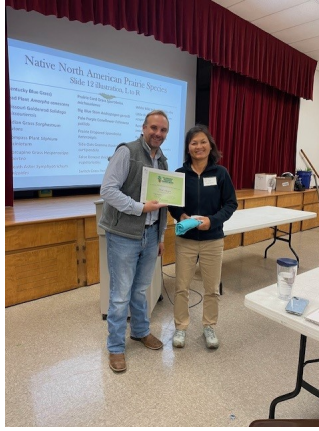
Ted Atkinson-Alphabet
of Pests



Neil Milligan-Carbon
Storage/Sequestration



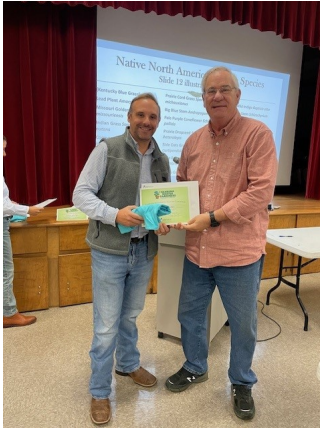
Debra Morrow-Magnolias



Khanh Nguyen-Citronella Plant



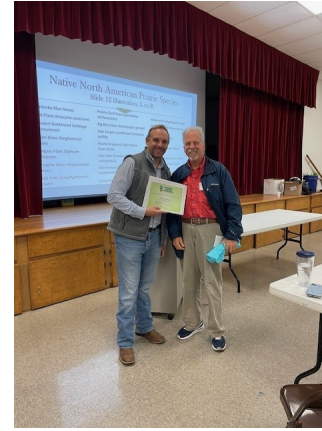
Kristen Coats-House Plants



Chester Vrocher-Raised Beds



Paul Barnes-Prevent Heat Injury



Todd Golomb-Container Vegetable Gardening



Margaret Henderson-Alabama Biodiversity



Jan Wood-Stone Fruits



Alissa Gochey-Sweet Potatoes



Intern Class 2023

Pinecone Party 2023



Everyone's havin' fun!



Fruit o' the Month

Pumpkins and some other Cucurbits are not the only fall fruits to tout. This month take a look at the persimmon, *Diospyros spp.*, a deciduous tree that can attain a height of 30 feet or more. Persimmon fruit are red to orange with a typical calyx which dries at the top of the fruit. The fruit is sweet



tart with a soft to fibrous texture inside.

The word persimmon is derived from the word "putchamin" an Algonquin word meaning "a dry fruit." Persimmons originated in Asia, but are now seen commonly in zones 5-9, but do better in warmer locations like the Southeast in loamy, rich soil.

Compiled by Dirt Diva

Sources: Extension UF/IFAS



Cracking up Over Pecans

Grown in rural Alabama, pecan trees and pecan orchards are a common sight. Nut lovers realize that pecans are nut royalty, the King of Nuts. Although there are many pecan tree varieties, the pecans frequently grown in this region are the Stuart and Elliott varieties.

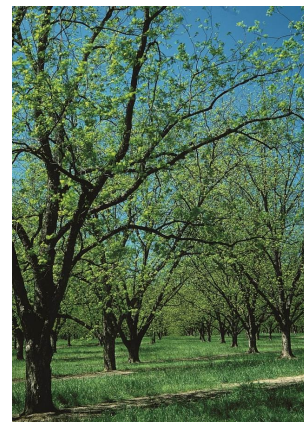
Pecans are nutritious flavor bombs containing vitamins A and E, fiber, calcium, zinc, and magnesium. In addition, a healthy oil is produced which is an indicator of freshness.

Sadly not every year is a good pecan harvest year because pecan trees as well as other nut trees undergo what is called masting. Masting means that nut trees produce nuts in an alternate year. Scientists have theorized this phenomenon is to overwhelm birds and animals which feed on the nuts so that seeds will be left to produce seedlings, allowing the species to survive.

Editor's Note: if you want to remain my friend, please pronounce the King of Nuts "pa-KAHN" and NOT "PEE-can" like some do. "PEE-can" people should only eat PEE-nuts!

by Dirt Diva

Source: aces.edu/resources/pecan-varieties



All Boggled Down!

Most holiday tables have some form of cranberry condiment, either Grandma's Cranberry Orange Relish or cranberry sauce from that iconic can. You know the one, right? Once the lid is removed, that jiggly jelly slithers out and plops on the plate.

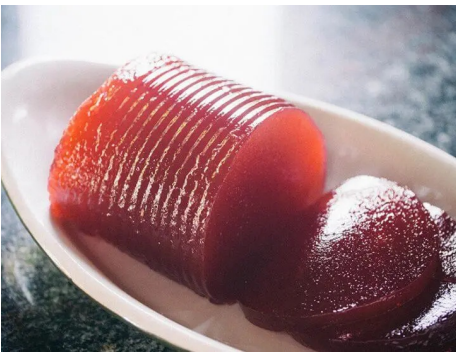
Cranberries (*Vaccinium spp.*) are



one crop that is not commercially valuable in our region, but there are 5 states in the U.S. that produce more cranberries than any other. In order of barrels grown they are: Wisconsin, Massachusetts, Maine, Oregon and Washington.



Cranberries grow on perennial vines in acidic peat soil in bogs and marshes which have a trench of water running through them. When it's harvest time, farmers flood the fields, causing cranberries to float which are gathered in pontoons and scoops. By the way, that is where the "ocean spray" term originates.



Besides being tasty additions to the holiday table, cranberries are high in vitamins and polyphenols which provide immune protection against certain diseases.

Compiled by Dirt Diva

Sources: National Geographic, 2019
U of Maine extension, 2014

Grow More Give More Update

Carol Dorsey reports that Mobile Urban Growers and Mobile County Master Gardeners had the opportunity to talk about the benefits of gardening at Via Senior Center with Public Education in the United Healthcare Wellness Program. The two hour program was well attended, and the participants seemed to enjoy learning how gardening improves one's physical, mental, and social well being. As part of the program, there was a mindfulness exercise, opportunities demonstrated for journaling with garden metaphors, and teaching moments of plant propagation. Master Gardeners **Theresa Davidson**, **Carol Dorsey**, and **Brenda Howard** shared volunteer program information, Grow More Give More, opportunities at Mobile Botanical Gardens, and community gardening around Mobile.



What have some Master gardeners learned this year?

At year's end some Master Gardeners report this is what they have learned this year:

Summer of 2023 I learned the importance of placing

tomato plants below the garden soil surface. Not just the ball of roots, but also the STEM needs to be buried in my rich garden soil.-**Ellen Killough**

Weekly BT treatments in April and May kept the hornworms away from my tomatoes.-**Mary Townsley**

Manure (in bags, not fresh) gives really big hibiscus flowers.-**Alice Marty**

Well, this year I planted a fall garden for the first time ever. I've learned that fall vegetables have less stress from bugs, therefore taking less of my time and energy. Still waiting on tomatoes to ripen (at time of submission). But I've been picking cucumbers, peppers, and snap beans. Loving the ease of a fall garden.-**Leslie Maycock**

I learned that squash vine borers are vicious insects and are quick to destroy a zucchini crop. Next planting season I will apply BT sooner and longer and place a cardboard cover on the plant base.-**Barbara Boone**

I cannot say enough about my experience in the Master Gardener class to actually do it justice. I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it! After each class I would go home with a feeling of curiosity along with several ah-ha moments - and for me that is a wonderful feeling. My husband will be first one to tell you that if I'm not learning something new, I'm not happy. Ha! The fact that gardening is now a form of relaxation for me and not a frustrating puzzle is also a blessing. Plus, to now have the knowledge to help a struggling plant or to help another frustrated gardener with the mental tools that were provided in this class is priceless. I'm so excited to learn more and to help along the way.
-intern **Kristen Coats**



From the Greenhouse: The Plantcast by Jes Gearing

Editor's note: Once again Jes Gearing has been listening to a gardening and nature-related podcast. So, from her ears to our eyes, enjoy!

Gardens, Weeds, & Words

From the opening moments of Gardens, Weeds, & Words (<https://www.gardensweedsandwords.com/>) by Andrew Timothy O'Brien, you know you're settling in for a very different podcast than most. Birds are chirping and the wind rustles through leaves. You hear the gentle clack of a person typing on a manual typewriter. Promoted as "a blend of slow radio, gardening advice and conversation, and readings from the best garden and wildlife writing," Gardens, Weeds, & Words offers a quiet interlude from the bustle of the everyday life and a chance to cozy up with a cup of your choice while enjoying readings from gardening books and interviews with writers, artists, florists, and garden designers.

One of my favorite episodes focuses on wildlife gardening (<https://www.gardensweedsandwords.com/gwwblog/gww-podcast-s01e05>). This episode focuses on the quiet planning season of the winter garden. The readings feature *The Well-Tempered Garden*, by Christopher Lloyd, and *Home Ground*, by Dan Pearson, two books with seasonal themes that follow the author on a year through his garden. Pearson's excerpt focuses on the form and structure that dead plants provide to the winter garden, with dried out stalks and seed heads, the way that they provide seed for the birds and mulch for the dormant perennials. It's a perfect segue to the episode's interview with Kate Bradbury, a wildlife gardener, tv presenter, and author.

When the interview begins, there's no formal start. Instead, it feels as if

you're passing their conversation in a coffeeshop and you're invited you to pull up a chair and join. As a wildlife gardener, Kate promotes plants and plans that foster food and habitat for animals, but she isn't militant about the cause. In her mind, "Gardens should be designed in a way to suit us...but as stewards of the land we should use our privilege in having the gardens to cater to as much wildlife as we can."

She even talks at length about how lawns are *not* evil, that rather they can promote a biodiverse habitat and suit our desires for a patch of manicured green turf. "They're a monoculture when you lay the lawn but then we all know that everything seeds into them and after about three years you've got a wide variety of plants growing into them." Her suggestion? Simply add an extra week or two between mows to let the wild plants (yes, even weeds) root in and create food and habitat for the ants and beetles that birds and others want to eat.

It's this balance of nature vs. the manicured garden that I love so much in this podcast. As Andrew, the host, says it so perfectly in this episode, "If a plant lights you up, then plant it." In other words, just because a plant is not deemed "high quality" for wildlife by the experts doesn't mean that it doesn't provide habitat or other important services to insects, birds, and others. Ecosystems are complex, but our own joy is important too—if nothing else, isn't that why we all garden?

MCMG Best Seller: The Case of the Missing Banner

Dirt Diva's debut novel has Detective Cindy Findlay of the Cold Case Squad continuing the most scintillating investigation of her career, finding the missing Master Gardener banner. (See below) No stone unturned, she has interviewed POIs and searched every cabinet and every nook and cranny at Jon Archer seeking evidence. If you have any information regarding this banner, please leave an anonymous message in the MG area or on the Tip Line at 251-574-8445.



In The Loop

by Theresa Davidson

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

for Master Gardeners and Interns

NO GENERAL MEETING IN DECEMBER



Annual Awards Banquet

Jon Archer Center

Sunday, December 10, 5:30 pm

Harry Surline, 251.605.4667, h.surline@gmail.com



December Board of Directors Meeting

Jon Archer Center

December 5, 10:00 am

Harry Surline, 251.605.4667, h.surline@gmail.com

MGA/AMGA Administration



Collect Greenery for the Greenery Sale

Saturday, November 25, 8:30 am

Auburn Research Center, 411 N. McGregor 36608

Mo Moates 251.366.6163 memo366@att.net

Fundraiser



Wash Greenery for the Greenery Sale

Sunday, November 26, 11:00 am

Jon Archer Center

Mo Moates, 251.366.6163, memo366@att.net

Fundraiser



Floral Design Days for Christmas Greenery Sale

Design mailbox toppers, wreaths, and Cuppa Cheer

Jon Archer Large Auditorium

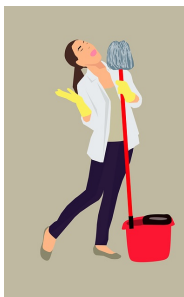
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, November 27, 28, 29

9:00 am to 3 pm (Work 1, 2, 3 hours, etc., as much as you would like. You don't have to work the whole day.)

Paula Reeves, 251.463.4558, paulareeves7@gmail.com

Emily Arrelano, 251.366.4558, edparel70@gmail.com

Fundraiser



CLEAN-UP CREW for Design Days

Tidy up the auditorium while the designers work their magic.

Jon Archer

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Nov. 27, 28, 29

2 Shifts: 9:00 am-12:00 pm, 12:00 pm-3:00 pm

Brenda Howard, 251-423-3108 eeks89tl@gmail.com

Fundraiser

Okra and Cotton Boll Ornaments

Continue creating handmade ornaments to sell at the MBG Holiday Market

Jon Archer Small Auditorium

Wednesday and Thursday, November 29 and 30



9:00 am-3:00 pm
Fundraiser



Attach Ready-Made Bows to Wreaths for Greenery Sale

Attach bows to wreaths. Jon Archer Large Auditorium
Wednesday, November 29 9:00 am
Approximately 6 Volunteers needed
Contact: Paula Reeves Tel: 251-463-4560 Email: paulareeves7@gmail.com
Fundraiser



Load ARRANGEMENTS, TRANSPORT to MBG, SET UP tables on Patio, DISPLAY arrangements

Jon Archer to load, MBG to unload
Thursday, November 30, 10:00 am -2:00 or 3:00 pm?
Fundraiser



Customer Pick Up of Online Orders

Jon Archer
Thursday, November 30, **Time to be announced**
Robert Howard 251-423-2605 rhoward51@gmail.com
Fundraiser



Holiday Market at the Gardens

MBG Patio- outside Gift Shop
Friday, December 1, 9:00 am-3:00 pm
Saturday, December 2, 9:00 am-1:00 pm
Paula Reeves, 251.463.4558, paulareeves7@gmail.com
Emily Arrelano, 251.366.4558, edparel70@gmail.com
Fundraiser



Decorate Jon Archer Auditorium for Annual Mobile County Master Gardener Banquet

Jon Archer Center
Sunday, December 10
Time and details TBA
MGA/AMGA Meeting



Annual Mobile County Master Gardener Banquet

Jon Archer Center

Sunday, December 10, 5:30 pm

Extension will provide the meat:

If your name falls in-between A-M, please bring a side dish.

If your name falls in-between N-Z, please bring a dessert.

Please RSVP to Diane at 251-574-8445

or jda0002@aces.edu.

MGA/AMGA Meeting

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities for Master Gardeners and Interns



Monthly Garden Zoom Class

Jack LeCroy

3rd Thursday of the month, 6-7 pm, November 16

Diane Anthony, jda0002@aces.edu, 251.574.8445 or

www.aces.edu/go/gardenzoom to register

CEU



Master Gardener Helpline Tuesday - Friday.

Please call Diane Anthony to schedule these shifts.

Morning shift 8:30 - 12:00

Afternoon shift 12:00 - 3:30

Contact: Cindy Findlay Email: cndyfndly@att.net

Helpline

Day	Date	Volunteer
Sat	Dec 02	
Sun	Dec 03	
Mon	Dec 04	Lydia Criswell
Sat	Dec 09	
Sun	Dec 10	
Mon	Dec 11	Lydia Criswell

Master Gardener Statewide Helpline Mondays

Please commit to Mondays on the Statewide Helpline.

Sign up online under '**Helpline Calendar**'.

Morning Shift: 8:30 -12:00

Afternoon Shift - 12:00- 3:30.

Contact: Cindy Findlay Email: cndyfndly@att.net

Helpline



Prepare Snacks for MG General Meetings:

Jon Archer Center

Lydia Criswell, 251.610.5543, criswells2@mchsi.com

MGA/AMGA Meeting: Add your round trip drive time to the meeting time.

Beginning January 2024

Orchid Society Meeting

Mobile Japanese Garden meeting room, 700 Forest Hill

4th Sunday of the month (except June & Dec), 2:00

Lynn Coleman, 251.622.3939, [lynncolman411@gmail](mailto:lynncolman411@gmail.com)



CEU for the presentation



Gulf Coast Herb Society

Mobile Botanical Gardens 4th Tues. of the month,
(except July and Nov.), 5:30 pm
Beth Poates, 251.342.6508, poates57@hotmail.com
CEU for presentation



Camellia Club of Mobile

Jon Archer Center
2nd Sun of the month: Sept. 2023- April 2024, 2:00 pm
mobilecamellia.org, Camellia Club of Mobile FB Group
CEU for presentation



K Sawada Camellia Club

Most meetings at Mobile Botanical Gardens
1st Sunday of the month: Nov. 5, 2023- March 2024
2:00 pm
Vaughn Drinkard, vdrinkard@yahoo.com
CEU for presentation



Mobile Japanese Garden

700 Forest Hill Drive
Volunteer your MG skills any morning/afternoon.
Text Don to coordinate!
Don Fry, 251.422.8466, don.fry@comcast.net,
mobilejapanesegarden.com
Community Landscape



Community Gardens:

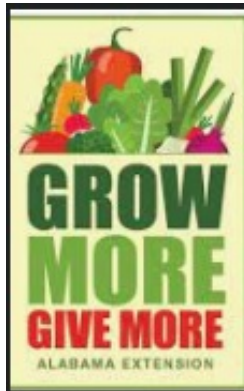
Grow More Give More with Mobile Urban Growers:
mobileurbangrowers.org
Community gardens in Midtown, Downtown, + other
neighborhoods, school sites. Search FB "Mobile Urban
Growers" and Community Gardens
Carol Dorsey, 251.209.3483, bcdorsey63@gmail.com
mobileurbangrowers@gmail.com
Helping Garden

Mobile Medical Museum

Robert Thrower Medicinal Garden



Curating and maintaining everchanging collection +
gardening with Full Life Ahead, serving adults with
intellectual disabilities, usually on Wednesdays
1664 Springhill Avenue
Carol Dorsey, 251.209.3483, bcdorsey63@gmail.com
Helping Garden



Grow More Give More
Statewide Master Gardeners initiative to encourage food
gardening and sharing produce
2 Ambassadors needed: attend meetings, target areas
for grant development/grant funds fulfillment
Carol Dorsey, 251.209.3483, bcdorsey63@gmail.com
Community Food



Speakers Bureau
Paul Ezelle, 251.402.1798, paulezelle@gmail.com
Bob Howard, 251.423.3108, rwhoward51@gmail.com
Program or workshop for public



Office Manager/Phone Lines/MG Helpline
Cindy Findlay, 251.786.4245, cndyfindly@att.net



DREAM GARDEN: Join a Garden Room (**See below**)
Jon Archer Center
Marsha Stolz, 251.689.5993, marshastolz@msn.com
Contact Marsha **or** a Garden Leader to volunteer and
work as needed.
Education/Demonstration

The Gardens:

Grandma's Pass Along Garden

Catherine Moates, 251.366.6163, memo366@att.net
Olivia Reinhaus, 251.458.7383, omcvea@gmail

Native Garden

Melissa Nichols, 251.680.7779, indigigardener@gmail.com

Shade Garden

Bob Howard, 251.423.3108, rwhoward51@gmail.com

Vegetable Garden

Marsha Stolz, 251.689.5993, marshastolz@msn.com
Mary Ann Days, 251.391.5806, masdays@comcast.net

Herb Garden

Mary Ann Days, 251.391.5806, masdays@comcast.net

Cottage Garden & Formal Garden

Glenda Eady, 251.342.4248, jerryeady2@comcast.net

Building Garden

Marsha Stolz, 251.689.5993, marshastolz@msn.com

Mission Statement

The Alabama Master Gardener Volunteer Program is an educational outreach program provided and administered by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A & M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity and employer. www.aces.edu



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

[Unsubscribe mobilemastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:mobilemastergardeners@gmail.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by mobilemastergardeners@gmail.com