



June 2023
Volume XXXI Issue VI



NEWSLETTER OF THE BALDWIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, INC.

www.baldwinmastergardeners.com

2023 BCMG Elected Board

- President:
Mary Calvin
- Vice-President:
Don Richerson
- Treasurer:
Cassandra Rabren
- Recording Secretary:
Terri Wallace
- Corresponding Secretary:
Lydia Chan
- Members at Large:
Charlotte Hamm
Beth Robinson
- Past President:
Joni Euler

2023 Appointed Board Members:

- Monthly Program Chair:
Tany Waldron
- Intern Class Coordinator:
Anita O'Connor
- Outreach Coordinator:
Eileen Huisman
- Finance Committee Chair:
Gina Blakeman
- Projects Chair:
Elmer Vick

President's Notes by Mary Calvin

"Green was the silence, wet was the light, the month of June trembled like a butterfly." – Pablo Neruda

I got a phone call last week saying the second generation of Monarch caterpillars is eating all the milkweed we gave out in March. The good thing is that it puts out more leaves. Please plant more milkweed for the Monarchs. Other host plants to consider: Gulf Fritillaries use passionflower vine. Swallowtail butterflies use parsley, dill, fennel, golden alexander, and other members of the carrot family. Oak trees are the champion host plant as they support over 500 varieties of caterpillars, according to author Douglas Tallamy.

What fun it was to hear the interns' presentations! Terry Delker got us ready to garden with Chair Yoga. Diane Roberson-Hill showed Rabbit Ferns that have been in the family for three generations, Mickey Ezell spoke on native Azaleas, Lee Brady on air-layering Camellias and Karon Pennington on Angel Trumpets. Therapist Julie Cox researched the horticultural therapy certification, and Dolores Hammack discussed the native habitat certification program by South Alabama Land Trust (SALT). Liz Young spoke about composting, and Patty Rowland took on edible weeds. Keith Cardwell demonstrated making "soil blocks", and George Donchez took a light-hearted look at the relationship between steel and plants.

Each of the interns received a certificate for completing the class. We will welcome them formally at the July 12 Awards Luncheon.

The general meeting on June 14 will feature "The Water Cycle," a lesson from the Master Environmental Program by Liz Wojtaszek and Charlotte Roberts. The business meeting will include Treasurer Cassandra Rabren's report. As of the May 10 meeting it looked like the plant sale revenue was over \$46,000.00 with expenses over \$25,000.00. Note that we will no longer offer a hybrid meeting with a Zoom option.

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President's Notes by Mary Calvin (continued)

Kids Nature Day Camp with the theme "Friendly Insects in the Garden" will be Friday, June 16. Contact coordinator Fran Posey Eversole if you would like to volunteer.

June 20 and 22 will find Master Gardeners helping out at the Daphne Library's Summer Reading Program with the focus on gardening. Contact coordinator Wanda Martin to help.

Enjoy the summer days with your children and grandchildren. I hope you have a chance to get away for a summer vacation.

Happy Father's Day to all the dads in BCMG!



Intern Class Presentation Day—May 11, 2023



Diane Roberson-Hill



Julie Cox



Elizabeth "Liz" Young



Patty Rowland



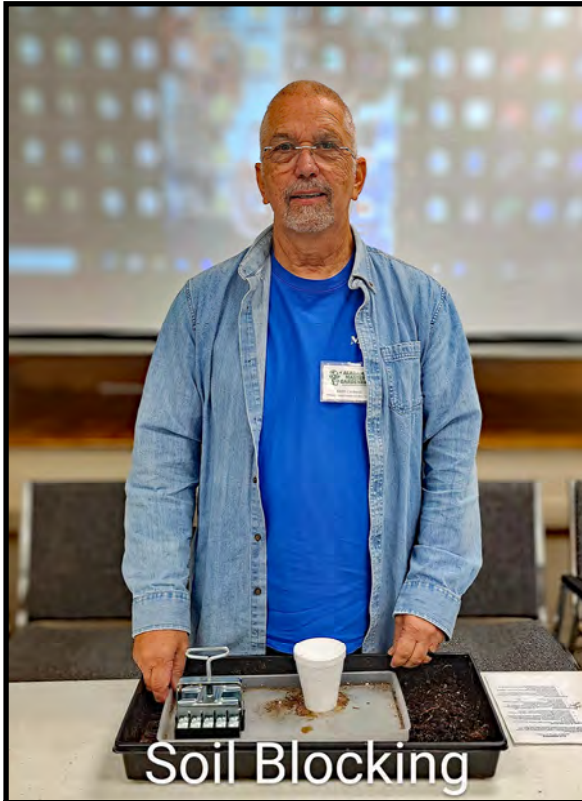
Lee Brady



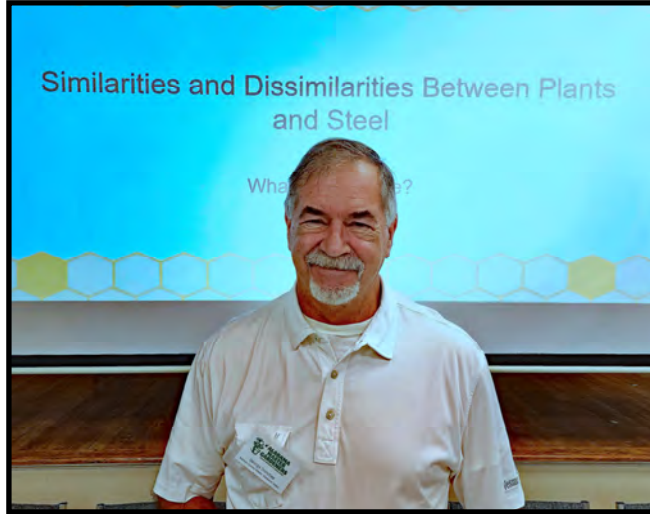
Karon Pennington (*History and Development of Brugmansia*)



Intern Class Presentation Day—May 11, 2023 (continued)



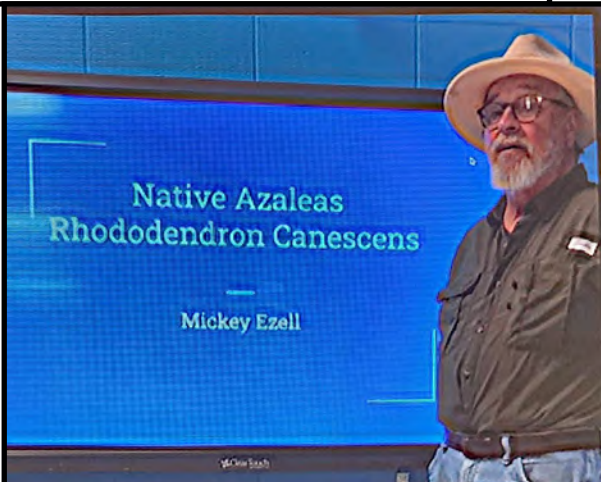
Keith Cardwell



George Donchez



Dolores Hammack



Mickey Ezell



Terry Delker

Intern Class Coordinator,
Anita O'Connor, and
Jack LeCroy





Earth Day Gulf Shores by Eileen Huisman

Earth Day was held at the middle school in Gulf Shores. Teachers stopped by with the classes and watched as two Monarch Butterflies emerged from their chrysalis. Master Gardeners helped the children pot over 300 seedlings that were planted in the greenhouse by intern Mickey Ezell. This Earth Day was coordinated by Sharon Smith, Mickey Ezell, and Eileen Huisman. A true fun day for all!



Mickey Ezell and Sharon Smith



Lamb Farm Tour by Mary Calvin

We had two beautiful days in April for our visits to Susan Palmer's 70 acre lamb farm in Bay Minette. Susan and her husband, Mike, started the flock in 2021 with eight ewes and one ram of the breed of hair sheep called Katahdin, which has straight shedding hair that does not need to be sheared. This year's ten pregnant ewes produced 3 single births, 6 sets of twins, and one set of triplets. Bertie was the smallest of the triplets and the lamb we got to hold. The rams and ewes are kept in separate plots, munching on winter rye, oats, Bahia grass and clover.



Katahdin Lambs



Susan Palmer bottle feeding Bertie



George Holman said it was a great way to celebrate his 86th birthday



Lamb Farm Tour by Mary Calvin (continued)



Brenda Montgomery



Teena Reed holding Bertie



Jane Spicciani holding Bertie



Patsy Conner



Reba Cunningham



The Tuesday tour had lunch at the Stagecoach Café in Stockton: Zetty Bauer, Brenda Montgomery, Mike Palmer, Susan Palmer, Teri Shoemaker, Don Richerson, Phyllis Holman, George Holman. Not pictured: Susan Mattingly, Melinda Lewis, Janet Davis, Mary Calvin



Shaggy-haired Katahdin Rams



Introducing [Signup.com](https://signup.com): Streamlining Helpline Sign-ups by Andreu Riebe

All members are welcome and encouraged to work at the Helpline. It's good experience researching and a good way to get to know our interns and newest master gardeners.

We have a new Helpline Schedule Sign-up process this year. To enhance convenience and efficiency, we have integrated [SignUp.com](https://signup.com), the leading online SignUp and reminder tool, into our operations. This user-friendly platform will simplify the scheduling experience for all members.

Here's how it works in just three easy steps:

Click the following link to access our SignUp on [SignUp.com](https://signup.com): <https://signup.com/go/LRoBLgZ>
Take a moment to review the available options and select the spot(s) that best suit your preferences.

Sign up with ease! There is no need to register an account or remember a password on [SignUp.com](https://signup.com). Rest assured that [SignUp.com](https://signup.com) prioritizes your privacy and will not share your email address with any third parties.

In response to your feedback, we have expanded the number of spots available per shift to four, providing greater flexibility in scheduling. This change allows for a smoother distribution of shifts and ensures everyone can find a suitable time to contribute their expertise and support.

Once you arrive for your scheduled shift, please contact Cathy Banning at the Bay Minette office by calling (251) 937-7176. Inform her that you are at the Helpline and kindly request that any local calls be forwarded to you. This way, we can ensure efficient communication and seamless assistance to our community.

To further enhance accessibility and ease of sign-up, we have also included a QR code for your convenience. To utilize the QR code, follow these simple instructions:

- Open your smartphone's camera app or a QR code scanning application.
- Point your device's camera at the QR code included in this article.
- Wait for the app to scan the QR code and automatically redirect you to the [SignUp.com](https://signup.com) page.
- Review the available options and select your desired spot(s).
- Complete the sign-up process effortlessly, without the need for registration or password creation.

We hope this integration of [SignUp.com](https://signup.com) significantly improves your experience with scheduling and helps us better serve our community. If you have any further suggestions or feedback regarding our Helpline Schedule Sign-up, please don't hesitate to reach out to Andreu Riebe at Andreu.ar@baldwinmastergardeners.com





Let's Get Growing With BCMG Webinar by Andreu Riebe

We are excited to announce the upcoming Let's Get Growing (LGG) webinar session, where we will have the privilege of hosting renowned botanist, author, and educator, Dr. Scott Zona, Ph.D. So, mark your calendars for this enlightening event as we delve into the fascinating world of botany and discover how it can empower us as gardeners.

Session Details:

Date: **June 20th**

Time: 1 P.M.

Platform: Zoom

Speaker: Dr. Scott Zona, Ph.D.

Presentation Title: "Fundamentals: Gardener's Guide to Botany"



In this webinar session, Dr. Scott Zona will guide us through the fundamentals of plant botany, enabling us to make informed decisions and cultivate thriving landscapes. Then, with a specific focus on the home landscape, he will break down the complexities of botany into practical knowledge that can be readily applied to our daily gardening endeavors.

As a distinguished botanist, Dr. Zona brings a wealth of expertise to the table. He holds a B.S. in horticulture and an M.S. in botany from the University of Florida, and his Ph.D. in botany was earned from the California Botanic Garden & Claremont Graduate University. Dr. Zona's botanical research has taken him to various regions, including the Western Pacific, Caribbean, Central America, South America, Madagascar, Malesia, and the continental United States.

With over 175 scientific and popular articles published, Dr. Zona has made significant contributions to the field of botany. His latest book, "A Gardener's Guide to Botany," published in December 2022, provides valuable insights for gardeners seeking to deepen their understanding of the subject.

During the session, Dr. Zona will share his expertise and passion for plants, equipping us with the knowledge and tools necessary to make informed decisions in our gardening practices. Whether you're a novice gardener or a seasoned enthusiast, this webinar promises to be an engaging and enlightening experience.

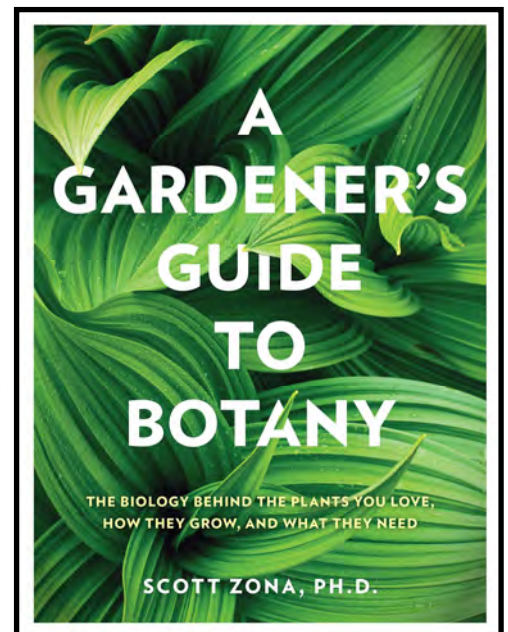
To join the LGG webinar with Dr. Scott Zona, save the date and stay tuned for further details, including the webinar link, that will be sent out via email closer to the date.

Stay tuned for more information, and we look forward to your participation in this exciting Let's Get Growing webinar!

For any questions,

Andreu Riebe

Andreu.AR@baldwinmastergardeners.com





Summerdale School Butterfly Garden by Elmer Vick

The 4th grade class of Ms. Danielle Medolla wanted to plant a Butterfly Garden. They chose containers rather than an in-ground garden. The students cleaned the containers and painted each a little different. With the help of Master Gardener Liz Wojtaszek, the students planted each container with plants donated by CACC greenhouse, Cassandra Rabren, and Liz along with some plants from their classroom.



June Birthdays



6-1	Zetty Bauer
6-4	Clarence McCawley
6-7	Kay Heinrich
6-11	Tiffany Griffin
6-13	Pam Ewell
6-15	Fred Nation
6-17	JoAnn Jordan
6-20	Beth Robinson
6-21	Diana Spillman
6-22	Linda Crowell
6-22	Jim Gaines
6-28	Pauline Ouellette
6-30	Tanys Waldron

Life...is all about the Journey.



Meeting Minutes by Terri Wallace

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Calvin at 10:00 a.m. 79 members were present including six attending by Zoom.

Mary welcomed all the members and interns. Lyn Webb, AMGA Secretary, was our special guest. Lyn is a member of both Chilton County and Calhoun County MGs, is a board member for Calhoun County, and is Treasurer for Chilton County. She is visiting as many county chapters as possible to learn how all of us do things.

Tanys Waldron introduced our speaker, Wanda Martin, whose topic was "I Love Orchids". Wanda presented a fun and informative program. Here are some highlights from her presentation.

- There are 700 genera and 28,000 individual species of orchids. They are either terrestrial (earth growing) or epiphytic (grown on the surface of other plants or material as they absorb moisture and nutrients from the air).



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Meeting Minutes by Terri Wallace (continued)

- Wanda's focus today was on Moth Orchids. She taught us how to care for them, how to know when to repot them, why we have such trouble getting orchids to rebloom, and how to fertilize and water orchids.
- Keep orchids in bright, indirect, light and give them southern exposure to the sun. A grow light may also be used.
- Repot every 2 years or so. Trim dead roots and using a pencil, poke the rest of the roots back into the pot. Orchids like to be rootbound. Use sphagnum moss, bark, or a mixture of both as your potting medium.
- Water orchids in the morning when they feel dry, fertilize weekly when dormant and every two weeks in the flowering phase.
- Once the blooms of the orchid are past their prime, cut back to a node behind the blooms. Another bloom will appear on the tip of the stalk.

Her talk included good and useable information. Please don't miss the next opportunity to hear her presentation.

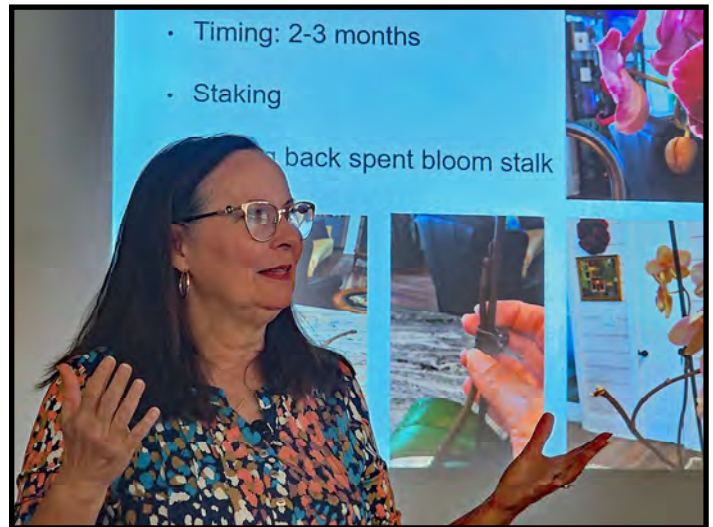
After a short break, the business meeting began.

March meeting minutes: Gina Blakeman made a motion to approve the minutes, Elmer Vick seconded, and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Cassandra Rabren gave information about the Plant Sale. Income was \$46,651.65. Expenses to date are \$25,320.82 which includes plants, Port-O-Lets, U-Haul rental and gas, food, drinks and taxes. Daphne and Community College greenhouse expenses will be deducted. All are asked to turn in receipts as soon as possible. Money from the Fire Sale of leftover greenhouse plants and items from the Trash and Treasures held today are not yet included in the profits. Preliminary profit is \$21,330.83. We currently have \$67,580.61 in our Regions account. This includes \$31,270.70 from the closing of the Community Foundation account. The Community Funds will be moved to CDs soon. We have a total of \$78,835.99 in liabilities and assets. Cassandra reviewed the quarterly 2023 budget, giving updates on actual vs. budgeted numbers on many items. Questions were answered and everyone is looking forward to the final Plant Sale report next month.

Outreach: Eileen Huisman announced that Kid's Day will be held June 16, 2023. Fran Posey is the BCMG co-coordinator with Sarah Butterworth from ACES. Volunteers for this event are needed. Please let Eileen know if you can assist. The July Awards Luncheon will be on July 12, 2023 at the Foley Civic Center. Doors open at 10:30, there will be a short meeting at 11:00, and lunch will be served at 11:30. The menu includes Chicken Tetrazzini, summer squash, broccoli, and strawberry short cake. The cost is \$17.00 per person.

Intern Class: Anita O'Connor said that May 11, 2023 is the last official day of class. A luncheon will be held following the class presentations. All are welcome and are asked to bring a salad or a dessert. Eight interns will present in person and three by video. All the interns accomplished getting 25 volunteer hours by mid-April. Two interns will receive a bronze star for the completion of 100 volunteer hours. Three interns have their Help Line hours. Mentors haven't been comfortable assisting their interns at the Help Line and Anita plans for next year's



(Continued on page 11)



Meeting Minutes by Terri Wallace (continued)

mentors to be experienced with the Help Line. Signup.com is the link to volunteer at the Help Line.

Mary Calvin recognized members who participated in events recently by asking them to stand as she named the event. Members were recognized for working Festival of Flowers, the Plant Sale, Earth Day, Delta Woods and Water, Summerdale School project, Stapleton School project, and Tuesdays with MGs.

Wanda Martin asked for volunteers to assist with The Daphne Library Summer Reading Program. The program will focus on gardening. They are asking for MGs to give some tips about planting and help the children plant a flower to take home. There will be three sessions:

- Tuesday, June 20 at 2:00 p.m. — Grades 3-5
- Thursday June 22 at 10:30 a.m. — Grades K-2
- Thursday June 22 at 2:00 p.m. — Grades K-2

Approximately 12-15 children will be in each session and Wanda needs 3-4 MGs to assist at each one.

Lydia Chan asked that anyone having issues receiving BCMG emails contact her for assistance.

Tanys Waldron announced that Fran Posey will be married May 18, 2023 and all BCMGs are invited. Contact Tanys for information.

Mary Hamilton announced she had packets available for 2024 AMGA Conference fundraising. If 240 businesses donate \$100.00 each, we would raise \$24,000.00. Please see Mary to receive the packets.

Elmer Vick donated lovely flower arrangements as door prizes. The flowers came from Ben Trione. Winners were Liz Wojtaszek, Anita O'Connor, Mary Hamilton, Brenda Montgomery, Carolyn Koch, Carma Gronback, Pat Greer, and Kay Heinrich.

There being no further business, Julian Walthall made a motion to adjourn, Ed Pickle seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Service Hours

Please remember to record your volunteer service and CEU hours!

June 15 at 11:59 p.m. is the recording deadline for Certified Master Gardeners to receive an award at the July Awards Luncheon.





Mark Your Calendar

June 7, 2023	BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
June 14, 2023	BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, Liz Wojtaszek and Charlotte Roberts, <i>The Water Cycle</i> (Meeting is In Person only)
June 14, 2023	Urban Green: Back 2 Basics Wednesday Webinar Series, 10:00-11:00 a.m.
June 15, 2023	Deadline to record Volunteer Service and CEU hours for July Awards Luncheon
June 15, 2023	Monthly Gardening Zoom Classes, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
June 16, 2023	Kids Nature Day—Theme “ <i>Friendly Insects in the Garden</i> ”, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
June 20, 2023	Let’s Get Growing with BCMG, 1:00 p.m. via Zoom, Dr. Scott Zona, Ph.D, <i>Fundamentals: Gardener’s Guide to Botany</i>
June 20, 2023	Daphne Library Summer Reading Program-Focus on Gardening, 2:00 p.m., Grades 3-5
June 22, 2023	Daphne Library Summer Reading Program-Focus on Gardening, 10:30 a.m., Grades K-2
June 22, 2023	Daphne Library Summer Reading Program-Focus on Gardening, 2:00 p.m., Grades K-2
June 26, 2023	Monthly Extension-MG Update Meeting via Zoom, 1:00-2:00 p.m.
June 28, 2023	Urban Green: Back 2 Basics Wednesday Webinar Series, 10:00-11:00 a.m.
July 5, 2023	BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
July 12, 2023	BCMG Membership Meeting and Awards Luncheon, Foley Civic Center, 10:30 a.m.
July 12-15, 2023	American Horticultural Society’s Annual <i>National Children & Youth Garden Symposium</i> , Knoxville, TN
July 18, 2023	Let’s Get Growing with BCMG, 1:00 p.m. via Zoom, TBA
July 20, 2023	Monthly Gardening Zoom Classes, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
July 26, 2023	Urban Green: Back 2 Basics Wednesday Webinar Series, 10:00-11:00 a.m.
August 2, 2023	BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
August 9, 2023	BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, Speaker TBA
August 9, 2023	Urban Green: Back 2 Basics Wednesday Webinar Series, 10:00-11:00 a.m.
August 15, 2023	Let’s Get Growing with BCMG, 1:00 p.m. via Zoom, TBA
August 17, 2023	Monthly Gardening Zoom Classes, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
August 23, 2023	Urban Green: Back 2 Basics Wednesday Webinar Series, 10:00-11:00 a.m.
September 6, 2023	BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
September 6, 2023	Urban Green: Back 2 Basics Wednesday Webinar Series, 10:00-11:00 a.m.
September 13, 2023	BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, Speaker TBA
April 22-24, 2024	AMGA State Conference, “ <i>Paradise Found</i> ”, Daphne Civic Center

Grass Roots is compiled and edited by Lynn Andrews, assisted by Sam Andrews. Pictures courtesy of Loree Hadley, Mary Calvin, Susan Palmer, Brenda Montgomery, Elmer Vick, and Eileen Huisman. The newsletter is available before the monthly general meeting on our website: www.baldwinmastergardeners.com.

Submission of articles, items of interest, photos of BCMG events, garden tips, garden jokes, etc. are greatly encouraged and appreciated. Articles should be submitted in Microsoft Word format, PDF or, if necessary, “rich text format” (*.rtf). **Pictures should be JPG’s at least 1 MB in size.** **Articles and pictures must be submitted by the 20th of the month.** Please attach, not “embed”, photos into your email. Send to grassrootsnews@gmail.com.

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Baldwin County Master Gardeners
c/o Baldwin County Extension Office
302-A Byrne Street
Bay Minette, AL 36506



Next meeting: WEDNESDAY, June 14, 2023

Speakers: Liz Wojtaszek and Charlotte Roberts
Topic: “The Water Cycle”

Social begins at 9:30 a.m.
Meeting: 10:00 a.m. (In person only)

Reminder: Submissions for the newsletter are due by the 20th of the month.