



May 2023
Volume XXXI Issue V



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

"When April steps aside for May, like diamonds all the rain-drops glisten; fresh violets open every day; to some new bird each hour we listen." —*Lucy Larcom*

May is a month for Master Gardeners to relax after the hectic schedule of April. Thank you to all the volunteers that made our plant sale a big success, that helped out at Earth Day celebrations in Gulf Shores and Fairhope and again at Delta Woods and Water.

Wanda Martin, class of 2019, is the coordinator for the Speakers Bureau. She will give a presentation of her own at the May 10 general meeting. Her topic is "I Love Orchids".

The interns will finish their class on Thursday, May 11 with some practice in public speaking too. I look forward to the variety of topics they have chosen. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. The presentations start at 9:00 a.m. Please bring a salad or dessert to share for the luncheon which follows.

One of my annual May chores is to fertilize our centipede grass. I'm glad I remembered to do a soil test as my potassium is quite high this year. I'll be using 34-0-0 instead of the 15-0-15 I expected to purchase.

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Wanda's Wanderings & Wonderings by Wanda Martin

2023 AMGA Annual Conference in Tuscaloosa

On April 3, 2023 twenty six of our Baldwin County Master Gardeners arrived in Tuscaloosa to attend the AMGA Annual Conference held on the University of Alabama Campus. Their theme was "HOMEGROWN IN ALABAMA". After receiving a welcome from our own Myra Lassere, the 2022-23 AMGA President, we heard speaker's topics ranging from "Native Azaleas", "Revamping of the Gardens, Grounds and Building Facades of the University of Alabama", "Alabama's Natural Diversity", "Urban Turtles", "Bees & Gardens", and "The Cahaba Lily". But my favorite of all the speakers was Felder Rushing who taught us to throw away the rule book and do your own thing. Examples of his irreverence and sense of humor is showcased by his "raised bed" garden grown in the back of his old pickup truck which he drives all over Mississippi, and growing "Paper Whites" in Mardi Gras Beads. You've just got to Love Him !!

We also had the wonderful opportunity to visit two unique home gardens highlighting "Wildflowers and Native Azaleas" and "Yard Art and Lots of Plants". It was three days well spent with fellowship of Master Gardeners from all over the state.

We are very excited to be hosting the 2024 conference in Daphne next year, and will be needing each of our BCMG members working to make ours the Quality Conference we can be proud of as we present "PARADISE FOUND".



BCMG Members attending the State Conference:
Myra Lassere, Paula Pritchett, Deborah Marriott, Zetty Bauer, Mary Calvin, Don Richerson, Mary Hamilton, Gary Wallace, Terri Wallace, Marilyn Mannhard, Pam Tucker, Nancy Mason, Linda Bizzell, Loree Hadley, Myra Hannah, Ed Pickle, Maria Curow, Beth Robinson, Wanda Martin, Linda Bender, Charlotte Hamm, Susan Mattingly, Jimmie Van Valkenburgh, Maureen Krison, Sheryl Bly, and Rebecca Estes

L-R: Nancy Mason, Loree Hadley, Deborah Marriott, Susan Mattingly, Zetty Bauer, Linda Bizzell, and Marilyn Mannhard



2023 AMGA Conference



The Jean Lee Lifetime Award for Most Hours in the State for 2022 was awarded to Jimmie Van Valkenburgh.



BCMG President, Mary Calvin, with Dylan Taylor who is now forestry/wildlife and natural resources agent for 10 counties. A Fairhope High School graduate, Dylan was a BCMG scholarship student from 2016-2019 majoring in Forestry/Land Management with a minor in Entomology. Best wishes in his current career!

In Sympathy

Honorary member Don Ouellette passed away Friday, April 7, after a brief period in hospice in Mobile. He had fought cancer for the past four years. Services will be held in Massachusetts at a later date. Please keep his wife, Pauline, in your prayers.

Pauline joined Baldwin County Master Gardeners in 2009, and Don was such an active volunteer that he was soon given the title of Honorary Master Gardener. He especially liked working at the plant sale. We saw Don frequently on Zoom sessions even as his medical condition required seclusion.

[Donald Ouellette Obituary \(1937 - 2023\) - Legacy Remembers](#)





2023 Plant Sale by Tanys Waldron

This article on the Plant Sale is a huge Thank You to everyone who participated in it. The earnings from the spring Plant Sale provide the funds for Scholarships and our operating budget. A very important event for our BCMG.

This article is to acknowledge all the volunteers who gave their time, energy, and creativity to make it go so smoothly. If I have missed anyone's name, please forgive. The weather also cooperated. We had the right amount of both sunshine and rain. Lots of positives.

Pre-Sale:

There is so much that happens behind the scenes to make a Plant Sale event happen. All the details that come together to make an event successful. It takes lots of MG volunteers doing full tilt.

We had some new ideas go into effect this year on how to make the pre-sale organization flow more easily. Linda Bizzell created a new system on laying out the plants for the sale. Her team of Kay Heinrich and Ed Bizzell plus other wonderful MGs spent hours at Weeks Bay before the sale putting up stakes and plant signs. When the trucks and cars arrived on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday with all the plants, Linda knew where everything went.

A huge thanks to the plant buyers and growers. The plants that are grown by the Daphne Greenhouse team headed by Selena Vaughn and Mary Hamilton count for 20% of the profit at each of the Spring Plant Sales. Thank you to Maureen (Moe) Nation and Maria Logan-Montgomery for purchasing all the plants from the growers. Lots of travel to Mobile County to look for the best selections. Another thank you to Maria for researching the plants and creating the laminated photo sheets and the list of the plants for sale. That was a time consuming volunteer project. Thank you to Andreu Riebe for posting all the plant list updates. Thank you to Joni Euler for sending out the invitation to the Plant Sale to all the Baldwin County Facebook pages. A thank you to Mary Hamilton and Dolores Hammack for the many hours they spent researching plant prices at the big box stores and local plant greenhouses so we were able to price our plants competitively. Many thanks to teacher, Kalee Hunter of the Daphne High School Agriculture Plant program. BCMG was able to buy many of the great plants left from their March Plant Sale, and they also lent us three of their heavy duty plant carts to use at our sale.



Thank you to the Daphne and Coastal College Greenhouse volunteers—label makers, Mary Calvin, Sheryl Bly, Becky Estes, and Lydia Chan for making the label machine work. The labels had both the common and Latin name which made our plants professional.

During the days before the sale and at the sale, everyone enjoyed the food and the fellowship of eating lunches together. Thank you to Cassandra Rabren and her mother, Sandra, for organizing the lunch menus and making sure the food arrived on time. Thank you to the Kitchen/Refreshment team for looking after all. Coordinators Paula Pritchett and Pat Greer and their team: Jim Greer, Sally DeMott, and Marilyn Mannhard made sure the coffee maker was the first thing started early in the morning, and snacks and food were



(Continued on page 5)



2023 Plant Sale by Tanys Waldron (continued)

available all day. Jim Greer also was a double volunteer. He was the Coordinator for the plant watering system.

Thank you to Easy-Haul for their great port-a-potties. They serviced them every second day. They were always clean and easy to use.

A positive change was the customer checkout system. Cassandra Rabren set up a new payment system, and it got compliments from our plant sale customers. Thank you to the cashier team of Terri Wallace, Carma Gronback, Jimmie Van Valkenburgh, Gail Hand, Don Richerson, and Becky Estes and all the price tag pullers.

Thank you everyone for a great sale!



May Birthdays



- 5-10 Melinda Lewis
5-12 Karen Rhea White
5-20 Marta Stauts
5-23 Joyce Mudrak
5-25 Elizabeth Wojtaszek
5-28 Maria Logan-Montgomery

Life...is all about the Journey.



Festival of Flowers Thank You

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT

Abbotts Nursery

Artists– Debra McWhorter

Mari Tanakura

Miho Ishibashi

Betty's Bonsai

Legacy Bamboo

Pond Elegance

Ms. Emalee Johnson

Mr. T. P. Montgomery

Mr. Tony Simms

Mr. Chip Smith

Southern Living Plant Collection

Encore Azalea

Tamara's Restaurant-Tamara

The Morenos

SPECIAL KUDOS TO ALL THE WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS WITH

BALDWIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

&

MOBILE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS



Mark Your Calendar

May 3, 2023	BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
May 3, 2023	Urban Green: Back 2 Basics Wednesday Webinar Series, 10:00-11:00 a.m.
May 10, 2023	BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, Hybrid-In Person and Zoom, 10:00 a.m., Wanda Martin, <u><i>I Love Orchids</i></u>
May 11, 2023	Intern Presentations and Luncheon, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:00 a.m.
May 16, 2023	Let's Get Growing with BCMG, 1:00 p.m. via Zoom, TBA
May 17, 2023	Urban Green: Back 2 Basics Wednesday Webinar Series, 10:00-11:00 a.m.
May 18, 2023	Gardening Zoom Class, <u><i>Lawn Care for Homeowners</i></u> , 6:00-7:00 p.m.
May 29, 2023	Monthly Extension-MG Update Meeting via Zoom, 1:00-2:00 p.m.
May 31, 2023	Urban Green: Back 2 Basics Wednesday Webinar Series, 10:00-11:00 a.m.
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, Hybrid-In Person and Zoom
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 “Friendly Bugs”, 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, TBA
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 <u>National Children & Youth Garden Symposium</u> , 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, Hybrid-In Person and Zoom
April 22-24, 2024	AMGA State Conference, “Paradise Found”, Daphne Civic Center

Grass Roots is compiled and edited by Lynn Andrews, assisted by Sam Andrews. Pictures courtesy of Loree Hadley, Mary Calvin, and our Facebook page. 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
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Bay Minette, AL 36506



Next meeting: WEDNESDAY, May 10, 2023

Speaker: Wanda Martin
Topic: “I Love Orchids”

Social begins at 9:30 a.m.
Hybrid in-person and Zoom Meeting: 10:00 a.m.

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