



July 2023
Volume XXXI Issue VII



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:

Tanys 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

The highlight of July at Baldwin County Master Gardeners is the Awards Luncheon. It will be held at Foley Civic Center on July 12. This is the occasion where we welcome those who have completed the intern class and their required volunteer hours as new members. At least two members of the class have recorded 100 volunteer hours and will also receive a bronze star. Stars are awarded to all members who reach milestones with their volunteer hours.

The scholarship committee has chosen four students to receive scholarships this year. The students and parents will be our guests at the luncheon. Please congratulate them as well as the interns.

Carmen Flammini has been named the new regional extension agent for Baldwin County. We enjoyed learning more about her at the "Meet and Greet" in June and look forward to working together. Jack LeCroy will be the agent for Mobile County and areas north.

On a personal note, I'm vacationing in Alaska this summer. I'm curious what I'll see growing in Anchorage's Zone 4B and Seward's Zone 6B. I found a Master Gardener Blog from Seward that shows a growing season of 131 days with 12 or more hours of sunlight from March 2 to October 10. The sun will set near midnight on the solstice and rise again by 4:30. That's a lot of growing time, at least for annuals. What perennials can handle Seward's -5 degrees in the winter or Anchorage's -25?

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Meet Our New Extension Agent—Carmen Flammini

Regional Extension Agent Home Grounds, Gardens & Home Pests

I have a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering from Chile, my native country, and a Master's in Crop, Soil, and Environmental science from Auburn University. I worked in Fruticulture for ten years before moving to the United States. I worked in the export business of table grapes and other fruits.

I lived for 20 years in northwest Georgia where I developed STEM programs for public schools, integrating Agriculture and Environmental science as the main focus of research-grade projects and hands-on learning experiences. I participated in constructing more than ten school gardens and in conducting the first international symposium of Dalton State College, where I also served as an instructor of Life Science and Environmental Studies.

I have been married for 21 years to Pete Flammini. I have two children, Augustino and Valentina, both studying engineering careers at Auburn University, War Eagle! I am very excited to become part of the Alabama Cooperative Extension and Auburn University.



Mary Calvin, Carmen Flammini, Valentina Flammini,
Pete Flammini



Kay Smith, Jack LeCroy, Beth Robinson, Katie Shepard,
Charlotte Roberts



Beth Robinson, Brenda Montgomery, Marilyn
Mannhard, Charlotte Hamm

2022

ALABAMA EXTENSION

MASTER GARDENER IMPACT

Home horticulture activities benefit human health, community economics, environmental stewardship, and local food. **Alabama Extension Master Gardeners** are trained volunteers who use research-based horticulture to improve communities. After 40 years, this program remains popular and relevant today. The **Extension Home Grounds team** and numerous community partners agree that Master Gardeners are a treasure.



Veggie transplants donated = **9,964**

Community value in volunteer hours and philanthropy =

\$6.32M



Contacts through teaching gardens, workshops, and civic events =

142,643

Grow More, Give More donations =

33,200 lbs.

(an increase of 26% since 2019)

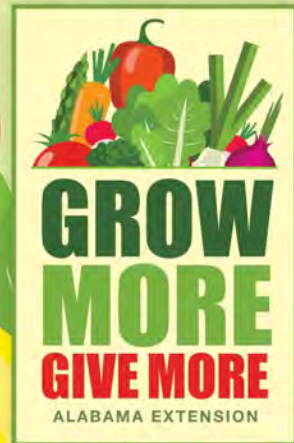


Answering garden questions = **168,610**
(Helpline & Ask-MG)

Total public contacts = **311,253**



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Kids Nature Day- ‘Friendly Insects in the Garden’ by Tanys Waldron

Kids Nature Day is a joint workshop organized every year with Baldwin County Master Gardeners and ACES 4-H. The BCMG Coordinator was Fran Posey-Eversole, and ACES 4-H was Sarah Butterworth. The topic changes each year to present a new educational learning experience.

This event was held on a very rainy and stormy morning on Friday, June 16. Our Baldwin County Master Gardener volunteers are a hardy group, so the bad weather did not stop this workshop from happening. The rain storms did impact the attendance of the kids. In total, there were 16. It was a great day for the kids, their accompanying adults, and the MG volunteers. Everyone got to participate and learn about beneficial insects.

FYI: Insects have 3 parts: Head, Thorax, and Abdomen and six legs. (1) the head, which bears the mouthparts, eyes, and a pair of antennae, (2) the three-segmented thorax, which usually has three pairs of legs (hence “Hexapoda”) in adults and usually one or two pairs of wings, and (3) the many-segmented abdomen, which contains the digestive, excretory, and reproductive organs.

One of the many workshop highlights was the Auburn Insect Lab “Bug Team”. They drove for 5 hours in the middle of intense rain storms to be at our Kids Nature Day. They did a workshop on the kinds of bugs found in gardens. (The bugs were deceased and in glass bottles). The big hit was the large hairy (dead) Tarantula which both the kids and the adults were allowed to touch. An interesting experience.



Waiting for kids to brave the storm.

The Workshop was started off with a fun and educational musical skit “Let’s Get Buggy” written by Wanda Martin. The costumes were great. The talking and singing insects were: Ladybug, Butterfly, Grasshopper, and Bumble Bee.



Our wonderful performers!

Then the kids divided into groups and went to rotating stations. They were: *Soil Exploration* (dig in the dirt, find insects and study them under a microscope); *Symmetry Snacks* (build a 3 part, six legged insect using food: carrots, red licorice, cream cheese, crackers, etc. Then the kids got to eat their insect.); *Insect Bingo* (learn about all the different kinds of friendly insects and the winner gets a prize.); and *Insect Experience* (kids put on insect eye glasses, antennas, etc. They got to feel and see what an insect experiences.)



Then the rain stopped and the sun came out. Everyone went outside and ate a lot of watermelon. We picked out the black seeds from the Watermelon to use in the



Kids Nature Day- “Friendly Insects in the Garden” by Tanys Waldron (cont.)

Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest. We were organized into age groups, and all contestants got to show off their seed spitting skills. Trophies were won.

Everyone had a fun and interesting learning experience which was the goal of this workshop. The 2023 Kids Nature Day – “Friendly Insects in the Garden” workshop was a Success.

Many thanks go to all the ACES and BCMG volunteers for their contributions of time and energy.

ACES: Cathy Banning, Sarah Butterworth, Carmen Flammini, Jack LeCroy, Katie Shepard, Lindsey Stewart, Charlotte Roberts, and the Auburn Insect Lab “Bug Team”.

BCMG: Sheryl Bly, Zetty Bauer, Barb Comstock, Laraine Delahanty, Becky Estes, Charlotte Hamm, Eileen Huisman, Maureen Krison, Deborah Marriott, Wanda Martin, Fran Posey-Eversole, Paula Pritchett, Elsie Reed, Lisa Vinson, Tanys Waldron, Liz Wojtaszek. (If I missed your name I am sorry. Please forgive.)



Guests from Auburn—“Bug Team”



Our Audience





Baldwin County Master Gardeners
July Awards Luncheon

The Luncheon will be held on July 12, 2023 at the Foley Civic Center, 407 E. Laurel Avenue. The doors will be open for checking in and for social time at 10:30 a.m.

The lunch will be catered by Patty Miller. The menu:

- Chicken Tetrazzini
- Summer Squash
- Broccoli Salad
- Strawberry Short Cake

There will be a beverage table with water, iced tea, and coffee.

RESERVATIONS are required for seating and **RESERVATIONS** are required for eating from the menu. Bringing your own lunch is allowed. The cost for the lunch is \$17.00. Pay at the door by check or cash. Please try to have the correct amount. Guests are welcomed.

To reserve your attendance: **TEXT** or **CALL** Eileen Huisman, (251) 215-2651. You will be receiving a confirmation. Eileen has 49 names on the list so far.

If you make a reservation for the lunch and cannot attend, please cancel by calling or texting Eileen. All reservations made for the lunch and not cancelled will be owed by that person.

July Birthdays



7-2	Ann Hutchison
7-9	Sam Andrews
7-12	Elsie Tillery
7-15	María Curow
7-15	Nancy Mason
7-16	Gordon Cooper
7-16	Charlotte Hamm
7-26	Jane Spicciani
7-30	Mary Hamilton
7-31	Jimmie Van Valkenburgh

Life...is all about the Journey.



Meeting Minutes by Terri Wallace

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Mary Calvin. Sixty-five members attended. Mary welcomed all the members and interns as well as our two guests, Sara Simms and Lindsey Stewart.

Jack LeCroy introduced our new BCMG ACES agent Carmen Flammini. Carmen expressed her excitement and happiness to be with us and said she is excited about the future. Carmen applauded us for our willingness to continue learning and helping our community. She gave us her cell number (251-395-0249) and encouraged us to contact her when we have questions.

Tanys Waldron introduced our speakers, Charlotte Roberts and Liz Wojtaszek, who presented *'The Water Cycle'*. The presentation is one of nine sections that make up the Master Environmental Education (MEE) Program. The MEE program Operates under Alabama 4-H. Once trained, volunteers go into twenty-two schools in Baldwin County and teach children in 4th grade and in high school about environmental stewardship. Charlotte reviewed the procedure to become a Master Environmentalist volunteer and gave helpful tips to ensure the presentations go smoothly. She also showed us a completely stocked kit which contains everything a volunteer would need to do a presentation. Charlotte noted that two people go together so that both volunteers can be comfortable in presenting. The four stages of the water cycle were presented using the contents of one of the kits. The stages are evaporation, condensation, precipitation and accumulation. Charlotte also gave tips on water conservation. The program was both informative and entertaining. If you would like to become a Master Environmentalist, contact Cathy Banning at the ACES office in Bay Minette (251-937-7176). Training will be August 10 and 11, 2023.

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Meeting Minutes by Terri Wallace (continued)

Announcements:

- Denim shirts will be reordered when Becky Estes receives twelve orders. Three more orders are needed. Contact Becky if you are interested in ordering.
- You may pay for the July luncheon today by cash or check.
- Selena Vaughn brought Caladiums from the Daphne greenhouse. Members may purchase them for \$2.00 a plant or 3 plants for \$5.00.

After a short break, the meeting resumed.

Gina Blakeman made a motion to accept the May minutes as written. Marilyn Mannhard seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Cassandra Rabren explained that our gross income year-to-date was \$57,757.39. Expenses for this period were \$38,606.43. The Spring Plant Sale income was \$48,406.98 and doesn't include monies collected today. Expenses were \$26,503.91. The Regions Bank account balance is \$44,698.75. Scholarship monies of \$11,000.00 will be deducted from this amount. After the closing of the Foundation account, a \$20,000.00 CD was obtained from Regions Bank that will pay 5% interest over 13 months. A max penalty of \$200.00 will be deducted should we need to access the money early.

Finance: Gina Blakeman announced that it is budget time. Anyone who spends BCMG money should begin getting their numbers ready for 2024. All submissions are due by July 19, 2023. Gina asked that the submissions be itemized as much as possible to justify the funds requested. The amount budgeted this year may not be the same as the amount that will be available in 2024. Cassandra prepares a report with each line item showing the amount spent year-to-date. This report is helpful in preparing the budget. Text or email Gina if you would like a copy to assist your preparations.

Outreach: Eileen Huisman reminded everyone of the Awards Luncheon to be held July 12, 2023, at the Foley Civic Center. The cost is \$17.00 per person. You may cancel up until July 7, 2023. After this date, you are responsible for the payment if you do not attend.

Zetty announced there will be a Fall Workshop held on October 14, 2023 at the Hwy 104 location. Times and details will be announced at a future meeting.

Kids Nature Day: Tanys reminded everyone of the event to be held on June 16, 2023. Fran Eversole and Wanda Martin are the coordinators. A sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers. This is a joint venture with 4-H, costs \$5.00 per family, and is a fun way to teach children. The program is entitled "*Friendly Insects in the Garden*" and will be for 6-12 year-old children. There will be rotating stations highlighting bumblebees, grasshoppers, ladybugs, and butterflies. A watermelon seed spitting contest will also be held. Registration is through the ACES office in Bay Minette. Twenty-two children have already signed up. Fran and Wanda presented a skit that will be done for the children, and it was wonderful.

Daphne Library Project: Wanda Martin announced that this project will teach children about plants, and each child will go home with a potted plant. The event will be held on Tuesday, June 20 and Thursday, June 22, 2023 at the library. Tuesday's will be for children K-5th grade, and Thursday's will be for kindergartners. Wanda has volunteers for the project, and anyone else signing up will be put on the list of back-up names in case someone is unable to attend.

Interns: Anita O'Connor reported that all the interns have completed the required number of hours and will receive their badges at the July luncheon. Two interns will receive a bronze star. The class was phenomenal, and

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Meeting Minutes by Terri Wallace (continued)

she is proud of each one of the interns.

Scholarships: Mary Calvin read the list of students who will receive scholarships this year and the amount each scholarship will be.

- Aven Brasher, junior at Mississippi State University, \$3,500.00
- Mary Michelle Conway, sophomore at Auburn University, \$3,000.00
- Adrian Foutch, freshman at Auburn University, \$2,000.00
- Chandler Little, freshman at Auburn University, \$2,500.00

The winners and their parents have been invited to the July Awards luncheon.

Busy Bee awards: Mary presented the award to Sam Andrews, Joni Euler, Paula Pritchett, and Gordon Cooper for their work on the Scholarship Committee.



Don Richerson announced a Let's Get Growing webinar with Dr. Scott Zona, PhD that will be held Tuesday, June 20th. The webinar begins at 1:00 p.m. If you sign up, you will receive a reminder the day before and one hour before the presentation begins. Andreu and Lydia will send out a link for this class.

Tonie Norton has 70 Muscadine grape vines of different varieties that she would like to lease to someone. Most of the vines have been established for several years. Whoever leases them would be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the vines. Ms. Norton will keep the grass cut around the vines. If interested, call her at (251) 284-0076, or email her at norden.tonie01@gmail.com.

There being no further business, Connie Gillespie made a motion to adjourn, Joyce Hewitt seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.





Mark Your Calendar

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	Garden-to-Pantry Preservation Workshop, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 10:00 a.m., Carmen Flammini & Rebecca
July 18, 2023	Let's Get Growing with BCMG, 1:00 p.m. via Zoom, TBA
July 20, 2023	Backyard Vegetable Gardening on the Gulf Coast, Fairhope Public Library, 11:00 a.m., Marilyn Mannhard
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 7-8, 2023	Master Gardener Leadership Training, Ben May Library, Mobile, 9:00 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 10, 2023	Master Environmental Educator Training, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 8:45 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
August 11, 2023	Master Environmental Educator Training, Magnolia Landfill—Tour the Landfill, Summerdale, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.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.
Sept. 6, 2023	BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Sept. 6, 2023	Urban Green: Back 2 Basics Wednesday Webinar Series, 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Sept. 13, 2023	BCMG Monthly Meeting, Five Rivers Delta Resource Center, Speaker TBA
Sept. 13, 2023	Wayne de la Rua Nominations Close at End of September General Meeting
Sept. 16, 2023	Nature Day at Eastern Shore Art Center, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Sept. 19, 2023	Let's Get Growing with BCMG, 1:00 p.m. via Zoom, TBA
Sept. 20, 2023	Urban Green: Back 2 Basics Wednesday Webinar Series, 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Sept. 21, 2023	Monthly Gardening Zoom Classes, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
October 4, 2023	BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
October 5, 2023	BCMG Fall Plant Sale, Weeks Bay
October 7, 2023	BirdFest Expo, Fairhope, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
October 11, 2023	BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, Speaker TBA
October 11, 2023	Board of Directors Slate Presented to Membership
October 14, 2023	BCMG Fall Workshop, Research Station, Hwy. 104
November 1, 2023	BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
November 8, 2023	BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, Speaker TBA
November 8, 2023	Board of Directors Election and Wayne de la Rua Voting closes
November 29, 2023	BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
April 22-24, 2024	AMGA State Conference, " <u>Paradise Found</u> ", Daphne Civic Center

Grass Roots is compiled and edited by Lynn Andrews, assisted by Sam Andrews. Pictures courtesy of Kay Heinrich and Barb Comstock. 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, July 12, 2023

Location: Foley Civic Center,
407 E. Laurel Avenue, Foley, AL

Social begins at 10:30 a.m.
Awards and Luncheon: 11:00 a.m.

Catered Lunch: \$17.00 per person
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

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