

August 2023 Volume XXXI Issue VIII





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

"As you wander through the woodlands, Bogs, meadows and the fields, Into your view springs the beauty, That only Nature yields." -Verna E. Pratt, Alaska Native Plant Expert

I spent a week in June in Alaska, touring the Anchorage area and taking the train to Seward on the Kenai Peninsula. Some of my pictures from the Anchorage Botanical Garden and nearby parks are in this newsletter.

Back in Alabama, we have a leadership training workshop August 7 & 8 in Mobile. I hope to see many of you there.

For the General Meeting on August 9, ACES Agent Jack Rowe will be talking about his beekeeping station at the Gulf Coast Research Station on Hwy 104. He has purchased several beekeepers' suits and will offer small tours. Sign up at the meeting.

The Master Environmental Educator annual training days are August 10 & 11. Several Master Gardeners have found this program to be a great fit.

We will have another BCMG-wide milkweed growing project. This time we plan to only offer native milkweed. Keith Cardwell has agreed to be the coordinator for this project, working along with Carmen Flammini who is doing a scientific research project on south Alabama native milkweed. Please ask how you can help.

Congratulations to our eleven new members, the Intern Class of 2023!

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### Yes...Time Again for WDLR Nominations by Sam Andrews

The Wayne de la Rua Award recognizes annually a member of the Baldwin County Master Gardeners for outstanding service to the organization and the Extension. The Award is unique in that it is a *peer-nominated:* peer-selected: once-in-life-time prize. It honors dedicated Master Gardener Wayne de la Rua (WDLR) who graduated with the first Baldwin County Master Gardener class in 1990.

If you have a candidate that you would like to submit for consideration, the WDLR Committee must receive your nomination no later than the September 13, 2023 Monthly Meeting at 10:00 a.m., either through email or hand delivery. The Committee will only accept written nominations listing significant accomplishments including dates, activities, offices, and individuals with whom they worked. In practical terms, you write a 100–250 word essay beginning with a first paragraph stating your nomination and the basic nomination premise moving to additional paragraphs that build your case. Please finish your nomination with a short summation paragraph. You may use a similar outline format as well.

IMPORTANT: Your written nomination's purpose is to build a strong case to the BCMG active membership as to why your Baldwin Master Gardener's nomination merits the award over other candidates in 2023. Present their Master Gardener résumé and why you feel your nominee is deserving of the award. You should include primary examples of your nominee's activities, volunteer hours, and character.

Please call or email if you require a brief time extension to prepare your nomination. Your written nomination will appear in the October *Grass Roots* with the Wayne de la Rua Committee reserving the right to edit your submission.

Please note only <u>one person</u> may write and sign each nomination. However, the nominee writer may conduct research into their candidate using available materials including speaking with other Baldwin Master Gardeners. In addition, other Master Gardeners may write additional nominations of an individual. Only active Master Gardeners may write the content of publishable WDLR nominations.

The written nomination format in the *Grass Roots* is the primary method utilized for active Baldwin Master Gardeners to receive insight and make an informed opinion as to the best person to vote for the 2023 Wayne de la Rua Award. You may discuss published candidates amongst yourselves. However, the spirit of Wayne de la Rua does not permit members to wage marketing/publicity campaigns. Remember this Award is one of Honor and long -term achievement which should be obvious to members!

Active Baldwin Master Gardeners on the current Membership roll may vote for <u>one</u> potential prizewinner through either an email or "Meeting Ballot". Please include the date and your name on your submitted vote. All members may deliver their vote from November 1, 2023 through November 8, 2023 to the email address below. If you have NOT voted as of the November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, you may obtain a special "Meeting Ballot" from the WDLR Committee member which you may vote, print name, and return to the Committee member at that meeting. No other paper or vocal votes are to be honored.

The WDLR Award Committee consists of several past winners. This year the committee members are Sam Andrews, Chairman, Myra Lassere, Pam Tucker, Lynn Andrews, Loree Hadley, Pat Greer, Marilyn Mannhard, Paula Pritchett, Selena Vaughn, Jimmie Van Valkenburgh, and Julian Walthall.

Please email your questions and your nominations to Sam Andrews at <u>HibiscusFiend@mchsi.com</u>. (Note: That's "FIEND" and not "friend".) <u>Again, the nominations deadline is September 13, 2023 by 10:00 A.M.</u> **Remember, time is short!** 



### Yes...Time Again for WDLR Nominations by Sam Andrews (cont.)

#### Wayne De La Rua Award - Questions and Answers

- 1) What is the Wayne de la Rua (WDLR) Award?
- 2) Who was Wayne de la Rua?
- 3) How is the winner determined?
- 4) Who are past WDLR winners?
- 1) The Wayne de la Rua Award is a lifetime achievement award that a Master Gardener earns through a lengthy demonstration of passion and hard work toward our BCMG, Inc. organization and its mission. Rarely, a member might make a singular, perhaps one-time, contribution of outstanding merit. Nevertheless, it is the quality, not the quantity of service hours that a Master Gardener contributes that earns a WDLR Award. Each December, we conduct an Award Ceremony announcing that year's winner at our year-end banquet. A Baldwin Master Gardener honored with a WDLR may only win this lifetime achievement award once.
- Wayne was a member of the first 1990 class of Master Gardeners in our area, held jointly between what we now know as the Mobile County Master Gardeners and the Baldwin County Master Gardeners, Inc. As befits someone instrumental in the founding of the Baldwin Master Gardener group, Wayne's fellow Master Gardeners elected him the first winner of the lifetime award named for him following his death in the 1990's.
- 3) Each active Baldwin Master Gardener votes <u>once</u> for the nominee that they believe to be most deserving. Chairman, Sam Andrews, receives votes with the voter's name on paper or by email. Votes remain Confidential. The WDLR Committee accepts only written nominations for the Wayne de la Rua. You may present your submission directly to Sam Andrews as Chair, or to another Committee member. You may also snail mail or email your nomination to Sam's published email address. If you are running close to the deadline, please contact Sam to let him know to expect your nomination. The Committee consists of past winners of the Award who are active members of our organization.
- 4) Your organization, the Baldwin County Master Gardeners, Inc., maintains a plaque containing a list of all the past WDLR winners in the Help-Line Office. Past winners are as follows:

1997 — Wayne de la Rua

1998 — Maureen "Moe" Nation

1999 — Jill McArthur

2000 — Herb Nall

2001 — Jane Wright

2002 — Mary Gibson

2003 — Gail Terrell & Joanne Caglione (tie)

2004 — Carol Griffin

2005 — Harry Anderson

2006 — Sherry Eubanks

2007 — Tanys Waldron

2008 — Sam Andrews

2009 — Joyce Mudrak

2010 — Pat Libby

2011 — Selena Vaughn

2012 — Marilyn Mannhard

2013 — Jim & Nancy Gaines

2014 — Ottie Dailey

2015 — Gene Sellier

2016 — Pat Greer & Myra Lassere (tie)

2017 — Loree Hadley

2018 — Pam Tucker

2019 — Paula Pritchett

2020 — Jimmie Van Valkenburgh & Julian Walthall (tie)

2021 — Arren Graf

2022 — Lynn Andrews



### Alaska Plants by Mary Calvin

I vacationed in Alaska in June with my two sons. Joe, the Anchorage resident, was our tour guide and driver. Richard did daily Facebook posts, leaving me to photograph the plants. I was curious what would grow in Zone 4B.

As we walked in Anchorage's Kincaid City Park, we saw two young moose and I learned to identify Cow Parsnip, *Heracleum maximum*. It has big flat leaves—think the size of elephant ears. They are deeply lobed. It puts up a 4' to 8' flower stalk which attracts a wide diversity of insects while the moose munch on the leaves.

The main trees we saw in Alaska were birch and spruce with thickets of shrublike green alders. On Chugach State Park's Flattop Mountain Trail, the flowers on the alders caught my eye. They have both male and female "catkins." The male flowers are long and dangling, and the female flowers look like small pinecones. Those stay on the branches and are a good way to identify alders at any time of year.



Moose and Cow Parsnip

Bergenia cordifolia, also known as Pig Squeak, has big leathery leaves and a tall flat purple flower cluster. It is one of the many plants in the Saxifragaceae family. My research shows that Bergenia grows in Zones 2-10, so you may already be familiar with a variety.







Horseradish

Alders Bergenia



Cabbage and Kale

The Anchorage Botanic Garden sections ranged from the fancy hardscape in Lile's Garden, inspired by the 1940's gardener and philanthropist, Lile Bernard Rasmussen, to the very plain

homesteaders' Heritage Garden. The vegetables there included horseradish, beets, cabbage and kale, our winter vegetables. Tomatoes would need to be grown in a greenhouse to extend the growing season.



### Alaska Plants by Mary Calvin (continued)

Master Gardeners maintain the Herb Garden. I learned about "fines herbes", a staple of French cuisine. They include parsley, tarragon, chives plus chervil, a new one to me.



Rhodiola rosea, also known as Roseroot, is a medicinal succulent touted as being the next big commercial crop for Alaska.



The Junior Master Gardeners had their own plot to care for.



Moth

Plot

Jr. Master Gardener Plot

The only "butterfly" I saw all week turned out to be a day-flying moth, the Argent and Sable.

The Rock Garden explained that not all plants thrive in nutrient rich wet soils.



Some of my favorite flowers include Columbine (Aquilegia alpina) and Mountain Cowslip (Primula auricula).





Mary Calvin with Richard and Joe Bruner

### August Birthdays



- 8-4 Mary Calvin
- 8-5 Shirley Ryals
- 8-9 Darlene Anderson
- 8-10 Elmer Vick
- 8-11 Harry Hopkins
- 8-12 Jackie Gray
- 8-12 Beth Poetz
- 8-13 Teri Shoemaker
- 8-18 Debra McWhorter
- 8-20 Karon Pennington
- 8-21 Sandra Walton
- 8-22 John Fitzhugh
- 8-23 Phyllis Holman
- 8-26 Charmaine Peterman
- 8-27 Susan Morrison
- 8-28 Martha Byrd
- 8-28 Joni Euler
- 8-28 Andreu Riebe
- 8-31 Robert McWhorter





# Advanced Master Gardener Certification by Myra Lassere

Many are becoming Advanced Master Gardeners...You Can Too!

#### **Our Vision**

The Advanced Master Gardener program motivates those with special gardening interests to develop those interests into specialized knowledge areas for the benefit of others.

If interested and want more details contact:

• Myra Lassere, <u>myralassere@gmail.com</u>

I have received my certification and will be working with Baldwin and Mobile County Master Gardeners and ACES.



### BCMG Interns - Class of 2023 by Anita O'Connor

It is so rewarding as the class moderator to watch individuals bond in pairs, then bond in groups, and finally, bond as a class. On July 12, our organization was able to reward this year's remarkable group with their permanent Master Gardener badges. It doesn't happen often that the entire class of Interns receive their badges early in July, so CONGRATULATIONS to the Intern Class of 2023!

The format for presenting course material was different this year as compared to past years. In addition, the Helpline obligation was reinstated. The Interns were excited, energetic, creative, and anxious to learn. Each of them worked hard to achieve all that was expected. Three interns earned the bronze star volunteering over 100 hours. Now it is time to encourage and help them turn their volunteering enthusiasm to benefit our larger Master Gardener organization.

It takes many people to accomplish this degree of success.

Thank you to the Mentors who were so attentive to the Interns' needs and were willing to participate in the Helpline experience. Mentors were vital in helping Interns meet this year's course goals. The Mentor team consisted of Susan Mattingly, Kay Smith, Liz Wojtaszek, and Anita O'Connor. This team paired Interns with experienced Master Gardeners and coordinated the welcome Breakfast in January.

Thank you to the kitchen crew consisting of Beth Robinson, María Curow, Judi Smith, and Sheryl Bly for their unselfish dedication to the Thursday morning coffee and snack presentation. We were so fortunate to have these people who provided the much-needed early morning hospitality. We are sad to say goodbye to Extension agent Jack LeCroy, but delighted to welcome the new Extension addition, Carmen Flammini. Plans are now underway to welcome a new intern class for 2024.



Welcome to our new Master Gardeners! George Donchez, Keith Cardwell, Mickey Ezell, Karon Pennington, Patty Rowland, Elizabeth Young, Dolores Hammack, Terry Delker, and Julie Cox. (Not present: Lee Brady, and Diane Roberson-Hill)





## BCMG Award Recipients



Bronze Star—100 Hours: Karon Pennington, Julie Cox, Sheryl Bly and Burt Sonenstein (Not pictured) Pat Billingsley, Laraine Delahanty, and Diane Roberson-Hill



Gold Star-500 Hours: Linda "Honey" Ennis, Becky Estes, Cassandra Rabren, and Don Richerson



Amber Star—2,000 Hours: Gayle Floyd, Judi Smith,
Anita O'Connor, Andreu Riebe, and
Charmaine Peterman



Silver Star—300 Hours: Maureen Krison, Sandra Stepan, and Joyce Hewitt (Not pictured: Charlotte Croft, Jackie Gray, Shirley Stephens, and Liz Wojtaszek)



Gold Badge—1,000 Hours: Freya Sonenstein, Charlotte Hamm, Wanda Martin, Linda Bizzell, Beth Robinson, María Curow, Elmer Vick (Not pictured: Steve Urbanek and Maria Logan-Montgomery)



# BCMG Award Recipients (continued)





### AMGA Award Recipients



AMGA Amethyst Platinum Star-12,000-13,999 **Hours:** Sam Andrews



AMGA Rainbow Platinum Star (and Flowers)— 17,000-19,999 Hours: Myra Lassere







# Smolarship BCMG Scholarship Recipients with Sam Andrews











Scholarship Winners: Aven Brasher, Mary Michelle Conway, Adrian Foutch and Chandler Little with \$11,000.00 check



### Meeting Minutes by Terri Wallace

The Baldwin County Master Gardeners' semi-annual awards banquet meeting was called to order by Mary Calvin at 11:11 a.m. The meeting was held at the Foley Civic Center.

Mary welcomed our guests who were Mike and Debbie McQueen, Charlotte Roberts, Cathy Banning, Sandra Walton, Katie Shepard, and Bill Cox, husband of Julie Cox. Mary also welcomed the scholarship winners and their parents: Aven Brasher and her mother, Amye Brasher; Mary Michelle Conway and her parents, Rick and Michelle Conway; Adrian Foutch and her mother, Jennifer Foutch, and Chandler Little and her mother, Heather Little. Mary thanked the scholarship committee for their work. Committee members were Gordon Cooper, Paula Pritchett, Joni Euler, and Sam Andrews, the Chairman of the committee. This year we awarded \$11,000.00 distributed among the four students: two new applicants, and two repeats. There were six applicants this year.

Mary recognized the 2023 interns and congratulated them on their completing everything needed to become a Master Gardener.

The minutes of the June meeting were approved by common consent.

The financial reports were emailed to the membership last week.

Member interest forms were available, and all were encouraged to complete the form and turn it in.

The Fall Seminar will be held on October 14, 2023 at the Hwy. 104 building from 9 a.m. - 12:00 Noon. It is open to the public, and everyone is encouraged to bring a friend.

The Fall Plant Sale will be held October 5, 2023 with set up the day before. It will be for members only. Julian Walthall is the Chairman, and Maria Logan-Montgomery and Karon Pennington will compile the list of available plants. The list will be emailed to the membership in September. Volunteers are needed for this sale.

Take out lunches were offered for \$15.00 each to anyone interested.

Flower arrangements on the tables were created by Deborah Marriott, Charlotte Hamm, and Linda Ennis. These were won by a member of each table after the meeting.

Mary thanked Eileen Huisman and her set-up team and caterer, Patti Miller, for a wonderful luncheon.

A list was on each table of items the Hospitality Committee needs for the AMGA Conference in 2024. If anyone knows of a contact for the items, please let Deborah Marriott know.

The Fundraising Committee has contacted Wind Creek Casino for a donation for the AMGA Conference. They will only consider a donation if one of our members is also a Poarch Creek member. Please contact Mary Hamilton if you are a member.

The awards presentation began with Sam Andrews introducing each of the scholarship winners.

Aven Brasher is a Mississippi State University Junior majoring in Landscape Architecture and minoring in Horticulture and Environment Sustainability.

Mary Michelle Conway is an Auburn University Sophomore majoring in Forestry and minoring in Urban Forestry and Dance.

Adrian Foutch, a Fairhope High School graduate, is going to Auburn University as a Freshman majoring in Landscape Architecture and minoring in Environmental Law.

Chandler Little, also a Fairhope High School graduate, is going to Auburn University as a Freshman majoring in Applied Biotechnology and minoring in Technical and Professional Writing.



# Meeting Minutes by Terri Wallace (continued)

Sam announced that prior awards, including badges, stars, and a T-shirt were available for pickup at Jim Greer's table.

Jack LeCroy and Anita O'Connor presented badges and T-shirts to the interns who had successfully completed the course work, educational hours, and volunteer hours: Lee Brady (unable to attend), Keith Cardwell, Julie Cox, Terry Delker, George Donchez, Mickey Ezell, Dolores Hammack, Karon Pennington, Diane Roberson-Hill (unable to attend), Patty Rowland, and Liz Young.

Bronze Stars for 100 service hours were awarded to Sheryl Bly, Julie Cox, Karon Pennington and Burt Sonenstein plus Pat Billingsley, Laraine Delahanty and Diane Roberson-Hill who were unable to attend.

Silver Stars for 300 volunteer hours went to Joyce Hewitt, Maureen Krison and Sandra Stepan plus Charlotte Croft, Jackie Gray, Shirley Stephens and Liz Wojtaszek who were unable to attend.

Gold Stars for 500 hours were earned by Linda Ennis, Becky Estes, Cassandra Rabren and Don Richerson.

It takes 1000 hours to earn the Gold Badge. Reaching this milestone were Linda Bizzell, María Curow, Charlotte Hamm, Maria Logan Montgomery, Wanda Martin, Beth Robinson, Freya Sonenstein, Steve Urbanek (unable to attend) and Elmer Vick.

Gayle Floyd, Anita O'Connor, Charmaine Peterman, Andreu Riebe and Judi Smith received Amber Stars for 2000 hours.

Mary Calvin received a Sapphire Star for 3000 hours.

Tanys Waldron received a Pink Pin for 15,000 hours.

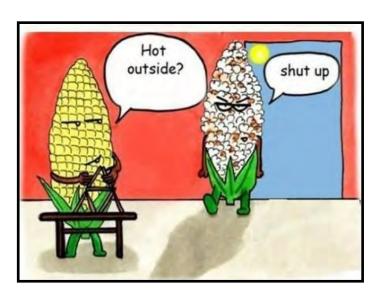
The Alabama Master Gardeners Association recognizes those with "Above 10,000 Hours."

Sam Andrews received an Amethyst Platinum Star for 12,000 hours.

Myra Lassere received a Rainbow Platinum Star for 17,000 hours and flowers.

Jimmie Van Valkenburg was given a gift and flowers for being recognized on behalf of the state as the Alabama Master Gardener who had the most hours for 2023. Jimmie had 1323 hours.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.





### Mark Your Calendar

August 7-8, 2023	Master Gardener Leadership Training, Ben May Library, Mobile, 9:30 a.m.
August 9, 2023	BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, Jack Rowe, "The Buzz About Bees"
August 9, 2023	Urban Green: Back 2 Basics Wednesday Webinar Series, 10:00-11:00 a.m.
August 9, 2023	School starts in Baldwin County
August 10, 2023	Master Environmental Educator Training, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 8:45 a.m4:00 p.m.
August 11, 2023	Master Environmental Educator Training, Magnolia Landfill—Tour the Landfill, Summerdale, 8:30 a.m12:00 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.m11:30 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, Kathy Hicks, "Birds of Southern Alabama"
Sept. 13, 2023	Wayne de la Rua Nominations Close at End of September General Meeting
Sept. 16, 2023	Outreach at Eastern Shore Art Center, "Nature Day", 12:00 Noon-4:00 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 (for BCMG members only)
October 7, 2023	BirdFest Expo, Fairhope, 9:00 a.m1:00 p.m.
October 11, 2023	BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, Alice Marty, "Plant Your Tomatoes Early"
October 11, 2023	Board of Directors Slate Presented to Membership
October 14, 2023	BCMG Fall Seminar, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:00 a.m12:00 Noon
November 1, 2023	BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hay. 104, 9:30 a.m11:30 a.m.
November 5, 2023	Daylight Savings Time ends (fall back)
November 8, 2023	BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, Sherri Mack, Mack Funeral Home, "Planning a Funeral"
November 8, 2023	Board of Directors Election Slate presented to membership
November 8, 2023	Wayne de la Rua Voting closes at the end of meeting
November 10, 2023	Deadline for reporting Service Hours for Awards at December 6 Awards Luncheon, 12:00 Midnight
November 23, 2023	Thanksgiving Day
November 29, 2023	BCMG "December" Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:30 a.m11:30 a.m.
December 6, 2023	BCMG Awards Membership Luncheon, Foley Civic Center, 10:30 a.m.
December 25, 2023	Christmas Day
December 31, 2023	New Year's Eve
April 22-24, 2024	AMGA State Conference, "Paradise Found", Daphne Civic Center
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*Grass Roots* is compiled and edited by Lynn Andrews, assisted by Sam Andrews. Pictures courtesy of Mary Calvin, Linda Bizzell, and Eileen Huisman. The newsletter is available before the monthly general meeting on our website: <a href="https://www.baldwinmastergardeners.com">www.baldwinmastergardeners.com</a>.

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, August 9, 2023

Location: Research Station, Hwy. 104

Speaker: Jack Rowe

Topic: "The Buzz About Bees"

Social begins at 9:30 a.m. Meeting 10:00 a.m.





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