



October 2023
Volume XXXI Issue X



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

Autumn, the season that teaches us that change can be beautiful.
—FatGalah.com

I'm really enjoying the cooler mornings. October is my favorite month, a respite after the heat of the summer.

Did you know Baldwin County Master Gardeners are working in four greenhouses now? Selena says the Daphne High School greenhouse can use cuttings for propagation. They work every Monday morning. Contact Selena Vaughn for more information. Contact Myra Lassere if you would like to work at Robertsdale High School (Tuesdays). Mickey Ezell is our contact at Gulf Shores High School, dates TBA. Mary Calvin is the contact for Coastal Alabama Community College in Fairhope. We work Tuesday and Friday mornings from 9-11 and specialize in growing native plants. Please bring in your favorites.

If you ordered anything from the members only Fall Plant Sale, remember to pick it up Thursday, October 5 between 10am and noon at Weeks Bay.

Master Gardeners will have an Outreach Booth at the BirdFest Expo at 5 Rivers Delta on Saturday, October 7. This is just outside the theater building where we held the September meeting. Contact Eileen Huisman for more information.

The following week we will be back in Fairhope at 8300 Hwy 104, our normal meeting place, to hear Mobile Master Gardener Alice Marty talk about *Starting Your Tomatoes Early*.

The Fall Seminar lands on Saturday, October 14 this year. Zetty Bauer and Deborah Marriott have planned a busy morning of presentations with the theme *Follow the Seasons*.

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President's Notes by Mary Calvin (continued)

Friday, October 27 Carmen Flammini will present a new workshop on *Monarch Butterfly Science*.

There are several wonderful nominees for the Wayne de la Rua Award this year. Enjoy reading about them in this issue of *Grass Roots*. Voting will take place from November 1-8.



Wayne de la Rua Nominations by Sam Andrews

Our Wayne de la Rua Award is such an extraordinary honor because hard-working, observant Master Gardeners take the time, often with others, to write and promote individuals that they note making a crucial difference in their organization and its mission. Another way that the Wayne de la Rua is unique is that YOU, a BCMG member in good standing, take the time to read and discuss the candidates so that you and the membership select the best WDLR honoree.

In a sense, the process defines and inspires each of us. We are all Wayne de la Rua winners to some degree as we participate in our local and state Master Gardener activities. Whether we earn the actual honor or not, we strive to be like these wonderful people, and we push forward those Master Gardeners who do deserve and earn the award. Often, we *feel* their energy as we work and meet with them. It inspires us and makes each of us better contributors ourselves.

For 2023, **you** have nominated five superb, deserving candidates. This year there are three repeat nominees for the Wayne de la Rua Award.

Please remember that your individual vote is a candidate reward for a long-term contribution of extraordinary service. **The peer-nominated and peer-selected winner** may only earn this award once in their Master Gardener career. The WDLR Award is the highest honor that you and our organization can bestow on one of our members.

The vote for the WDLR Award will occur from November 1 until 12:00 PM on November 8. You will receive a WDLR Internet ballot through the Extension's email address: WDLRAward@gmail.com. You must return it directly back using that address. PLEASE send your Internet vote only to this special email address to submit a valid ballot.

The second way that you have to vote is obtaining a Special WDLR Meeting Ballot at the November Monthly Meeting from Extension personnel. This is the only means of Wayne de la Rua voting at the Meeting. Once marked, hand it to an Extension person or drop in the WDLR ballot box.

Please remember that you must identify yourself on your ballot to the WDLR Tally sub-committee! In addition, you must meet the election deadlines. More precise information on the actual voting process will be forthcoming later this month!

As last year, the Baldwin Extension has volunteered to handle the voting process again this year. The BCMG Board approved this continuation. I will make sure they have everything they need to do their job well.

After the November 8th Monthly physical meeting, the WDLR Committee Tally sub-committee consisting of our Extension personnel Carmen Flammini, Katie Shepard and staff will gather to count the email and meeting votes to determine the winner. The 2023 Wayne de la Rua Award winner is announced at the December 6th Luncheon.

Please read carefully the nominations of our five candidates below: MARY CALVIN, MARY HAMILTON, EILEEN HUISMAN, JUDI SMITH, and ELMER VICK. Discuss the award and the nominees seriously amongst yourselves and cast your one vote using the provided email or ballot given to you in early November.

NOTE: There are approximately five pages of Wayne de la Rua Nominations to follow. Please read them all!



Wayne de la Rua Nominations (Continued)



NOMINATION OF MARY CALVIN by Pat Greer

I would like to nominate Mary Calvin for the Wayne de la Rua award. Since becoming a Master Gardener in 2018, Mary has not stopped volunteering, having now accumulated more than 3,000 hours.

Presently, Mary is President of the Baldwin County Master Gardeners, having been Vice President working with Joni Euler in 2022. She spent 3 years on the Board of Directors prior to becoming our Vice President as the Recording Secretary.

Mary also heads the Greenhouse at Coastal Alabama Community College, with specific focus on the Monarch Butterfly Project. In 2023, Mary and her group distributed countless butterfly plants throughout Baldwin County.

We can also see Mary helping with the audio/video issues during all our meetings.

I am part of the Bring Nature Home Book Club that Mary leads. She holds two sessions for more than 25 “readers” each month, quite a few of whom are Master Gardeners

Mary volunteers as Treasurer of the Baldwin County Youth Orchestra and plays the Violin, Viola, and Alto Sax.



NOMINATION OF MARY HAMILTON by Myra Lassere

It is an honor to nominate Mary Hamilton for the Wayne de la Rua Award. I’ve known and worked with Mary since she became a member of BCMG in 2013.

Through the years Mary has accumulated over 3,092 hours, and I’m certain there are many more not recorded based on her following activities:

Volunteered at the Info-Line (2013-2016).

Helped Julian Walthall with his project of planting of perennial flowers and plants outside the Info-line Office. (2016 – 2019).

Recording Secretary (2015, 2016, 2017) serving in 2015 when I was BCMG President and 2 years following.

Worked at a number of outreach events over the years, including:

- The County Fair (2014, 2015)
- Earth Day (2013, 2014)
- Arbor Day (2013- 2019)
- Tuesdays with Master Gardeners (2014-2019)
- Leading a team of Master Gardeners at a Special Day in a Daphne neighborhood. (2021)

PowerPoint Presentations and Talks to the Tuesday Evenings with Master Gardeners (2014-2018).



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Wayne de la Rua Nominations (Continued)

PowerPoint Presentations and Talks while participating as a speaker for the Master Gardeners Speakers Bureau (2013-2017).

Worked with Paula Pritchett on the Blueberry project at Foley Elementary School (2018)

Constructed the Short PowerPoint on Blueberries and taught about 400 kids in two sections before they went into the school yard to plant Blueberries with the volunteers

Worked with Sharon Thoele on her project, Angels Wings in Robertsedale. (2017) We helped at a home raising young girls who could not go home, to raise a vegetable garden to provide food for the table.

Visited gardens of the members of the public who requested help with landscaping from the Info-line 2016-2019.

Helped with the Intern Class several years:

- Assistant to Pam Tucker -- Introducing the day's lecturer, filling in for Pam when she could not be there. (2016-2018)
- Taught Classes on Annuals and Perennials (2021, 2022, 2023)
- Back-up Mentor (2023)

As of the 2017-2018 school year, began volunteering with the teacher, Dr. Betsy Anderton now Dr. Betsy Tipton. (As a retired teacher, working with the teachers and students is where Mary feels the most personal gratification, and feels that it is a joy to work with them.)

- Served on the Vocational Advisory Board for Agriculture at Daphne High School from 2018 to current.
- Consultant to Dr. Anderton/Tipton, and since 2021, Kaley Hunter

Not only is Mary involved in our local Master Gardener Association but she is very involved in AMGA.

In 2020-2021 co-chairman of the Garden Tour Committee with Moe Nation.

Attended the AMGA 2023 Conference in Tuscaloosa and attended the 2023 International Master Gardener Association Conference in Overland Park, Kansas, June 2023.

Currently, chairman of the Fundraising Committee with co-chair Andreu Riebe, for the 2024 AMGA Conference.

Currently, serving on the AMGA Committee for naming the Master Gardener Pathway in the Transformation Garden.

Please join me in voting for Mary Hamilton for the Wayne de la Rua Award. She is truly a Master Gardener gem and worthy of the award.



NOMINATION OF EILEEN HUISMAN by *Tanys Waldron*

Eileen is one of the members of our MG group who works quietly behind the scenes. She contributes with creativity, energy and her ongoing support of MG projects. Eileen graduated from the big Intern class in 2019. Since her graduation she has volunteered her time with Baldwin County Master Gardeners for the last five years and currently has almost 1800 hours. One of her many skills is being able to be both a Coordinator and a leader of events and being an excellent volunteer who you can depend on to help with MG events and projects.

Each year we have an Awards Banquet in July and December where we honor the accomplishments of our group. Eileen has been the Coordinator for this event for





Wayne de la Rua Nominations (Continued)

three years. She finds the caterers who feed us so well, books the hall, and then organizes the team to run everything smoothly.

She has volunteered at the Spring Workshops “Tuesdays with Master Gardeners” for five years. She has volunteered at all the Plant Sales. She has been a Mentor. She has volunteered her home many times as a MG meeting place. She is a passionate gardener, and one of her favorite plants is Milkweed, and she gives away her plants to others. She is currently the Outreach Coordinator and brings butterfly cages with milkweed, caterpillars, and chrysalis to the Outreach Events. This gives both the public and MGs the wonderful experience of watching a butterfly being born and then being released into the sky. She enjoys having MGs tour her home garden and sharing her knowledge.

Eileen has been the Coordinator for Arbor Day in Foley for five years, and this year as Outreach Coordinator, she organized all six Arbor Days Outreach information booths, two Earth Day info booths, Eastern Shore Art Center Outreach & Plant Sale, the Outreach booth for the Plant Sale, and the BirdFest Outreach booth. She attends Board meetings, the 2024 State Conference meetings, plus volunteering at many MG events and attending gardening educational events as an enthusiastic learner. A lot of the time she is the driver, filling her car with MGs to attend workshops in Baldwin and Mobile County.

One of Eileen’s many contributions is her friendship to everyone. She unites our BCMG with her goodwill. We have many wonderful and dedicated MG volunteers and all contribute greatly to making our group great. Eileen’s contribution brings us all together and helps us enjoy being BCMG volunteers. It is with great pleasure I recommend Eileen Huisman for the 2023 Wayne de la Rua Award.



NOMINATION OF JUDI SMITH by Marilyn Mannhard

I would like to nominate Judi Smith for the Wayne De La Rua Award for 2023. She became a Baldwin County Master Gardener in 2013 and has been very active in our organization ever since. Most of us think of Judi in her most visible role, that of making sure master gardeners and guests are fed at all of our meetings and events. When we still had potluck dinners at our awards luncheons, Judi was in charge of organizing the kitchen and all the food. She made sure everything was put on the tables, took care of the coffee, tea, and water, and organized the cleanup. Since then, she has been in charge of the kitchen at our monthly meetings making sure food and drink are available to attendees. However, Judi does far more than organize the food. She also volunteers at our outreach events including plant sales, Kids Nature Day, Spring Workshops, and so many more. Judi has been a huge asset to BCMG and is always a friendly and welcoming person to everyone. I believe she deserves this award.



NOMINATION OF JUDI SMITH by Anita O'Connor

I nominate Judi Smith class of 2013 for the Wayne de la Rua award for the year 2023.

I nominated her last year because she has been a diligent hard working dependable volunteer again this year. Judi represents the spirit of BCMG through selfless giving to the organization. Judi is gracious and has the gift of hospitality choosing to share herself behind the scene, rather than in the limelight. I find her a worthy candidate.

A list of some of Judi’s Hospitality given to the organization include since 2014, serving beverages and snacks at the monthly meetings; spring and fall plant sales and raffle sales 2015-2016; spring workshops 2014-2019 and 2022; Fall workshops 2022; plant sale at Community College Greenhouse 2021; and Kids Day 2022. Judi has added to this list in 2023.

Judi was part of the team consisting of Pam Tucker, Tampa Sykora and Anita O'Connor for The Festival of

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Wayne de la Rua Nominations (Continued)

Flowers in 2014. She volunteered with her tools to help erect the themed Mr. McGregor’s Garden.

Judi has helped with the Intern class since 2014. In addition to kitchen service, she has helped with taking attendance, grading tests, being a mentor for years, and being present at the door handling the money and guest sign-in for the Intern luncheons.

Judi has helped with the July and December award luncheons every year since 2014. She served as a Board member in 2015; helped with Harvest for Health; Earth Day for eight years; and Arbor Day for three years. She is a reliable, dependable person who is eager to volunteer when asked. Judi is an example of “lengthy demonstration of passion and hard work toward BCMG” as stated in the Policy and Procedure manual.

Judi continues the challenge of serving in her chairing the Sending Cards program to members of the BCMG for their birthdays and encouragement as needed to our membership. She looks forward to being the Beverage and Snacks Coordinator for the 2024 State Convention in Daphne.



NOMINATION OF ELMER VICK by *Julian Walthall*

Baldwin County Master Gardeners has many unsung heroes who do so much behind the scenes to make our organization so viable and a joy to participate in. One of these persons is Elmer Vick. I’m nominating him for the 2023 Wayne de la Rua Award.

Elmer was an intern in the Class of 2016 and has maintained his active participation in BCMG through the years. One of his earliest areas of service was in the weekly staffing of the Helpline. For many years we were asked to make a three-hour commitment to be present at the Helpline Office and respond to calls from there. During the several years that Elmer did this from November to June each year the calls were often very random and sometimes few and far between. Many of us saw this service as a burden, and yet Elmer saw our service as an obligation to ACES and an opportunity to serve the public. He could always be counted on to take a weekly slot. He got to know a number of MGs by sharing this time with new interns and some MG veterans. He, also, went beyond the call of duty in trying to help local residents with their gardening concerns; even calling some after the office had closed if he still hadn’t reached someone.



Elmer has continued his behind-the-scenes participation in BCMG by serving this year as the Project Chairperson on the BCMG Board overseeing our ongoing projects and recommending new projects to be considered. This position fits this fine MG so well because he encourages others in their involvement in BCMG. A good example of this encouragement is how he helped several MGs get the CCC Greenhouse started at Coastal Alabama Community College several years ago. He helped with the initial cleaning of the college greenhouse, designed and built a wonderful propagating table that continues to be used, and has always been willing to be called on with requests for additional help. His willingness to serve others with his building skills is further demonstrated by his heading up the current effort to make repairs at the BCMG Greenhouse at Daphne High School. We all know that these repairs will be done well, because this gentleman puts his heart into everything that he does for others.

In a way that is not behind the scenes so much, but more out front is how Elmer has become known as “Mr. Tomato” for BCMG. Elmer’s mentor was the late John Kitch. John came into our organization from being a nurseryman and developed a tomato that was suitable for growing under our harsh conditions of heat and humidity. He greatly impacted Elmer before he died with cancer. For a number of years now, Elmer has been propagating John’s tomato for many MGs and members of the Baldwin County public. All the proceeds from the sale of these tomatoes (several thousand dollars at this point) go to Cancer Research at USA in Fairhope in memory of John Kitch. What we MGs don’t realize is the tremendous amount of work Elmer does to produce a

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Wayne de la Rua Nominations (Continued)

thousand plants (Elmer’s goal for 2024). He begins a ten-day process in late summer sanitizing and saving the seeds. Then in early January with some assistance he individually sows the seeds. After their germination, he and his wife, Jean, diligently care for all the seedlings during our cold months. Then in early March, Elmer makes available to us beautiful, healthy tomato plants. Shortly thereafter, he is one of our featured presenters on growing tomatoes in containers at one of our “Tuesday Night with Master Gardeners.” All of Elmer’s efforts in the Kitch Tomato Project are such a demonstration of our MG spirit of serving others and having fun in doing so.

Elmer Vick sets a strong example of what being a MG is all about. His leadership by serving others, his vast gardening experience and knowledge, and his great sense of humor have led so many of us to treasure knowing this gentleman. I urge us to consider commending him for his impact on so many of us by awarding him the Wayne de la Rua Award for 2023.



Mentors Needed by Anita O’Connor

It is time to turn our attention to the new Intern class and provide the best guidance we can as an organization for their success. That being said, I’m looking for volunteers to be MENTORS.

Extension has implemented an “informative discussion” opportunity for potential Interns that has turned out to be a wonderful decision. There is a committee comprised of Extension personnel, as well as Class Coordinator helper, President, and Vice President of our MG organization. The committee has explained all aspects of the Auburn hybrid class and expectations for completion. The potential Intern has every opportunity to clarify expectations and ask any questions they may have in order to decide if this course is for them. The volunteerism component is strongly expressed.

Therefore, I need specific groups of Mentors. If you were in the class of 2023, I need each of you.

If you especially live in Foley, Lillian, or Gulf Shores, please volunteer. If you are hesitant to be a mentor but would like to share an Intern, that’s an idea worth pursuing. If you love the helpline but would rather not be a mentor, I really need you! We will have a Mentor team consisting of an Intern from the last three classes to encourage their classmates to get involved. As the Extension group has been meeting the hopeful Intern class participants, I have been jotting down people I know in the organization that would be perfect for them. I have approached some of you already and your “Yes” is very much appreciated.

If interested in helping me as a Mentor, please email Anita O’Connor (togetnita@gmail.com).

Thank you for being willing to help welcome new Interns. Remember, Mentors welcome them in January with a Breakfast on January 11, 2024.



2024 BCMG Board Position Vacancies by Joni Trusty Euler

There are 4 elected positions open on the 2024 BCMG Board of Directors. If you are interested in running for an office, please contact a member of the nominating committee (Don Richerson, Joni Euler, or Gail Hand) to have your name on the ballot, along with a short bio (BCMGS Intern Year and what activities/programs you have chaired or participated as a volunteer). Nominees will be announced at the October General Membership meeting (October 11) and in-person, paper ballot voting will be conducted at the November General Membership meeting (November 8). Per BCMGS By-Laws, voting by proxy is NOT allowed.

Position/Duty Description:

VICE-PRESIDENT:

- Accedes to presidency on expiration of the current president’s term.
- Presides over all regular and special meetings of the Board and membership in the absence of the president.

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2024 BCMG Board Position Vacancies by Joni Trusty Euler (Cont.)

- Works with the president and ACES agent to ensure a smooth transition to the office of President.
- Serves as an ex-officio member with voting rights of all committees.
- Assists the president with their duties, as requested.
- Performs all duties and exercises all powers of the president as may be necessary in the absence or incapacity of the president.
- Serves as a member of the Nomination Committee.
- Accountability: The President and Board of Directors.

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Board Meetings:

- Keeps a record of attendance to ensure a quorum.
- Records proceedings of Board meetings.
- In a timely manner, distributes copy of minutes to the Board for review/correction for adoption prior to the next Board meeting.
- Distributes copies of approved Board minutes to board members and committee chairpersons.

General Membership Meetings:

- Keeps a record of attendance to ensure a quorum.
- Records proceedings of general membership meetings.
- In a timely manner, provides President a copy of minutes for review/correction.
- After minutes have been approved by members, forwards approved copy to editor of “Grass Roots” for inclusion in monthly newsletter.
- Provides copies of approved monthly meeting minutes to archivist.
- Notifies ACES Agent of all scheduled and special board and general membership meetings.
- Performs duties incident to the position and other such duties as may be required by the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws, or that may be assigned from time to time by the Board of Directors.
- Accountability: The President and Board of Directors

MEMBER at LARGE (2 vacancies):

- Represents BCMG members
- Acts in an advisory capacity and performs other duties as directed by the president.
- Preferably has held office and/or a committee chairperson position.
- Accountability: The President and Board of Directors.

Board members are required to sign a Conflict of Interest Agreement Form. The Conflict of Interest Policy is 4 pages. Please contact Joni Euler (email: past.pres@baldwinmastergardeners.com) if you want a copy of the policy.

2024 AMGA Conference by Terri Wallace

The 2024 AMGA Conference is getting closer! Fundraising is beginning to make strides, and silent auction gifts are being donated. We are still searching for vendors with garden related items. Please continue to reach out to anyone you know who could help with these things.

The Facilities Committee is working hard toward getting the Daphne Civic Center, the Daphne Public Library, and the Senior Center classrooms assigned. The Tours Committee has finalized the tours, and they are going to be so much fun!

Becky Estes needs lumber for building bee boxes. Please contact her if you have some left over from a project.

Stay tuned, and we will let you know when other details are finalized and ready for unveiling!



Follow the Seasons



Baldwin County Master Gardeners
Fall Seminar

Saturday, October 14, 9am-Noon

Gulf Coast Research and Extension Center, 8300 Hwy 104, Fairhope

Admission - \$10 (cash or check, payable at door)

Topics/Speakers

- *Citrus: Including When and How to Prune - by Jacob Kelley*
- *Fall and Winter Landscape: Do's and Don'ts - by Jack LeCroy*
- *Flower Garden Winter Preparation - by Carmen Flammini*
- *Bulbs for the South - by Carmen Flammini*



FREE
REGISTRATION

MONARCH BUTTERFLY

**The Science behind migration,
breeding and diseases.**

October 27, 1:00 pm

Gulf Coast Research & Extension Center

8300 Hwy 104, Fairhope, 36532

This workshop will focus on new research information that helps to explain the migration, the milkweed species, and the different diseases that attack this incredible butterfly, with focus in OE parasites, as well as teaching how to detect this parasite in the Monarch butterfly.

Register at 251-937-7176



ACES.EDU

Connect with us



The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator, employer, and provider. If you need a reasonable accommodation or language access services, contact Carmen Flamini at 251-395-0249 by October 10.





Service Hours Update by Mary Calvin

There will be a new way to enter your service hours starting on the first of the year, 1/1/24. Kerry Smith, the State Coordinator for Master Gardeners, will hold two Zoom sessions to explain it on October 19th and 20th both at 1 p.m. She says there are three main objectives—to have better information about the activities and impact of Alabama’s Master Gardener volunteers, to make it easier for MGs to enter their hours, and to return the glossary defining the categories. Members can register at <https://www.aces.edu/go/ServiceReportTraining>

Additional trainings will be scheduled and announced. Local trainings, using the same presentation will also be provided.

Kerry also asked that we remind members to read *Pathways*, the AMGA quarterly newsletter: [AMGA Newsletters \(alabamamga.org\)](http://AMGA Newsletters (alabamamga.org))



Eastern Shore Art Center “Art of the Bird” by Tanys Waldron

Baldwin County Master Gardeners had an Outreach booth and plant sale at the Eastern Shore Art Center on Saturday, September 16 which was coordinated by Eileen Huisman. It was attended by 290 people. We had the Fall Seminar flyer displayed, and we had extra flyers to hand out to the attendees. We promoted the seminar to everyone who came through.

We sold \$260.00 in plants. We will split the profits with the Art Center, each receiving \$130.00. This will go towards fundraising for the upcoming 2024 State Conference. There were some plants left over. These plants were taken home by Eileen and Elsie and will be brought to the October Fall Seminar for sale. The plants were grown by: Linda Bizzell, Eileen Huisman, Charmaine Peterman, and Elsie Reed. A huge thanks to these MGs for their great looking plants and their plant donations to make the ESAC outreach event a success.

We played the new Pollinator bingo game with about 120 of the attendees, mostly adults. They had fun playing the game and got an excellent and short education on Pollinator plants and insects. Eileen had a Monarch butterfly cage with caterpillars, eggs, and Milkweed on display. When we were playing bingo and caterpillars and Monarch butterflies were talked about during the game, we referred them to the display.



Linda Bizzell



Lisa Vinson and Fran Posey Eversole with Pollinator Bingo



Eileen Huisman, Wanda Martin, Lisa Vinson, Teena Reed, Linda Bizzell, Becky Estes, Susan Mattingly, Elsie Reed, Charmaine Peterman, Tanys Waldron, and Fran Posey Eversole



Let's Get Growing With BCMG by Andreu Riebe

"Exploring Organic Fertilizers for a Healthier Lawn and Soil: Meet Our October LGG w/BCMG Speaker"

In our continuous journey to cultivate green thumbs and foster a deeper understanding of horticulture, I am thrilled to announce our next *Let's Get Growing with BCMG* speaker for October. I am excited to present Shay Lunseth, MHort, Owner of Organic Lawns by LUNSETH, who will be delving into the fascinating world of "Organic Fertilizers for Turf and Soil Health." Mark your calendars for October 17th at 1 p.m. via Zoom, as this promises to be an enlightening and educational event.

About Shay Lunseth:

Shay Lunseth, a distinguished expert in horticulture with the prestigious MHort designation, is the proud owner of Organic Lawns by LUNSETH. With years of hands-on experience and a passion for sustainable lawn care, Shay has become a trusted authority in the field of organic fertilizers and soil health. Her commitment to environmentally friendly practices and deep-rooted knowledge makes her the perfect guide for our upcoming webinar.



Exploring the Topic:

"Organic Fertilizers for Turf and Soil Health" is a topic that resonates with every gardener and homeowner looking to achieve lush, vibrant lawns while also nurturing the health of the underlying soil. Shay Lunseth will take us on a journey through the world of organic fertilizers, shedding light on their benefits, applications, and how they contribute to the overall well-being of your lawn and garden. From understanding the essential components of organic fertilizers to learning about sustainable lawn care practices, this webinar promises to equip you with valuable insights to transform your green spaces.

Key Discussion Points:

1. ****Benefits of Organic Fertilizers: **** Shay will elucidate why organic fertilizers are an excellent choice for maintaining a healthy lawn and soil. Learn how they promote balanced growth, improve soil structure, and enhance long-term sustainability.
2. ****Types of Organic Fertilizers: **** Delve into the variety of organic fertilizers available, from compost and manure to plant-based options. Discover which ones best suit your specific gardening needs.
3. ****Sustainable Lawn Care Practices: **** Shay will share practical tips on incorporating organic fertilizers into your lawn care routine. You'll gain actionable knowledge for a greener, more eco-friendly landscape, from application techniques to timing.
4. ****Q&A Session: **** As always, we encourage active participation. Prepare your questions for a dedicated Q&A session with Shay Lunseth, where she will address your queries and provide personalized advice.

Join us via Zoom on October 17th at 1 p.m. for this enriching webinar with Shay Lunseth. Embrace the world of organic fertilizers and elevate your lawn care practices to new heights. I look forward to your active participation in this exciting event. Stay tuned for further updates and the link sent via email closer to the event!

Feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions for future Speakers.

Andreu Riebe

Andreu.ar@baldwinmastergardeners.com

BCMG Greenhouses are Re-Opening **Volunteers needed from Oct. to Plant Sale**

No experience or tools needed · 2 Locations

Work every week or every other week—whenever you can!

Trione Greenhouse

At Daphne High School
Re-opening Sep 25 / Monday

Work Days

Mondays 9-11/12 propagation day
Wed or Thu- Watering Day
Sat or Sun- Watering Day
*Watering time is flexible to
your schedule! Bring a friend.*

If you want to work at the green-
house but need to work different
times or days, please contact us.

Contact:

Gordon Cooper

251-518-5577

gordoncooper@bellsouth.net

Fairhope Greenhouse

At Coastal AL Community College
Re-opening Oct 10 / Tuesday

Work Days

Tuesdays 9-11
Fridays 9-11
Sunday Afternoon- Watering Day

Pollinator Garden –maintenance as
needed

Click on Sign up Sheet Or Contact Mary


[Sign up sheet](#)

Contact:

Mary Calvin

847-269-1594

mscalvin@aol.com



**We are looking to take fall cuttings from your favorite
performing plants -especially perennials or natives.
Contact Selena Vaughn or Mary Calvin.**

Educational, Social & Therapeutic





Native Plants Workshop by Kay Heinrich

Weeks Bay Reserve Resource Center hosted the “*Landscaping With Native Plants Workshop*” on Friday, September 22. Those in attendance were Carol Lovell-Saas, Brenda Montgomery, Mickey Ezell, Joyce Hewett, Eileen Huisman, Beth Robinson, Cassandra Rabren, Anita O’Connor, Marilyn Mannhard, Mary Calvin, and our Speaker, Gina Todia.



October Birthdays



- 10-1 Sally DeMott
- 10-4 Judi Smith
- 10-6 Tim Kant (Honorary)
- 10-8 Reggie Anderson
- 10-9 Patricia Billingsley
- 10-12 Carl Floyd (Honorary)
- 10-14 Sherry Cook
- 10-17 Sarah Duncan
- 10-18 Kimberly Musson
- 10-21 Everett Gillis
- 10-27 Laraine Delahanty
- 10-31 Linda Bender

Life...is all about the Journey.



Venomous Snake Safety and Handling Training by Eileen Huisman

On August 28, 2023, twelve master gardeners and Carmen Flammini attended a class on Venomous Snake Safety and Handling organized by Dr. Wesley Anderson and Bence Carter. In total, about 30-35 people were in the room. It was excellent and so informative. Many had an opportunity to actually handle the snakes. The presenters were Jimmy Stiles and Raymond Corey.



L-R: Liz Wojtaszek, Laraine Delahanty, Beth Robinson, Carmen Flammini, Marta Stauts, Elsie Reed, Eileen Huisman, JoAnn Jordan, Brenda Montgomery, and Don Richerson
Not pictured: Susan Palmer, Lydia Chan and Sherry Cook



Copperhead in training



Sherry Cook



Susan Palmer, the snake trainer!



Meeting Minutes by Terri Wallace

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Calvin at 10:06 a.m.

Mary welcomed the 66 members present and guests. The guests were:

- John Eversole, husband of Fran
- Jim Shoemaker, husband of Teri
- Penn Montgomery, husband of Brenda
- Marian, daughter of Terri Withee
- Eric Reed, husband of Teena
- Carolyn Walthall, wife of Julian
- Lee Spencer (a MG from Michigan residing in Fairhope) and her uncle, Ben Spencer
- Phoebe Jackson, BCMG Class of 1999, who is rejoining BCMG.

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Meeting Minutes by Terri Wallace (Continued)

Mary read a list of members who need our prayers which included Kazuko Russell—recovering from open heart surgery; Patsy Conner—severe back pain, is awaiting surgery; and Ann Hutchison—her nephew died and Ann is helping with his wife and children; and Martha Seale fell and fractured her back. Paula Pritchett will help organize volunteers to help with Patsy’s yard until she recovers. Others may want to assist Kazuko, Martha, and Ann.

Tanys Waldron introduced our speaker, Kathy Hicks, Educator at Five Rivers Delta Center and an avid photographer. Her topic was “Alabama Is For The Birds; Get to Know our Feathered Friends”. All photos in the presentation were taken by Kathy. Her presentation was an hour long, and I cannot include everything you want to know. I’ll give you the highlights, and you can go to Five Rivers and learn more from her. Plants depend on birds for pollination and seeding. Birds depend on plants for food and water. 95% of Alabama’s 477 bird species are in Mobile and Baldwin counties. Birding is a billion-dollar industry per the Alabama Tourism Department, and 2023 has been designated as the *Year of the Bird*.



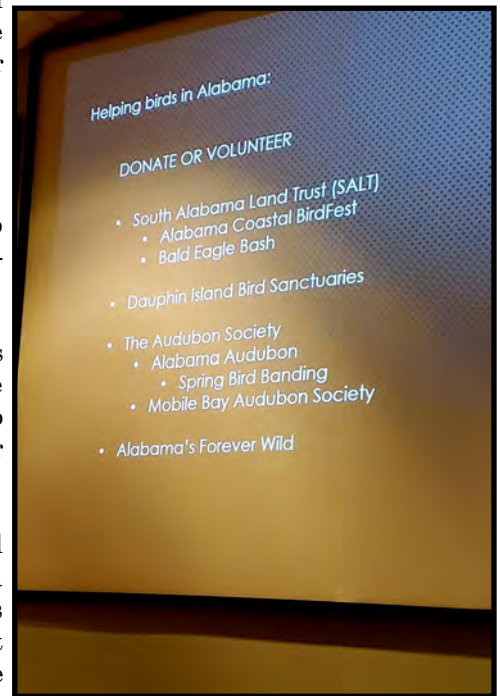
We have the perfect areas for birds due to our long leaf pines, farmland, offshore areas, beaches, marshes, catfish ponds, and delta areas. Kathy showed pictures of our regional birds as well as those that are not seen very often. While we think of a bird migrating in Spring and Fall, birds migrate year-round in all directions. Our birds are losing their habitats due to pollution, predators, changes in average temperatures, and man-made obstacles. More than one in four birds in the U.S. and Canada have disappeared since 1970. Some groups of birds are doing well because governments and societies are invested in saving them. Raptors, waterfowl and turkeys have increased dramatically. To attract and feed birds, plant native plants in your yard, limit chemicals and pesticides, provide water and shelter, leave dead trees alone if possible, and educate others (including children). For more information contact the Mobile Bay Audubon Society, the Alabama Ornithological Society, and/or get a field guide and learn about one bird at a time.

After a break the business meeting was conducted.

The minutes of the August meeting were approved following a motion to accept them made by Julian Walthall and seconded by Maria Logan-Montgomery.

Treasurer’s Report – Mary Calvin: The checking account balance is \$27,948.52, and the CD of \$20,000.00 gives us a balance of \$47,948.52. We spent more than we took in in August due to the purchases made to renovate the Trione Greenhouse at DHS. Anyone wishing to pay dues for next year can give monies to Mary Calvin after the meeting.

Terri Withee announced that the Mobile Audubon Society meets the second Tuesday of every month at 8:00 a.m. at Five Rivers Delta Center. There is a thirty-minute meeting and a bird walk each month. Terri also had flyers available to let everyone know what is still available during BirdFest October 4 – 7, 2023. Several activities have spots available if you would like to sign up.



AMGA Conference – Sandy Stepan: Sandy said progress is being made with fundraising. Two members have given generous donations, and they will be recognized at the appropriate time. Any member is welcome to donate to the conference. Teams are going door-to-door in all areas of the county. Paula Pritchett has packets available for anyone willing to solicit funds or silent auction items. Becky Estes is asking for donations of any scrap lumber you may have. She will use the lumber in the breakout session Building a Bee Box. She is in search of:

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Meeting Minutes by Terri Wallace (Continued)

- 1 x 8 lumber that is 9" or longer.
- 1 x 6 lumber that is 8" or longer.
- 2 x 4 lumber that is 6" or longer.

The Facilities Committee has been hard at work securing room blocks at hotels, and they have many responsibilities besides lodging. They are responsible for rooms being set up for each program. Rooms are in the Daphne Civic Center, the Senior Center, and the Daphne Library. They will have signage directing everyone to the appropriate room and have signage outside each room listing the programs to be held there. The committee also is responsible for safety and is working with the Daphne Police Department and the Daphne Fire Department to have appropriate people on site.

DHS Greenhouse Project – Elmer Vick: Workdays have been established for demolition of the center section of the greenhouse and for rebuilding the section. September 23rd and 24th at 8:00 a.m. will be for demolition. September 30th and October 1st will be for spreading gravel and assembling the new workstations. Volunteers are asked to bring rakes, crowbars, hammers, screwdrivers, and gloves. A sign-up sheet was passed around asking for volunteers.

Coastal Greenhouse – Mary Calvin: Work will begin there the second week in October, and they will continue to specialize in native plants.

Robertsdale High School – Myra Lassere: Work is starting there and will be done every Tuesday. Students are taught about planting cuttings and caring for plants as they grow. Contact Myra if you are interested in volunteering.

Wayne de la Rua award – Mary Calvin: The deadline for nominations has been extended to September 20, 2023. ACES will tabulate the votes again this year.

Nominations – Mary Calvin: Board positions open are Vice President (a 3-year series), Recording Secretary, and two Member-at-Large positions.

Outreach – Eileen Huisman: September 16, 2023 will be Nature Day at the Eastern Shore Art Center. The theme is "Art of the Bird". BCMG will sell plants that day and will split the profits 50-50 with the Art Center. Alabama Coastal BirdFest runs from October 4 to 7, 2023. BCMG volunteers are needed for the BirdFest Expo October 7th at Five Rivers Delta Center. A sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers.

Fall Plant Sale – Julian Walthall: The pick-up day will be on October 5, 2023 at Weeks Bay. Pick-up times are from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. This sale is for members only. Orders are due by September 16, 2023.

Fall Seminar – Zetty Bauer: Zetty reminded everyone of the seminar on October 14, 2023 from 9 a.m. - 12:00 noon. It is open to the public. The cost is \$10 per person (cash or check). Zetty encouraged everyone to invite neighbors and friends.

Sharon Thoele has pint and half gallon mason jars available for anyone interested.

BirdFest Raffle – Mary Calvin: We received two tickets to the Friday night dinner and two tickets for the Sunset Cruise for our donation to the event. C Fogarty won the Sunset Cruise tickets and Melinda Lewis won the dinner tickets.

There being no further business, Elmer Vick made a motion to adjourn, Gail Hand seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.



Mark Your Calendar

- 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 Outreach at BirdFest Expo, Five Rivers Delta Resource Center, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 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.m.-12:00 Noon
- October 17, 2023 Let's Get Growing with BCMG, 1:00 p.m. via Zoom, Shay Lunseth, MHort, *"Organic Fertilizers for Turf and Soil Health"*
- October 19, 2023 Service Hours Training Session via Zoom, 1:00-2:00 p.m.
- October 19, 2023 Monthly Gardening Zoom Classes, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- October 20, 2023 Service Hours Training Session via Zoom, 1:00-2:00 p.m.
- October 27, 2023 Monarch Butterfly Workshop, *"The Science Behind Migration, Breeding and Diseases"*, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 1:00 p.m.
Register at (251) 937-7176
- November 1, 2023 BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 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
- 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 16, 2023 Monthly Gardening Zoom Classes, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- November 23, 2023 Thanksgiving Day
- November 29, 2023 BCMG "December" Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
- December 6, 2023 BCMG Awards Membership Luncheon, Foley Civic Center, 10:30 a.m.
- December 21, 2023 Monthly Gardening Zoom Classes, 6:00-7:00 p.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



Grass Roots is compiled and edited by Lynn Andrews, assisted by Sam Andrews. Pictures courtesy of Eileen Huisman, Tanys Waldron, Brenda Montgomery, and Kay Heinrich. 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



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

Next meeting: WEDNESDAY, October 11, 2023

Location: Research Station, Hwy. 104
Topic: "Plant Your Tomatoes Early"
Speaker: Alice Marty

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