

November 2023 Volume XXXI Issue XI



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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Wayne de la Rua Voting	2
Jere Trigg Obituary	
Fall Plant Sale	3
BirdFest	
2024 AMGA Conference	
Bee Box Supplies Needed	
Frank Trione Greenhouse Restoration	
Fall Seminar	6
Sips and Shells Class	
Coastal College Garden and Greenhouse	
The Science of Monarchs	
November Birthdays	
Cotton Creek Farms	
MCMG 2023 Greenery Sale Flyer	9
Meeting Minutes10	
Deadline-Volunteer Hours Reporting	
Mark Your Calendar	



NEWSLETTER OF THE BALDWIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, INC

www.baldwinmastergardeners.com

President's Notes by Mary Calvin

"If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need." Cicero: 106-43 BCE

What a busy fall we've had at Baldwin County Master Gardeners. Enjoy the pictures in this newsletter, marking all the activities all of YOU have participated in. The Fall Plant sale, BirdFest Expo and tours and dinner, instruction on caring for African Violets and Winter Sowing, the Fall Seminar accompanied by Jere Trigg's African Violets sale and the Outside plant sale. Renovation work on the Frank Trione greenhouse at Daphne High School and plant propagation at the same time. Weeding the native plant garden at Coastal College and collecting seeds for next year's crop, working with students at both Robertsdale and Gulf Shores High School greenhouses.

I would suggest that November will be a little slower, but I know that the AMGA 24 conference committees will still be hard at work. Anita O'Connor and the Mentor Team will be preparing for next year's intern class. The greenhouses will be in full swing, and there will be two BCMG board meetings due to the December 6 Awards Luncheon. Note that we are returning to the pot-luck format for the luncheon. I'm looking forward to the amazing variety of dishes Master Gardeners bring.

Don't forget to vote for your choice of several worthy Wayne de la Rua nominees. Voting can be done through email from November 1 till Noon on the 8^{th,} or in person at the November 8 meeting. Next year's board of directors will also be elected at that meeting.





Wayne de la Rua Voting by Sam Andrews

This is a reminder to be sure to cast your email vote for your choice of Wayne de la Rua candidate, if you have not already done so. The candidates this year are: **Mary Calvin, Mary Hamilton, Eileen Huisman, Judi Smith, and Elmer Vick**. The contest runs from November 1 to the November 8 Monthly Meeting. YOUR vote is needed!

<u>PLEASE send your vote along with your name only to this year's special email address</u>, <u>WDLRAward@gmail.com to submit a valid vote</u>. (Just click on it.)

OR:

Please fill-out one of the pre-printed ballots available at the November 8th Monthly Meeting.

Jere Trigg Obituary by Tanys Waldron

Jere Trigg, MG, class of 2015, has passed away. He joined our BCMG organization to further his gardening knowledge and his interest in growing African Violets. He excelled in the challenge of hybridization. Trigg has created and registered more than 20 original African violet varieties, with one of his favorites being "Jere's Roll Tide". He is pictured holding it. It took 500 seedlings to perfect this particular violet. It is his tribute to his football team, the Crimson Tide. It is trademark registered with the University of Alabama.

His professional background left him well suited to this interest. Trigg received degrees in biology, environmental engineering, and chemical engineering before working at Union Carbide, a chemical plant in Chickasaw, for 33 years. When he retired he joined the Baldwin County Master Gardeners. He shared his extensive African violet knowledge as an instructor with the Baldwin County Master Gardeners at our Monthly Meetings, at our March Spring workshops, and as part of our Speakers Bureau. Jere also taught for the Eastern Shore Institute of Lifelong Learning (<u>ESILL</u>). His quote: "I enjoyed the aspect of being able to promote it to others—to give them the opportunity to enjoy it like I have."

He was usually growing about 500 violets, spread across five rooms of his two-story home. He originally used artificial lights until he found that LED bulbs used up about one-third of the power. If you were lucky, you have been on a tour of his home in Spanish Fort and got to see firsthand his beautiful indoor garden.

For more detailed information about Jere and his propagation methods, please read a great article published in the *Mobile Bay* magazine, May 19, 2021, <u>Meet Jere Trigg, the Violet Guru</u>.

Jere Trigg was one of the "good guys". He was always ready and enthusiastic to share tips on how to grow the best ever African Violets.

His legacy to us was his extensive knowledge on how to create and nurture beautiful plants. Godspeed to Jere Trigg. We wish him enjoyment as a new member in the heavenly gardeners.





Fall Plant Sale



The crew at the members-only Fall Plant Sale welcomed a rare, rainy day. L-R: Freya and Burt Sonenstein, Maria Logan-Montgomery, Elsie Reed, Karon Pennington, Zetty Bauer, Honey Ennis, Julian Walthall, and Eileen Huisman.



BirdFest by Tanys Waldron

BirdFest Expo was held on Saturday, October 7 at 5 Rivers. Baldwin County Master Gardeners had an Information Outreach Booth with gardening information, Monarch butterflies and caterpillars, and Pollinator bingo. The bingo game is played to teach adults and children about pollinators and plants. The bingo winner goes home with a prize. The event was busy, and we had great weather. Everyone who attended learned a lot about Birds and nature.

Outreach Coordinator: Eileen Huisman. Volunteers: Linda Bizzell, Fran Eversole, Loree Hadley, Susan Mattingly, Anita O'Connor, and Tanys Waldron.





ALABAMA COASTAL BIRDFEST

BirdFest by Tanys Waldron (continued)



Coordinator: Honey Ennis and Volunteers: Teena Reed, Brenda Montgomery, Cassandra Rabren, Beth Robinson, Anita O'Connor, and Maureen Krison made floral arrangements for the BirdFest Dinner tables, serving tables, mantel, and entrance. Lots of FUN!



A Sprint or Marathon-2024 State AMGA Conference

A sprint is to go at top speed for a short distance. A marathon is defined as something characterized by great length or concentrated effort. While the 2024 State Conference is still six months away (April 22-24, 2024 at Daphne Civic Center), committee members are definitely in the marathon mode. Under the leadership of Paula Pritchett, Conference Chairperson, team members are working diligently to bring an informative, fun-filled experience to conference attendees.

W Amen not

Speakers for the conference have been arranged. We can look forward to hearing our Keynote Speaker, Steven Chambliss on *Peace, Love and Milagros: Lessons from the Road.*

Plenary Speakers are:

- Dr. John Bowen—The Lifelong Gardener
- Dr. Dave Williams—The Power of Plants: The Effect on Human Health and Well Being

Breakout Speakers are:

- Carmen Flammini— Milkweed / Monarch Research
- Jeremy Pickens—*Greenhouse Basics*
- Yvette Cutrer—Soil Polymers
- Peggy Snipes—Forest Finds to Floral Designs
- Ann Luther/Terry Henry—Vertical Gardening
- Dr. John Bowen—Adaptive Tools
- Chris Francis—Gardening Under the Trees
- Catherine Resmondo—Oh My Aching Back

In House Workshops will be held on the following topics:

- Build a Greenhouse Before Your Eyes
- Hands-on DIY Drip Irrigation
- Kokodama
- Build a Bee Box



Bee Box Supplies Needed by Becky Estes

The following sizes of wood scraps are needed for building 20 of the native bee boxes to be built at the convention. Please note: All wood must be NON-PRESSURE TREATED. If you have scrap wood in any of the following sizes, please bring it to our monthly meeting or call me at (270) 576-8545, and I will happily pick it up. Any wood we can collect will mean more profit for our organization.

WOOD SIZES

- $1 \ \mathrm{X} \ 8 \ \mathrm{Boards} \mathrm{Any} \ \mathrm{piece} \ \mathrm{at} \ \mathrm{least} \ 9 \ \mathrm{inches} \ \mathrm{long}$
- $1 \ge 6$ Boards Any piece at least 8 inches long
- $2 \ge 4$ Boards Any piece at least 7 inches long

Note: The dimensions listed are the MINIMUM lengths required. Longer pieces will be gladly accepted! Thanks in advance for any items you can help with!



Frank Trione Greenhouse Restoration by Mary Calvin

The greenhouse that Frank Trione built for the Master Gardeners is showing its age. Several workdays are planned for this year replacing the plastic sheeting on the outside and removing and replacing the center row of tables inside. Next year more tables will be replaced. Thanks to Project Coordinator Elmer Vick and all the helpers.





Fall Seminar by Mary Calvin

Baldwin County Master Gardeners hosted 114 participants at our annual Fall Seminar, many of them members of the public. This was our first opportunity to hear Extension Agent Jacob Kelley speak. He gave an informative talk on growing and caring for citrus trees. Agent Carmen Flammini spoke about her new project on growing bulbs in south Alabama, and Agent Jack LeCroy listed some Do's and Don'ts for Fall Landscaping. During the breaks everyone was offered the opportunity to purchase plants grown by Master Gardeners including many African Violets grown by the late Jere Trigg. The revenue from the sales will go to the AMGA 2024 conference fundraising efforts and to Fairhope Cancer Center, respectively.





Master Gardeners are still producing flowers, but are leaving the soil behind. A class was arranged by Deborah Marriott with her true persistent attitude!! It was called Sips and Shells. We all made a beautiful magnolia blossom using oyster shells. In addition we made about 6 oyster shell tree ornaments. We sipped as we created.



Charlotte Hamm, Deborah Marriott, Beth Robinson, Liz Wojtaszek, Becky Estes, Susan Mattingly, Eileen Huisman



Deborah Marriott



Coastal College Garden and Greenhouse by Mary Calvin



The Native Plant Pollinator Garden is filling in nicely after 18 months. It's a great source of seeds.



Thanks to Jackie Gray and Julie Cox for their help at the Coastal College garden and greenhouse.

We work Tuesdays and Fridays and would welcome more volunteers whenever you can make it. We're also looking for seeds, cuttings and divisions of native plants. Contact Mary Calvin



Aquatic Milkweed, Asclepias perennis. We are growing native milkweed to improve the health of local Monarchs.

The Science of Monarchs by Mary Calvin

Carmen Flammini presented a workshop on Monarchs and the Science behind Migration, Breeding, and Diseases.

She gave details of the Monarch's anatomy and showed pictures of the OE spores on the wings. Most butterflies in the area now have OE. She is asking all of us in south Alabama to quit growing tropical milkweed.

There will be a series of workshops after the first of the year on propagation, care in raising Monarchs, planting a migratory garden and testing for the OE parasite, and tagging Monarchs.



Carmen Flammini

November Birthdays



- Mark Lammon 11-1
- 11-3 Wanda Martin
- Donna Burnham 11-5
- 11-5 **Joyce Hewitt**
- 11-6 **Carma Gronback**
- Susan Mattingly 11-6
- 11-6 Marilyn Renaudette
- Pat Greer 11-8
- 11-9 **Dolores Hammack**
- 11-10 Pam Schultz
- 11-14 Brenda Myers
- 11-15 Liz Cobb
- 11-20 Harry Kohler
- 11-20 Kazuko Russell
- 11-20 Sandy Stepan
- 11-21 Shirley Stephens
- 11-25 Myra Hannah
- 11-25 Mike Healy (Honorary)
- 11-27 Lisa Vinson
- 11-28 "C" Fogarty
- 11-29 Ann Pierce
- 11-29 **Mickey Ezell**





Cotton Creek Farms by Eileen Huisman



We all had fun with our hands digging in a pot. The pot was not filled with soil, but with concrete.

We toured the beautiful farm, and we made our cement pots. Hopefully, we will be making our own table decoration pots. We were served a delicious lunch consisting of chicken chili served in a white pumpkin, a Waldorf Salad, and pecan pie with ice cream. Seven of the nine people were master gardeners. We will be picking up our pots this week, and they will be a surprise to us as we made them upside down.



Zetty Bauer, Loree Hadley, Eileen Huisman, and Honey Ennis

Front: Donna Burnham, Sharon Smith, Honey Ennis Back: Zetty Bauer, Loree Hadley, Eileen Huisman, and **Deborah Marriott**





Meeting Minutes by Terri Wallace

The meeting was called to order by Mary Calvin at 10:00 a.m. There were 63 members present. Mary welcomed the members and guests Carolyn Lippold, Alice Marty, and Leslie Maycock.

Carmen Flaminni, ACES agent, told us that ACES will provide our badges in the future at no cost to BCMG. These will match the badges the other Alabama chapters wear. The badges will be predrilled for stars. It has not been determined if the stars will be provided by ACES or BCMG. Carmen said BCMG has been invited back to the Foley Farmer's Market beginning in February 2024. Two MGs will oversee the event, and Carmen will have more information about this in the future. There will be a workshop on October 27, 2023, at the Hwy. 104 building. The subject is "*Monarch Butterflies – The Science behind Migration, Breeding and Diseases*". The workshop will be at 1:00 p.m., and you may register by calling (251) 937-7176.

Jere Trigg, a MG since 2015, is in the last stages of Leukemia. His apprentice, Carolyn Lippold, presented a talk on Jere's passion, African Violets. Jere has over 400 violets that Carolyn has cared for over the past several months. She has spent many hours each day watering and caring for the leaves and blooms of the violets. Carolyn is a college student at the University of South Alabama majoring in chemical engineering. She has dedicated her time to help Jere, and thinks it's the best job she's ever had. Jere hybridized over 20 new African Violets during his lifetime. Care tips for violets included providing as much light as possible, water with a low-level fertilizer, water from the bottom of the clear tray under the violet to halfway up and let the water absorb for 30 minutes, pick off only the dead flowers, and be careful of pests and too much humidity. Violets were available for members to make a donation and take home before the meeting and at the break. Monies donated for the violets will be given to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, a foundation for research of blood cancers.

Alice Marty and Leslie Maycock, MCMGs, presented a program on "*Winter Sowing for Early Tomato Transplants*". Alice has been the MCMG newsletter editor for 13 years and specializes in Monarch Butterflies also. Trudi Davidoff developed the technique of winter sowing. The USDA recognized the viability of the technique in 2006, adding the term to the National Agricultural Library Thesaurus. Reasons to winter sow include earlier seedlings, stronger plant growth, no hardening off, no damping off, no stratification, and no expensive equipment. Plants will be hardier and will not be leggy. The technique doesn't take up much space indoors, and it gives you a way to reuse plastic containers. Alice and Leslie demonstrated how to prepare your containers and showed how to either

use a cloche over the plant or tape the plastic container closed once seeds are planted. Be sure to place a label inside the container so that you remember what it is when you go to pot your plants. Place your containers in a sunny spot, and be sure they are secure from wildlife and domestic animals. The first year Leslie tried winter sowing, she planted 98 containers. and every one of them produced seedlings. Alice encouraged everyone to go online and see the many good, informative articles on winter sowing. Everyone enjoyed the program.



Thank you to Mobile Master Gardeners, Alice Marty and Leslie Maycock, for their timely instructions on Winter Sowing. They also invited us to participate in their online Holiday Greenery Sale.



Meeting Minutes by Terri Wallace (Continued)

After a break, the business meeting began. Mary announced that Charmaine Peterman had fallen and had hip surgery.

The minutes of the September 13, 2023 General Meeting were approved as written following a motion to accept by Marilyn Mannhard, seconded by Zetty Bauer.

Cassandra Rabren gave the Treasurer's Report. The Regions checking account balance is \$28,075.08. The \$20,000.00 CD has accrued approximately \$300.00 in interest (to be paid when the CD matures). The amount of collected dues to date is \$475.00. The Fall Plant Sale made a profit of about \$1,000.00. Cassandra reminded everyone that she has reimbursement slips with her at every meeting and encouraged everyone to be timelier in turning in receipts. She is still getting receipts from the Spring Plant Sale. This makes bookkeeping difficult and makes it difficult to keep the budget in line. The Board voted to have a 30-day timeframe for turning in receipts. Receipts turned in later than 30 days will require the person to come before the board and ask for approval of the expenditure. Cassandra reminded us that we should only purchase items that are approved by the Chairman of the event we are purchasing for.

Fall Seminar – Zetty Bauer: Zetty reminded everyone that the seminar is Saturday, October 14, 2023 at Hwy. 104. It is from 9 a.m. – 12:00 noon and costs \$10.00. A small plant sale will be held with the proceeds going to the AMGA Conference. Zetty passed around a sign-up sheet for refreshments.

Mary recognized and thanked the many volunteers who have been working tirelessly on various projects. These included the Eastern Shore Art Center, the Stapleton School phase 3 pollinator garden, Fall Plant Sale, Hospitality who has worked all year long in the kitchen and the BirdFest Expo.

Brenda Montgomery and the other volunteers at the BirdFest Expo presented Linda (Honey) Ennis a gift card for facilitating all the beautiful decorations at the expo. Everyone who attended remarked on how elegant and gorgeous the decorations were. Honey passed a sign-up sheet around for volunteers to make table arrangements when the need arises. The next occasion will be at the December Awards Luncheon. Honey recommended the book "*Cut Flowers, Foliage and Fruits of the Southeast*" as a great resource for arrangements. The book is available on Amazon and in several of the Baldwin County Libraries.

Interns – Anita O'Connor: Anita announced there will be at least 18 Interns next year. Three more people are still in the decision-making process. Many of the class will be from the Foley area. She continues to look for Mentors and would like those members who were in the 2023 class to volunteer. She has written an article for *Grass Roots* explaining her needs. Anita has asked a few members who are familiar with the Help Line to assist the Mentors when students do their hours there.

Outreach – Eileen Huisman: The Awards Luncheon will be a potluck. Everyone should bring a dish with enough to share with others. Turkeys and a ham are being donated by some members. Elmer Vick will smoke them.

Daphne Greenhouse – Elmer Vick: The machine needed for the gravel is ready and will be used on Saturday, October 14, to finish the inside of the greenhouse. Volunteers are needed for spreading the gravel. Please contact Elmer if you can help.

Spring Plant Sale – Dolores Hammack: The sale will be April 4, 5 and 6, 2024 at Weeks Bay from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. There will be a meeting on November 1, 2023 following the Board Meeting. Dolores requested that all who worked the sale last year please attend this meeting. She very much wants input from those people as the sale for next year is planned.

AMGA Conference – Sandy Stepan: Zetty Bauer is the Registration Chair, and Joni Euler is doing our publicity with *Pathways* and *Grass Roots*. Kim Musson is working on programs, and Andreu Riebe has done much work behind the scenes with technology. Sheryl Bly is doing a lot of work for the Steering Committee. These people as well as many more are working nonstop, and the progress is amazing. There will be a work day at Loree Hadley's

(Continued on page 12)



Meeting Minutes by Terri Wallace (Continued)

home on October 26 at 9:30 to begin making the centerpieces for the tables at the conference. A potluck lunch will follow. Contact Loree if you would like to help.

Service Training – Mary Calvin: An email was sent out this week giving the link to register for a Zoom meeting on the new way to input service hours. The dates are October 19 and 20. The change process will enable better reports of how well MGs help statewide.

Nominating Committee – Joni Euler and Don Richerson: Normally a slate of officers would be presented at the October meeting. That isn't possible this year as no one has volunteered for the Vice President or the Recording Secretary positions. Those approached to take a position have all declined. Joni said everyone in attendance at the meeting is capable and asked them to please consider filling a position. She stressed that there are 12 other board members who will help anyone with whatever they need. Member-at-large positions (2) both have volunteers.

Mary announced that the MCMG has opened 13 extra seats to BCMG to travel to Auburn University. The seats are \$25.00, and the bus will be leaving from the Jon Archer Agricultural Complex (1070 N. Schillinger Rd. Mobile, AL 36608) at 6:00 AM on October 18th. Please contact <u>readingweeder72@hotmail.com</u> if you are interested.

Selena Vaughn requested cuttings for the Daphne Greenhouse. Angel Trumpets, Pentas, perennials, seeds, and anything that you like are all welcome. You can drop them off or call Selena and she will pick them up. Mary Calvin said they are accepting native plants at the Coastal College Greenhouse. Myra is overseeing the greenhouse at Robertsdale High School, and Mickey Ezell is overseeing the Gulf Shores High School Greenhouse.

There being no further business, Terri Wallace made a motion to adjourn, Gina Blakeman seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.



If you are an active Baldwin Master Gardener, it is time to catch-up your Service & CEU Hour recording at the Extension website for the 2023 December Luncheon Awards Presentation. Please remember that the web address to post your hours is at

https://ssl.acesagauburn.edu/mgmanager/login (Just click on the link!)

The Master Gardener Volunteer Hours deadline is: **Friday, November 10, 2023 at 12:00 Midnight**. The advance time is needed to do the calculations and order badges and pins for the ceremony.

If you have any technical or volunteer hours questions, please contact either Super Administrator: Sam Andrews at <u>HibiscusFiend@att.net</u> or Lynn Andrews at <u>LynnAndrews@mchsi.com</u>.

I look forward to seeing your entries on the website and adding your name to the December Awards List!





Mark Your Calendar

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, <u>12:00 Midnight</u>
November 16, 2023	Monthly Gardening Zoom Classes, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
November 23, 2023	Thanksgiving Day
November 27, 2023	Monthly Extension-MG Update Meeting, 1:00 p.m., Register at:
	https://auburn.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qduyoqzwoEtcdKk7yjuUNvZ4e4WCmulfA
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 21, 2023	Monthly Gardening Zoom Classes, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
December 25, 2023	Christmas Day
December 31, 2023	New Year's Eve
January 3, 2024	BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:30 a.m11:30 a.m.
January 10, 2024	BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, Speaker TBA
January 29, 2024	Monthly Extension-MG Update Meeting, 1:00 p.m., Register at
	https://auburn.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qduyoqzwoEtcdKk7yjuUNvZ4e4WCmulfA
February 7, 2024	BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:30 a.m11:30 a.m.
February 14, 2024	BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, Speaker TBA
April 4-6, 2024	BCMG Spring Plant Sale, Weeks Bay, 9:00 a.m4:00 p.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 Eileen Huisman, Mary Calvin, Jean Vick, Tanys Waldron, and Brenda Montgomery. 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). <u>Pictures should be JPG's at least 1 MB in size</u>. <u>Articles and pictures must be submitted by the 20th of the month.</u> Please attach, not "embed", photos into your email. Send to <u>grassrootsnews@gmail.com</u>.



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

Next meeting: WEDNESDAY, November 8, 2023

Location: Research Station, Hwy. 104 Topic: "Planning a Funeral" Speaker: Sherri Mack, Mack Funeral Home

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

Wayne de la Rua Voting Closes at End of Meeting.



