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[www.baldwinmastergardeners.com](http://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:**

Tanyas 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*

Happy Holidays, Master Gardeners!

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Awards Luncheon on December 6. One of my favorite parts is the Year in Review video. It always amazes me just how much Baldwin County Master Gardeners has done over the course of a year.

We started the year with a new project, celebrating National Seed Swap Day at the Gulf Coast Zoo. Arbor Days fill our calendars in February, and March brings the Tuesday Night workshops. We all come together in April for the Spring Plant Sale, offering a culmination of six months of work in the greenhouses. Seeing the spring lambs at Susan Palmer's farm was another April highlight.

Getting the interns over the hump with class time, Helpline hours, presentations and outreach, we greet them as full members in July.

Projects with students throughout the year included Earth Day at Gulf Shores, Summerdale School pollinator garden, Stapleton School's expanding gardens, Daphne High's window boxes, and Water Festival in Bay Minette. Our Speakers have given countless talks throughout the community. As we prepare to host the AMGA conference in 2024, the various committees are busy with taste-testing, craft projects, fundraising, and facility tours. Speakers have been chosen, vendors invited, programs designed, and more.

My thanks to each of you for the role you play in making Baldwin County Master Gardeners a relevant community resource and a lot of fun!

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Coastal College Greenhouse.....	2
Daphne Greenhouse Project.....	3
Christmas Awards Luncheon.....	3
December Birthdays.....	4
Meeting Minutes & Busy Bees.....	4-6
Mark Your Calendar.....	7





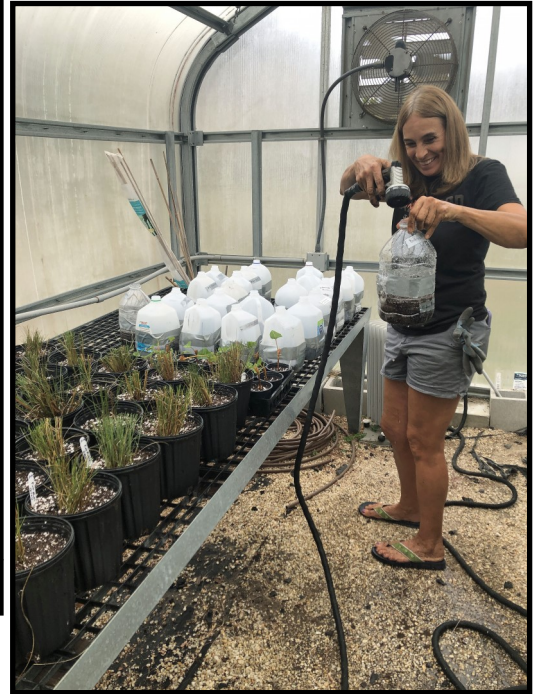


## Coastal College Greenhouse by Mary Calvin

The fall highlight for our Native Plant greenhouse was a visit to Gena Todia's Native Plant yard in Fairhope. Gena has lived there for twenty-five years and has a wide assortment of natives. We collected seeds from 27 different varieties. The first to sprout for us is Bartram's Evening Primrose, *Oenothera grandiflora*.



Jackie Gray, Patty Rowland, and Gena Todia



Dolores Hammack watering



Gena's Bartram Evening Primrose



Our Sprouts





## *Daphne Greenhouse Project by Eileen Huisman*

Five were there to finish the 4-part table. Becky Estes, Elmer Vick, Jean Vick, and George Donchez. The project needs a couple more days to replace the second side. You will be notified when help is needed.



### **Baldwin County Master Gardeners 2023 Christmas Awards Luncheon**

Wednesday, December 6, 2023  
Foley Civic Center  
407 E. Laurel Avenue  
Foley, Alabama

10:00 a.m.—Social  
11:00 a.m.—Meeting, Awards and Lunch

The doors will be open at 8:30 a.m. for Committee set-up, and 10:00 a.m. for bringing in the Pot Luck Dishes and Social Time.  
Everyone is to sign in at the front door.

The meeting will start at 11:00 a.m. with the announcement of the Wayne de la Rua Award and the 2023 Year-End Video.

11:30 a.m.—Lunch  
12:00 Noon—Presentation of badges and stars to BCMG members who have earned an award.  
Raffle and Table decorations give-away  
1:15 p.m. (approx.) Meeting is adjourned.

**Smoked Turkey provided.  
Coffee, Tea, & Water provided.**

**Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share!!!**

## December Birthdays



12-1	Katherine Shepard
12-3	Cassandra Rabren
12-5	Lynn Andrews
12-5	George Donchez
12-6	Alice Kohler
12-7	Beverly White
12-11	Reba Cunningham
12-11	Maura Daniell
12-12	Michelle Patton
12-12	Elsie Reed
12-18	Mike McQueen (Retired County Agent)
12-18	Ann Shirley
12-22	Terri Withee
12-27	Dooley Berry
12-27	Steve Urbanek
12-28	Lydia Chan
12-31	Nancy Gaines
12-31	Teena Reed
12-31	Patrick Waldrop

*Life...is all about the Journey.*



## Meeting Minutes by Terri Wallace

The meeting was called to order by Mary Calvin at 10:00 a.m. Sixty-five members were present. Mary welcomed our members and guest, Gary Mack.

Tanys Waldron introduced our speaker, Sherri Mack, Manager and Co-owner of Mack Funeral Home in Robertsdale. Sherri discussed how to design a funeral and the available options. She presented four options for final disposition of your body – Traditional Burial, Cremation, Green (eco-friendly), and Anatomical which ends in cremation. She then discussed the different types of ways your family and friends can come together and celebrate your life. Questions to discuss with you family include do you want a visitation (private or public), a viewing or a wake? Do you want your body present with an open or closed casket? Is a graveside service enough, or do you want a service and a graveside service? Maybe a memorial service is all you want. Discuss your wishes with family to be sure they know how to proceed after your death. You can choose options to personalize your event. You may choose the final location of your casket/ashes, have a speaker, pallbearers, eulogist, prayers or other readings, hymns or recorded music, the list is endless. If you choose to prearrange your funeral wishes, you can also take care of the financial side of things at the same time. Cremation begins at approximately \$2,500.00. Burial begins at approximately \$10,000.00. Payments may be made by credit card, cash, prepaid funeral expense policy, a funeral trust, or a final expense plan. In order not to leave anything to chance, record your preferences and wishes by contacting a funeral provider to help you create a plan. You may also complete a funeral planning guide, verbally share your final wishes, and put your wishes in a video or voice recording. Sherri shared a huge amount of information on this subject, and I can't include all of it here. You may call Sherri or another funeral provider for more details.

*(Continued on page 5)*



## Meeting Minutes by Terri Wallace (continued)

Gary Mack brought trees to give away at the meeting. Deborah Marriott and Myra Lassere received Cypress trees, Elmer Vick got an Ash tree, Cassandra Rabren a Sugarberry tree, and Kim Musson a Sycamore tree.

After a break, the business meeting began. Mary announced that Brenda Myers has breast cancer and is in a great deal of pain. A card from BCMG has been sent to her. Jere Trigg passed away during our meeting on October 11, 2023, and several members attended his celebration of life service and met his sons. We received a Thanksgiving card from Specialty Tag & Label Inc. We buy our plant sale labels from them.

The minutes of the October 11, 2023 meeting were approved following a motion by Elmer Vick, seconded by Gina Blakeman.

Treasurer's Report – Cassandra Rabren: The Regions account has a balance of \$30,829.98, and we still have the \$20,000.00 CD earning interest. Dues collected for 2024 are \$1,110.00 with more checks being given to Cassandra today. The total balance is \$49,736.09. Cassandra will provide a written report to anyone who requests it and will help anyone who wants to understand the reports better. A check will be given to Ed Pickle today for AMGA fundraising in the amount of \$1,468.19. \$931.70 is from the Fall Plant Sale, and the balance is from other small plant sales where members grew the plants or donated them for fundraisers. The Jere Trigg African Violet sale totaled \$1,371.00 and will be donated to the Fairhope Cancer Center. Fall Seminar admission was a record with \$890.00 collected for admittance.



Busy Bee Awards were presented by Mary Calvin for the work on the Daphne Greenhouse. Members receiving the award were Elmer Vick, Terri Wallace, Gary Wallace, Eileen Huisman, Julian Walthall, Laraine Delahanty, Rob McWhorter, Mac McCauley, Keith Cardwell, Becky Estes, Elsie Reed, and George Donchez.

AMGA conference attire – Paula Pritchett: At the conference next year, members who volunteer will wear BCMG shirts, tees, aprons, hats or visors so that they will be identifiable to those who may have questions. Please see Becky Estes today if you would like to preorder an item. Gail Hand will be sending written thank you notes to those who donate money or a silent auction item. There will be 40 tables in the auditorium and lots of members are creating centerpieces for each of the tables. Please donate any 4–5-inch round or square black pots you have. You can bring them to the December 6 luncheon and give them to Loree Hadley or Linda Bizzell.



**Mary Calvin awarded Busy Bees to those who worked on the Frank Trione Greenhouse Renovation: Becky Estes, Elmer Vick, Terri Wallace, Eileen Huisman, Elsie Reed, Laraine Delahanty, and Gary Wallace. Not pictured: Julian Walthall, Rob McWhorter, Mac McCauley, Keith Cardwell, and George Donchez.**

ACES – Carmen Flammini: Carmen encouraged everyone to order their badge from ACES. She had a QR code on the front screen for those who wanted to use their phone and order today. Katie Shepard was available to assist anyone who needed help. The link to order has been updated so that the year you were certified and the year you achieved the badge you are ordering are both listed. This had been left off previously. Carmen is correcting any previously entered orders with dates that had been done in error. We will continue the Star program from BCMG funds. The Milkweed project is underway. The protocol has been written. Carmen told everyone to pull out any Tropical Milkweed we have as it is not what the Monarchs need. She also warned us about nurseries mislabeling Milkweed. She has seen some Tropical labeled as another type. There will be 20-25 Interns in 2024, and the final number will be known in early December.

*(Continued on page 6)*





## *Meeting Minutes by Terri Wallace (continued)*

2024 Elections – Joni Euler: Joni reviewed a list of all nominees and opened the floor for nominations. None were given. The slate included Vice President – Ed Pickle, Recording Secretary – Pat Greer, and Members-at-Large – Barb Comstock, Kay Heinrich, and Susan Mattingly. Ballots were distributed and collected. The new officers are Ed Pickle, Pat Greer, Barb Comstock and Kay Heinrich.

Spring Plant Sale – Dolores Hammack: The initial meeting for this sale was held November 1, 2023. The next meeting is on November 29, 2023 following the board meeting. A group is going to Weeks Bay following today's meeting, and all are welcome to go.

Interns – Anita O'Connor: Of the candidates for the class, only a few have completed the registration process. She will know the first part of December how many will be in the class. Mentors have been selected and Anita plans to have a brief meeting with them. Liz Wojtaszek and Susan Mattingly will be coordinating the Intern breakfast. ACES, Board members, and Mentors are invited to the event, and it will be a potluck meal. The date is January 11, 2024.

Projects – Elmer Vick: The Daphne High School Greenhouse has one more project to complete this year's renovations. The west wall needs to be redone. A date will be selected and a request for volunteers will be issued.

Outreach – Eileen Huisman: Everyone was reminded of the December 6, 2023 Awards Luncheon at the Foley Civic Center. Doors open at 9:30 and the meeting starts at 11:00. It will be a potluck meal, so please bring enough of your dish to share. Elmer is smoking hams and turkeys that have been donated by members. The Gulf Coast Zoo Seed Swap will be January 27, 2024, and volunteers are needed for that event.

Mary Calvin reminded everyone that the December board meeting will be on November 29, 2023 and will include the outgoing and incoming board members.

The deadline for entering service hours to qualify for an award is November 10, 2023 at midnight. The new format for entering service hours begins January 1, 2024, and Mary will send out the recording and the PDF file of the previous Zoom instructional meetings. If you haven't done the training, please watch the recording and read the file explaining how to do it.

Myra Lassere reported that pansy plants, ferns, and herbs are all growing well at the Robertsdale Greenhouse. They have flats for sale, and you may go on November 13 or 14 at 9:30 a.m. to purchase. After the Thanksgiving break, you may go any Monday or Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. Volunteers are welcomed and needed. Mary said the Coastal College Greenhouse needs volunteers on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. They were able to get 27 varieties of native seeds from Gena Todia and are excited to see what the results of planting them will be.

Advisory Council – Deborah Marriott: Gift cards were given away to the group who had the most members attend the meeting on November 7, 2023. Anyone is welcome to attend the meeting. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was reviewed at the meeting. The information will be on the website where hours are entered, and each member will have to read and accept the information included in the MOU prior to being able to enter hours in 2024. The certification levels are changing and will now be:

- Active – dues paid, volunteer hours (25) and CEU hours (10) achieved.
- Non-Active – dues paid but volunteer and CEU hours not achieved. They are not allowed to vote.
- Alumnus/a – no dues paid, and no volunteer or CEU hours achieved. They are not allowed to vote. They may pay their dues, sign the MOU and begin obtaining hours whenever they would like to.

There being no further business, Don Richerson made a motion to adjourn, Gina Blakeman seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

