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NEWSLETTER OF THE BALDWIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, INC.

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

**2024 BCMG Elected Board**

- President:  
Don Richerson
- Vice-President:  
Ed Pickle
- Treasurer:  
Cassandra Rabren
- Recording Secretary:  
Pat Greer
- Corresponding Secretary:  
Lydia Chan
- Members at Large:  
Barb Comstock  
Kay Heinrich
- Past President:  
Mary Calvin

**2024 Appointed Board Members:**

- Monthly Program Co-Chairs:  
Charlotte Hamm  
Brenda Montgomery
- Intern Class Coordinator:  
Anita O'Connor
- Outreach Coordinator:  
Eileen Huisman
- Finance Committee Chair:  
Gail Hand
- Projects Chair:  
Elmer Vick

*President's Notes by Don Richerson*

The BCMG is on the cusp of the busiest month we've had in at least a decade. With both the Spring Plant Sale and the AMGA Conference and yard work, in our immediate future, we need to put our Volunteer face on and get to work.

I was thinking this morning about another Master Gardener and friend, Vince Dooley. Not only a legendary coach at my university, but also a devotee of camellias, as well as, a Master Gardener in Athens, Georgia. He often visited Baldwin County to see and learn from Bobby Green, but in this particular memory, we ran into one another at another location associated with April.

I was at the Masters in the early 1980's on Hole #12 at Augusta National and I hear my name called in back of me. I turn, and to my complete surprise, there stood Vince and his wife, Barbara. Surprised can't describe the shock this simple gesture had on me. Vince described how this was their first trip to Augusta National Golf Club and he asked me a very simple question. "Don, where are we?"



Now friends, I know Augusta National. At the time, we were in a great spot behind the 12th tee. I told them, "Amen Corner." I then proceeded for the next hour or so to give them a tour, mainly of the back nine, of this beloved haven/heaven of a golf course.

We have a chance to be welcoming and informative to our fellow Master Gardeners across our state. Let's put on our ambassador faces and be as hospitable as possible to our guests at the Plant Sale and Conference. Telling our clients and visitors, "I don't know" is not sufficient. Find the answer and be informative. I am so looking forward to April 2024. I hope you are too!



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**SPECIAL NOTICE—LOCATION CHANGE—  
The April Monthly Meeting on Wednesday, April 10 will be held at the Council Chambers at the Fairhope Civic Center, 161 N. Section Street, Fairhope, AL**



## Tuesdays With Master Gardeners by Tanys Waldron

The 3rd night of the March Spring Workshops “Tuesdays with Master Gardeners” was an excellent evening. We had 80 attendees.



There were 60 paid students for a total of \$297. (One person came very late, so we charged them \$2.00.) There were 15 Master Gardeners and Interns on the Workshop team, and 2 Speakers. Some of the MGs brought food for the Refreshment table, so there was a good selection of snacks.

The great talks were given by:

- 6pm– The Importance of Using Native Plants in Your Garden—Instructor: Gena Todia
- 7pm– Growing Citrus & Blueberries in Southern Alabama—Instructor: Jack Bush

We had a Raffle, and the 3 beautiful Bromeliads plant prizes were donated by Master Gardener Susie Wallace. The Raffle raised \$60.00. It will go toward the “John Kitch Cancer Fund”. Susie and her husband are moving to North Carolina and could not take all their plants. She also gave 60 of her Greenhouse plants to sell at our April Plant Sale. We sold her huge Staghorn fern for \$70.00. (Susie originally bought that Staghorn fern from Charmaine Peterman for \$50.00, and eventually divided it into three ferns.) This is the first plant to be sold for our Plant Sale.



Jack and Karen Bush

A big Thank You to the wonderful Volunteers who made it happen: Lynn Barnes, Sueann Barnwell, Mary Calvin, Jim Faulkner, Tom Fortner, Jim Greer, Pat Greer, Eileen Huisman, Marilyn Mannhard (plant pick-up), Robin Newell, Beth Robinson, Judi Smith, Lisa Vinson, Tanys Waldron, and Liz Wojtaszek.

Many thanks to everyone for a successful workshop.



## Avocado Dip Recipe by Pat Greer

Mash 2 avocados, and mix with:

- 1 minced clove of garlic
- 1/4 cup of sour cream
- salt and pepper to taste
- a splash of either lemon or lime

# 2024 AMGA Conference Volunteer Information by Marilyn Mannhard

Thank you to all of you who have been signing up to work at the conference. This is the latest spreadsheet Andreu has completed. An updated copy of this was sent to Mobile Master Gardeners on April 1, so if you want particular jobs, you need to sign up. I know a lot of you say just put me down wherever, but because of the way the spreadsheet works, we do need you to choose a particular day, time, and event. Please email me that information at [marilynmannhard@gmail.com](mailto:marilynmannhard@gmail.com), and I will enter it into the spreadsheet.

Another note, be sure to click the link below. I made the mistake of trying to open it on my email feed and it just took me to a QR code which I couldn't open. Andreu had to straighten me out. This is the correct link below.

[https://baldwinmastergardeners-my.sharepoint.com/:x/g/personal/admin\\_baldwinmastergardeners\\_onmicrosoft\\_com/ERyPDGY9fvhOuEu27iTd2dQBTTG71C0uzfDgKikq2F03Og](https://baldwinmastergardeners-my.sharepoint.com/:x/g/personal/admin_baldwinmastergardeners_onmicrosoft_com/ERyPDGY9fvhOuEu27iTd2dQBTTG71C0uzfDgKikq2F03Og)



# Snack Needs for 2024 AMGA State Conference by Deborah Marriott

Hospitality Committee for Master Gardener Conference—April 22, 23, 24

Judi Smith, Hospitality Committee, Snacks/Refreshments  
Deborah Marriott, Hospitality Committee

As you are aware, we are gearing up to host the AMGA State Conference on April 22-24 in Daphne. In order to provide attendees with snacks and refreshments during the meetings, we could use your assistance. One way you might assist is to donate snack items from the list provided below. Please bring your donation to the next monthly meeting on April 10, 2024. We will have a storage tub clearly labeled for you to place your snack donation.

## **PREPACKAGED BULK SNACK ITEMS**

*\*\*Be sure to check the expiration dates\*\**

- Cheese Crackers
- Peanut Butter Crackers
- Single Serving Chips
- Granola/Breakfast Bars
- Fruit Bars/Dried Fruit
- Single Serving Nuts
- Single Serving Cookies
- Single Serving Trail Mix



The April meeting items could include refrigerated cheese/string cheese sticks.

Thank you in advance for helping provide snacks and refreshments.



## *FAME Landscaping Project by Maureen Krison*

The FAME project at the Highway 104 Research Station is well underway! Enamored by Dolores Hammack's amazing landscaping sketches and project estimates, our Board voted to supplement the previous, anonymous member-donation by funding our remaining investment costs.

Intern Lynn Barnes and her husband, Alan, graciously helped to secure our first round of Lowe's materials, and Barbara Comstock donated landscaping fabric for the project. Many thanks for their generosity!

A group of five: Elmer Vick, our master steel grinder; Ed Pickle, our installation foreman and comedian; Owen, Ed's lifelong Mississippi sidekick (who may never visit him again, given the hard labor we subjected him to!); Fran Posey-Eversole, our "quality control" expert; and Maureen Krison, the biscuit-provider and cheerleader, installed the hardscape edging two feet from the side and front of the building.

Next steps include the purchase and delivery of the rock; the splitting and spreading of the sacks of rock; the dead grass removal from the beds; and the purchase, delivery and spreading of dirt.

After our April MG plant sale, we will complete the beds at 104 and add native plants. (Thanks to Connie Gillespie who has already donated some beautiful day lilies!)

REQUEST: Maureen is asking (NOW) for one-two volunteer drivers early on Tuesday, April 9th who have trucks/vehicles (with flat backs) for hauling bags of rock from Lowe's to Highway 104. (We will drop the sacks inside the hardscape framework and split them). Please advise [mkrison051@gmail.com](mailto:mkrison051@gmail.com) or 404.312.5429 if you can help!

Our "all call" work afternoon is Wed., April 10th, right after our MG meeting. Please bring steel rakes, pitchforks, other tools and work clothes to help spread the rock and loosen the dead soil in the beds. Yes, this part is the blood/sweat/tears!

We will then schedule dirt delivery and set a date to spread it in the beds, followed by fun planting. We hope to complete Phase I before convention!

Onward! Thanks, all!



**Project FAME: Phase II**  
L-R: Elmer Vick, Maureen Krison, Ed Pickle, Fran Posey-Eversole, and Owen, Ed's lifelong Mississippi sidekick



## *News From the Speaker's Bureau by Wanda Martin*

Baldwin County Master Gardener Speaker's Bureau member Karen Rhea White gives a talk at Spanish Fort Library on the life cycle of a sunflower to preschool children. The Spanish Fort Garden Club then helped the children plant sunflower seeds.





# Arbor Days



Foley Arbor Day Volunteers



Magnolia Springs Arbor Day Volunteers





## Speaker for April Membership Meeting by Charlotte Hamm

Our speaker for our April general membership meeting will be Leslie Gahagan of the Graham Creek Nature Preserve in Foley, AL. Graham Creek Pitcher Plant bog is one of our tours during the upcoming AMGA Conference which we will host here in Daphne, April 22-24. The Pitcher Plant Bog is just one part of this wonderful leisure space, public park created on land the city of Foley purchased as an aquifer. Join us for Leslie as she relates how this necessity became a much-enjoyed recreation space.

Leslie Gahagan grew up and still resides on the waterways of Wolf Bay in Elberta. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of South Alabama with a major in marine biology. She began her career with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management as a stormwater inspector. Leslie is employed with the City of Foley as the Sustainability and Natural Resources Director where she manages the Environmental Department and Nature Parks Department. She is a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control. Leslie is active with many organizations, including serving as the President of Wolf Bay Watershed Watch and Past President of the Alabama Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. With the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, Leslie serves on the Executive Committee, Project Implementation Committee and as Co-Chair of the Community Action Committee. The AL State Forester appointed her to serve on the AL Urban Forestry Council to represent municipalities. She also serves on their Baldwin County Environmental Advisory Committee. With over twenty years of experience, she continues to be active in public education for stormwater management and water quality.

**SPECIAL NOTICE—LOCATION CHANGE—  
The April Monthly Meeting on Wednesday, April 10 will be held at the Council Chambers at the Fairhope Civic Center at 161 N. Section Street, Fairhope, AL.**

## April Birthdays



- 4-3 Carolyn Koch
- 4-10 Frieda Romanchuk
- 4-13 Julie DeBardelaben
- 4-14 Trinka Brabston
- 4-16 Sheryl Bly
- 4-18 Joanne Hogan
- 4-19 Gayle Floyd
- 4/21 Darlene Gillis
- 4-23 Martha Seale
- 4-27 George Holman
- 4-30 Priscilla Dabney

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



Mobile County Master Gardeners hosting this year's Festival of Flowers in Mobile at Cathedral Square with help from Baldwin County Master Gardeners.



## Meeting Minutes by Pat Greer

Don Richerson called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. He then asked us all to stand, face the flag, and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

He then asked if there were any guests. Those guests were Billy Harris, Bill Tremble, Tom Bellinger, and Lowell Hamilton. Bill Tremble is a Master Gardener in North Carolina and will most possibly move to our area and join us. Don then asked those with Birthdays this month, those who have been past presidents, and those who have been honored by the Wayne de la Rua Award to stand.

**Introduction of the Speaker:** Charlotte Hamm advised we will have Elmer Vick, who is a long time (2015) Master Gardner, constructing a Green House, which will be a topic offered at the upcoming State Conference. Terri Wallace then reminded us that Elmer's Mentor when he joined BCMG was John Kitch. He learned that John had developed a tomato adapted to this area. Elmer has since grown many tomato plants that he offers at the Tuesday Night Education Sessions, with the proceeds from the sale going to the American Cancer Society in honor of John Kitch. Terri Wallace then advised us of all steps to make a Green House, and also commented that Elmer assisted her and Gary to put theirs up. As Terri went over the parts needed, Elmer held them up for all of us to see. Gary Wallace, Kay Heinrich, Mickey Ezell, Sheryl Bly, Fran Posey-Eversole plus some help from the floor, helped put together a 10X12 foot greenhouse as an example of the one Elmer will build and offer as a Silent Auction item at the State Conference. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table for those who would like to take this class and receive a copy of the blueprint of this greenhouse along with some materials. Don commented that this was a good show!

**Break:** Don asked that we take a 20-minute break. During this time, we can pick up our new badges, and if needed, have holes drilled in them for our stars. Jim Greer and Ed Pickle are at a back table to do this for you.

**Corrections/Additions/Approval of February 2024 Minutes:** There were no corrections or additions. Gail Hand made a motion that the Minutes of the February 2024 Meeting be approved with a second by Gina Blakeman. The motion passed.

*(Continued on page 8)*



## *Meeting Minutes by Pat Greer (continued)*

**Treasurers Report:** Cassandra reported we have \$23,179.58 in our checking account with the \$20,000 CD plus interest. Cassandra then asked that we do not use her personal email account or personal address when corresponding with Master Gardener information. Her email address is [Treasurer@baldwinmastergardeners.com](mailto:Treasurer@baldwinmastergardeners.com) and her treasurer address is 8300 Highway 104, Fairhope, AL 36532. She has our new pictorial directories and cards available.

**ACES Report:** Carmen Flammini reported (1) the new name tags are in; let her know. (2) She is missing 15 members who have not yet signed the Memorandum of Understanding. If this is not signed, you cannot record your volunteer hours. (3) Extension will be setting up a date to celebrate all volunteers. (4) At the end of March, there will be a day for volunteers to help plant a native garden at Weeks Bay. Mickey Ezell is heading up this project.

**Plant Sale Update:** Tanys Waldron had the Plant Sale coordinators come to the front with signs showing their duties at the upcoming Plant Sale. Tanys also commented that Dolores Hammack is now in North Carolina picking up plants. On March 29<sup>th</sup>, Good Friday, Superior Nurseries will arrive with lots of plants. This truck will stop at the Weeks Bay area to drop off some plants for that project, then come into the Plant Sale area with plants. Lots of volunteers are needed on this day. Linda Bizzell will have a map for the placement of all plants and hopes to only move them one time. There will be no food for volunteers on this day, however, coffee and small snacks will be available. Eileen Huisman has sign-up sheets she is sending around for all to determine a time to volunteer. Cassandra Rabren is wearing two hats again this year. She will provide food items for the kitchen crew and also head the check-out process. She will be calling those who helped at check-out last year. Note: On Wednesday we will have our Potluck lunch. Tanys reminded us that we should bring coolers for our food since the refrigerator is very small. She would like us all to show up by 11:30 for this meal, so that we can begin shopping at 12:30. Only Master Gardeners and Interns can shop at this time. Maria Logan-Montgomery is putting together the plant list. She expects to have this out to the membership by the 21<sup>st</sup>. She is also making photos of all plants. Mary Calvin is making all labels for the plants with the help of Becky Estes. They expect to make 4,000. Karon Pennington will be handling the Trash and Treasures Table. Lee Brady will have tickets for the Raffle. Barbara Comstock is handling Traffic. She will have three shifts of volunteers working—please sign up. They will have walkie talkies and flags to help folks with parking. There will be both a parking section for the handicapped and one for the Master Gardeners. Wanda Martin will coordinate the daily seminars to be held Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Tanys reminded us that the funds from the Plant Sale goes both to the operating budget and Scholarships. Again, there is a need for wagons; there are 14 available and the need is expected to be for 30 wagons. Don commented “How about that committee!”

**AMGA Conference:** Marilyn asked for lots of volunteers. Check-In starts on Monday at 10:30 and goes on to 6:00 PM. Mary Hamilton will need help with bringing in vendor plants on Monday and Tuesday. If a volunteer has not registered for the Conference, you may not be able to enter any of the speaker rooms, but they still need you to volunteer. Also, on Monday there will be lots of things, such as the Conference bags, and set up. On Monday there will also be a need for docents to help with the tours. Marilyn has a sign-up sheet on the back table and will soon have one online. Sandy Stepan reported that 331 people have already signed up to attend the Conference. She will also have approximately 20 more attendees and guests. Of the registration number, 71 are BCMG members with 13 Interns. A lot of the tours and workshops are already filled up. Registration closes on Friday, with late registration going to April 5<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are crucial to the success of the Conference. The Daphne Civic Center opens at 7 AM for unloading. There will be a breakfast for all volunteers on Monday morning. Registration begins at 10:30 AM. Judi Smith notes she has a lot of snacks and asked that those who bring perishable snacks to please bring them on Monday morning. Deborah Marriott is asking for volunteers to help with social times. Sandy hopes to have a bag-filling day at her home on April 8<sup>th</sup>. The first session of the Conference will be on Monday and begin at 8:30 AM. There will be speakers, lunch and dinner. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Don’s comment, “A lot of work!”

*(Continued on page 9)*





## *Meeting Minutes by Pat Greer (continued)*

**Intern Class Update:** Anita O'Connor asked all the Interns to stand, and reminded us their bios are in the present *Grass Roots*. Their Presentations will be on April 18, starting at 9 AM. We are all welcome to come and listen to the presentations. Please bring a salad and/or dessert to share. Anita is impressed with all the volunteering the Interns are doing. She asked that Mentors please accompany your Intern to the Plant Sale to help them feel comfortable. Don asked Intern Lynn Barnes to come up to the front. Lynn has been selected to be an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors.

**New or Additional Business:** Maureen Krison discussed the make-over for this 104 building. Some work has already been done, and she thanks the Board for helping with funds needed. Tomorrow at 9 AM, Maureen could use some help with installing hardscape, such as rocks and edging. She thanked Lynn Barnes who offered her husband to help with getting a 10% discount at Lowes for material she has purchased there. Later they will be putting in soil and constructing potting tables and bleachers. She left her designs up front for anyone who would like to see them.

Don asked if there was any other business. Since there was not, he moved that we adjourn at 11:53, with a second from Gail Hand. All in favor, please stand!

# *Baldwin County Master Gardeners 2024 Spring Plant Sale April 4, 5, & 6 Thurs-Fri-Sat 9-4*



Visit our [Annual Spring Plant Sale page](#) for more information.



## Mark Your Calendar

April 1-3, 2024	BCMG Spring Plant Sale Set-up Days, Weeks Bay Reserve, 9:00 a.m.
April 4-6, 2024	BCMG Spring Plant Sale, Weeks Bay Reserve, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
April 10, 2024	BCMG Monthly Meeting, <b>Council Chambers, Fairhope Civic Center, 161 N. Section Street, Fairhope</b> , Leslie Gahagan from Graham Creek Nature Preserve
April 18, 2024	Intern Presentations and Luncheon, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:00 a.m. Bring salad or dessert to share.
April 22-24, 2024	AMGA State Conference, " <i>Paradise Found</i> ", Daphne Civic Center
April 27, 2024	Volunteer Trainer-Alabama Water Watch Water Monitoring Training, Orange Beach, AL, 9:00 a.m. Registration Required
April 29, 2024	Monthly Extension MG Update Meeting, 1:00 p.m., Mallory Kelley and Lunch & Learn Programs in Central Alabama, (presenters TBD), Register at: <a href="https://auburn.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qduvoqzwoEtdKk7yjuUNvZ4e4WCmulFA">https://auburn.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qduvoqzwoEtdKk7yjuUNvZ4e4WCmulFA</a>
May 1, 2024	BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
May 2, 2024	Plant Swap, Bay Minette Library
May 4, 2024	Marion Drummond Lecture Series, Carol Reese, " <i>Native Plants: Facts, Fabrications and Foibles</i> ", Mobile Botanical Gardens, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., \$35.00
May 8, 2024	BCMG Monthly Meeting, Spanish Fort Presbyterian Church, 6620 Spanish Fort Blvd., Spanish Fort, AL, Joint meeting with Mobile County MGs, Jarrod Jones, Regional Director AAES.
June 5, 2024	BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
June 12, 2024	BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, Speaker TBD
June 22, 2024	Marion Drummond Lecture Series, Marianne Willburn, " <i>Keep Calm and Garden On; Gardening in the Midst of Climate Change</i> ", Mobile Botanical Gardens, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., \$35.00

**Grass Roots** is compiled and edited by Lynn Andrews, assisted by Sam Andrews. Pictures courtesy of Eileen Huisman, Tanys Waldron, Brenda Montgomery, Maureen Krison, and Wanda Martin. The newsletter is available before the monthly general meeting on our website: [www.baldwinmastergardeners.com](http://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](mailto:grassrootsnews@gmail.com).



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

### **Next meeting: WEDNESDAY, April 10, 2024**

Speaker: Leslie Gahagan  
Topic: "Graham Creek Nature Preserve"

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

**NOTICE—CHANGE OF MEETING PLACE:**  
**Council Chambers, Fairhope Civic Center,**  
**161 N. Section Street, Fairhope, AL**



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