



June 2024
Volume XXXII Issue VI



NEWSLETTER OF THE BALDWIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, INC.

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

In 1994, I had the privilege of taking my father, 75, three months post op from a mitral valve replacement, and my son, who was just short of 16, on a trip to France, England, and Scotland. We were tracing the paths of my father's involvement in WWII. The trip was memorable for several reasons, most notably Normandy, France and Aldermaston, England. Daddy was in the 8th Air Corps attached to Patton's 3rd Army. He trained in Aldermaston and went into France at Omaha Beach near Colleville sur Mer a few days past D Day. He had been a fireman back home, and was trained to be a crash fireman for the Air Corps. They were responsible to rescuing the fighter pilots who crashed landed at the airfield he helped construct just across a ravine from the current American Cemetery at Omaha Beach. His unit is honored there with a sandstone monument. He was a hero.

I was amazed at the love the people of Normandy had for the American soldiers and consequently, their families. We were offered meals, desserts, and drinks: most notably Calvados. I had never heard of Calvados until that trip. As Daddy explained, the only thing the French had to give/honor the liberators was apple cider and apple brandy. Calvados is the latter. The German Army had salted all the fields and had eaten all the cattle and shot all the horses. It was war.

I have been back to Normandy 6 times since then, carrying tour groups on 3 occasions. The French in



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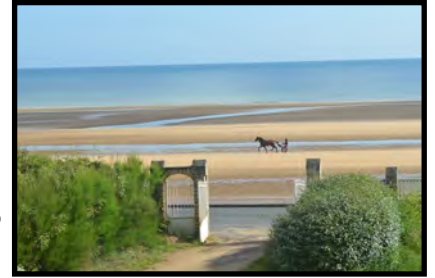


President's Notes by Don Richerson (continued)

western France still love the USA as evidenced by my most recent trip in May 2024. I had the privilege of taking 2 of my college roommates to Omaha Beach. It remains a special place to me for a myriad of reasons. My roommates were also struck by the deference shown to the Americans visiting Normandy. Our bond with them is a lasting one. Our brothers, fathers, and grandfathers set them free.

Sorry for the paucity of chlorophyll talk this month, I'll do better next month. But on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the D Day landings, I want you to know that nothing in Normandy has changed. The Americans who visit Cherbourg, Colleville sur Mer, Pointe du Hoc, Sainte Mère Église, Bayeux, Caen, Le Havre, Le Mans, Carentan Mont. St. Michel or anywhere in the Normandy region, come back with an appreciation of the Greatest Generation that is hard to comprehend.

So, on June 6, 2024, have yourself an Apple Cider or Calvados and toast these brave boys who liberated a continent. It's the least we can do.





2024 AMGA Conference Recap by Joni Trusty Euler

Though the 2024 AMGA Conference is over, the adage “the job is not finished until the paperwork is done” applies to this event. It was three years of planning, coordinating, and an infinite number of meetings to make it a success. The Steering Committee is in the process of reviewing and consolidating committee reports for submission to AMGA. At the June membership meeting, a Steering Committee member will present an initial report of the conference financials. Final numbers as to what BCMG will receive will not be available for approximately 2 more months.

Flowerwood Nursery, located in Loxley, AL, provided the plants used in decorating the Civic Center. It is a wholesale nursery and you must have an agriculture license in order to purchase plants. However, they have a separate division called “Plant Development Services, Inc” (PDSI). These plants are available at local nurseries under the name of “Southern Living Plant Collection” and “Encore Azaleas.” The brochures in the conference bags were from these collections.

A huge THANK YOU to every committee chairperson, committee member, and volunteer who had a part in making this conference so successful. It was only possible thru your dedication and hard work as a TEAM member. Happy thought - the next time Baldwin County Master Gardeners will host the conference is in 2034.



Sandy Stepan and Zetty Bauer registering guests



Working the Volunteer Sign-in Desk



Working on shopping the Silent Auction



Fran & Katherine distributing greenhouse plans



The New AMGA Board



Steven Chamblee speaking at Awards Dinner



The Native Plants Garden at Coastal College by Mary Calvin

It's been two years since the Intern Class of 2022 planted the native plants pollinator garden at Coastal Alabama Community College. It's grown and changed over time with every season looking different. Please come by and sit a spell – or better yet help with weeding.

Contact Mary Calvin for more information.



Planting Day 3-25-2022

Pictured: Debra McWhorter, Anne Lawrence, Teri Shoemaker, Cassandra Rabren, Mary Calvin (coordinator), Charlie Croft, Mac McCawley, Joyce Hewitt, and Connie Gillespie



Fall 2022—Shirley Ryals and Blue Mist



Summer 2023—Highlighting Texas Star Hibiscus

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The Native Plants Garden at Coastal College by Mary Calvin (cont.)



April 2024—No Mountain Mist, and no Tropical Milkweed. What is growing this year?



May 2024—Jackie Gray pulling weeds

June General Membership Program by Charlotte Hamm

It has been about a year since we welcomed a new Regional Extension Agent serving Baldwin, Butler, Conecuh, and Escambia Counties. We were introduced to Carmen Flammini and we met her lovely family at a reception in her honor. Since then, she has offered guidance and leadership to our BCMG organization. Carmen has been a wealth of knowledge, and stepped right in with the Native Alabama Milkweed Research Project offering workshops for us and at the AMGA Conference. At our meeting in June, Carmen will share her expertise on the topic of Soil Health.



She obtained a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering from Chile, her native country, and worked in the Fruticulture field for ten years before moving to the United States. She earned a Master's in Crop, Soil, and Environmental Science from Auburn University. In the 20 years she lived in northwest Georgia, she developed STEM programs for public schools, integrating Agriculture and Environmental Science as the focus of research-grade projects and hands-on learning experiences. She also participated in constructing STEM school gardens and pollinator gardens. Carmen served as an instructor of Life Science and Environmental Studies at Dalton State College and conducted the first international symposium at the college.

Make sure to attend the June meeting for Carmen's presentation on Soil Health. I'm sure we can all improve our gardening results with great tips on cultivating better soil.

June Birthdays



- 6-1 Zetty Bauer
- 6-4 Clarence (Mac) McCawley
- 6-7 Kay Heinrich
- 6-15 Fred Nation
- 6-17 JoAnn Jordan
- 6-20 Beth Robinson
- 6-22 Jim Gaines
- 6-22 Linda Crowell
- 6-28 Pauline Ouellette
- 6-30 Tanys Waldron

Life...is all about the Journey.

Stapleton Elementary School Outdoor Classroom by Wanda Martin and Andreu Riebe

Wanda Martin represented the Baldwin County Master Gardeners at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Stapleton Elementary School's "State of Alabama Certified Outdoor Classroom". They also have received the "Certified Schoolyard Habitat" and the "Certified Wildlife Habitat" by the National Wildlife Federation. This has been an ongoing project that BCMG members, chaired by Andreu Riebe, have been working on for a couple of years beginning with a pollinator garden, sensory garden, and bird garden.



Jim Perry, Principal, Wanda Martin, BCMG and Tammy Grace, Project Manager at Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The Stapleton School Outdoor Classroom was made possible thanks to the following individuals & organizations:

- AWF OC Specialist: Tyler Burgener
- Project Leader: Tammy Grace
- Project Team Members: Lori Hood, Julie Frith, & Ronnie Smith
- Superintendent: Eddie Tyler
- P&R Mining
- Stapleton Scholars NEHS Chapter

Plaque Thanking Supporters of Alabama Outdoor Classroom Project at Stapleton Elementary School

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Stapleton Elementary School Outdoor Classroom by Wanda Martin and Andreu Riebe (cont.)



Before Shot of the Pollinator Garden



Andreu Riebe and Mary Calvin on Planting Day—September 2022



L-R: Beth Robinson, Elsie Reed, Marilyn Renaudette, Tammy Grace, Andreu Riebe, Mary Calvin, and Wanda Martin—Planting Day Crew September 2022



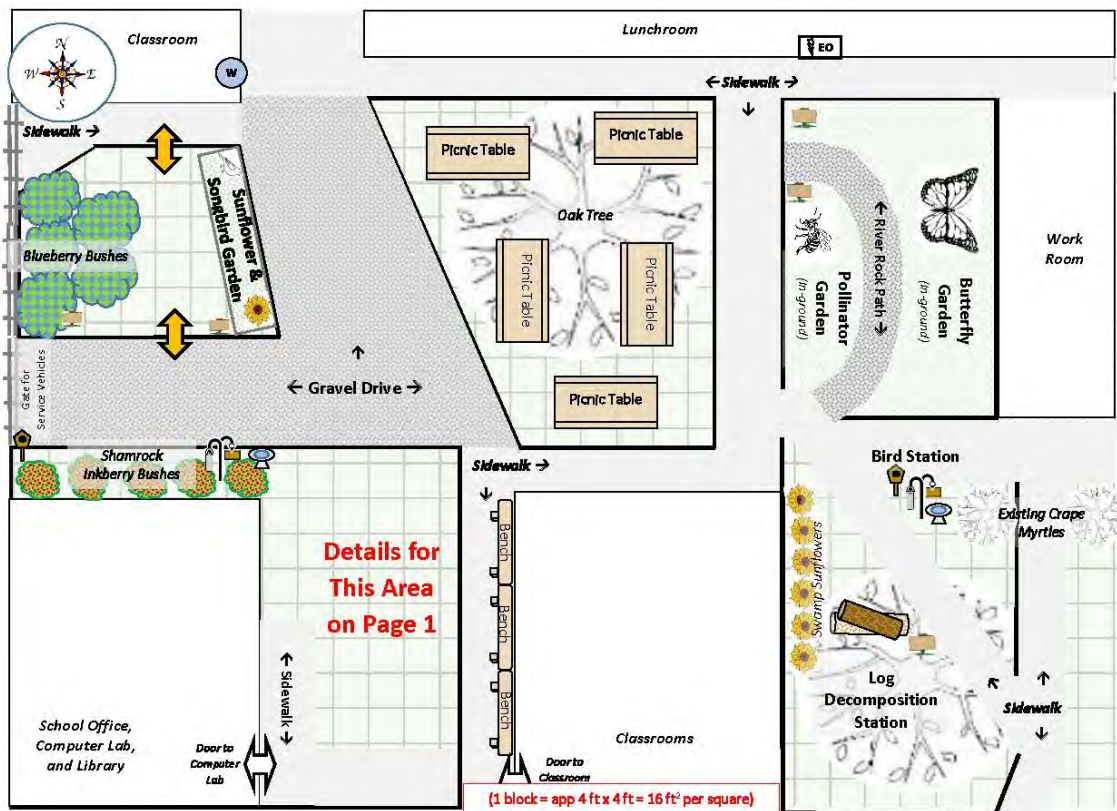
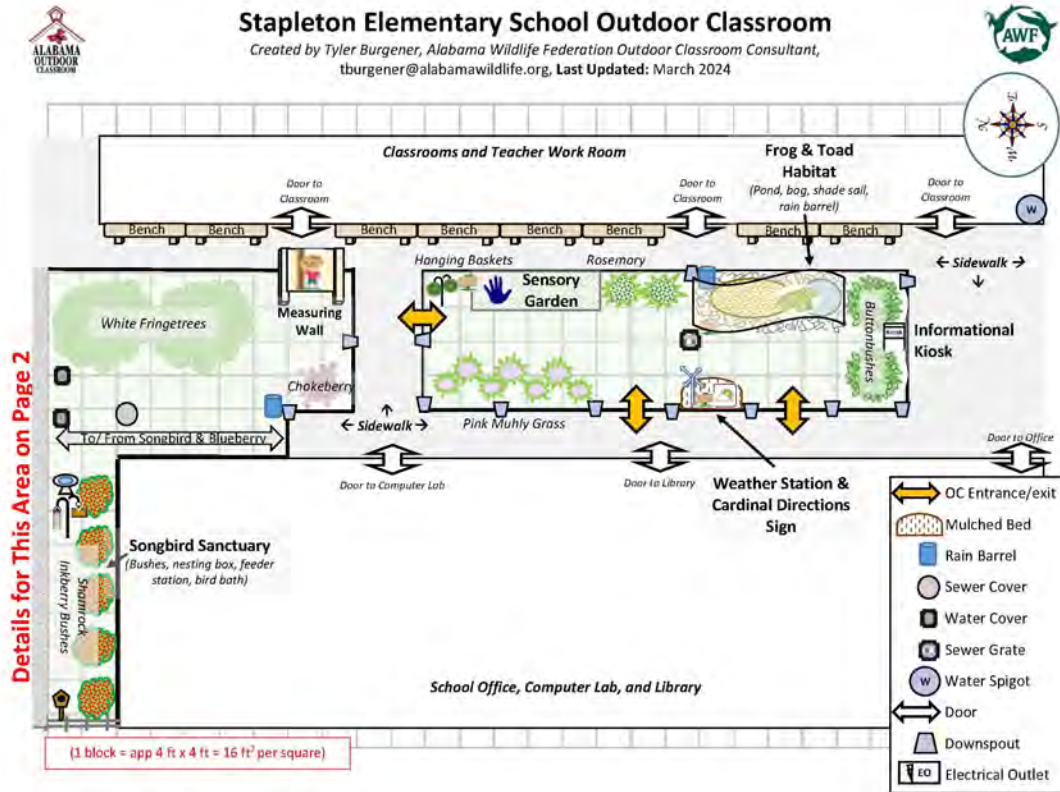
Blanketflower



View of Pollinator Garden—April 2024

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Stapleton Elementary School Outdoor Classroom by Wanda Martin and Andreu Riebe (cont.)





Baldwin County 4-H & Master Gardeners

Nature Day for Kids

Tree Exploration

Friday, June 14, 2024
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Gulf Coast Research &
Extension Center**
8300 Hwy 104 Fairhope

Open to ages 6-11
Cost: \$5 per family



Register now!
Call 251-550-6464
Space is limited.





Meeting Minutes by Pat Greer

CALL TO ORDER: Don Richerson called this joint meeting to order at 10:00 AM. He then asked us all to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Don then asked all the past presidents of the Mobile Master Gardeners to stand; then asked the Baldwin past presidents to stand. Julian Walthall then welcomed us all to the Spanish Fort Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. He said that pre-school students (73 children) will be leaving today at 12:30 when their parents will pick them up. He asked that we be sure to leave before them. Be patient when we are leaving today. The parking spaces are narrow, so we need to be careful backing out. He wants everyone to be safe. Spanish Fort Police may help with traffic control for the turn onto Highway 31.

Carol Williams, President of the Mobile Master Gardeners, thanked us for inviting their group today. She feels it is a real privilege to be here today. She then asked for her group to stand.

PROGRAM: Brenda Montgomery then introduced our speaker for the day, Jarrod Jones, Regional Director, Gulf Coast Research and Extension Center and Ornamental Horticulture Research Center. Among other things, Jarrod performed in his Bay Minette High School Rodeo and other sports. The Agricultural Experiment Station was established at Auburn University in 1883. The first of five stations off campus was the Fairhope station on Alabama Rt. 104. Jarrod showed us a photo from 1931 or 1935 of Rt. 104. It was a dirt road that was first paved around 1940. At the time, two million acres of cotton was under cultivation in Alabama. The experimental stations do research; the extension stations get the information out to the public. In Jarrod's second photo he showed a list of the Research agents with Malcolm Pegues standing near where the barn at 104 was staged to be built. Locals called this office a prison since it seemed agents never left; there have been only seven agents in the last 100 years. He then showed two more photos—1934 and 1938 with letters asking for funding. In 1940 there was a dairy farm on this property, and today there are only 12 dairy farms left in the State. In 1985, the citrus grove was closed due to weather issues. In 1940, they grew corn for hogs, and in 1950 they established a forage area for animal production. During this time, they also had a soybean farm, were growing corn, and had established a pecan orchard. By 1960, this area had the fourth leading pecan production in the country. In 1979, Hurricane Frederick dismantled the crop of pecans. Once they started soybean production, they found nematodes to be their primary pest. They established a soybean research farm in Elberta to find new varieties with either resistance to nematodes or less susceptibility. In 1980 they re-established the pecan orchard, and Baldwin County is still the leading producer of pecans. The boll weevils eradicated the cotton program; however, now our county is almost weevil free. Another procedure was to use a growth regulator when planting cotton to keep it short and more productive. In 1997, Round-Up came on the market and changed farming for the better. In 2000, cotton was the primary crop, and in 2002 the Farm Bill put a quota system on soybeans. Soybean rust entered the area after Hurricane Ivan hit our area. Today there is less farmland and more neighbors, some of whom have issues with the products used for experiments. Staff at the 104 Research Station are Jarrod, Todd Frank the Associate Director, Randy Brewton the Supervisor, Carrie Ealum the Administrative Assistant, and Dustie Burrows, Jordan Salac, Hunter James, and David Kincaid who are Research Techs and do all the work. Their main work at the Research Station is (1) lots of variety testing, (2) disease and pest management in all crops, (3) Fertility management in corn and cotton, (4) Drone applications, (5) Precision Agriculture, (6) Cover Crops, (7) Cow and Calf production, and (8) weaning evaluations of steers. They have auto-steer on all their tractors and use the drones for spraying pesticides, herbicides, and even seeds. He then showed several photos of the plots they are using, photos of the various tractors and farm equipment, and the cab of one of the tractors.

Questions: (1) How long do you think the Research Station will remain? Jarrod does not know the answer to this question, but he knows what they do at this station improves the lives of all of Alabama. (2) Will Jarrod be doing this talk within the communities? Maybe later with a community program every two months or so. (3) How many cotton acres in the state? Last year there were 367,000 cotton acres with 800 pounds of cotton per acre, which makes this the #1 row crop in Alabama. (4) How does the cost of high-tech equipment affect family farms? Today margins are so tight that family farms measure their cost by every seed they put in the ground. "If you have no tech, you are behind."

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Meeting Minutes by Pat Greer (continued)

Don Richerson thanked Jarrod for this very informative talk. The Mobile Master Gardeners will be moving to the Sanctuary for their business meeting. We will have a short break and reconvene at 11:30 AM.

CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 2024: There being no corrections, a motion passed to approve the minutes.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS: Don asked that anyone who had pictures from the State Conference to please send them to Loree Hadley for her use in her video at the July Awards luncheon.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Cassandra Rabren could not attend this meeting, so there is no Treasurer's Report today.

INTERN CLASS UPDATE: Anita O'Connor reported that the Intern class has just finished and had their presentations on April 18th. She feels the Intern classes become better and better each year. The *May Grass Roots* contains a list of all presentations. At the Awards program in July, the Interns will be certified. She has a plan in place for those who need Help Line hours. As of this date, eight of the Interns are totally ready to be certified and four have over 100 hours. Anita would like to thank all the Interns who helped at the State Conference; they were great.

JULY LUNCHEON UPDATE: Eileen Huisman reported the Awards Luncheon will be held July 10th in the Foley Civic Center. Lunch will be potluck. We will not be using the kitchen at the Civic Center; there will be no ham or turkey. Eileen showed us photos from the Foley Magazine of our Plant Sale, and she has heard there are also photos of this event in the Spanish Fort Magazine.

Eileen said the December Awards Luncheon will be on Wednesday, December 11th.

FAME PROJECT UPDATE: Don commented that Carmen Flammini is in Chile celebrating Mother's Day with her mother. And he wishes us all a Happy Mother's Day. Don also wishes to thank all who showed up this past Monday to work on the landscape project at the 104 building. It looks really good.

Mickey Ezell is looking for a few volunteers at Weeks Bay. He needs someone to paint the scientific and common names on signs within the garden. If you want to help, please call or text Mickey at 251-978-0993. Thank you.

NEW BUSINESS: A survey regarding the post conference has been sent out by Andreu Riebe; and will be re-sent again within 10 days.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon. All in favor, please stand.



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Mark Your Calendar

June 5, 2024	BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
June 12, 2024	Deadline to record Volunteer Service and CEU hours for July Awards Luncheon
June 12, 2024	BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, Speaker: Carmen Flammini, <i>"Soil Health"</i>
June 14, 2024	Nature Day for Kids, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
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
July 3, 2024	BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
July 10, 2024	BCMG Awards Luncheon, Foley Civic Center, 10:30 a.m., Potluck
August 7, 2024	BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
August 14, 2024	BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, Speaker: John Borom, <i>"BirdFest"</i>
Sept. 4, 2024	BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Sept. 11, 2024	BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, Speaker TBD
Sept. 11, 2024	Wayne de la Rua Nominations close at end of September General Meeting
October 2, 2024	BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
October 9, 2024	BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, Speaker TBD
Nov. 6, 2024	BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Nov. 13, 2024	BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, Speaker TBD
Nov. 13, 2024	Board of Directors Election
Nov. 13, 2024	Wayne de la Rua Voting closes at the end of the General Meeting
Dec. 4, 2024	BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104
Dec. 11, 2024	BCMG Awards Membership Luncheon, Foley Civic Center, 10:30 a.m.

Grass Roots is compiled and edited by Lynn Andrews, assisted by Sam Andrews. Pictures courtesy of Maria Logan-Montgomery, Mary Calvin, Wanda Martin, and Andreu Riebe. 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. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND PICTURES BY TEXT.**



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



Next meeting: WEDNESDAY, June 12, 2024

Speaker: Carmen Flammini
Topic: "Soil Health"

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



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