



September 2024
Volume XXXII Issue IX



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

I think I speak for all of us when I ask, why does school start so early these days? I mean, we are over two weeks from Labor Day as I write this! "We" always started on the Tuesday after Labor Day because many children had to help with the harvest. I was one of those children.

August had begun with plowing the garden plot that had provided all spring and summer, leaving the okra to continue its phenomenal production. My family then planted our fall garden, as many of us are doing now. My father had learned this from his parents. And I guess I did too. As the oldest of three boys, before school started in September, I was expected to have all the corn pulled from the 7 acres we had planted. Then it would be stored in the crib of our small barn to feed the livestock through the coming winter. It was a love/hate chore. We usually completed it in two weeks. Daddy would, of course, work all day Saturday on the weekends.

The caveat to this hot, dusty, miserable chore of corn pulling by hand was that I got to drive the pickup. I was 13! I had learned to drive a tractor during the summer previously, but the stick shift 1959 Ford F100 was a definite step up. My 10-year-old brother would also occasionally drive it too, when his magnanimous older brother allowed. Not that often though.

Our reward, besides driving the pickup, was that Daddy would take us and a couple of cousins camping on the weekend before Labor Day on Watsons Creek, just north of Stockton. Idyllic is as close to describing our campsite as any word I know. Watsons Creek begins from an artesian spring which feeds the pool at the Stockton Country Club swimming pool. The water was often too cold for adults, but perfect for children and teens. The creek crosses under Highway 59 through two huge culverts, each 15' X 15', about 40 feet below the road. Usually, one of the culverts was dry, thus making it an ideal place to seek shelter in a thunderstorm.

Downstream from the culverts was an island, perfect for pitching a tent. We spent the Saturday and Sunday before Labor Day for three years on that creek and campsite.

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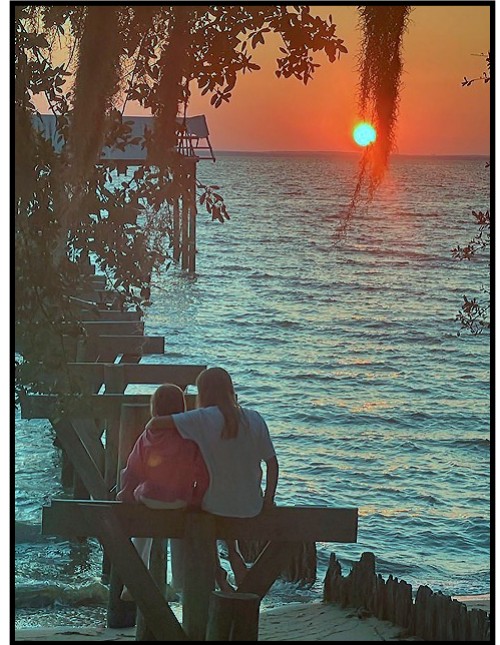


President's Notes by Don Richerson (continued)

The climate was ideal too. It had to be 10 to 15 degrees cooler down there. I cannot recall a more enjoyable time with my brother and cousins. Swimming, fishing, getting into trouble, exploring the length of the creek to where it entered what would become the Tensaw River—as I said idyllic. It was a boy's paradise. We cooked every night, as we had learned in the Boy Scouts. The fresh bream were the best. Mother had supplied us with plenty of “junk,” as she called it. Snacks is the phrase we use today. Looking back on it, I am in awe of the energy of my parents. The first year, my father took us. The last two years we went to Watsons Creek, he let us go alone.

I drove that pickup in high school and drove it to college for two years. When my parents bought a 1961 VW Bug for me, it was passed down to my brother. We still lament when Daddy sold it.

The BCMGs have a busy Autumn ahead of us. Seminars, a revamped Plant Sale, and many other initiatives will provide us with many volunteer opportunities and educational experiences. It is also Budget season and Election season and WDLR Award time. Please consider answering the call if contacted by our Nominating Committee. We are a wonderful melting pot, and everyone's opinions and ideas are welcomed.



September Birthdays



9-1	Anita O'Connor
9-1	Veronica Herndon
9-5	Myra Lassere
9-6	Ken Cooper
9-7	Marilyn Mannhard
9-7	Janet Davis
9-7	Theresa Sims
9-8	Sharon Thoele
9-10	Charlotte Croft
9-13	Linda Bizzell
9-16	Jill Boyles
9-17	Donna Greene
9-19	Becky Estes
9-19	Tampa Sykora
9-21	Maureen Krison
9-22	Pam Tucker
9-26	Ed Pickle
9-27	Diane Roberson-Hill
9-27	Celia Young

Life...is all about the Journey.




September Membership Meeting Announcement by Charlotte Hamm

Dr. Kayla Boyd is a research fellow at the Auburn University Shellfish Laboratory on Dauphin Island, AL. Originally from Wisconsin, she earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stout in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology where she studied the cellular impacts of a previously undescribed fish disease impacting black crappies across the state. She recently earned her PhD from Auburn University in Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Aquatic Sciences studying how environmental conditions impact oyster energetic usage and behaviors in the Gulf of Mexico. Kayla now works as an outreach specialist, hatchery technician, and is currently researching how oyster farm and hatchery practices affect the growth and survival of aquaculture-raised oysters across different life stages. Her favorite pastimes are hiking through the nature trails around Mobile and Baldwin County and spending time with her cat, Ed.



She will be presenting about the different aquaculture practices used in the Gulf of Mexico to rear oysters from larvae to harvest sized adults and about the work currently being conducted at the AU Shellfish Lab.



Reminder!
 The deadline for nominations for the Wayne de la Rua Award is September 20, 2024. You may deliver your nominations by email to HibiscusFiend@mchsi.com, or hand deliver at the September 11 monthly meeting.

Donating Plants to Greenhouses by Plant Sale Committee

We're Having a Fall Plant Sale!

We're making a few changes this year to streamline work at the greenhouses, and to reduce the research workload on those creating the info on the published plant list, as well as the plant signs. So we have a few new guidelines.

We appreciate all of your donations of plant divisions and cuttings, but we need to be a bit more selective this year. This will enable us to get some new things into the greenhouse, while minimizing things we had to discount. Please do not take it personally if we decline your donation. Here are the new guidelines:

- We cannot accept trademarked or patented plant material. It is illegal to propagate patented plants, then sell them. If the botanical name has "PP", "USPP", or "CanPP" followed by a number of several digits, it is either patented or has a patent pending. For example, the patent for Diamond Frost Euphorbia expires September 15, 2029. The patent for Coreopsis Gold & Bronze "Uptick" expires September 16, 2036.
- Plants must be labeled properly with both common and botanical names, and flower color. If you do not know the botanical name, please submit a close-up photo of the bloom to Dolores Hammack so the plant can be identified. The photo will also help in creating plant signs.
- Those of you donating bromeliad pups, please limit them to no more than 20 plants per variety. Varieties other than what we had last year are preferable. Clear, close-up photos of the flowers are required.
- If you cannot take cuttings or dig divisions, but would like to contribute to the sale, we can arrange someone to come to your home. If you need this service, please **text** Dolores Hammack at: 985-969-0579.



Amaryllis Propagation by Loree Hadley

We are going to be having an Amaryllis propagation with chipping Amaryllis class on September 27th at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Loree Hadley. 9525 Soldier Creek Road, Lillian, Alabama

Bring your Amaryllis, cutting board, sharp knife, alcohol to sterilize knife and cutting surface, a few paper towels, gallon size zip lock baggies with vermiculite. Depending on how many people that sign up, you may need to bring a chair.

Let Loree Hadley know if you are coming with a text saying who you are and the word coming to 4697740164.

It will be a fun time along with it being educational.

In case of rain, we can have it in the garage.

MCMG Bus Trip to Crosby Arboretum

MCMG is organizing a bus trip to the Crosby Arboretum. Here are the event details:

- What: Bus Trip to Crosby Arboretum
- When: Wednesday, October 23, 2024
- Departure: 7:30 AM from the parking lot of Jon Archer Center
- Expected Return: 7:00 PM to Jon Archer Center

Cost: \$30 for MCMGs and MCMG interns. BCMG members are also welcome.

Make checks payable to MCMG and mail to:

Jane Finley
125 Frazer Court
Mobile, AL 36607

Please note that the cost does not include lunch. Registration Deadline is October 14, 2024.

To learn more about the Crosby Arboretum, please visit their website: [Crosby Arboretum Website](#).



Meeting Minutes by Pat Greer

Don Richerson called the meeting to order at 10 AM and then asked us all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

There are 67 individuals attending the meeting today, three of whom are guests—Tom Meyer, husband of Mary Meyer; Tony Hickman; and returning member Jenni Tudor. Of these 64 members and 3 guests, it was noticed that only 4 members brought snacks to share.

Don then asked those who are having Birthdays this month to stand along with the Past Presidents and WDLR Winners. Those who have Birthdays this month and who are in attendance included: Mary Calvin, Elmer Vick, Jean Vick, Karon Pennington, and Charmaine Peterman.

Brenda Montgomery introduced our speaker for the day, Jane Herndon from SALT—the South Alabama Land Trust. Ms. Herndon has a degree in both Geology and Law and spent 20 years as an Environment Attorney. She explained that BirdFest was begun in 2008 by Dr. John Borom at the request of the Governor at that time. Since

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Meeting Minutes by Pat Greer (continued)

John cannot be here today, she is Plan B. She began with a few trivia questions. Julian Walthall and Zetty Bauer won small gifts with their answers to the questions. Over the years, there have been a lot of poor industrial habits and poor land use nationwide. Two local women started a grass roots campaign to force change. In 1967, the Alabama Environmental Council was formed. Two factoids Jane mentioned are: (1) every 30 seconds we lose a football field of land, and (2) the US has lost $\frac{1}{4}$ million acres of wetlands devoted to both industrial and construction uses.

In Baldwin County alone, up to 26,000 acres is being used for new homes. Our metro region was the fastest growing in the US 2023-2024. This should not surprise her, but she is amazed to see this on her commute to work each day. SALT plays a critical role in land use and maintaining water quality systems. It is a Nationally Accredited Land Trust. There are 21 volunteer Board Members, and they protect over 12,000 acres of wetlands and oversee 2,800 acres of land. SALT is a 501(c)3 organization. Half of their land is from donations, and they also purchase land at fair market value or on bargain sales.

With a conservation easement, owners can keep land they donate for their use, i.e. they can farm, hunt, and fish, but give up their right to clear cut. If this land is sold, the conservation easement stays. SALT can protect land they actually do not own. She mentioned that airport noise has the largest environmental impact in New Jersey.

Questions: (1) Does SALT have any lobbyists either in the local, state, or federal government? No, they try to stay away from an advocacy role. (2) Julian Walthall bemoans the loss of farmland. Do you look to them? Yes, there is such a thing as Agricultural Land Easement where the owners continue to farm and agree not to sell for residential use. (3) Marilyn Mannhard mentioned farmers she knows who are offered lots of money for their land, but do not want to sell even though their farm is not profitable. SALT can help Farmers find Federal money and/or the State could buy the farmland for conservation use. It is a tough call. (4) Cassandra asked if there is someone to contact if you see someone demolishing wetlands? There is a wetlands mitigation law, but courts have been able to change wording of these standards. Also, municipalities have been able to do land swaps trading wetlands for development and donating good land to the State. (5) Sara Semmes asked if there was anything being done about the Cole Ash Ponds, which contain spillage from Tennessee that was brought to Alabama? Yes, this area is being looked at, and SALT is very concerned about what is going on. Right now the right remedy has not been found. Jane also asked us to report any broken silt fences from land that is being developed.

BirdFest is October 4-6 and will be based out of 5-Rivers Delta. There are expert-led birding and nature tours in Baldwin County, Mobile County, and beyond. On Saturday at 5-Rivers, there are free family-friendly activities featuring interactive exhibits, a live raptor show, and more! BCMG will have a booth at 5-Rivers with a bingo game. SALT is launching a Gulf Coast Nature Passport for youths ages 8-12. See the complete schedule at [Alabama Coastal BirdFest - South Alabama Land Trust](#). On opening day there will be a social reception and on Saturday there will be a reception featuring the 20th Anniversary of BirdFest with the keynote speaker, Christopher Joe from the Black Belt. Tickets run out fast.

John Borom began BirdFest as a structured way for us to learn about not only the local birds in our area, but also those that travel through our area on the way to their breeding grounds. This started at Alabama Community College.

SALT has two fundraisers each year: BirdFest and the Bald Eagle Bash. They are considering a few more activities, i.e. tours for birds and nature and garden tours in Fairhope. Outside of SALT, Blakely Park has Pontoon boats that run year round and boat tours out of Weeks Bay can be arranged. Jane thanked us for raising our issues. Your voice needs to be heard; and we all need to stay involved. Don Richerson commented that the first BirdFest he attended changed his mind about where we live. He particularly enjoyed seeing the Shell Mounds, going to the Bon Secour Wildlife Refuge, and attending the April and October Bird banding sessions in Fort Morgan. Don reported that BCMG has donated \$500.00 to SALT.

Before a 20 minute break, Don provided for our “sniffing”, two examples of Lavender and Lavandin. There were lots of comments on how very nice they smelled.

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Meeting Minutes by Pat Greer (continued)

Corrections/Addition/Approval of Minutes from July 2024. There being no comments, Gina Blakeman moved we accept the Minutes as published, and Gail Hand made the second to this motion. The motion passed.

President's Update: Don heard from Lydia Chan that 44% of our membership have logged on to read *Grass Roots* this month and that 14% of our members open their emails. Andreu Riebe is working on a members' only portal to keep our communications private.

Paula Pritchett presented BCMG with a check in the amount of \$24,704.44 that we netted from the State Conference, which included the \$2,000.00 seed money. The Steering Committee presented a wish list of what to use the Conference proceeds for. They include \$5,000.00 in a CD for start-up for our next hosted state conference; \$5,000.00 for technical upgrades; travel expenses and stipends for Master Gardeners attending AMGA meetings; and/or throwing a party such as catering the December luncheon. Don thanked the Steering Committee for a job well done. He also received a note from Theresa Goodwin of Montgomery County thanking us for having a wonderful and enjoyable State Conference.

ACES Report: Carmen Flammini will present a class on how to plant milkweed. She will be in Foley for the next two weeks planting milkweed in their pollinator garden. And she will make a milkweed presentation on Arbor Day. She and Myra Lassere have cards for us from our Extension Service that show us a mobile app called SOW where we can find what to plant and when. On this app you can obtain a personalized planning calendar, expert advice and a digital garden journal to track your harvests, and more.

Treasurer's Report: Cassandra Rabren reported we have \$61,784.91 in our checking account. We reinvested our CD and its interest, for a total of \$82,867.33 as our total assets.

Cassandra also mentioned it is time to pay our 2025 dues. The Interns will need to pay \$12.50 for the remainder of 2024, then the regular dues for 2025. She also has MG cards for us to use for discounts, such as at local nurseries.

There are 13 Botanical prints on the back table at a cost of \$10 each.

Also, Cassandra is ready to recruit volunteers for the Fall Plant Sale. She needs volunteers for the check-out tables and hospitality. She will be adding a therapy tent at the Plant Sale this fall.

Financial Chair: Gail Hand asked committee chairs to hand in their budget requests for 2025 by the end of August. Don't ask, don't spend. If you have an over-budget item for 2024, you will need to explain your reasoning to the Board of Directors for payment.

Intern Class: Anita O'Connor is working on interviews with those who would like to be in the 2025 Intern class and is impressed by what she is seeing now. She is making sure all know the complexity of the classes and that volunteerism is a big part of the mission. Auburn takes over in October with the class registration process.

Also, the Helpline last year was an issue with the class as it was hard to get their 20 hours with the Helpline office only being open one day a week. Anita and Carmen have decided to reduce the number of Helpline hours from 20 to 8. And she is suggesting having the interns use some of their time by visiting pollinator gardens within the community and visiting the four greenhouses as a way to get the Interns out into the public for a lot of their hours. Her goal is to not have the Interns gain most of their hours at the Plant Sale. Anita will call for Mentors once she has her final list of Interns.

Autumn Plant Sale: Dolores Hammack passed out the current version of the Fall Plant Sale flyer. She would like us to share them at our Garden Clubs and Speaker Bureau sessions. The Plant sale will be October 18 and 19, with the afternoon of October 17th being our time to purchase plants. Set up will be earlier in the week.

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Meeting Minutes by Pat Greer (continued)

Old Business:

- The BCMG Fall Seminar is October 12th. Tanys Waldron will provide information at a later date.
- Maurine Krison is looking for volunteers for the 104-flower bed project.
- Eileen Huisman has an umbrella that was left after our Awards luncheon.

New Business:

- Loree Hadley will have an amaryllis propagation class at her home on September 27 at 1 PM.
- Myra Lasseere reminded us of the AMGA State Conference on October 10th in Auburn.

Adjournment: Gail Hand moved that the meeting be adjourned at 11:45 AM. All in favor stand.

BALDWIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

FALL

2024

— PLANT SALE —

Friday, Oct 18 & Saturday, Oct 19

9A-4P

Across from Weeks Bay Reserve
11401 Hwy 98 • Fairhope

Contact: 985-969-0579

- Herbs
- Perennials
- Natives
- Shrubs
- Trees
- & More

BCMG Fall Gardening Seminar
Sat Oct 12 • 9A-12P • Cost \$10
Gulf Coast Research Center
8300 Hwy 104 • Fairhope
For more info: (251) 550-6464

Gardening Questions? Call the Helpline 877-252-4769

 Baldwin County Master Gardeners
baldwinmastergardeners.com



Mark Your Calendar

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, Dr. Kayla Boyd, <i>"Different Aquaculture Practices Used In the Gulf of Mexico"</i>
Sept. 20, 2024	Wayne de la Rua Nominations close
Sept. 25, 2024	*Urban Green Back 2 Basics Webinar, 10:00 a.m.*, <i>"Korean Natural Farming"</i> , Bronson Lubresky, Jefferson Co. Urban Regional Extension Agent
Sept. 27, 2024	Amaryllis Propagation Class, 1:00 p.m., Home of Loree Hadley, 9525 Soldier Creek Rd., Lillian, AL
Oct. 2, 2024	BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Oct. 4-6, 2024	BirdFest, 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, 30945 Five Rivers Blvd., Spanish Fort, AL 36527
Oct. 9, 2024	BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, Speaker TBD
Oct. 9, 2024	*Urban Green Back 2 Basics Webinar, 10:00 a.m., <i>"Let's Plant a Tree...The Right Way!"</i> , Joel Potter, Baldwin Co. Urban Regional Extension Agent
Oct. 10, 2024	AMGA Fall Seminar, Auburn University Nursing Building, 710 S. Donahue Dr., Auburn, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Oct. 12, 2024	BCMG Fall Seminar, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon, \$10.00
Oct. 17, 2024	BCMG Fall Plant Sale Pre-Sale for BCMG Members only
Oct. 18-19, 2024	BCMG Fall Plant Sale, Weeks Bay Reserve, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Oct. 23, 2024	MCMG Bus Trip to Crosby Arboretum, Leave 7:30 a.m. from Jon Archer Center, \$30.00 (Registration deadline October 14, 2024)
Oct. 23, 2024	*Urban Green Back 2 Basics Webinar, 10:00 a.m., <i>"10 Great Trees and Shrubs for the Landscape"</i> , Allyson Shabel, Morgan Co. Urban Regional Extension Agent
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	Election of Officers and Board of Directors
Nov. 13, 2024	Wayne de la Rua Voting closes at the end of the General Meeting
Nov. 13, 2024	*Urban Green Back 2 Basics Webinar, 10:00 a.m., <i>"Safe and Secure Homes: Landscape Edition"</i> , Marcus Garner, Madison Co. Urban Regional Extension Agent
Dec. 4, 2024	BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104
Dec. 11, 2024	BCMG Awards Membership Luncheon, Foley Civic Center, 10:30 a.m.
April 3-5, 2025	AMGA Conference, First Baptist Church, Prattville, AL, <i>"Fountains of Knowledge"</i>
April 10-12, 2025	BCMG Spring Plant Sale

*Visit www.aces.edu/go/Back2Basics to register. This webinar will also be available through Facebook Live: www.facebook.com/AlabamaExtensionAAMU

Grass Roots is compiled and edited by Lynn Andrews, assisted by Sam Andrews. 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.

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



Next meeting: WEDNESDAY, September 11, 2024

Location: Research Station, Hwy. 104

Speaker: Dr. Kayla Boyd
Topic: "Different Aquaculture Practices Used in the Gulf of Mexico"

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.