



October 2024
Volume XXXII Issue X



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

During the past couple of months, I have been privileged to assist Anita O'Connor and Carmen Flammini in interviewing prospective interns. This process enables BCMG to develop a motivated and well informed class of future Master Gardeners who remain long term members. It is not as much an interview, per se, as an informational session where the prospective interns are told what is expected of them, what the class entails and it's length, and allows them to question us on the organization. It has been eye opening. But, I like to ask each person, "what or who originally got you interested in gardening?"

It seems our grandparents and parents lead the list of gardening instigators and one afternoon, I reminisced about people, other than family, that stirred my playing in dirt interests early in my life. And, wouldn't you know it, it didn't take long to remember the first three culprits. They just happened to be my and my bride's first landlords as newlyweds in Augusta, Georgia.

We had planned our wedding for June 1971, and I had applied for early admission to the Medical College of Georgia. I really doubted I'd be accepted despite what I knew were solid interviews, and Julie had a job teaching in a small town near Athens, and we had secured married housing on campus for the fall quarter of 1971 and I would complete my senior year at UGA. But the miracle of miracles happened and I was accepted in early March and boom, our lives changed forever.

We quickly found a garage apartment in Augusta that was being vacated by a senior med student and moved into 1314 1/2 Glenn Avenue in Augusta in July. Our landlord was Dr. Knowlton Hall, Chairman of the Biochemistry Department at MCG and a connoisseur of orchids. He had a huge greenhouse behind his garage brimming over with what seemed like hundreds of orchids and other tropicals. He quickly began teaching me how to water and fertilize them, and it was a chore that I enjoyed as long as we lived there. Initially, there was only one problem. He loved opera and would play it loudly on a radio just

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

October Birthdays.....	3
In Sympathy	3
Wayne de la Rua Nominations	3-7
October General Membership Program.....	8
Native Plants Garden at CACC.....	8
Fall Plant Sale Flyer.....	9
Meeting Minutes.....	10-12
Mark Your Calendar.....	13



President's Notes by Don Richerson (continued)

down from our bedroom window in the greenhouse, as he sang along, again, loudly. A weekend beginning with opera is probably good, just not at 0600. He also wanted to increase our rent the next year, so we needed to find a cheaper alternative.

This led us to Monte Sano Avenue and in the small cottage behind Herman and Ruby Pfadenhauer's estate home in two acres of gardens. It was magnificent! And we lived rent free! The catch was we had to be the caretakers of the property from May to October when the Pfadenhauers traveled to their home in Cape Cod. It was like we owned the place for half the year. I learned to prune, some landscaping and tool sharpening from Herman, when I wasn't working in the lab in the hospital. Ruby was one interesting person. She was the daughter of Dr. Matthias Washington Mabry, who was a surgeon for the Confederacy during the Civil War, having graduated from the University of Virginia in 1842. Ruby was his 15th child and he died in 1902, at 80 years old, when she was 1 year old.

Ruby loved drama. She would call before they drove south in the fall to check on her "welcoming spider lilies." They wouldn't drive back until they began to bloom in late September. But the plant that most intrigues me was the *Gloriosa superba* 'Rothschildiana'. Her yard had several trellises that would be covered by "Rothschild orchids" as Ruby called them. Funny thing though, she rarely got to see them in full bloom. She was in "the Cape." Ruby acted as if she was given the tubers by the Rothschild family, and for all I know, she had. She was always dabbling in trying new plants to grow and propagate in Augusta. For all her airs, I truly liked her and she taught me much when I had free time.

Which leads me to our club. We have hydrangea and orchid people. We have amaryllis people. We have hibiscus people. We have so many people adept at so many things. All the more reason to celebrate us and learn from one another. Let's get started on our learning journey. See you at the meetings!



October Birthdays



- 10-1 Sally DeMott
- 10-4 Judi Smith
- 10-6 Tim Kant
- 10-8 Reggie Anderson
- 10-12 Carl Floyd
- 10-14 Sherry Cook
- 10-17 Sarah Duncan
- 10-18 Kimberly Musson
- 10-21 Everett Gillis
- 10-27 Laraine Delahanty
- 10-31 Linda Bender

Life...is all about the Journey.



HARRY HOPKINS

It is with great sadness that we share the news of Harry Hopkins' passing. Harry, a beloved member of the Class of 2016, passed away last week. Our thoughts are with his family and friends during this difficult time.



Wayne de la Rua Nominations by Sam Andrews

Our Wayne de la Rua Award is such an extraordinary honor because hard-working, observant Master Gardeners take the time, often with others, to write and promote individuals that they note making a crucial difference in their organization and its mission. Another way that the Wayne de la Rua is unique is that YOU, a BCMG member in good standing, take the time to read and discuss the candidates so that you and the membership select the best WDLR honoree.

In a sense, the process defines and inspires each of us. We are all Wayne de la Rua winners to some degree as we participate in our local and state Master Gardener activities. Whether we earn the actual honor or not, we strive to be like these wonderful people, and we push forward those Master Gardeners who do deserve and earn the award. Often, we *feel* their energy as we work and meet with them. It inspires us and makes each of us better contributors ourselves.

For 2024, **you** have nominated four superb, deserving candidates. This year there are three repeat nominees for the Wayne de la Rua Award.

Please remember that your individual vote is a candidate reward for a long-term contribution of extraordinary service. The peer-nominated and peer-selected winner may only earn this award once in their Master

(Continued on page 4)



Wayne de la Rua Nominations by Sam Andrews

Gardener career. The WDLR Award is the highest honor that you and our organization can bestow on one of our members.

The vote for the WDLR Award will occur from November 1 until 12:00 PM on November 13. You will receive a WDLR Internet ballot through the Extension’s email communication system. You must return it directly back using that email address. PLEASE send your Internet vote including your name only to this year’s special email address WDLRAward@gmail.com to submit a valid ballot.

The second way that you have to vote is obtaining a Special WDLR Meeting Ballot at the Monthly Meeting from Extension personnel. This is the only means of Wayne de la Rua voting at the Meeting. Once marked, hand it to an Extension person or drop in the WDLR ballot box.

Please remember that you must identify yourself on your ballot to the WDLR Tally sub-committee! In addition, you must meet the election deadlines. More precise information on the actual voting process will be forthcoming later this month!

The Baldwin Extension has volunteered to handle the voting process again this year. The BCMG Board approved this continuation. I will make sure they have everything they need to do their job well.

After the November 13th Monthly physical meeting, the WDLR Committee Tally sub-committee consisting of our Extension personnel, Carmen Flammini, Katie Shepard and staff will gather to count the email and meeting votes to determine the winner. The 2024 Wayne de la Rua Award winner is announced at the December 11th Luncheon.

Please read carefully the nominations of our four candidates below: MARY CALVIN, MARY HAMILTON, DEBORAH MARRIOTT, and ELMER VICK. Discuss the award and the nominees seriously amongst yourselves and cast your one vote using the provided email or ballot given to you in early November.

NOTE: There are approximately 3 pages of Wayne de la Rua Nominations to follow. Please read them all!

NOMINATION OF MARY CALVIN by Pat Greer

I feel Mary Calvin is very qualified to win the Wayne de la Rua award this year. Since becoming a Master Gardener in 2018, Mary has not stopped volunteering! She has recently been presented with an AMGA Plaque naming her as having the top hours of the year because she had the most hours earned in one year, i.e. 1,573.

Mary is past President of the Baldwin County Master Gardeners. She has spent 4 years on the Board of Directors, having held the positions of Secretary, Vice President, and President. This year she has also been voted to be the President Pro Tem, which means she fills in when one of the Board of Directors members is not available. We can also see Mary helping with audio/visual issues during our monthly meetings. And saw her with her giant rake as one of the “entertainers” at this year’s State Conference.



Mary heads the Greenhouse at Coastal Alabama Community College, with a specific focus on the Monarch Butterfly Project. Mary and her group of volunteers have distributed butterfly plants throughout Baldwin County.

I am part of the book club that Mary leads. She has 25 “readers”, quite a few who are Baldwin County Master Gardeners.

In her free time (really!), Mary volunteers as the Treasurer of the Baldwin County Youth Orchestra; she plays the Violin, Viola, and Alto Sax.

(Continued on page 5)



Wayne de la Rua Nominations (Continued)

NOMINATION OF MARY HAMILTON by Myra Lassere

It is an honor to nominate Mary Hamilton for the Wayne de la Rua Award. I've known and worked with Mary since she became a member of BCMG in 2013.

Through the years Mary has accumulated over 4000 hours, and I'm certain there are many more not recorded based on her following activities:

Volunteered at the Help-Line (2013-2016).

Helped Julian Walthall with his project of planting of perennial flowers and plants outside the Info-line Office. (2016 – 2019).

Recording Secretary (2015, 2016, 2017) serving in 2015 when I was BCMG President and 2 years following.

Worked at a number of outreach events over the years. Including:

- The County Fair (2014, 2015)
- Earth Day (2013, 2014)
- Arbor Day (2013- 2019)
- Tuesdays with Master Gardeners (2014-2019)
- Leading a team of Master Gardeners at a Special Day in a Daphne neighborhood. (2021)

PowerPoint Presentations and Talks to the Tuesday Evenings with Master Gardeners (2014-2018).

PowerPoint Presentations and Talks while participating as a speaker for the Master Gardeners Speakers Bureau (2013-2017).

Worked with Paula Pritchett on the Blueberry project at Foley Elementary School (2018)

Constructed the Short PowerPoint on Blueberries and taught about 400 kids in two sections before they went into the school yard to plant Blueberries with the volunteers

Worked with Sharon Thoele on her project, Angels Wings in Robertsdale. (2017) We helped at a home raising young girls who could not go home, to raise a vegetable garden to provide food for the table.

Visited gardens of the members of the public who requested help with landscaping from the Info-line 2016-2019.

Helped with the Intern Class several years:

- Assistant to Pam Tucker -- Introducing the days lecturer, filling in for Pam when she could not be there. (2016-2018)
- Taught Classes on Annuals and Perennials (2021, 2022, 2023)
- Back-up Mentor (2023)

During the 2017-2018 school year, began volunteering with the teacher, Dr. Betsy Anderton now Dr. Betsy Tipton. (As a retired teacher, working with the teachers and students is where Mary feels the most personal gratification. She stated that it is a joy to work with them.)

- Served on the Vocational Advisory Board for Agriculture at Daphne High School from 2018 to current.
- Consultant to Dr. Anderton/Tipton and since 2021, Kaley Hunter

Not only is Mary involved in our local Master Gardener Association, but she is very involved in AMGA.

In 2020-2021 co-chairman of the Garden Tour Committee with Moe Nation.

Attended the AMGA 2023 Conference in Tuscaloosa and attended the 2023 IMGA Conference (International

(Continued on page 6)₅





Wayne de la Rua Nominations (Continued)

Master Gardener Association Conference) in Overland Park, Kansas, June 2023.

Was chairman of the Fundraising Committee with co-chair Andreu Reibe, for the 2024 AMGA Conference. Using her fundraising skills, the 2024 AMGA Conference became one of the most successful conferences ever held!

Currently, serving on the AMGA Committee for naming the Master Gardener Pathway in the Transformation Garden.

Please join me in voting for Mary Hamilton for the Wayne de la Rua Award. She is truly a Master Gardener gem and worthy of the award.

NOMINATION OF DEBORAH MARRIOTT by Maureen Krison

This year I fully understood the description of “extraordinary” in witnessing the actions, energy, enthusiasm, thought processes, attention to high quality detail, and creative spirit of Baldwin County Master Gardener Deborah Marriott.

Deborah became a Master Gardener in the dynamic class of 2019 when we became infused with an abundance of high level, remarkably talented members. Deborah has been both volunteering and leading in many ways since, which recently culminated in the receipt of her Amber Star award in July of 2024.

My first encounter with Deborah was her covered in pine straw and mud as she co-chaired the creation of our organization’s amazing booth at the 2023 Festival of Flowers in Mobile. I next saw her both in action and interaction at two Speakers Bureau events in Baldwin County where attendees loved her over-the-top, informative, and creative presentations on floral arranging.

Working with Deborah in a small group at the 2023 Mobile Leadership Conference, it was easy to see her traits as a leader. Beyond the many ways she has participated in ongoing Master Gardener events (To name a few: Arbor Day; educational events such as Amaryllis propagation class, centerpiece designs; oyster shell creations; cement pot masterpieces; Cotton Creek Farms tour), Deborah has shown the hallmark of leadership in co-coordinating last year’s 2023 Fall Gardening Seminar, serving as our state Alabama Advisory Representative; and chairing Hospitality (*both decorations and food*) for our April 2024 Master Gardener Convention.

Deborah not only transformed the eyes, minds and hearts of everyone who attended our Convention, but she invested countless hours – day and night – to personally ensure that the event was beyond memorable. She even hosted (and self-subsidized) a pre-tasting event at her home to ensure the talents of the chef would be worthy, and she engaged the whole Convention committee to participate in a clever, competitive game to create a paradisaal punch! Deborah is a master at team-building!

If you look at most of our published, Convention pictures, you will not see Deborah’s face among them. Why? Because she was so engaged in helping others have a fabulous time that she never stopped working to even breathe. (In a corporate world of special events, Deborah would have been paid \$25K+ for her amazing work.) And that does not even touch all of the flowers, fauna and decorating products that she generously contributed from her own yard!

One day after Convention, Deborah was already immersed in working tirelessly as President of the Magnolia Springs Garden Club where she is co-leading planning, design and fund-raising to revitalize that city’s beloved Arboretum at a major October 24 community event.

Besides being highly engaged in her current community and church, Deborah is well known in other parts of Alabama for her prior years of creativity, design, persistence, and execution in special events. Beyond demonstrating all of these tremendous traits, Deborah is a joy to work with at all times.





Wayne de la Rua Nominations (Continued)

NOMINATION OF ELMER VICK by Julian Walthall

Baldwin County Master Gardeners has many unsung heroes who do so much behind the scenes to make our organization so viable and a joy to participate in. One of these persons is Elmer Vick. I'm nominating him for the 2024 Wayne de la Rua Award.

Elmer was an intern in the Class of 2016 and has maintained his active participation in BCMG through the years. One of his earliest areas of service was in the weekly staffing of the Helpline. For many years we were asked to make a three-hour commitment to be present at the Helpline Office and respond to calls from there. During the several years that Elmer did this from November to June each year, the calls were often very random and sometimes few and far between. Many of us saw this service as a burden, and yet Elmer saw our service as an obligation to ACES and an opportunity to serve the public. He could always be counted on to take a weekly slot. He got to know a number of MGs by sharing this time with new interns and some MG veterans. He, also, went beyond the call of duty in trying to help local residents with their gardening concerns; even calling some after the office had closed if he still hadn't reached someone.



Elmer has continued his behind-the-scenes participation in BCMG by serving in past years as the Project Chairperson on the BCMG Board overseeing our ongoing projects and recommending new projects to be considered. This position fit this fine MG so well because he encourages others in their involvement in BCMG. A good example of this encouragement is how he helped several MGs get the CCC Greenhouse started at Coastal Alabama Community college several years ago. He helped with the initial cleaning of the college greenhouse, designed and built a wonderful propagating table that continues to be used, and has always been willing to be called on with requests for additional help. His willingness to serve others with his building skills is further demonstrated by his ongoing efforts to make repairs at the BCMG Greenhouse at Daphne High School. We all know that these repairs will be done well because this gentleman puts his heart into everything that he does for others.

In a way that is not behind the scenes so much, but more out front is how Elmer has become known as "Mr. Tomato" for BCMG. Elmer's mentor was the late John Kitch. John came into our organization from being a nurseryman and developed a tomato that was suitable for growing under our harsh conditions of heat and humidity. He greatly impacted Elmer before he died with cancer. For a number of years now, Elmer has been propagating John's tomato for many MGs and members of the Baldwin County public. All the proceeds from the sale of these tomatoes (several thousand dollars at this point) go to Cancer Research at USA in Fairhope in memory of John Kitch. What we MGs don't realize is the tremendous amount of work Elmer does to produce a thousand plants (Elmer's goal for 2025). He begins a ten-day process in late summer sanitizing and saving the seeds. Then in early January with some assistance, he individually sows the seeds. After their germination, he and his wife, Jean, diligently care for all the seedlings during our cold months.

Then in early March, Elmer makes available to us beautiful, healthy tomato plants. Shortly thereafter he is one of our featured presenters on growing tomatoes in containers at one of our "Tuesday Night with Master Gardeners." All of Elmer's efforts in the Kitch Tomato Project are such a demonstration of our MG spirit of serving others and having fun in doing so.

This past spring Elmer was very active in BCMG's sponsorship of the AMGA state conference. Besides faithfully serving on the facilities committee, he headed up the workshop on building your own greenhouse. He worked tirelessly to make it possible for a number of master gardeners to go away with the plans for their own greenhouse.

Elmer Vick sets a strong example of what being a MG is all about. His leadership by serving others, his vast gardening experience and knowledge and his great sense of humor have led so many of us to treasure knowing this gentleman. I urge us to consider commending him for his impact on so many of us by awarding him the Wayne de la Rua Award for 2024.

October General Membership Program by Charlotte Hamm

Get those notepads ready for our speaker this month as our own Carmen Flammini will be giving part two of her Soil Health presentation. It is a good review for all of us—especially those who took the class so many years ago. Carmen has had a busy year finding more ways for BCMG to be a visible presence in the community. And this is one topic of her expertise we need to grasp for ourselves and sharing in the community.



Carmen 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.

We all have different soil issues we deal with. Mine is porous sandy loam where nutrients wash away quickly. Be sure to attend as we listen for just what we need to improve our own soil situation.



The Native Plants Garden at Coastal College by Mary Calvin

Many thanks to the Master Gardeners who came out this summer to keep the weeds at bay: Jackie Gray, Gilda Underwood, Sue Barnwell, Sara Semmes, Julie Cox, and Lynn Barnes.

Monarch butterflies finally made an appearance. Here's my favorite photo, which shows the mom laying eggs, a large caterpillar eating the milkweed and two of the most common milkweed pests, the orange and black milkweed bug and aphids. By now the caterpillars have eaten all the milkweed and are crawling away to make their chrysalises.

We're excited to be getting a watering system for the greenhouse. I will need volunteers in October to help with the installation. And then, it will be time to grow more plants. We will work Monday and Thursday mornings this year. Please let Mary Calvin know if you are interested in helping.



Jackie Gray at the garden



Monarchs on Milkweed at CACC



Julie Cox weeding at CACC

BALDWIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

FALL

2024

— PLANT SALE —

Friday, Oct 18 & Saturday, Oct 19

9A - 4P (No Early Admission)

Across from Weeks Bay Reserve
11401 Hwy 98 • Fairhope

Contact: 985-969-0579

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

**Limited carts available. Please bring your own if possible.*

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

www.facebook.com/BaldwinCountyMG

www.baldwinmastergardeners.com

Gardening Questions? Call the
Helpline 877-252-4769



Meeting Minutes by Mary Calvin

Don Richerson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was attended by 61 people. Visitors included Charlie and Marty French, who plan to transfer from Prattville in Autauga County.

Don called for a moment of silence in remembrance of those lost in the 9/11/2001 attacks. After the pledge of allegiance, Don asked those with September birthdays, Past Presidents and Wayne de la Rua winners to stand. Don reminded people to be sure to sign in.

Charlotte Hamm introduced our speaker, Kayla Boyd, from Auburn University's Shellfish Laboratory on Dauphin Island. Dr. Boyd received an undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin in Molecular Biology and has recently completed her PhD from Auburn. She worked as a Deep Sea student and is now a Research Fellow at the lab, working on Oysters and Oyster Aquaculture.

The focus of the lab is on growing oysters in Mobile Bay. There was a crash in the oyster population in 2008 and in 2009 off-bottom aquaculture was revisited. By 2018 two million oysters were harvested and now nearly four and a half million.

Some of the water quality concerns in Mobile Bay include Algal blooms with their drop in oxygen, silt, salinity and sewer overflows. Oysters need 15-25 ppt salinity and do not do well in Weeks Bay since it's too low there.

The largest oyster farm in the area is Murder Point in Bayou la Batre. Most of the others are mom and pop operations. Upper Mobile Bay is either restricted or conditionally restricted. Lower Mobile Bay and Bon Secour Bay are conditionally approved. The Gulf is unclassified but mostly too deep and too salty.

Projects at the lab include genetic research and research on salinity variations. A current project is researching birds roosting on oyster cages, asking if seabirds hurt the safety of eating oysters.

Dr. Boyd described the activities of the lab throughout the life cycle of an oyster, Broodstock, Spawning, Hatchery, Nursery, and two open water Farm sites. It takes 6 months to a year to grow to market size.

She discussed spawning techniques and how to tell male from female oysters. After 10-12 days in the Hatchery they grow to pediveliger stage with a foot, ready to attach to a hard surface. They are then moved into the Nursery and get no added food and no temperature or salinity control. The goal is to raise the spats to be large enough to go to the Farms. This takes 3-6 weeks.

At the Farms there are two arrangements for cages, a long line or floating cages. Farm maintenance consists of optional tumbling to smooth the edges, removing dead oysters and removing pests.

Dr. Boyd said they are an Extension Office and available as a resource for farmers. Her email address is KTB0025@auburn.edu.

Q and A:

Dr. Boyd praised the work of the Nature Conservancy adding artificial reefs north of Dauphin Island.

Modern food safety regulation makes it safe to eat oysters in summer (non-R months). There is a very short window between collecting the oysters and getting them into refrigeration.

Marilyn Mannhard asked about Maine oysters. They are the same species but taste different because they are grown in a colder climate. The Pacific oyster is a different species and may taste like a melon or cucumber. Gulf Coast oysters taste buttery.

Don asked for the sign-in sheets. We sent a \$500.00 donation to SALT for Bird Fest and as an American Oyster Catcher Sponsor, we received two tickets to the Saturday dinner and two tickets to the sunset cruise. Dr. Boyd

(Continued on page 11)



Meeting Minutes by Mary Calvin (continued)

was asked to pick a number between 1 and 61. She picked 44, and Kim Musson was the lucky winner of the tickets.

Don called for a break at 11:00 a.m. The meeting continued at 11:19 a.m.

Don announced that Dee Wilson Jones, a former BCMG member, has passed away.

Extension Agent, Carmen Flammini report:

1. As a public safety notice she asked us to watch for bees and wasps near mulch. Solitary wasps and hornets like to build nests in sandy soil and mulch. A warning sign has been added to the garden by the 104 auditorium door.
2. Wanda Martin and Speakers Bureau members will be getting new training through Extension, concerning safety in schools, etc.
3. Please plan to attend the Volunteer Fair in February. We will have representatives from nature centers and other locations though out Baldwin County. There will be BCMG leaders for each project.
4. We have had a successful year at the Foley Farmers and Fishermen's Market and will keep going. Carmen is passing around a sign-up sheet for the first Saturday each month through December 2025. We will also be there a second time from June to August teaching small classes.
5. Intern interviews have been completed. We have a great new group. Volunteer hours have been revamped. Each intern will work on community projects and learn to be presenters as well.
6. Welcome to Tony Hickman, a new transfer.
7. We are all set to resume working at the Daphne High School greenhouse.
8. Carmen will do a presentation about the native milkweed project at Arbor Day.

Mary Calvin is taking minutes in Pat Greer's absence.

Cassandra Rabren is out due to a medical emergency. Since Gail Hand is also out today, Don gave an old treasurer's report, saying "We have money and are doing fine."

Anita O'Connor, Intern Coordinator, said they have interviewed at least 30 people. Now it's up to each of them to register with Auburn and go through the background check. Tuition is \$150.00 this year and will go up to \$175.00 next year. Two of the potential interns have conflicts and won't be able to do it this year. Anita will be looking for mentors and is redoing the intern book.

Mary Calvin said that she is looking for volunteers to help at the Coastal Alabama Community College greenhouse in Fairhope again. We will work on Mondays and Thursdays this year, beginning at 8:30 a.m. starting on October 3. The college has received a grant from the Schmieding Foundation to add a watering system to the greenhouse. Help will be needed for that installation.

Dolores Hammack met with Dr. Tipton at Daphne High School and said we are ready to start working in the greenhouse next week. We will work Monday and Friday this year with mid-week watering as needed.

Plants for the Fall Plant Sale will be delivered on Monday, October 14. Setup help is needed Tuesday and Wednesday also.

Don said we are attempting to get more greenhouse space at Robertsdale and Gulf Shores High Schools for future plant sales.

Linda Ennis asked for help with Bird Fest on Saturday, October 5, starting at 1:00 p.m. We have been asked to do the flower arrangements for the banquet like we did last year. We have a \$200.00 budget to buy flowers. There are sample pictures with the sign-up sheet on the back table. Linda noted that master gardener Veronica Herndon is in charge at SALT this year and doing a great job.

(Continued on page 12)



Meeting Minutes by Mary Calvin (continued)

Loree Hadley is holding an Amaryllis Propagation Workshop at her home in Lillian on Friday, September 27, at 1:00 p.m.

Tanys Waldron handed out flyers for the Fall Workshop. It will be Saturday, October 12 from 9 a.m. to Noon. Topics are:

1. Trees and Shrubs – How to Choose, Plant and Care for them. In addition to the presentation, Dolores Hammack will bring some trees and shrubs to sell to promote the Fall Plant Sale held on the following weekend.
2. Karen Rhea White will speak about the health benefits of indoor plants.
3. The third topic is called Getting Started – Planting for Spring where the technique is growing plants in milk jugs during the winter.

After our next monthly meeting, October 9, Tanys will meet with volunteers for the workshop and the plant sale.

Tanys is announcing her retirement. A new coordinator will be needed for the March workshops, Kids Day, and the Fall Workshop.

Robin Newell said it's time to declutter your house. Anything you have to donate to the Trash and Treasure tables can be brought to the plant sale on Thursday, October 17.

Zetty Bauer moved to approve minutes from the August meeting. Gina Blakeman seconded, and the motion carried.

Eileen Huisman has an umbrella and coffee cup left from previous meetings.

Anita O'Connor moved to adjourn. Linda Ennis seconded. The meeting ended at 11:43 a.m.





Mark Your Calendar

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, Carmen Flammini, <i>"Soil Health" (Part 2)</i>
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. 14-16, 2024	BCMG Fall Plant Sale set-up, Weeks Bay Reserve
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.
Jan. 8, 2025	BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, Speaker TBD
Feb. 5, 2025	BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Feb. 12, 2025	BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, Speaker TBD
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. Pictures courtesy of Mary Calvin. 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.**

© 2024 Baldwin County Master Gardeners, Inc. All rights reserved.



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



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

Next meeting: WEDNESDAY, October 9, 2024

Location: Research Station, Hwy. 104

Speaker: Carmen Flammini
Topic: "Soil Health" (Part 2)

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