



January 2025
Volume XXXIII Issue I



www.baldwinmastergardeners.com

2024 BCMG Elected Board

President:
Don Richerson
Vice-President:
Lynn Barnes
Treasurer:
Cassandra Rabren
Recording Secretary:
Gilda Underwood
Corresponding Secretary:
Kim Scasny
Members at Large:
Julie Cox
Tom Fortner
Past President:
Mary Calvin

2024 Appointed Board Members:

Monthly Program Co-Chairs:
Charlotte Hamm
Intern Class Coordinator:
Anita O'Connor
Outreach Coordinator:
Sara Semmes
Finance Committee Chair:
Mickey Ezell
Projects Chair:
Elmer Vick

President's Notes by Don Richerson

The hurry scurry of the holidays is past, our extended family has returned to their homes, and the cat has actually reappeared. It must be early January. Time to get about the business of getting down to business.

Trepidation is not a helpful trait. Reticence is so passé. Let's grab the new year and it's opportunities like Teddy Roosevelt would, head on. We'll never be younger; we have been here before; it's time for us to make a difference. Fired up yet?

Yeah, me either. I'm exhausted and just want to go snorkeling in Belize. But, not gonna happen. No rum drink will rally me. It's gonna take my friends at BCMG. We have a real chance to do something special. I have heard from so many of you excited by the possibilities ahead for our small group of dirty fingernailed gardeners. From green thumbs to Johnny Appleseeds, BCMG is poised to take a more substantial role in the education, guidance, and leadership of our burgeoning county.

KHALIL GIBRAN

Fear

It is said that before entering the sea
a river trembles with fear.

She looks back at the path she has traveled,
from the peaks of the mountains,
the long winding road crossing forests and villages.

And in front of her,
she sees an ocean so vast,
that to enter
there seems nothing more than to disappear forever.

But there is no other way.
The river can not go back.

Nobody can go back.
To go back is impossible in existence.
The river needs to take the risk
of entering the ocean
because only then will fear disappear,
because that's where the river will know
it's not about disappearing into the ocean,
but of becoming the ocean.

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

January Birthdays.....	2
Volunteer Gardeners Tickle the Senses.....	3
Pensacola Garden Club Educ. Seminar Flyer.....	4
January Speaker.....	5
Members Dues.....	5
Awards List in Order of Presentation.....	5
Christmas Awards Pictures.....	6
2024 Wayne de la Rua Award.....	7
Christmas Luncheon Pictures.....	8-9
Meeting Minutes.....	10-11
January Board and Monthly Meeting Dates.....	11
Mark Your Calendar.....	12



President's Notes by Don Richerson (continued)

The future is so inviting yet at the same time, measured movement is needed. It's a time to be intrepid, yet reasoned. Now is not the time for reluctance. I have had four calls from members with information of possible land and/or ideas for the BCMG to become more independent in the past week. We are thinking as a collective body for the total good. Reform is part of our being. It is gratifying.

The newly installed Board is an enthusiastic group of eager Master Gardeners ready to assume the role of leadership in a remarkable way. Hold on to your sunhat as you see the initiatives coming from this group. Women and men in the right place at the precisely correct time. I am privileged to be a small part of it.

If, as an active, alumni, or certified volunteer member, you feel you have something to add, please contact anyone—whether another member, a member of the Board or our agent, Carmen Flammini with your comments or concerns. We want to revive the stature of the BCMG, and we can't do it without you. Please contribute when you can. Attend a Board meeting when you can. Here's to a stellar 2025!

January Birthdays



1-1	Linda Ennis
1-3	Jim Greer
1-3	Peggy Loefstedt
1-3	Peggy Sheffield
1-5	Selena Vaughn
1-7	Paula Pritchett
1-10	Gary Wallace
1-13	Terry Delker
1-13	Fran Posey-Eversole
1-17	Juanita Dodd
1-21	Bonnibel Byars
1-22	Michele Doyle
1-22	Jan Pryor
1-25	Keith Cardwell
1-27	Barbara Comstock
1-29	Sharon Smith
1-30	Deborah Marriott
1-30	Elizabeth Young

Life...is all about the Journey.



A new Sensory Garden being planted at Union Village is a special initiative made possible by the leadership and generosity of longtime friend of the Home and Master Gardener, Keith Cardwell of Foley.

With the partnership of Jacob Turner, the Regional Extension Agent for Central/East Central Alabama with the Auburn University Cooperative Extension, and the Talladega Master Gardeners Interns Class, this unique garden is designed to engage all five senses—sight, sound, smell, touch, and taste. The goal is to create an inclusive space for the individuals served by PHFC (Presbyterian Home for Children) and AIDB through Union Village who are deaf, blind, deafblind, or multidisabled.

This garden located at the bus stop next to Jordan Cottage, allows them to experience the therapeutic and enriching benefits of nature with a winding crushed stone path and raised plant beds. Each plant was thoughtfully selected for its sensory properties, offering a holistic experience in this serene environment.

The thoughtfully designed space offers a variety of experiences for visitors with or without disabilities. From colorful plants and fragrant flowers to wind chimes and water features, every element is intended to excite the senses and encourage mindfulness. For those with vision impairments, plants will be clustered for easier sight recognition, while ornamental grasses will add auditory depth through the sounds of rustling leaves. Visitors are encouraged to touch soft petals, feel rough bark and experience the overall serenity of this thoughtful landscape.

The garden is a passion project for Cardwell, who retired as minister of Swift Presbyterian Church in Foley and uses his free time to enjoy gardening. Born and raised in nearby Goodwater, Cardwell has been a strong supporter of the Home for over 30 years.



(Note: Article submitted by Julian Walthall from Fall 2024 "Beginnings", a publication for the friends and supporters of the Presbyterian Home for Children.)

PENSACOLA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS
2025 EDUCATIONAL SERIES SEMINARS

“A Walk Down A Garden Path”

FEBRUARY 13, 2025 9:00 AM TO 2:45 PM

Check in 8:15 TO 9:00 AM

SPEAKERS CONFIRMED:

Butterflies and Pollinators; Invasive species;
Orchid Smugglers Busted!; World of Orchids; Native plants and wildflowers;
Raising and releasing Monarch butterflies;
The Garden of Eden didn't have any fertilizer!
Butterflies A-Z

Opportunity Baskets and 50/50

Vendors Participating

Truth Sharpening, LLC

Native Plant Company

Magnolia Dreams Homestead

\$25 Registration fee includes lunch, snacks, beverages and four sessions.

Registration January 1, 2025 through February 1, 2025.

Registration forms available at:

Website: PensacolaGardenCenter.com

Garden Center Office Mon 10-2, Wed 2-6 or Fri 10-2

Email: Llewellyn.karan@gmail.com

For questions or to have your information added to our contact list,
Contact Karan Llewellyn at (402) 320-4458 or llewellyn.karan@gmail.com



January Speaker by Charlotte Hamm

"I took all the clippings from my favorite new plant to the greenhouse, and Dolores said, NO! I wonder why?" Come to the January meeting to answer this and many more questions about our greenhouse propagation.

Dr. Jeremy Pickens, of the Ornamental Horticulture Research Center in Mobile, will speak on plant propagation and plant patent laws. You may remember him as one of our breakout speakers at the AMGA conference we held here in April. He is an Auburn University graduate, where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in horticulture, and a doctorate focused on aquaculture. Dr. Pickens is an Assistant Extension Professor, works in Extension programming, and does applied research for the nursery and greenhouse industry. He has responsibilities in ornamental and horticulture, specialty crops, greenhouse vegetables, as well as Christmas trees.

In all these research and extension responsibilities, he is working closely with extension agents and commercial producers across the state. We look forward to Dr. Pickens sharing his expertise in greenhouse propagation.



Members Dues by Cassandra Rabren

Membership dues of \$25.00 were due by December 31, 2024. If late, the dues are \$30.00. The mailing address for your checks is:

BCMG
8300 Hwy. 104
Fairhope, AL 36532

All correspondence should go to this address, including reimbursement requests.



Award List in Order of Presentation by Sam Andrews

Bronze Stars—100 Hours

- ◆ Lynn Barnes
- ◆ Suanne Barnwell
- ◆ James Faulkner
- ◆ Margie Grace
- ◆ Beth Murray
- ◆ Kimberly Scasny

Silver Stars—300 Hours

- ◆ Mickey Ezell
- ◆ Connie Gillespie
- ◆ Gilda Underwood

Gold Stars—500 Hours

- ◆ Jackie Gray
- ◆ Dolores Hammack
- ◆ Karon Pennington

Gold Badge—1000 Hours

- ◆ Kay Heinrich (*Badge to be handed out at July Luncheon*)

Ruby Star—4000 Hours

- ◆ Lynn Andrews

Champagne Pin—22,000 Hours

- ◆ Myra Lassere



Christmas Awards Pictures



Bronze Star—100 Hours
L-R: Kimberly Scasny and Lynn Barnes
(not pictured) Sueann Barnwell, James Faulkner,
Margie Grace, and Beth Murray



Gold Star—500 Hours
L-R: Karon Pennington and Jackie Gray
(not pictured) Dolores Hammack



Silver Star—300 Hours
L-R: Gilda Underwood, Mickey Ezell, and Connie Gillespie



Ruby Star-4,000 Hours
Lynn Andrews



Champagne Pin-22,000 Hrs.
Myra Lassere



2024 *Wayne de la Rua Award*



Suzanne de la Rua Cale, daughter of Wayne de la Rua, joined Sam Andrews in presenting the Wayne de la Rua Award to Mary Calvin



You did it!
Congratulations



Christmas Luncheon Pictures



Myra Hannah, Gordon Cooper, and Loree Hadley



Mike and Debbie McQueen



Fred Nation, Myra Lassere and Don Richerson



Jim and Pat Greer



Anita O'Connor, Loree Hadley and Charlotte Hamm



Lydia Chan and Mary Calvin



Brenda Montgomery, Beth Robinson, and Loree Hadley

(Continued on page 9)



Christmas Luncheon Pictures (continued)



Deborah Marriott, Zetty Bauer and
Marta Stauts



Sharon Thoele and Mia Martin



Mary Ann Underwood
and Elsie Reed



Mary Hamilton



Mary Calvin and Joni Euler



Mary Meyer and husband, Tom Meyer



Sara Semmes and husband,
Tom Semmes



Meeting Minutes by Pat Greer

Don Richerson called the meeting to order at 11 AM. He then asked us all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Forty-seven members and guests were present today. Our guests included Tom Semmes, husband of Sara Semmes, Tom Meyer, husband of Mary Meyer, and two of our new incoming interns.

Don reported that Cassandra Rabren is recovering from surgery and is doing well, but unable to attend today. Don will send the treasurer's report via email to all members.

Don then gave a special award to Kay Heinrich, Maureen Krison, Deborah Marriott, Paula Pritchett, Tanys Waldron, and Dolores Hammack for their exceptional work on our projects this year.

Intern Class: Anita O'Connor reported she has nineteen new interns coming in, plus a transfer from Colorado and three from different areas of Alabama. On the 16th, these interns will have their first class, and there will be a breakfast in their honor. All Board Members are invited to attend. Diane Rogers will call and coordinate the menu with those bringing breakfast items. Susan Mattingly and Terry Delker will be doing the bios for the *Grass Roots* newsletter.



Don Richerson, Kay Heinrich and Deborah Marriott

Wayne de la Rua Award: Sam Andrews asked Suzanne de la Rua Cole to join him in honoring our Wayne de la Rua awards winner this year. Suzanne Cole is the daughter of Wayne de la Rua and is attending our luncheon today with her husband, Norman, who was in the 1990 Master Gardener class with Wayne de la Rua. **Mary Calvin** is our Wayne de la Rua winner for 2024!

Blessing of Food: Keith Cardwell offered the blessing for the food we will be having today. Meet us all in the gardens.

After the luncheon, Don once again called the meeting to order at 12:10 PM.

Scholarships: This is an update on Aven Brasher, a 2024 BCMG Scholarship recipient. Aven is a graduate of Fairhope High School and will be graduating from Mississippi State University (MSU) in Spring 2025. Aven is majoring in Landscape Architecture with a minor in Horticulture and Environment Sustainability. She is a Student Ambassador for the MSU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and is the Events Coordinator and Social Media Chair for MSU's Student Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. This past summer, she interned for 9 weeks with the Landscape Team of Kimley-Horn Engineering Planning and Design Consultants in Charleston, SC. She has already been offered a job with the company upon her graduation which includes a sign-on bonus and moving expenses to Charleston. Kimley-Horn has over 100 offices and offers a variety of services from Urban Design to Transportation and Traffic.

Members Accomplishments: Sam Andrews handed out stars and pins to all those who earned awards as of today. His report is in another section of *Grass Roots*. Jim Greer was available to drill holes in any badges that need them for their new star. Sam made a special mention that Lynn Andrews has accomplished 4,000 hours and Myra Lassere has accomplished over 22,000 lifetime hours.

Outgoing and Incoming Board members recognition: Don asked all current MG Board Members to stand. He commented that the 2024 Board members did an excellent job. Don then introduced and installed the new Board Members for 2025. Don will again be our president, Lynn Barnes is our Vice President, Cassandra Rabren is our treasurer, Gilda Underwood is our recording secretary, Kim Scasny is our corresponding secretary, and Mary

(Continued on page 11)



Meeting Minutes by Pat Greer (continued)

Calvin is our past president. Mickey Ezell is our finance chairman, Elmer Vick is our projects chairman, Sara Semmes is our outreach chairperson, Anita O'Connor is our intern chairperson, Charlotte Hamm is our program chairperson. The members at large this year are Tom Fortner and Julie Cox. Don thanked all who have stepped up.

Eileen Huisman moved that we adjourn our meeting today. Don asked all who agreed that the meeting end at 12:24 stand. Table arrangements are gifts for those who have a Master Gardener card under their chair.

BCMG Board and General Meeting Dates for January 2025



The first BCMG Board Meeting for 2025 has been rescheduled to January 8th (the second Wednesday) since January 1st is a Holiday. As a result, the general meeting for members will be held on **January 15, 2025**.





Mark Your Calendar

Jan. 8, 2025	BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Jan. 15, 2025	BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, Dr. Jeremy Pickens, <i>"Plant Propagation and Patent Laws"</i>
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
Feb. 12, 2025	Volunteer Fair
Feb. 13, 2025	Pensacola Garden Clubs Educational Seminars, 9:00 a.m.-2:45 p.m., <i>"A Walk Down a Garden Path"</i> , Registration Jan. 1-Feb. 1, \$25.00 Registration fee, Registration forms available at PensacolaGardenCenter.com
March 5, 2025	BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
March 12, 2025	BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, Speaker TBD
April 2, 2025	BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
April 3-5, 2025	AMGA Conference, First Baptist Church, Prattville, AL, <i>"Fountains of Knowledge"</i>
April 9, 2025	BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, Speaker TBD
April 10-12, 2025	BCMG Spring Plant Sale
May 7, 2025	BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
May 14, 2025	BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy. 104, Speaker TBD

Grass Roots is compiled and edited by Lynn Andrews, assisted by Sam Andrews. Pictures courtesy of Loree Hadley, and Robin Newell. 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.

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



www.thelearningsite.info

Next meeting: WEDNESDAY, January 15, 2025

Speaker: Dr. Jeremy Pickens
Topic: "Plant Propagation and Patent Laws"

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.