

GRASS ROOTS

NEWSLETTER OF THE BALDWIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, INC.

JUNE 2025

www.baldwinmastergardeners.com

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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Don Richerson

Vilfredo Pareto was born in Paris in 1848 to an affluent Italian couple. Raised in privilege, he attended the University of Turin and rose in academia to heading up the Department of Political Economy at the University of Lausanne. He was a keen gardener, and he noticed that 80% of his overall pea harvest came from 20% of his pea pods. He applied this finding to his economics work and discovered that about 20% of the people owned 80% of the land in Italy. This led to his development of the Pareto Principle, also known as the 80/20 Rule.

This useful theory, while taken for granted, is universally recognized as an axiom - 20% of the people in an organization will be responsible for 80% of the organization's success. BCMG is no different from any other random organization.

When I was elected President almost two years ago, I felt the milieu was ripe for increasing the productivity and enjoyment in and about the BCMG. My job was to determine which gardeners were the top 20% producers. My goodness, the personalities have changed in the interim.

I intended to spend 80% of my "people time" with the top 20%. They were easily identified. But the distribution of 80% of the developmental dollars was askew. I have endeavored to correct this during my tenure and we are beginning to show signs of course correction. However, I was elected President of 100% of the Baldwin Master



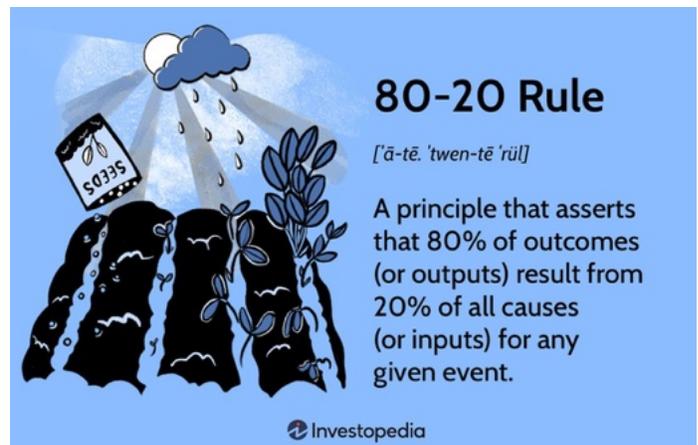
PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Don Richerson

Gardeners and I remain determined to connect with each member, regardless of membership status or attendance record. I have also tried to determine what 20% of the work gives 80% of the return. I strived to give our "gifted" workers assistance to free them up to excel. This is helping to serve as the top 20% to do on-the-job training for the next 20%. I am so pleased at how this theory has helped BCMG.

As we ride the crest of a huge wave of success, we look forward to the challenges ahead. Change is inevitable. Completing our mission is our only option. Embellishing the stature of the BCMG is to be accomplished through our mission statement: . . . "to provide horticultural education, community service and environmental stewardship for our community in affiliation with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System programs . . ."

Remember, we teach what we know.
We reproduce what we are. Like begets like.
The future is ripe for our enjoyment.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS



6/1 Zetty Bauer
6/4 Clarence 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

MONTHLY PROGRAM NOTES

By Charlotte Hamm

May Speaker

John Cobb

Join us for the June meeting of the Baldwin County Extension Master Gardeners Association where John Cobb will be presenting a program on emergency care. When a medical emergency arises, we often experience a feeling of helplessness along with the anxiety of the situation. Let's learn how we can be proactive after we call 911!

John Cobb is a retired U.S. Navy veteran, nationally registered Paramedic (NRP), and the owner of Coastal Emergency Medical Skills (CEMS), based in Mobile, Alabama. Originally from Newark, New Jersey, John began his medical career in 1984 when he joined the U.S. Navy. Serving as a Hospital Corpsman and Flight Search and Rescue Medical Technician, his 20-year military career took him around the world and sparked a lifelong passion for teaching health, safety, and emergency care. After retiring from the Navy, John continued his commitment to emergency medical services by earning his Paramedic certification and founding CEMS, a training center offering CPR, First Aid, and advanced medical instruction. Known for his belief that "Training makes the difference," John ensures that every student—from healthcare professionals to everyday community members—receives high-quality, hands-on training.

John remains an active force in the community. He teaches a wide range of lifesaving classes, participates in public health events, and serves as a board member for Heart for Athletes, a nonprofit committed to preventing sudden cardiac arrest in youth through screenings and awareness campaigns. He also enjoys supporting community groups, promoting AED access, and finding new ways to empower others to save lives.



**THAT HEART'S NOT
GOING TO START ITSELF**
DON'T BE AFRAID. GIVE CPR. SAVE A LIFE.

REVISED POLICIES

By Tom Fortner

Revised Policies and Bylaws Up for Adoption at June 11 Member Meeting

Every few years, Baldwin County Master Gardeners, Inc., undertakes the important task of revising its official policies, procedures, and bylaws. The current revision process began in June of last year and will culminate in a member vote on the proposed changes during the June 11 general membership meeting.

The committee responsible for revising the Policies and Procedures Manual (PPM) includes six members appointed by President Don Richerson: Kay Heinrich and Barbara Comstock, who serve as co-chairs and at-large members of the 2024 Board of Directors; Keith Cardwell; Mickey Ezell; Myra Lassere; and Tom Fortner, a member of last year's intern class. President Richerson attended several meetings in an ex officio role.

The 36-page revised PPM is available on the BCMG website here: <https://baldwinmastergardeners.com/policy-procedure-manual/>

All revisions—additions and deletions—appear in red for easy identification. Readers can download and print the document as needed. In addition, Don Richerson will email a link to the document around the first of May for those who do not see it in *Grass Roots*. A limited number of hard copies will also be available at the May 14 membership meeting.

The revision committee focused on streamlining the document, improving clarity, and adopting a more modern and informal tone. Excluding appendices, the final version is approximately 12 pages shorter than the 2021 edition—roughly three-fourths the size.

Among the more significant changes are the adoption of new membership classifications for Master Gardeners, as defined by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, and a newly added bylaw provision allowing proxy voting for officer elections. Previously, proxy voting was not permitted.

On April 18, the current BCMG Board of Directors voted to approve the revised 2025 PPM and to present it to the membership for adoption.

At the June 11 meeting, members will have the opportunity to ask questions, share suggestions, and raise any concerns for consideration by the review committee and the board.

PAST EVENTS

Photographs by Barb Comstock



Charlotte Hamm



Mr & Mrs Williamson

Magnolia macrophylla

The bigleaf Magnolia has the largest simple leaves and largest flowers of any tree indigenous to North America. It is a rare, native, deciduous, pyramidal tree with a single trunk and develops a spreading, broad, rounded crown with age, and grows 30 to 40 feet tall and equally as wide.



Emerald Coast Hibiscus Society Show and Sale
Additional Pictures from March Show
By Lynn Andrews



JUNE EVENTS

Baldwin County Master Gardeners & Baldwin County 4-H
present

A World of Frogs

Looking for a fun way to keep the kids engaged in learning this summer? Join us for a Nature Day Camp! Ages 6-13, each family group must be accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$5 per child.

REGISTER NOW

Registration Required,
space is limited!
<https://al.4honline.com/>



QUESTIONS?
CALL 251-937-7176.



June 17, 2025
Holly Hills
Bay Minette

8:00-12:00 pm

or

June 24, 2025
Foley Civic
Center



The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator, employers, and provider. If you need a reasonable accommodation or free language access services, contact Sarah Butterworth at 334.703.6777 by June 1, 2025.



JUNE 10, 2025 - Kids Nature Day Training / Planning, (World of Frogs)
Foley Public Library, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon



ALABAMA Native Milkweed Project Census

If you want to become a Citizen
Scientist as a pollinator collector for
the Pollinator Study on Milkweed.

Please email:

Carmen Flammini at

c.flammini@auburn.edu

Or text at -251-3950249

Training will be June 12

- Data collection at the follow
Pollinator Gardens:
 - Grand Hotel
 - Pelican Nest
- Graham Creek Nature Center
 - Foley Riviera Utility
 - Gulf Coast Eco Center

Study will be on July 2025

Training time and location TBA when available..

JUNE EVENTS



Storm Ready: Hurricane Prep & Recovery

Wednesday, **June 18, 2025** | **9:00 AM–2:00 PM CT**

LOCATION: Gulf Coast Research and Extension Center, 8300 AL-104, Fairhope, AL

COST: \$15

LUNCH: Provided

Come learn about safeguarding your home, trees, and landscape before the storm hits and recover quickly afterward. We'll cover preparing your landscape and trees for extreme weather, building an effective go bag, planning for evacuation, and staying safe using chainsaws and generators. Additionally, we will discuss the issues with insurance on the Gulf Coast, particularly as it pertains to trees.

REGISTRATION

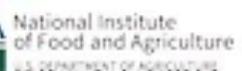
Registration Link:

www.aces.edu/go/stormready1

Registration Deadline: June 15, 2025

Questions?

potterj@aces.edu or (334)-752-0799.



The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator and employer. Everyone is welcome! Please let us know if you have accessibility needs. www.aces.edu



Garden-to- Pantry

Herb It Up: Grow, Snip, and Stash Your Herb-tacular Creations!



To Register:

www.aces.edu/go/herbs

Cost: \$25.00

June 26, 2025

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Fairhope Research Center
8300 Hwy 104
Fairhope, AL 36532

- Planting, Growing, Pest Management and More!
- Hands-on Learning
- Take Home Herb Box and Drying Rack
- Preserving, Storing, and Cooking with Herbs
- Food Sampling



HORTICULTURE & HOME GROUNDS

extension
HUMAN SCIENCES

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator, employer, and provider. If you need a reasonable accommodation or language access services, contact Rebecca Catalena at ric0026@auburn.edu by June 10, 2025.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

By Kim Musson

Everyday is Earth Day

Recycling or re-using items for other purposes have been documented since the 4th century, BC. In the United States, since World War II, our parents remember being called upon to help the war effort due to lack of materials. Their families did without necessary items, they donated raw materials, and went door to door collecting items most needed to help in any way. When I was a child we brought our empty soda bottles and other items to the store and my Mother would receive a credit on her grocery bill. The recycling effort has changed in so many ways since that time.

We started curbside recycling years ago in Daphne. Later, when we moved to Spanish Fort, they did not have the same option for recycling. Guess what, once you recycle, its hard to stop! We started bringing our items to 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center and the Spanish Ft recycling station. We had no idea how little garbage we generated until we had a hurricane with a 2 week trash pick-up delay. Our neighbors all had overflowing 96 gallon trash containers with multiple trash bags outside the container and ours was halfway full. We enjoy either re-using items or recycling them and it feels good to know we are keeping some trash out of our local landfills. If you have not been to your local landfill, it is quite the education!

If you want to start recycling, try to start small and have a system. We have an organized spot in our garage; each material type has it's own container. I like to call our system, "once and done". When we have an item to be recycled, we rinse/clean it out, set it to dry, then it goes into its own container. The containers get full at different times, so when one is full and I am running errands, that container goes into my car and I take it to one of the local recycling stations. This works a lot better for us compared to a huge box with everything dumped into it. The local recycling centers require items to be sorted before you dispose of them. If I am handling the item more than once, it is a waste of my time! Whatever you do, make sure its convenient and fits your lifestyle and works for your family.

For more information on what is accepted at Baldwin County recycling drop-off stations see chart on next page.

At the end of June, the Baldwin County Solid Waste Authority will open it's second Center for Hard-to Recycle Materials site (CHaRM) location in Fairhope. They will collect hard to recycle materials, like paint, propane tanks, batteries, fire extinguishers, light bulbs, electronics and pesticides. By the end of the year, Spanish Fort, Orange Beach and Bay Minette will all have their own centers.

For more information, the link to Baldwin County Solid Waste Authority is baldwincountyswda.org

In addition to plastic, tin aluminum, paper and cardboard, here are a few items that can be recycled, although they are not accepted at Baldwin County Recycling drop-off stations.



ARTICLES OF INTEREST

By Kim Musson

Everyday is Earth Day cont'd

Regular batteries can be dropped off at Fairhope High School. Rechargeable batteries can be dropped off at most Lowe's or Home Depot locations. Plastic grocery bags and most over-wrap plastic can be dropped off at Walmart or Publix stores. Glass is still accepted at Fairhope recycling station on Section Street, although access is only available if you have a city sticker.

If you have wide-glass jars, (pickle jars) that are 16 oz or 32 oz, they are needed for Hope Blooms. Jars must be cleaned and labels removed so they can re-purpose the flower arrangements that are donated to this worthwhile organization. I will be picking up clean jars after June general meeting, if you can help out.

Hopefully, you found this article helpful. Do you have other tips or suggestions to share with fellow members? Please let me know what you do to celebrate the Earth Everyday!

SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY
BALDWIN COUNTY

WHAT TO RECYCLE

Paper

- Newspaper & Inserts
- Magazines & catalogs
- Junk Mail & envelopes
- Cardboard
- Phonebooks
- Office and School Papers (Colored Paper)
- Brown Paper Bags (Grocery Bags)
- Boxboard (cereal boxes, crackers boxes, etc.)

Plastic

- Plastics no. 1 through 7
- Plastic Milk Jugs
- 2- Liters
- Bottles and Containers

Aluminum

- Aluminum Cans Recycling Details
- Pet Food cans
- Aluminum Foil Baking Pans
- Balls of Tin; Foil Pie Tins
- Tin and Steel Cans & Lids
- Metal Pots, Pans & Cookie Sheets

WHAT NOT TO RECYCLE

Paper

- Ice Cream Cartons
- Wax Paper
- Milk Cartons
- Juice Boxes

Plastic

- Plastic Bags (Grocery)
- Juice Pouches
- Tarps
- Styrofoam

Other

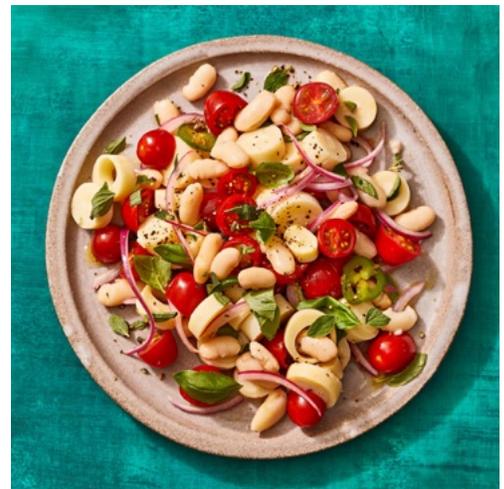
- Glass (Any Color)
- Aerosol Cans
- Household Garbage or Yard Waste
- Garden Hose
- Window Blinds
- Bedding or Linens
- Carpeting or Rugs
- Construction Materials

RECIPES FROM THE GARDEN

Recipe from Prevention Magazine

Ingredients

- 3 tbsp. red wine vinegar
- 1 tsp. lemon zest plus 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 tbsp. oregano leaves, chopped
- Kosher salt and pepper to taste
- 3 tbsp. olive oil
- 1/4 small red onion, thinly sliced crosswise
- 1/2 medium jalapeño, seeded and thinly sliced
- 2 14-ounce cans hearts of palm, rinsed and sliced 1/4 inch thick
- 1 15.5-ounce can cannellini beans, rinsed
- 1 pt. grape tomatoes, halved
- 1/2 cup basil leaves, roughly chopped



Directions

Step 1 In large bowl, whisk together vinegar, lemon zest and juice, oregano, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/4 teaspoon pepper, and oil. Stir in onion and jalapeño and let sit 5 minutes.

Step 2. Add hearts of palm, beans, and tomatoes and toss to combine. Fold in basil and top with cracked pepper if desired.

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

Baldwin County Master Gardeners General Meeting 5/14/2025

Don Richerson, President, called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. He requested everyone to stand and join in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked if there were any guests in the audience. With there being none, he then asked those with a birthday in May to please stand. Don asked all past Presidents and past Wayne de la Rua award winners to stand. Members applauded these recognitions. There were 70 people in attendance.

Don called on Charlotte Hamm to introduce our speaker for the day. Today we have Rhydonna Mosely Moore from Fairhope Educational Enrichment Foundation (FEEF). They support an outdoor classroom at the Pelican's Nest. Rhydonna grew up in Laurel, Mississippi and graduated from Florida State University with a degree in Merchandising and Marketing. She is now the Executive Director of FEEF. She will talk about how it came to be and what is coming up next at the Pelican's Nest.

FEEF started in 1996 with a volunteer group. They established an Endowment that today pays for the operations of FEEF. The FEEF's Mission is to promote and enrich educational opportunities for all Fairhope public school students. The Pelican's Nest Science Lab offers students marine science experiential learning K-6. The Pavillion at the Nest is a facility used for environmental educational events and community gatherings. They now see over 5000 students across Baldwin County at the Pelican's Nest Science Lab each year.

The Pelican's Nest is located downtown Fairhope, and the kids get to do many fun things down to the bay. They have several different experiences: Down by The Bay, Edge of the Bay, and Touch The Bay. Students learn about our ecosystem, land care, its impact on the Bay and how to protect our future. A picture of the Pavilion at the Nest shows an open-air building that has environmental education. Carmen will be presenting a butterfly seminar on July 16 th at the Pavilion.

Rhydonna detailed their environmentally friendly Rainwater Collection Cistern, their Greywater Garden and its functioning, and their Gabion Planters designed for water permeability to reduce hydrostatic pressure, making them suitable for areas prone to flooding or erosion. Planted in the Gabion Planters they have their Sensory Garden, Butterfly Garden and Pollinator Garden. Bioswales are vegetated channels or ditches designed to manage stormwater runoff, which they have designated as their Bird Sanctuary.

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

The Alabama Wildlife Federation (AWF) Outdoor Classroom Program offers a variety of learning stations designed to transform schoolyards into hands-on educational environments. These include Weather Stations with instruments to measure, record, and track weather conditions over time, Cardinal Directions Signs, Sensory Gardens, Songbird Sanctuaries, Butterfly or Pollinator Gardens, Log Decomposition Stations, and Frog & Toad Habitats.

Rhydonna showed a picture slide of "Who Keeps Our Campus BEAUTIFUL?" Walking the garden path was Master Gardener Kay Smith, Co-Chair of the Pelican's Nest project. The list of other Master Gardener volunteers includes Tony Hickman, Co-Chair, Pat Atzman, Aletza Boucher, Marilyn Bullington, Barry Gilliland, Debby Tollefson, Terry Delker, Charlotte Hamm, and Shirley Ryals. Rhydonna thanked all the Master Gardeners for working so hard to keep the campus beautiful for the kids and the community. She also thanked Carmen Flammini for her expertise in getting their gardens established.

With Alabama Wildlife you can have a turtle exhibit. Rhydonna showed a picture of the first two turtles for the new exhibit. Permits have been obtained to keep these two male box turtles. She will inform us when native plants will be planted in the turtle habitat area.

Everyone was invited to visit the Pelican's Nest. The last class is today and for the next couple of weeks there will not be any students until Summer Camp begins. The website for the Fairhope Educational Enrichment Foundation is: <https://feefonline.org>

There was a call to recess for 15 minutes.

After the break, Don inquired if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the General Meeting held on April 9th as listed in the Grass Roots Newsletter. Tom Fortner made a motion to approve the minutes with a second by Myra Lassere.

Presidents Report: Don announced his attendance at the 2nd quarter Advisory Council Meeting held on May 6th, in Clanton, Alabama. They gave the 2024 final tally of Master Gardeners in Alabama at 1,782 and the final tally of interns at 281.

Some of you might know that we are in discussion with Weeks Bay Reserve about having a greenhouse on their property. On May 13th, we met with Weeks Bay Reserve officials to discuss building a greenhouse. At our last board meeting it was voted to hold the maturing \$21,077.00 CD and its earnings in our checking account instead of reinvesting it in another CD. Funds may be required for purchasing or constructing a greenhouse. We think that a greenhouse could be built in a few weeks.

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

Don inquired who among the audience has a greenhouse. Many individuals raised their hands. Don asked Dolores Hammack to take note of all having a greenhouse. He said we might call on folks with a greenhouse to allow Master Gardeners to use a small space in lieu of our own greenhouse this year. Weeks Bay wants Master Gardeners to help them with native plants and educational programs. It is a very exciting time. We hope that all discussions lead to productive outcomes.

Next Year the Alabama Master Gardeners Association (AMGA) conference will be held in Huntsville, Alabama at the Westin Huntsville Hotel on May 6-8, 2026. One of the Pre-Conference activities will be a tour of the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, Huntsville Botanical Garden, and Hudson Alpha Institute for Biotechnology. In 2027 the AMGA conference will be in Birmingham, Alabama from April 7-9, 2027.

Vice-Presidents Report: Lynn Barnes announced that a Baldwin County Master Gardener Social Luncheon is planned for all Master Gardeners tomorrow, May 15 th . Lynn stated that the room will be decorated and expressed her desire for the celebration to be a blessing for all volunteers. A fun time where they do not have to make the food! BBQ pork will be provided, and the Board Members will bring sides and there will be cake. Please come at 11:30 and lunch will be at 12:00. The goal is to have a nice lunch and feel appreciated.

There is a Blue Zone dinner event scheduled for June 24 th at the USA Health Mapp Family Campus building on 104 & 181. Many have signed up and paid. If you haven't, please see Brenda Montgomery.

ACES Report: Carmen Flammini, Regional Extension Agent, announced she remains positive about a greenhouse being built. However, Weeks Bay Reserve depends on Federal Funding. There is a good team in place and quotes on building the greenhouse are being sought. Weeks Bay Reserve is a valued partner and wants Master Gardeners to be located there.

Carmen invited everyone to a "Storm Ready: Hurricane Prep & Recovery" workshop at AL-104 on Wednesday, June 18 th from 9:00AM-2:00 PM. Lunch is provided. Extension Agents Joel Potter, Jack LeCroy and Carmen will present safeguarding your home, trees and landscape including issues with insurance. Another event will be the "Monarch Butterfly Workshop" on July 17 th from 6:00-8:00 PM presented at The Pelican's Nest Pavilion. Also, there will be a Garden-to-Pantry event on June 26 th at 9:00 AM-12:00 PM at AL-104.

A Save the Date: A "Hydroponic Systems Workshop for Gardeners and Educators" will be held on July 23rd in Mobile County and July 24th in Baldwin County at the Gulf Coast Eco Center from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The registration cost is \$45.00.

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

Coming up soon will be "Alabama Native Milkweed Project Census" training. Two Entomologists from Auburn will be training volunteers on June 12th to capture pollinators with a net and put them in vials to learn how to distinguish different bees. All Master Gardeners that want to be involved with this scientific study please sign up by contacting Carmen by email. Data collection will be at Pollinator Gardens located at Grand Hotel, Pelican's Nest, Graham Creek Nature Center, Foley Riviera Utilities, and the Gulf Coast Eco Center. Gardeners will be needed at each location. Six types of milkweeds will be planted in these areas starting on May 23rd. District leaders will be contacting volunteers for planting between May 20th and May 27th.

In August, Carmen will conduct a volunteer training session for master gardeners to work in school gardens. She will cover 25 activities that can be implemented at schools.

Carmen described the Organized Approach to Community Engagement that has been developed to better serve the county and Master Gardener volunteers. The title of the designed project is "Baldwin County Master Gardeners Community Outreach Initiative". The county is divided into four areas, each overseen by a district leader. These areas are North, West (Eastern Shore), Central, and South. The District Leaders for the North are Laurie Simpson and Nicole Reed; the District Leaders for the South are Beth Murray and SueAnn Barnwell; District Leaders for the West are Shannon Russell and Karon Pennington; District Leader for Central Baldwin is Ken Gates. On June 3rd from 12:00 noon to 2:00 PM after our Board Meeting all District Leaders and everyone with a project will have a meeting to update the programs and program leaders.

Carmen has requested that anyone presenting to the public on behalf of Master Gardeners inform Wanda Martin or Carmen about the engagement. This ensures that credits are acknowledged, a record of the talk is maintained, and confirmation that you have completed the required online Youth Training Program if engaging with children.

Policies and Procedures: Tom Fortner reviewed the updating of the Policies and Procedures and Bylaws by the committee: Kay Heinrich, Barb Comstock, Keith Cardwell, Myra Lassere, Mickey Ezell and Tom Fortner. This update process will end at our next meeting on June 11th. Members will be asked to vote on the adoption of the new Policies and Procedures and the Bylaws. These documents are available for review or printing in a PDF format on the BCMG website. Notable changes include updates to membership classifications and proxy voting. Please look over these changes and come to the June 11th meeting prepared to vote.

<https://baldwinmastergardeners.com/policy-procedure-manual>

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

Treasurers Report: Don Richerson made the report for Cassandra in her absence. Cassandra emailed the financial reports to members yesterday. The Spring Plant Sale revenue was \$65,165.99, the costs were \$25,803.29, resulting in a net profit of \$37,362.70. A special thanks and standing ovation were given to Dolores Hammack and Karon Pennington for their contribution.

Outreach Report: Sara Semmes explained the process of Master Gardeners being involved in an event. A request form with all the information about the event is filled out and goes to the Board for approval. Sara is happy to assist in this process. There have been three events that occurred recently. 1 st Event: On April 26 th the Audubon group had a Sandpiper Spirit 5K Run in Summerdale. Sara thanked Julie Cox and Eileen Greene for working on that project. 2 nd Event: On April 26 th 5 Rivers and Delta Woods had a huge event. Helping with the event was Julian Walthall, Gilda Underwood and Sara Semmes. 3 rd Event: On May 10 th the City of Loxley had a Plant Swap and plant giveaway hosted at the Loxley Public Library. Helping with the event was Sarah Duncan, Chair, Keith Cardwell, Gilda Underwood, Dolores Hammack, and Sara Semmes.

Coming up will be Kids Nature Day "A World of Frogs" planned for June 17 th in Bay Minette at Holly Hills Country Club and on June 24 th in Foley at the Civic Center. There will be a volunteer planning/training day at the Foley Public Library on June 10 th at 10:00 AM-12:00 PM. Fran Posey-Eversole, Chair, Eileen Huisman, Zetty Bauer, Liz Wojtaszek along with Sarah Butterfield, 4-H, will be planning the event and needs volunteers in Bay Minette and Foley. Volunteer signup sheets are available today.

Fran explained that the event has been in the making since last July. Having one event in the Bay Minette and one event in Foley will reach more children. Sessions will be the Barking Tree Frog; the Green Tree Frog; Brick Southern Tree Frog; Gopher Frog; How Far Can a Tree Frog Jump; The Diet of the Tree Frog; The Sound of the Frog; Build a Frog Abode; Watermelon Seed Spitting. There will be a maximum of 50 children ages 6-13.

Sara announced that the Loxley Public Library will have a Nature Day event on July 14 th. On September 27 th , Fairhope Public Library will have a Plant Swap.

Sara is seeking volunteers for help with the Alabama Coastal Birdfest event in October. Master Gardener, Linda Ennis, will be stepping down from this yearly Birdfest event. Master Gardeners in the past provided flower arrangements for 30 tables at this event. The budget was \$200.00. Volunteer chair needed.

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

New Business: Maureen Krison, a Baldwin County representative to the Alabama State program Guidelines committee, announced that there is a new opening on the state's Social Media committee. This involves working for a year on a state team with four other Master Gardeners to finalize our leadership guidance around Social Media. This sub-team is seeking participation from a South Alabama representative. If anyone has an interest in meeting Master Gardeners in other parts of our state, aligning closely with Auburn leadership and sharing social media experience and ideas contact Maureen Krison.

Don asked Julian Walthall if he knew about the sale of Five Rivers Delta Resource Center. Julian said it was leased for 10 years by the Alabama Wildlife Federation.

Kay Smith announced that the Turtle Habitat workday this week at Pelican's Nest has been postponed.

Barb Comstock invited all interested in protesting the dumping of dredge material in Mobile Bay to attend the meeting at Saint Philips new Catholic church in Theodore, Alabama tomorrow at 6:00 pm. It was mentioned that there could be a meeting in Fairhope on May 22 nd .

Don Richerson made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second from Lynn Barnes. All in favor please stand. The general meeting was adjourned at 11:48 AM.

The next General Meeting will be held at AL-104 on Wednesday, June 11 th at 10:00 A.M., with a social time at 9:30 A.M.



Plant Sale was a big success.
Enjoy a well-deserved rest.
Thanks to everyone that helped.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



July 17th, 2025
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Monarch Butterfly Workshop

Lead by Carmen Flammini
Extension Agent with Alabama Cooperative Extension

Join us to learn about:

- monarch butterflies
- native milkweed plants &
- raising monarchs in a healthy way!

Register Today!



Your \$10 registration fee supports local milkweed gardens

This event will be held weather permitting

The Pelican's Nest Pavilion
108 S. Summit Street
Fairhope, AL 36532






ACES.EDU



Hydroponic Systems Workshop for Gardeners and Educators

July 23, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Mobile County
Jon Archer Agricultural Center
1070 Schillinger Rd., N., Mobile AL 36508

July 24, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Baldwin County
Gulf Coast Eco Center
Gulf Shores, AL 36542

Registration Cost is \$45.00
Interested in Attending? Email
czf0054@auburn.edu or call
251-937-0222.

Regional Extension Agent
Carmen Flammini

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator, employer, and provider. If you need a reasonable accommodation or free language access services, Carmen Flammini at czf0054@auburn.edu

Online CEU Information

Back 2 Basics Gardening Series
Online, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Join the Urban Home Grounds Team on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 10 AM CT to learn the basics of home horticulture in Alabama. Sessions include:

June 11- I Want It and I Want it NOW: Practicing Patience in the Landscape, with J. Potter
June 25- What's My Climate Zone?, with H. Jackson

Contact:
Allyson Shabel
ams0137@aces.edu
(256) 612-6766
www.aces.edu/event/back-2-basics-gardening-series-online

Blue Zone Cooking Class

June 24, 2025
Time- 5:30 pm -7:30 pm
Location: USA Health Mapp Family Campus 3rd. Floor
21950 AL-181 Fairhope, AL
Call - Brenda Montgomery to sign up for the class.

THE BLUE ZONES



"Blue Zones" are regions where people, on average, live longer and healthier lives than elsewhere.

CALENDAR

- JUN. 03, 2025 BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy 104, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 am.
JUN. 10, 2025 Kids Nature Day Training / Planning, Foley Public Library, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
JUN. 11, 2025 BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy 104, Speaker John Cobb
JUN. 12, 2025 AL Native Milk Weed Project Census Training, TBA
JUN. 15, 2025 Storm Ready Hurricane Prep & Recovery Workshop Registration Due
JUN. 15, 2025 Father's Day
JUN. 17, 2025 World of Frogs, Kids nature day camp, Holly Hills, Bay Minette, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
JUN. 18, 2025 Storm Ready Hurricane Prep & Recovery Workshop, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Hwy 104
JUN. 24, 2025 World of Frogs, Kids nature day camp, Foley Civic Center, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
JUN. 24, 2025 Blue Zone Cooking Class 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Call - Brenda Montgomery to sign up.
JUN. 26, 2025 Garden - to - Pantry, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, Hwy 104
JUL. 02, 2025 BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy 104, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
JUL. 14, 2025 Nature Day, Loxley Public Library, Time TBA
JUL. 16, 2025 BCMG Monthly Meeting & Awards Membership Luncheon, Foley Civic Center, 10:30 a.m.
JUL. 17, 2025 Monarch Butterfly Workshop, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Pelican's Nest Pavillion, Fairhope AL
JUL. 23, 2025 Hydroponics System Workshop for Gardeners & Educators, Mobile CO. See flyer page 14.
JUL. 24, 2025 Hydroponics System Workshop for Gardeners & Educators, Baldwin CO. See flyer page 14.
JUL. 27, 2025 Plant Swap, Fairhope Public Library
AUG. 02, 2025 BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy 104, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
AUG. 13, 2025 BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy 10, Speaker TBD

Bring to June 11, 2025 General Meeting

Hope Bloom needs cleaned 16 and 32 oz wide mouth jars.
Labels must be removed.

Plastic Landscaping pots still needed for greenhouses,
except 3 gallon size.

2025 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

2025 Appointed Board

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

Next Meeting Dates:

Wednesday June 11, 2025
9:30 am - Refreshments
10:00 am - Meeting

BCMG Merchandise

Maria Curow and Dianne Robinson-Hill,
BCMG Merchandise Coordinators will be
selling BCMG Aprons, hats and t-shirts at
monthly general meetings.



by Andreu Riebe

We didn't receive any reader-submitted tech questions last month, so to kick things off, here are a few helpful questions to get us started. These are common issues many of us have run into—and we'll be spotlighting more each month to make navigating the digital side of BCMG easier.

Q1: Where can I find the newsletter besides the version emailed to me?

You can view current and past Grass Roots newsletters anytime at:
👉 <https://baldwinmastergardeners.com/newsletters>
No login needed—just click and read!

Q2: How do I make the font larger when reading the newsletter?

If you're reading on a device, here are a few ways to zoom in:
- On a computer: Press Ctrl (Windows) or Command (Mac) and tap the + key.
- On a phone/tablet: Pinch outward on the screen using two fingers.

Q3: How do I submit something to Grass Roots?

Send your article or photo to:

✉ grassroots@baldwinmastergardeners.com

Deadline: 20th of each month

- Articles: Google Docs, Word, PDF, or Rich Text
 - Photos: JPG or PNG (minimum 1MB). Attach files or share via Google Drive.
- Please include subject names for group photos!

Have a tech question for the next issue? Send it to

✉ grassroots@baldwinmastergardeners.com

You might see your question featured here next month!

Newsletter Committee:
Andreu Riebe, Kim Musson, Linda Crowell, Larry Musson



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