

# GRASS ROOTS

NEWSLETTER OF THE BALDWIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, INC.

JULY 2025

www.baldwinmastergardeners.com

VOL. 33 ISSUE 7



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## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Don Richerson

I have a dear friend of 45 years that I met on my first day of private practice at Thomas Hospital in June of 1980. She was a seasoned nurse and proceeded to teach this young doctor a lot. She continues to amaze us all as she recently celebrated her 95th birthday.

"Miss Peggy", as I have called her, remains a treasure and a resource. She has naturally had to slow down lately due to health concerns but she is a "regular" on social media.

Often, she posts insightful and informative articles and is constantly an inspiration. Recently, she posted a brief treatise on the difference between happy and not so happy people. Fresh from my 50th med school reunion, this article nailed it.

I will freely quote from her post and I hope you find it entertaining.

"At a recent reunion, several of the successful alumni sat around a table discussing their careers and families. Soon the discussions turned to the stresses, pressures and constant chasing after more."

"A professor, who had been observing and listening, interrupted and said, "Hold on a minute, I'll make us some coffee." He soon returned with a large pot of coffee and a tray full of cups - none of them matching. There was fine porcelain, plain ceramic, chipped mugs and one that resembled one from a local diner."



## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Don Richerson

"As the former students grabbed for a mug, the professor watched in silence and after each had filled their cup, he stated: "Did you notice what just happened? Most of you instinctively reached for the nicer cups, leaving the simple ones for others. It's best to want the best for ourselves, but that's where the stress begins. The cup doesn't make the coffee taste any better. What you wanted was the coffee, but you concentrated on the cup."

"Life is the coffee. Your job, your house, your income, your status, your health - those are just cups. They help contain life, but they don't define it. And the trouble is, the more we focus on the cup, the more we miss out on the coffee."

"Remember, happy people don't always have the best of everything. But they know how to make the best of what they have."

Even in her mid-90's, Miss Peggy is still teaching. So, as I celebrate her, I also celebrate each of you. If anything stresses you about our organization, please let me know. We have the lazy days of summer to reflect on how each of us can make BCMG more prosperous and engaging. Our organization is second to none in enthusiasm and leadership across Alabama. See you at the Foley Civic Center on the 16th!



"In every life we have some trouble,  
But when you worry you make it double,  
Don't worry, be happy!"

Bobby McFerrin - Don't Worry, Be Happy Lyrics

## JULY BIRTHDAYS



*Happy Birthday*

Ann Hutchison	07-02
James Faulkner	07-08
Analou Lopez-Shultz	07-14
María Curow	07-15
Gordon Cooper	07-16
Charlotte Hamm	07-16
Beth Murray	07-19
Carmen Flammini	07-27
Sueann Barnwell	07-28
Diana Rodgers	07-28
Mary Hamilton	07-30



# PAST EVENTS

By Lynn Barnes

And a Good Time Was Had by All

On May 15, forty-three Master Gardeners attended our Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon which was held at our meeting center on Highway 104. The purpose of this event was to show appreciation for all the hard work that our Master Gardeners have accomplished, especially during our Spring Plant Sale.

We had an abundant menu consisting of barbecue pulled pork, buns, pickles, potato salad, baked beans, macaroni and cheese, slaw and many other salads. There was so much to eat and it was all delicious!

Our new 2025 intern, Allie Pierce, made a colorful and delightful two-layer cake that looked like a flower garden. It was fabulous and all the guests were eager to try it and there was plenty to go around.

After lunch, it was time to give away free prizes. Drum roll please! As the numbers were called, folks came forward and selected a prize. There were 10 prizes and 10 flower arrangements that were given away. People were sitting on pins and needles waiting for their number to be called. It was fun to watch people's reactions when they were a winner. You might have thought they were winning the lottery!

A big SHOUT OUT goes to everyone on the Board who brought side dishes and to those who helped set up and clean up. You are much appreciated!



## PAST EVENTS

### *Alabama Native Milkweed Pollinator Census*

*By Mary Calvin*

Two Auburn professors, Anthony Abbate and Selina Bruckner, joined Extension Agent Carmen Flammini to train Baldwin County Master Gardeners for the first native milkweed pollinator census.

We practiced counting flowers (yes, the many individual flowers in a cluster) and looking for Monarch eggs on each plant. Dr. Abbate demonstrated using butterfly nets to capture bees and transferring them to a vial of alcohol to send to Auburn for species identification. There are over 500 bee species native to Alabama.

In July or August we will take our skills to the field to check five plants each of *Asclepias tuberosa*, *Asclepias incarnata* and *Asclepias perennis*. Volunteers signed up for one of five gardens: the Grand Hotel, Pelican Nest Science Lab, Riviera Utilities Foley, Graham Nature Preserve and Gulf Coast Eco-Center.

This project began in 2023. Carmen is planning to add additional species of native milkweed next year.



# PAST EVENTS

## Kids Nature Day - A World of Frogs

By Fran Posey-Eversole, Kim Musson



This year was the first time we hosted 2 locations for Kids Nature Day and it was a big success. We had over 36 kids from ages 6-13 at Holly Hills and Foley Civic Center. BCMG has worked with the 4-H Club for over ten years for this event. Fran Posey-Eversole has been the BCMG chairperson for the past 6 years and Sara Butterworth is currently the 4-H Coordinator. Lots of volunteers were needed for these days, and the presence of so many BCMG volunteers did not disappoint.

These good times would not have been possible without the help of Tanys Waldron and Eileen Huisman. They were instrumental in meeting and getting permission from the Foley City Council to secure the use of the Civic Center.

Wanda Martin and Fran met with Bob Willis, the Mayor of the City of Bay Minette, the City Planning chair, Tiny Covington and Mikki, the golf pro at Holly Hills Golf Course. She gathered old putters and cut them to youth sizes and supplied the golf balls to be used at both locations for the Lilly Pad Jump activity.

Rental fees were waived at both facilities for the day. The involvement and cooperation from the city of Bay Minette and Foley shows that they care about the education of young minds and have a vested interest in working with 4-H and BCMG and supporting their communities.

This year Charlotte Robert's from 4-H supplied the hand-carved wooden percussion frogs for the Sounds of a Frog activity. The other enjoyable rotations were making a Toad Abode and Diet of a Frog activity.

The day started with a skit titled, "Here We Go a Hoppin". A few of our thespian master gardeners entertained the kids by letting the Easter Bunny know that he wasn't the only hopper in town! The kids discovered facts at each station about the American Green Tree Frog, Barking Tree Frog, Southern Cricket Frog and the endangered Gopher Frog. The annual Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest for kids and adults ended the fun summer day!

# PAST EVENTS

## Intern Class Pictures

BCMG 2025 Intern Class



Back Row - Ken Gates, Laurie Simpson, Nicholas Stroh, Aletza Boucher, Eileen Greene, Debby Tollefsen, Claudia Barbee, Sara Roulston, Allie Pierce, Gary Pugh  
Front Row- Nicole Reid, Carmen Flammini, Anita O'Conner, Marilyn Bullington, Nancy Schlack  
Not Pictured - Pat Atzaman, Barry Gilliland, Jen Kinsey, Ann-Lou Lopez- Shultz, Lisa May

BCMG 2025 Intern Class Team Leaders



Back Row- Beth Robinson, Maria Curow, Kay Smith  
Front Row - Judi Smith, Carmen Flammini, Anita O'Connor, Diana Rodgers

## Blue Zone Cooking Class

By Brenda Montgomery

On June 24 th the Master Gardeners held our third Blue Zone cooking class with 21 in attendance. Literally, we were busy stirring up fun and sharing an educational evening with Chef Matt Palamara at USA Health Mapp Family Campus in Fairhope. Following some opening remarks from Dr. Mark Hammond, we collectively prepared a delicious five course meal. One of our members stated she would give this meal ten stars, and then said, maybe 11 because she didn't have to clean up! Others mentioned they may want to tweak some of the spices/ingredients to their individual tastes. My pressing question was "Is there any Peach Crumble dessert left?" And yes, we all went home with the yummy recipes!



# JULY EVENTS





BALDWIN & MOBILE COUNTY






## 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](mailto: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](mailto:czf0054@auburn.edu)

**ACES.EDU**



July 17<sup>th</sup>, 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



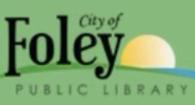





# Butterfly Tales with Riviera Utilities

Wednesday, July 16 & Saturday, July 19

10 A.M. at Foley Public Library





# ARTICLES OF INTEREST

## *Growing with Purpose*

The idea for the garden began in 2022 after learning about utility companies across the nation using right-of-way land for environmental initiatives. After our first planting of tropical milkweed, we quickly saw potential for deeper impact. Soon after, we connected with Carmen Flaminni, Baldwin County's Alabama Cooperative Extension Agent, who leads regional efforts for the Alabama Native Milkweed Project. Together with Carmen and the Baldwin County Master Gardeners, our team continues to help introduce more native milkweed species to the community, supporting monarch butterfly habitats and local pollinator populations.



SueAnne Barnwell / Beth Murray BCMG  
Riviera Utilities Pollinator Garden Project  
Program Leaders were featured in the  
March 6, 2025 Riviera Utilities  
newsletter.

Article from Riviera Utilities Pollinator Garden website

### Planting Your Spring Garden

#### For The Garden of Your Daily Living

##### Plant Three Rows of peas

1. Peace of Mind
2. Peace of Heart
3. Peace of Soul

##### Plant Four Rows of Squash

1. Squash Gossip
2. Squash Indifference
3. Squash Grumbling
4. Squash Selfishness

##### Plant Four Rows of Lettuce

1. Lettuce Be Faithful
2. Lettuce Be Kind
3. Lettuce Be Patient
4. Lettuce Really Love One Another

##### No Garden is Complete Without Turnips

1. Turnip For Meetings
2. Turnip For Service
3. Turnip To Help One Another

##### To Conclude Our Garden We Must Have Thyme

1. Thyme For Each Other
2. Thyme For Family
3. Thyme For Friends

Water Freely With Patience And Cultivate With Love.  
There Is Much Fruit In Your Garden Because You Reap  
What You Sow. Pass It On!!!

By Langston Hughes

## ARTICLES OF INTEREST

*Everyday is Earth Day*

By Kim Musson



The Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials site, (CHaRM) in Fairhope opens July 17, at 20609 Bishop Road.

Get ready to recycle items you can't put in the curbside bin—like paint, electronics, batteries, pesticides, propane tanks and more.

For more information and to see a list see of all recycling stations in Baldwin County, go to [baldwincountyswda.org](http://baldwincountyswda.org)



BISHOP ROAD RECYCLING CENTER  
FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA



## RECIPES FROM THE GARDEN

If you have a bumper crop of tomatoes, you may like this recipe.

### Gazpacho Recipe

#### INGREDIENTS

2 1/2 pounds red globe, beefsteak, or heirloom tomatoes, peeled and diced (about 5 cups)  
1 large green bell pepper, stemmed, cored, and diced (about 1 cup)  
1 large yellow bell pepper, stemmed, cored, and diced (about 1 cup)  
6 medium scallions, trimmed and thinly sliced (about 1 cup)  
1/2 cup plain tomato juice, or more as necessary  
1/4 cup fresh lime juice or red wine vinegar  
1 tablespoon tomato paste  
1 teaspoon minced garlic  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  
1/4 teaspoon ground dried cayenne or bottled hot red pepper sauce  
Finely chopped fresh cilantro leaves, for garnish  
Finely chopped fresh Italian flat-leaf parsley leaves, for garnish  
Lime wedges, for garnish



#### DIRECTIONS

Place the tomatoes, bell peppers, scallions, 1/2 cup tomato juice, lime juice or vinegar, tomato paste, garlic, salt, pepper, and cayenne or hot red pepper sauce in a large bowl. Stir until the tomato paste dissolves and everything is well blended. Ladle half the mixture into a food processor fitted with the chopping blade or a large blender. Cover and process or blend until fairly smooth, less than 1 minute. Pour back into the bowl and stir well. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours or up to 2 days. Stir in additional tomato juice if the soup becomes too thick. Ladle into bowls and garnish each with cilantro, parsley, and lime wedges.

#### COOKING TIPS

To peel tomatoes, drop them in boiling water until the skins crack, about 1 minute. Transfer to a bowl of ice water and cool to room temperature, then slip off the skins with your fingers. Or buy a serrated tomato peeler, available at many cookware stores and their online outlets.

# MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

## Baldwin County Master Gardeners General Meeting 6/11/2025

Lynn Barnes, Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM. Lynn announced she was covering for Don Richerson, the President, who was away on vacation. She requested everyone to rise and join in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. She asked if there were any guests in the audience. Jim Toop replied and stood wearing a tee shirt with the logo "Gardening to the Moon and Back," which is the slogan for the upcoming AMGA 2026 Conference in Huntsville. Lynn then asked those with a birthday in June to please stand. Next, she requested all past Presidents and past Wayne de la Rua award winners to stand. Members applauded for all those that stood. There were 73 people in attendance.

Lynn called on Charlotte Hamm to introduce our speaker for the day. Charlotte was happy to introduce John Cobb, owner of Coastal Emergency Medical Skills based out of Mobile. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1984 and served as Flight Search and Rescue technician. After service he got his medical EMS training. John, a national registered paramedic, actively teaches health safety classes in the community. He serves on the board of Hearts For Athletes, a non-profit, committed to preventing sudden cardiac arrests in young athletes.

John Cobb spoke to the Master Gardeners about common medical emergencies, traumatic conditions, cardiac arrests, CPR basics and other life-threatening events. The first important thing to do in an emergency situation is to protect yourself and call for help, letting the dispatcher know what is happening and provide your location. If you call or text from your cell phone the 911 center will use "what3words," a navigation and maps app that will pinpoint your location within 10 feet.

John gave a lot of helpful hints in different emergency scenarios. 1) Protect yourself first in an emergency. 2) Wearing non-latex gloves and regular hand washing are important methods of protection. 3) If a power line falls near you, shuffle away without lifting your feet. 4) If choking on food occurs, (if you are alone) lean against the back of a straight chair – thrust stomach above belly button area against the chair, use a LifeVac device, or have someone perform the Heimlich maneuver. Do not hit a person on the back. 5) If you have a nosebleed, pinch the nose and lean forward. If taking blood thinner and having a nosebleed lasting more than 15-20 minutes, contact emergency services.

John explained that the Good Samaritan law offers protection to individuals who assist using basic first aid skills, choking rescue techniques, CPR and AED, as well as administering Narcan. The Good Samaritan law does not apply if you indicate that you work in a health care position.

Heart attacks and cardiac arrest are traumatic health problems. John described the symptoms of a heart attack: chest discomfort, shortness of breath, chest pain, jaw or neck pain, arm or back pain, pain lasting longer than 15 minutes, and sweating associated with these pains.

# MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

John discussed heat exhaustion, heat stroke, and heat cramps, with heat stroke being the most severe of heat-related emergencies. Symptoms will be dizziness, muscle cramps, sweating, headaches and confusion. To avoid heat-related issues, it is advisable to move to a cooler environment and hydrate with water and electrolytes. Maintaining a balance between water and electrolytes is important for keeping the heart rhythm stable. When having a heat stroke the body stops sweating and begins to cook inside. You have to cool your body down quickly.

Cold emergencies are possible even in the South. It is imperative to warm the affected individual promptly. Confusion is among the symptoms that may be present.

Insect and snake bites can also be an emergency. For snake bites, use soap and water to clean the wound. Try to identify the type of snake. The brown recluse spider is recognized as one of the most hazardous spiders. Its bite can result in severe infection of the affected tissue. It is advisable to seek medical evaluation if you develop a fever or notice signs of a skin infection. For jellyfish and stingray stings, use meat tenderizer, vinegar, and hot water for relief. Use tweezers on ticks.

Diabetic emergencies include high or low blood sugar levels. Immediate concerns arise with low blood sugar, causing irritability, lack of focus, and confusion. If hypoglycemia occurs suddenly, consuming something with sugar may be necessary.

There are two types of strokes: blockage, which accounts for 87% of cases, and a bleed, which makes up 13%. Blockage is more common. Recognize the signs and symptoms of a stroke because time is of the essence. BEFAST helps in naming the symptoms: B for balance, E for eye movement, F for one side of face may droop, A for arm weakness, S for speech, T for time. It is very important to know when a person was acting normally. The time will be measured from the normal time to the medication administration time. Medication may reverse the effects of a stroke if given within the specified time window. Calling 911 is the best thing you can do. The 911 dispatch will know the level 1 stroke protocol hospital.

John demonstrated the CPR movements with a CPR mannequin. He explained that CPR moves blood to the brain. The AED heart defibrillator demonstration showed the AED machine's voice telling how to work the pads and the machine's voice giving instructions to stand back. John explained that all clothes on the chest have to be removed. If the AED machine is used in the first 2 to 3 minutes, there is an 80 to 90% chance that the person will wake up with the first shock of the pads. Do not be afraid to use the AED machine.

John invited everyone to come to Fairhope Public Library for a free Community CPR class on June 14 from 9:30-11:30 AM and again from 12:30-2:30 PM. This class will be hands-on.

There was a call to have a 10-minute break.

After the break, Lynn Barnes called the meeting to order and inquired if there were any corrections or additions for approval to the minutes of the General Meeting held on May

# MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

14th as listed in the Grass Roots Newsletter. Lynn said the Revenue from the Plant Sale needed to be corrected from \$65,165.99 to \$63,165.99. She said Cassandra explained that not all the plants are sold during the plant sales. Some plants are sold at a later time, affecting the revenue and profits accordingly. Cassandra will answer any questions when her treasury report is given.

The motion to approve the minutes was not completed and no vote took place.

Vice-President's Report: Lynn Barnes requested that anyone who has not paid for the Blue Zone dinner event scheduled for June 24th at the USA Health Mapp Family Campus should make their payment to Cassandra, as Brenda Montgomery is not present today.

Lynn announced that the next General Meeting will be our awards and scholarship meeting that will be held at Foley Civic Center on July 16th, 2025. The meeting is on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, so mark your calendars. The award ceremony is a fun event. Please bring a covered dish for lunch and place it on the buffet table. Parking is at the back of the building. Come early as the meeting starts at 10:30 AM, lunch follows at 11:00 AM, and the awards ceremony begins at 12:00 PM. Lynn requested volunteers to sign up to assist with the arrangement of food, serving, and for cleanup after the event.

Kay Heinrich was asked to give a scholarship award announcement. There are two scholarship awards this year that are renewals of scholarship for the fall semester at Auburn University. Mary Michelle Conway is majoring in Forestry and Adrian Faust is majoring in Landscape Architecture Design. Each will receive \$1,250.00. Mary and Adrian and their parents are invited to the General Meeting. Kay said Mary Michelle Conway and her parents plan to attend.

Julian Walthall asked why the change in the amount of our scholarship awards. Lynn stated that the BCMG needs to find a place for a greenhouse and build it this year. The greenhouse has become a priority. Without a greenhouse, there will not be enough plants for the Plant Sale, which could affect future funds and future scholarships. Lynn thanked Julian for his concerns.

ACES Report: Carmen Flammini, Regional Extension Agent, made comments on a wonderful presentation by John Cobb and said that she would like to have him return to give a CPR hands-on class. The audience agreed.

Carmen announced that Graham Creek Nature Preserve in Foley, Alabama has received a grant for building a Butterfly Conservatory to raise native butterflies and their host plants. They have asked BCMG to help them. Carmen will train any Master Gardener that would like to participate there. Master Gardeners can be in the phase to welcome and/or teach visitors, maintaining the butterfly garden or helping in the greenhouse. Carmen mentioned that a project leader will be needed and requested everyone to consider volunteering for this project. The City of Foley announced they are the first in the state to be a Monarch City.

# MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

Carmen announced the county has been divided into four districts, each overseen by a district leader. When Master Gardeners are asked to help someone with a project, please reach out to the district leader in your area. There will be a form on the website to fill out to begin getting the project approved as a Baldwin County Master Gardener (BCMG) project.

The District Leaders are:

- North – Laurie Simpson and Nicole Reid
- South – Beth Murray & SueAnn Barnwell & Keith Cardwell
- Central – Ken Gates
- West – Shannon Russell & Karon Pennington

Carmen invited everyone to a “Storm Ready: Hurricane Prep & Recovery” workshop at AL-104 on Wednesday, June 18th from 9:00AM-2:00 PM. Lunch is provided. The cost is \$15.00. Extension Agents Joel Potter, Jack LeCroy and Carmen will present safeguarding your home, trees and landscape including issues with insurance.

Tomorrow, June 12th, there will be training for the “Alabama Native Milkweed Project Census”. It is just for Master Gardeners. Your names will be in the study. All Master Gardeners that want to be involved with this scientific study please come tomorrow from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

On June 26th from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM there will be a “Garden-to-Pantry” learning event at AL-104. It will be hands-on learning with herbs. The cost is \$25.00

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.

Another event will be the “Monarch Butterfly Workshop” on July 17th from 6:00-8:00 PM presented at The Pelican’s Nest Pavilion in Fairhope.

Treasurer’s Report: Cassandra Rabren reported the checking account has \$110,295.79. One \$20,000.00 CD matured and it was rolled into the checking account for anticipated greenhouse expenses. The interest made was \$1,947.35. We now have one CD for \$5,000.00 which has earned \$72.89 in interest. The Spring Plant Sale does not end when we complete the 3-day plant sale. The revenue generated from the plant sales will fluctuate until all plants are sold.

In 2024 the Revenue was \$50,188.25, Expenses of \$22,101.48, with profit of \$28,086.77. In 2025 the Revenue was \$63,490.99, Expenses of \$26,031.07, with profit of \$37,459.92.

The profit increase from 2024 to 2025 was \$9,373.15. What an amazing accomplishment to sell plants, collect funds, and get folks through the plant purchase process in a few days. Congratulations to all on a job well done. Applause from the members.

# MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

Cassandra previously reported on the BCMG liability insurance during a meeting. It was discovered that the liability insurance only covered BCMG when they were at the 104 building. She has been looking for additional liability insurance and currently pays \$900.00 extra to ensure all members are covered while at volunteer locations. The coverage is also for anyone being hurt while attending a Master Gardener event. Cassandra will continue to shop for insurance to compare costs and coverage options.

Outreach Report: Sara Semmes announced that Kids Nature Day, titled "A World of Frogs," is scheduled for Tuesday, June 17th in Bay Minette at Holly Hills Country Club and Tuesday, June 24th in Foley at the Civic Center. Each event will accommodate up to 50 children. The participation fee is \$5.00 per child, and each child must be accompanied by an adult. Event flyers are available on the front table for those interested in volunteering.

Carmen requested that all Master Gardeners who want a Magnetic Name Tag with the new logo update her list. She will take this list to Auburn on Friday.

Policies and Procedures: Tom Fortner named the committee members that have worked with him on the updating of the Policies and Procedures and Bylaws: Kay Heinrich, Barb Comstock, Keith Cardwell, Myra Lassere, Mickey Ezell. This committee commenced its work in June 2024. Today, members will be asked to vote on the adoption of the new Policies and Procedures, as well as the Bylaws. These documents have been made available for your review on the BCMG website. Kay Smith complimented the committee on their efforts in revising the documents to make them more concise and straightforward.

Mary Calvin asked for an explanation of the shorter document due to Timelines not being updated. Tom said there is an Appendix to the document that is about 100 pages long. They agreed that the Appendices were difficult to update. The officers, co-chairs, and leaders are tasked with developing a comprehensive Timelines encompassing approximately one year of work. These documents should be actively maintained and require regular updates each term. Each individual will review their year's activities to revise the Timelines with detailed descriptions that will be beneficial for their successors in the following year. Tom said he would take on the responsibility of getting these Timelines back in circulation. These guidelines should be separated from the manual to allow for annual revisions rather than every three years. Tom hopes to get the Policies and Procedures and Bylaws on the website to be easily accessible to all members.

Maureen Krison inquired whether minor corrections to the Policies and Procedures Manual and Bylaws could be made. Tom will be making non-substantive changes and will save and list all the updated modifications.

Auburn has new classifications of memberships, and we have to determine the certified members in order to vote. A certified member has to sign the MOU yearly, pay their yearly dues, and report at least 25 volunteer hours and a minimum of 10 CEU hours for the previous year. Of the 109 members, 87 are eligible to vote.

# MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

Today, Cassandra Rabren and Charlotte Roberts will assess members' eligibility using the printout prepared by Andreu Riebe. Each member will receive a ballot to read and indicate their response with Yes or No. The ballots are confidential and will not include names. Mickey Ezell will collect the ballots to be counted. The votes will be counted today.

Barb Comstock asked if anyone wanted to sign a letter objecting to putting dredged mud from Mobile Bay back into the bay. She distributed a pamphlet and letter for those interested in signing.

Lynn Barnes announced that the meeting would be adjourned once the voting ballots were submitted for counting. After the voting process was completed, members adjourned. The Meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:50 AM

The next General Meeting will be a celebration luncheon to be held at the Foley Civic Center on Wednesday, July 16th at 10:30 A.M.



"WE USED TO TIPTOE THROUGH THE TULIPS ... NOW WE JUST WADDLE THROUGH THE WEEDS!"



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# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!  
MASTER ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**



## Teach Students Environmental Stewardship

Volunteers Travel throughout Baldwin County to public and private schools to present prepared environmental lessons to students.

**August 21, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm**

Gulf Coast Research & Extension Center  
8300 Hwy 104, Fairhope

**Our Lessons Include:**



**Energy**  
Invasive Plants  
Groundwater Pollution



**Recycling**  
Backyard Wildlife  
Habitat



**Water Cycle**  
Stormwater Pollution  
Alabama Water Watch

**Call to  
Register**

(251) 937-0222  
email [bannicj@aces.edu](mailto:bannicj@aces.edu)

**FREE  
TRAINING**

**AUGUST  
21**

PICTURES NEEDED



Do you have pictures or video from 2025 BCMG events for our end of the year celebration?

Send the to Robin Newell at [robin.rn@baldwinmastergardeners.com](mailto:robin.rn@baldwinmastergardeners.com)

One Sign that you may be  
a Serious Gardener



You know exactly how to run the leaf shredder, but you haven't quite figured out how to access your voicemail.



## IT'S TIME FOR MORE AT 104! MASTER GARDENER DESIGN CONTEST

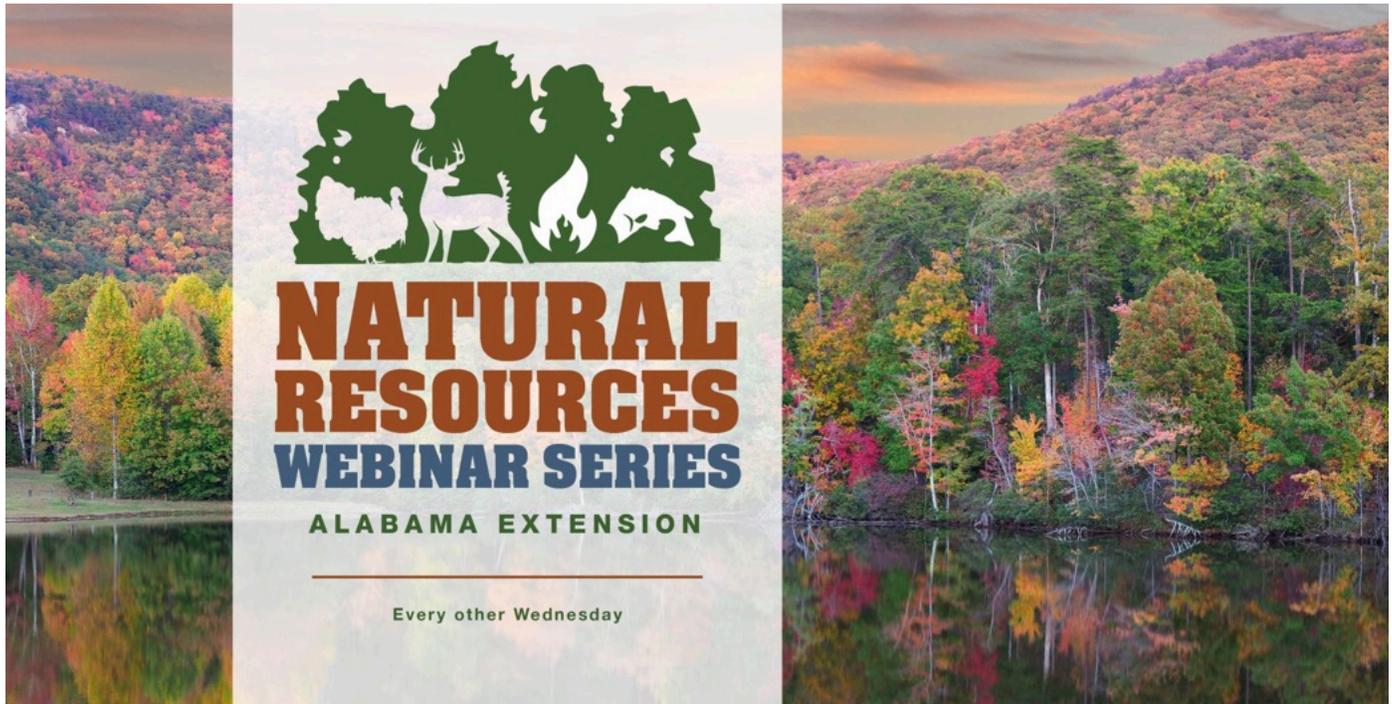
### We need:

- Attractive and functional shelving for plant and container swap
- Potting Table for demonstrations, teaching and displaying material
- Must be constructed of weather - resistant material (e.g. treated lumber)
- Area measurements 48" W x 80" D x 36" H

All submissions due to Maureen Krison by email at [mkrison051@gmail.com](mailto:mkrison051@gmail.com) by Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>. 2025 The Project 104 committee will review designs before the Aug. monthly meeting and share the top choices with the membership



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Join the Alabama Cooperative Extension System for the Natural Resources Webinar Series. Located on the ACES website - [www.aces.edu/blog/topics/forestry-wildlife/natural-resources-webinar-series/](http://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/forestry-wildlife/natural-resources-webinar-series/)

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## Healthy Cooking Class



If you are interested in additional hands-on cooking classes, they are available at the USA Integrative Health and Wellness website for the Baldwin County Mapp Family Campus and the Mobile location.

To see available classes and register for one:

- Log into [usahealthsystem.com](http://usahealthsystem.com).
- Scroll down to the Register for a Class tab.
- Click on tab to see list of classes.
- Choose class and submit requested information.
- Input dietary restrictions if needed.
- Follow directions to pay for class and you will be added to class list.

You will immediately get a confirmation email and you will also get a few reminders for your upcoming class.

Classes are limited to 20 people, and are hands-on, so be ready to cook and eat a wonderful healthy meal, prepared by you!

You can follow USA Health Integrative Health & Wellness Program on their Facebook page to keep updated on news and additional class announcements.



By Andreu Riebe

## Tech Corner – July Update

Even without submitted questions this week, there's still something exciting to share—especially for those who haven't visited our website lately.

### Visit Our Website Anytime

If you haven't bookmarked it yet, the official Baldwin County Master Gardeners website is:

 [www.baldwinmastergardeners.com](http://www.baldwinmastergardeners.com)

It serves as the central hub for event information, educational resources, plant sale updates, and member tools.

### What's New on the Home Page

The homepage recently received a refresh, making it easier than ever to see what's upcoming. You'll now find upcoming event flyers prominently displayed near the top of the page—no more hunting around or checking your inbox. Whether it's a workshop, community program, or plant sale, you'll always know what's happening at a glance.

### Accessibility Matters

You may have also noticed a new blue circle icon with a white stick figure on the right side of every page. That's our Accessibility Menu. This new feature allows visitors to adjust text size, change contrast, highlight links, and more, making our site more accessible to everyone, including those with visual or motor impairments.

It's a small addition with a big impact, and we're proud to take steps toward digital inclusion for all.

### Got Tech Questions?

If you have questions about any of our technology tools (email, website, newsletters, forms, or equipment), send them to [Grassroots@baldwinmastergardeners.com](mailto:Grassroots@baldwinmastergardeners.com). You might see your question featured in next month's Tech Corner!

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

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Baldwin County Master  
Gardeners, Inc.  
8300 State Hwy. 104  
Fairhope, AL 36532



# CALENDAR

- JUL.. 09, 2025 BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy 104, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
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.  
AUG. 06, 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  
SEPT. 03, 2025 BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy 104, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
SEPT. 10, 2025 BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy 10, Speaker TBD  
SEPT. 16, 2025 AMGA Fall Seminar, All About Pollinators, Columbiana, AL. See Pathways Newsletter  
OCT. 01, 2025 BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy 104, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
OCT. 02, 2025 Blount County MG Fall Conference, Cleveland AL. See Pathways Newsletter  
OCT. 03, 2025 Alabama Coastal BirdFest, Oct. 03-05, Five Rivers Delta Resource Center Spanish Fort  
OCT. 08, 2025 BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy 10, Speaker TBD  
NOV. 05, 2025 BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy 104, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
NOV. 12, 2025 BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy 10, Speaker TBD  
DEC. 03, 2025 BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy 104, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
DEC. 10, 2025 Awards Christmas Luncheon.  
MAY 06, 2026 AMGA 2026 Annual State Conference, Gardening to the Moon and Back, Huntsville AL.

## Awards Membership Luncheon

Wednesday July 16, 2025

Foley Civic Center

10:30 am - Meeting

11:00 am - Lunch

12:00 pm - Awards

Please bring a dish of your favorite recipe to make our luncheon fabulous  
You are requested to park in the civic center rear parking lot  
Access from E Jessamine Ave

LET'S  
CELEBRATE

### 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