

GRASS ROOTS

NEWSLETTER OF THE BALDWIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, INC.

OCTOBER 2025

www.baldwinmastergardeners.com

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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Don Richerson

As a son of the South, I am most proud of my heritage, my education, my choices and my outlook. I have read many of our great Southern authors and see their logic in my past and present. To quote just two: "I grew up around adults. While they sat on the front porch rocking and shelling peas and telling tales, I picked beggar lice off my pants leg and listened closely. That was probably the best education I ever received, and as I look back on it now from the perspective of middle age, I realize there was more wisdom on that porch than I ever imagined." Lewis Grizzard. And, "The South is a place where the past and present are always having a conversation." William Faulkner

My diverse heritage seems to begin in northern Europe. I am of German/Scottish stock inherited from my father and from Spanish/ French and African DNA from my mother's family. Yes, she always tanned quickly. My brothers and I got the northern Europe gene and have been dealing with skin cancers since our 30's.

My parents were hard working and reverent and concentrated on their children; and because of their hard work, I never went hungry and never went to school in tattered or worn clothes, as I noticed some of my classmates wearing. I didn't realize until high school that we had little money.



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Don Richerson

I attended, as did my brothers, public schools and universities. We were raised to succeed. Do your best was my father's mantra.

I am thankful I had the opportunity to tell my parents how much their sacrifices meant to me.

In high school, I was fortunate to meet the apple of my eye when she tapped me for Beta Club. I turned down a scholarship to a private university and went to a public university instead, because she was there. Hands down the best decision of my life. In return, she devoted herself to assuring that I studied almost constantly. And I was accepted to medical school after three years in college.

We have been blessed. But, as my time as President of the BCMG begins to wind down, I find myself as excited as ever. We have so much in front of us and it all seems good. Our quest for a partnership with some entity for a greenhouse enabling us to afford our projects and scholarships, seems to be reaching a critical moment. We are almost there! Please attend the monthly meetings to stay abreast of the ever changing saga.

In closing, a quote from another Southern author, albeit from Antibes, France: "The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."

— Pablo Picasso

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



Happy Birthday

Sally DeMott	10 - 01
Judi Smith	10 - 04
Tim Kant	10 - 06
James (Reggie) Anderson	10 - 08
Carl Floyd	10 - 12
Sherry Cook	10 - 14
Sarah Duncan	10 - 17
Kimberly Musson	10 - 18
Everett Gillis	10 - 21
Laraine Delahanty	10 - 27
Linda Bender	10 - 31



MONTHLY PROGRAM NOTES

By Charlotte Hamm

October Speaker

For a few months now, there has been a bit of traffic disruption at the intersection of Veterans Blvd and Section Street, as the new round-about was constructed at the Fairhope flower clock. But for us gardeners the more exciting news is just down the street at the new Flying Creek Nature Preserve. Our speaker for October will be Fairhope Urban Forester, Justin Hammers.

Justin was born and raised in Nashville, TN where he developed a love of nature while exploring the local parks and rivers. He earned a Bachelors Degree in Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture within the College of Forest Resources from Mississippi State University. His college summer interning, as nature director with Alabama Special Camp for Children, led him to a new passion for Outdoor Education. He became their full time Outdoor Education Director in 2022. His decision to come to Fairhope to be near his fiancé must have been the right one since the position with the City of Fairhope as Park Ranger/Urban Forester opened up just as he arrived. He has been in this position since February of 2024.

Justin is certified in Urban Forestry and as a Prescribed Burn Manager. In addition to this Phase I of Flying Creek Nature Preserve, he has worked with many projects including Knoll Park Restoration, Winn Dixie Pond Restoration, and multiple Eagle Scout Projects at Colony Park.

Be sure to come for the October 8th membership meeting of Baldwin County Master Gardeners to hear about the interesting native plantings being incorporated in the design of this new Fairhop Park. I'm sure it will become a favorite walking spot for many and a beautiful addition to our area.



WDLR INTRODUCTION

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

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

For 2025, you have nominated four superb, deserving candidates. This year there is one repeat nominee for the Wayne de la Rua Award.

Please remember that your individual vote is a candidate reward for a long-term contribution of extraordinary service. The peer-nominated and peer-selected winner may only earn this award once in their Master Gardener career. The WDLR Award is the highest honor that you and our organization can bestow on one of our members.

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

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

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

After the November 12th Monthly physical meeting, the WDLR Committee Tally sub-committee consisting of our Extension personnel, Carmen Flammini, Sarah Butterworth and staff will gather to count the email and meeting votes to determine the winner. The 2025 Wayne de la Rua Award winner is announced at the December 10th Luncheon.

WDLR INTRODUCTION

Please read carefully the nominations of our four candidates below: DOLORES HAMMACK, EILEEN HUISMAN, WANDA MARTIN, and SARA SEMMES. Discuss the award and the nominees seriously amongst yourselves and cast your one vote using the provided email or ballot given to you in early November.

NOTE: There are 7 Wayne de la Rua Nomination letters below. Please read them all!

WDLR NOMINATION LETTERS



Nomination of Sara Semmes

By Pat Greer

I would like to nominate Sara Semmes for the Wayne de la Rua award. I first got to know Sara when she was attending the MG Tuesday night sessions a couple of years before she took the class to become a Master Gardener. Since then, she has not only helped with the Tuesday nights in March sessions, but she has also organized the club's role in Arbor Day celebrations at many locations, set up literature at these venues, and worked to get volunteers at each location.

Sara is now the Outreach Chairperson, taking over from Eileen Huisman. We all know how much time and work that goes into this position.



I am happy to see Sara at the front of our monthly meetings promoting the various volunteer opportunities not only with her winning smile, but also with posters and props.





Nomination of Eileen Huisman

By Julie Cox

Please accept this nomination of Eileen Huisman, Class of 2019, for the 2025 Wayne de la Rua Nomination! Eileen's contributions to our organization over the years are much larger than I can write about or put into words. I most want to highlight her welcoming spirit and willingness to mentor Interns over the years. Eileen even does a great job of mentoring Interns who weren't assigned to her! She is always available to answer a question and will do whatever she can to be sure you are successful in the Master Gardener program, and have fun doing it! She is constantly looking for opportunities to grow and learn and shares these opportunities with others. She always invites others to join her for educational events and workshops. She often fills her car with Interns and Master Gardeners when attending these events.



Eileen's involvement with Earth Day, Arbor Day, Outreach, plant sales, Bird Fest, educating the public, coordinating Awards Luncheons, Tuesdays with Master Gardeners and supporting the 4-H Kid's Nature Day has been invaluable. As Outreach Coordinator, Eileen recruited volunteers, organized the booth and outreach materials. She is known for often being the first to show up and the last to leave, whether acting as coordinator or as a volunteer. Her welcoming spirit extends to Interns, Master Gardeners and the public; she is an excellent example of what it means to be a BCMG.

Fun fact: At many events, Eileen could be found with her butterfly cage educating the public on milkweed, caterpillars and chrysalis! Eileen especially enjoys showing her butterflies and playing Pollinator Bingo with the children.

Above all, Eileen helps unite our group through her gift of hospitality. She is hard working and seeks to accomplish each task with grace and excellence. Eileen's generosity and passion for gardening are a blessing to our organization. Please join me in voting for Eileen Huisman for the 2025 Wayne de la Rua Award.





Nomination of Wanda Martin

By Myra Lassere

It is my pleasure to nominate Wanda Martin for the Wayne de la Rua Award. Listed below are many of her accomplishments through the years as a Master Gardener.



Wanda was in the class of 2019 and has been a very active member ever since.

Like many of us she apparently has a problem saying No.

- Arbor Day - chaired Bay Minette 2 years and has worked many other events including Fairhope, Daphne and Foley
- Kids Day - 5 years: 4 yrs planning committee and wrote & acted in kickoff skits.
- 2024 AMGA Conference Steering Committee member for 3 years and attended conferences for 3 additional years.
- Speakers' Bureau member since 2020 representing BCMG giving hundreds of talks from Lillian to Monroeville and in between.
- Speakers Bureau Coordinator for 3 years working with Garden Clubs and other Associations to line up quality speakers for their events
- Co-chaired the BCMG monthly online learning mini-seminar series called "Let's Get Growing with BCMG" for 2 years.
- Mentored BCMG Interns for 3 years
- Presented topics at BCMG Spring Workshops
- Wrote articles for Grass Roots under title of "Wanda's Wonderings & Wanderings" for 2 years
- Worked BCMG Spring & Fall Plant Sales every year plus gave presentations on plants at these events for 3 years.
- Co-chaired 2025 BCMG Spring Workshops
- Helped coordinate various projects at Stapleton Elementary School including pollinator garden, sensor garden frog bog.
- Many various other projects too numerous to list.

Please join me in voting for Wanda as an outstanding WDLR Baldwin County Master Gardener recipient. She's truly a shining star among us.





Nomination of Dolores Hammack

By Lynn Barnes

I would like to nominate Dolores Hammack for this year's Wayne de la Rua Award. She is an outstanding volunteer in Baldwin County Master Gardeners organization. I've never seen any woman work as hard as this delightful lady. At our Spring Plant Sale, she hauls heavy shrubs off the truck and then inventories everything to make sure we got what we paid for- thriftiness and accountability. Then, she makes sure the plants get to their designated zone which she already planned with other volunteers ahead of time - organization and drive. When the plants are in their rightful spot, she waters all day long-determination and know-how. She makes sure every plant gets sold even if it takes many extra days beyond the plant sale-thoroughness and meticulousness. I can't imagine having a Plant Sale without her!



She manages our greenhouse at Daphne High School (now closed to us) with skill in propagation and proper fertilizer. She knows when to "pot-up" and how often to water. She knows whether the plants are shade-loving or sun-loving. She knows her stuff!

Dolores is not all business all the time. She likes to have fun with her friends and loved ones. I've seen her sensitive side when she posts her "favorites" on Facebook. All I can say is "Bless her Heart" in the very best way!!!!



WDLR NOMINATION LETTERS



Nomination of Dolores Hammack

by Karon Pennington

I nominate Dolores Hammock for the Wayne de la Rua Award. Her contributions to BCMG are many. Her vast knowledge of plants, greenhouse operations, current trends in plant sales and her generosity in sharing her knowledge has benefitted many of her fellow Master Gardeners and our group as a whole.



She works tirelessly to improve our Spring and Fall Plant Sales and her efforts have contributed to record breaking profits over the last two years. Dolores has years of experience in the plant nursery business having had her own nursery in Louisiana before moving to Baldwin County. She seeks out current trends, for example, native plants. She introduced epiphytic plants (donated from her own vast collection) mounted on driftwood as a novel item for our plant sales that have been very popular. There is also the loan of many fixtures: tables, screens and metal structures for hanging baskets that she brings from her own garden to enhance presentation at our plant sales.

Dolores is an avid plant collector and seeks out new varieties of old favorites which she brings in as stock plants that we propagate from and grow in the greenhouse for the plant sales. Trips to many MG gardens for cuttings or plant donations that are carefully nurtured in the greenhouse are part of her routine. Her experience in the nursery business also has helped cultivate new vendors that supply the plants we don't grow in the greenhouse, like trees and shrubs, native azaleas, and camellias.

Our plant sales are a year-round job, but in addition to that she finds time to help many MG friends design and implement new gardens or refurbish old ones at their homes. She is always ready to go plant shopping and knows the best sources for the plants, soil and that perfect element to create a focal point. I am in awe when visiting her garden. There is always a variety of new plants I have never seen or heard of and I never leave empty handed.

In addition, she also has been active in projects like landscaping 104, which she drew up plans for, sourced the plants and soil, helped implement and installed the irrigation system. For the 2024 Intern class, Dolores provided a variety of cuttings for the class to identify weekly. I'm sure I have not covered all her contributions, but I can't think of another person who has done more for our organization in the last 2 years.



Nomination of Dolores Hammack

By Maureen Krison

I hope that a very worthy Dolores Hammack has already been nominated for this award owing to her amazing vision, tireless energy, generous contributions and outstanding outcomes as related to our 2025 Plant Sale.

But Dolores is far from being a “one-trick wonder,” so my supporting nomination is to ensure that all are aware of the many other ways that Dolores helped other team members and supported other projects beyond our Plant Sale.

Speaking for the landscape work at the Auburn Research Station, Dolores created the initial bed designs, ordered materials at cost, arranged for and ensured product deliveries, donated many plants, taught volunteers how to install the micro-irrigation, and invested many hours in physical labor and counsel.



For several of our other MG projects, including those related to schools, Dolores helped to select plants and provide cuttings to launch our projects, showing that she is a true team player.

Besides Dolores’ being an agricultural expert to us, I witnessed first-hand - when I accompanied Dolores to The Gulf Coast Tradeshow in Mobile - how well respected that she is in the industry across multiple states.

Dolores is an exceptional resource, a committed worker and a joyful spirit well-deserving of our Wayne de la Rua award.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Krison





Nomination of Dolores Hammack

By Shannon Russell

I would like to recognize Dolores Hammack for the WDLR award in 2025. I worked with her over the last 2 years, first as an intern, and then as a certified Master Gardener and appreciated the enormous effort and time she put into making the greenhouse production flow smoothly and successfully. She worked tirelessly through the seasons, driving long distances from her home almost every day (including weekends), to ensure the irrigation systems, new seedlings, vents and fans, transplants, volunteers and every aspect of the greenhouse ran smoothly and was never left unattended - despite extraordinary challenges with weather and machine malfunctions. I found her leadership style to be welcoming, flexible, with a sense of humor.



I think Dolores communicates effectively, and went the extra mile for anything needed ensuring the seasonal plant sales maximized profitability and was inclusive of all members' interests and their individual contributions. She is extremely knowledgeable as a horticulturist and is always willing to answer my questions about plant identification or care. Dolores is reliable and committed to BCMG and its county-wide goals for impact. She sets a good example for Master Gardeners by sharing her knowledge, skills and abilities with every aspect of plant production or propagation, whether in a greenhouse or an individual's backyard. She has been an extremely valuable new member from the start and deserves the Wayne de la Rua Award for 2025.



MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

Baldwin County Master Gardeners

General Meeting 9/10/2025

Don Richerson, President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM at Gulf Coast Research & Extension Center, 8300 SR-104, Fairhope, Alabama. He asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the recognition of guests: Cynthia Green, Rhonda Brennan, Mary Ann Johnson, and Dawn Mitchell. Don invited everyone with a September birthday to stand, as well as all past Presidents and Wayne de la Rua Award winners. All of those individuals were acknowledged with applause from the group. A total of 82 people attended.

Don requested Charlotte Hamm to introduce the speaker for the day. Charlotte provided an introduction for Beth Bolles, an Extension Agent from Escambia County, Florida, who is present today to discuss Daffodils. Charlotte also recommended that everyone review Beth's bio featured in the Grass Roots Newsletter.

Beth began her talk with "we are in our spring bulb planting season". Some think we cannot grow daffodils in this area. Absolutely, daffodils can be grown in the south, you just need to make good decisions about what to buy or order. Beth brought attention to a book written by Linda M. Van Beck, *Daffodils in Florida: A Field Guide to the Coastal South*. Slides were shown of local daffodils on a cloudy day bringing a bright color to the garden during the months of December to March.

In the coastal south there can be issues in the spring. Daffodils love a nice gentle warm up spring. Bulbs can be purchased from north areas such as North Carolina, Virginia, Michigan. If you get the right bulb selections, they can grow in our area.

Plant daffodils away from plants with extensive root systems such as evergreens and magnolias. Pine trees and canopy trees with filtered light are ideal locations. Place daffodils away from areas or plants that are regularly fertilized. Daffodils do not require chilling. Plant bulbs at a depth equal to three times their height and space each bulb three times width apart. Arrange them in rows or stagger as desired. Leave bulb offsets intact to avoid harming the plant; they will separate naturally as the plant grows. Plant bulbs alongside ground covers such as Verbena or Creeping Phlox to protect daffodils and help keep them cool, functioning like mulch.

Care for Daffodils: Do not apply fertilizer, manure, or compost during planting. Provide one inch of water per week after you see leaves and stop watering after blooming. Use caution with mulch: avoid chipped mulch and choose two inches of chopped leaves or pine straw instead. Let the foliage die back on its own, never prune or braid. Deadhead the flower only, unless you are trying to save seeds.

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

Daffodils are classified in Divisions: (The variety shown grows well in the coastal south)

- Division 3 – 1 flower per stem: Barrett Browning, white & yellow
- Division 2 – Large cup, one flower per stem: Carlton, Ceylon, Ice Follies
- Division 4 – Double daffodils, one or more per stem: Chinese Sacred Lilly, Early Cheer
- Division 8 – 8 to 20 flowers per stem: Nony, mostly white; Silver Chimes, white & yellow
- Division 5 – 2 flowers per stem, loves shade, all white: Thalia
- Division 7 – 1 to 5 flowers per stem, yellow, very fragrant: Sweetness

Forcing Daffodil Bulbs planted to bloom in the winter months: Crowd the bulbs in the pot, put soil around the bulbs, one-fourth of the bulb should be above the soil, water well, chill the potted bulbs in the refrigerator for several weeks, once chilled and the roots are coming out of the holes in the bottom move to the house where temperature should not be too warm. Exercise care when placing potted bulbs in the refrigerator; they should not be stored near fresh fruits and vegetables. You can also force the bulbs by chilling them for three months and then placing them in a narrow container with marbles or rocks where the bottom roots touch the water.

Where to find Daffodil bulbs for planting in the coastal south:

- Old House Gardens, Michigan
- Tierra Ceia Farms, North Carolina
- Brent & Becky's Bulbs, Virginia
- John Scheepers Inc., Connecticut

Beth took questions from the audience. Don called for a 15-minute break.

After the break, Don Richerson convened the meeting and asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the General Meeting held on August 13th, as published in the September Grass RootsNewsletter. There being no corrections or additions, Lynn Barnes made a motion to approve August 13th minutes. Barry Gilliland seconded the motion with all in favor.

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

RESOLVED, Approval of the August 13, 2025, General Meeting minutes as published in the September Grass Roots Newsletter.

Loree Hadley presented a book to the audience that she compiled and had printed, which includes photos of all Master Gardener class members since 1990. This marks the 35th year of Master Gardener training in Baldwin County. The books are available to be ordered at a cost of approximately \$48.00 by signing up. It was announced that Master Gardener Linda Bizzell would be moving to Arkansas, and everyone was invited to sign a card.

Dolores Hammack announced there would not be a Fall Plant Sale. A proposal was presented to coordinate the ordering of plants for Master Gardeners. Each Master Gardener wanting shrubs or flowering plants would compile a list of desired plants and pre-pay for their order. Graham Nursery and Stokley's were identified as possible suppliers for these orders. Dolores and Cassandra asked for volunteers that would take on the ordering and managing this Special Sale event. Dolores would have helpful information on how to accomplish this task. Cassandra volunteered to handle the finance portion.

Dolores announced she would be hosting an Open House in her garden on October 14th from 10:00AM to 2:00PM.

Presidents Report: Don Richerson announced that there are three interested partners in building a greenhouse, Hope Community, The City of Loxley, and Weeks Bay Reserve. The problem is the greenhouse cost is \$70.00 per square foot. We have Master Gardeners Maria Logan-Montgomery and Julie Cox that have experience in grant writing. Board member, Gilda Underwood, will assist these experienced grant writers.

Master Gardener Wanda Martin announced there will be a Fall Seminar featuring an Azalea 101 class. Jack LeCroy, Extension Agent in Mobile County, is scheduled to lead this class on Tuesday, October 28th. It will be an all-day event.

ACES Report: Carmen Flammini, Regional Extension Agent, thanked Loree Hadley for the amazing job of preparing the Master Gardeners Intern class book. She also thanked everyone that participated in the Native Alabama Milkweed Census Project and catching insects. The audience applauded the accomplishments. Today at 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM there will be a Budget Training meeting. An additional session will be held on September 22nd. Register today for either session. There will be a new Budget form to review and discuss.

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

On November 8th there will be an Alabama Regenerative Growers Conference in Birmingham. There are session tracks available for commercial farmers as well as home and community gardeners. The conference features educational sessions, farm tours, vendors, lunch, and networking. The cost is \$20.00 per attendee.

Carmen announced the following meetings:

- Monday, September 22, from 2:00PM to 4:00PM, the 2nd Budget meeting
- Wednesday, October 1, from 2:00PM to 4:00PM, Speakers Bureau meeting (Wanda Martin is the contact – everyone interested please come)
- Wednesday, October 8, from 2:00PM to 4:00PM, AEMG Welcome Transfer Master Gardeners' meeting
- Thursday, October 30, from 9:30AM to 12:00 noon, How to Garden in Coastal Alabama. Meeting location is Gulf Coast Eco Center, Gulf Shores. Cost is \$5.00.
- Foley Farmers Market – First Saturday of each month Master Gardeners are present

Volunteers are needed at:

- Spanish Fort Elementary School – Pollinator Garden
- Rotary Youth Club, Fairhope – Garden, contact Ann Lemis
- Gulf Shores Middle School – plants, contact Sueann Barnwell or Beth Murray
- Ruff Wilson Youth Organization, Daphne – contact Shannon Russell

Vice-President Report: Lynn Barnes requested a few volunteers to come early on the second Wednesday of the month to help set up tables and chairs for the General Meeting. Lynn also requested that everyone save her name and phone number, 251-269-4934, on their contact list. Lynn recognized Jim Toop, Teri Shoemaker's spouse, for building a shelf area by the front door to hold plants for Master Gardeners during meetings. Jim will be adding to the shelf to make it L-shaped. Maureen Krison, who was unable to attend today, asked to convey her appreciation to Jim.

Master Gardener, Robin Newell will be putting together a slide show of Master Gardeners' activities for our December meeting. At this time, she has not received any pictures. Please send pictures to Robin's e-mail: robin.rn@baldwinmastergardeners.com

Treasurer's Report: Cassandra Rabren reported the checking account to be \$46,676.81. The Board voted to put \$50,000.00 from the checking account into an 8-month CD earning 4% interest. The \$5,000.00 CD that matured with \$122.27 interest in September was rolled into an 8-month CD of \$5,122.27 earning 4% interest. If this money is needed before the maturity date, it can be accessed without a penalty.

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

Today Cassandra is collecting \$25.00 Master Gardener membership dues for 2026.

Budget Report: Mickey Ezell, Finance Committee Chair, requested all project leaders to get their numbers together for the funds they need in 2026. Hopefully, the new Budget will be easier to read. It is important to find out prices for the items needed and fill out the new Budget form accurately. We want money for our projects, but we also want to have money available for the new greenhouse.

Intern Report: Anita O'Connor, Chair of the Intern Program, announced that all of the 2025 intern class is expected to graduate this year. Two interns are finalizing their required community volunteer hours and are anticipated to complete all requirements by December. Anita expressed her appreciation to Master Gardener Marta Stauts for her contributions to the helpline, as well as to Robin Newell and Kim Scasny for their support with the interns' helpline hours. 30 Master Gardener intern applicants have been interviewed. After the information session about 4-5 applicants decided the Master Gardener class was not for them at this time. Master Gardeners Barry Gilliland and Aletza Boucher will be reviewing all future applicant lists and consolidating them into a single, manageable list of Master Gardener applicants. Aletza will serve as the point of contact for individuals interested in applying to become a Master Gardener. The number of interns for 2026 has not yet been finalized.

WDLR Nominations: Mary Calvin announced that the Wayne de la Rua Committee has received several written nominations for the award. There are ten days remaining to submit letters of recommendation for individuals you believe are worthy candidates for the WDLR Award. Send your letter to Mary Calvin and Sam Andrews. Mary clarified that the letter should be submitted by one Master Gardener only, and not by multiple individuals. The recommendation letter deadline is 6:00PM September 20th. The letters will be sent to Kim Musson to be published in the October Grass Roots Newsletter. Voting begins November first and ends on the second Wednesday in November.

Old/New Business: Master Gardener Marty French announced if anyone wanted burlap material please contact her.

Sara Semmes, Outreach Chair, announced that sign-up sheets are located on the front table in the auditorium for volunteer sign-up.

- Daphne Community Spirit Day is scheduled for September 20th from 2:00PM to 5:00PM. Volunteers are needed.

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

- Fairhope Public Library Plant Swap will be held September 27th from 10:00AM to 11:00AM. Volunteers have registered, and Mary Meyer, a Master Gardener, is serving as the chair for the event. Bring your plants. Master Gardener, Keith Cardwell, reminded everyone that the Plant Swap starts at 10:00AM sharp, so don't be late!
- The Ruff Wilson Youth Organization's Project and the Pelican's Nest's Frog Pond Project are underway.

Three door prizes and a plant donated by Dolores Hammack were awarded to four lucky attendees.

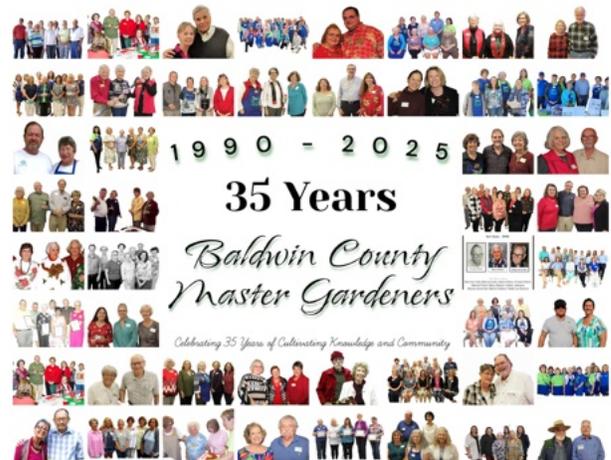
There being no further business, Kay Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:54AM. Lynn Barnes seconded the motion with all in favor.

The next General Meeting will be held at the Gulf Coast Research & Extension Center, 8300 SR-104, Fairhope, Alabama on Wednesday, October 8th. Social time is scheduled for 9:30AM, followed by the meeting at 10:00AM.

BCMG Books



Note Books 8.5" x 5.5"
Cost \$12



35 Years of BCMG
Contact Loree Hadley

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



CEU Opportunities - Access more information at aces.edu/calendar

Online Classes

Back 2 Basics Gardening Series

Oct 8, 2025 at 10:00am

Community Composting in Alabama,
with Urban Extension Agent Bronson
Lubresky

Eco-Friendly Friday Environmental Series

October 10, 11:00 am. How and Why
Pruning Shapes Trees Over Time, with
Urban Extension Agent Joel Potter

Back 2 Basics Gardening Series

Oct 22, 2025 at 10:00am

Growing Mushrooms at Home, with
Urban Extension Agent Allyson Shabel

Back 2 Basics Gardening Series

Dec 10, 2025 at 10:00am

Growing Plumeria in Alabama, with Urban
Extension Agent Hayes Jackson

Onsite Classes

Homeowner Citrus Workshop

Oct 22, 2025 at 3:00pm

Dauphin Island, AL

Learn how to successfully grow and care
for citrus trees in your own backyard.

Register online:

Address:

Dauphin Island Town Hall
1011 Bienville Boulevard
Dauphin Island, AL 36528

Contact:

Jack LeCroy
jml0003@auburn.edu
[\(251\) 574-8445](tel:(251)574-8445)

Learn to Garden in Coastal Alabama & Explore the Gulf Coast Eco-Center

Oct 30, 2025 at 9:30am

Gulf Shores, AL \$5 cost.

New to Coastal Alabama? Learn the
basics of gardening in our soils and humid
climate while exploring the Gulf Coast
Eco-Center. Discover what thrives here
and start your garden with confidence!

Address:

Gulf Coast Eco-center
1650 Eco Trail
Gulf Shores, AL 36542

Contact:

Carmen Flammini
c.flammini@auburn.edu
[\(251\) 395-0249](tel:(251)395-0249)

One Sign that you may be
a Serious Gardener

You don't hesitate
to book an extra
moving van just
to move your
plants.

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



By Andreu Riebe

Volunteer Hours & Login Update

Here's your friendly reminder: don't wait until December to enter your volunteer hours! Recording them soon after each activity saves you the year-end scramble and ensures your contributions are counted accurately for awards and recognition.

New Login Process

You may have noticed a change to the Service Hour Report login. Previously, both your email and password were entered on the same page. Now, the process is split into two screens:

- Page One: enter your email address
- Page Two: enter your password

This "split login" is becoming more common. While it may not seem like much, it helps systems detect suspicious login attempts (such as bots trying random email/password combinations) and lays the groundwork for stronger security features, like multi-factor authentication.

You can log your hours anytime at  <https://www.acesagmg.site/>

So, next time you finish a project, take a moment to log your hours. Future-you will thank present-you when December rolls around.

Got Tech Questions?

Send them to: Grassroots@baldwinmastergardeners.com. Your question might be featured in the next Tech Corner!

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!

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



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



CALENDAR

- 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. 08, 2025 BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy 10, Speaker, Justin Hammers
- OCT. 09, 2025 Mobile Botanical Garden Plant Sale, VIP Presale, 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- OCT. 10, 2025 Mobile Botanical Garden Plant Sale, Oct. 10 - 11, 2025, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- OCT. 28, 2025 BCMG Fall Seminar, Azalea 101, by Jack LeCroy
- NOV. 01, 2025 Wayne de la Rua voting begins, NOV. 01st - 12th
- NOV. 05, 2025 BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy 104, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- NOV. 08, 2025 Alabama Regenerative Growers Conference, Jones Valley Teaching Farm, Birmingham, AL
- 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.
- MAR. 19, 2026 Home & Garden Show Mar. 19 - 22, 2026, by Providence Foundation @ Mobile Civic Center
- MAY 06, 2026 AMGA 2026 Annual State Conference, Gardening to the Moon and Back, Huntsville AL.



- Submit Budgets due to Mickey
- Pay Dues \$25 to Cassandra

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: Barry Gilliland, 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 October 8, 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.