

GRASS ROOTS

NEWSLETTER OF THE BALDWIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, INC.

NOVEMBER 2025

www.baldwinmastergardeners.com

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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Don Richerson

World War 1 officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed at the Palace of Versailles near Paris on June 28, 1919. However fighting had ceased over seven months before when an armistice agreed to by the Allied nations and Germany went into effect at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11 is regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars". If only that were so.

Armistice Day was first observed on November 11, 1919, as proclaimed by President Woodrow Wilson. Congress officially recognized the end of WWI on June 4, 1926 with these words (in part): "Whereas the 11th of November 1918 marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary and far reaching war in human annals, it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer. Whereas the legislatures of 27 of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore be it resolved that the President of the United States is requested to proclaim November 11 as "Armistice Day." This was done to honor the veterans of WWI. On June 1, 1954, Congress passed legislation renaming the day, "Veterans Day." President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first Veterans Day Proclamation on October 8, 1954 to designate November 11 as a day to recognize and honor American Veterans of all wars.

The 42nd Infantry Division, aka The Rainbow Division, in which the 167th Alabama Infantry Regiment was included, played a rather large role in defeating Germany. Marshal Foch loved the quiet tenacity of the 167th and nicknamed them, "The Tigers".

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Don Richerson

The French people all had terms of endearment for the regiment and had learned to love "the Alabama". I wrote a term paper in high school on the tactics, movements, fierceness and bravery of the Rainbow Division. I had a collaborator in this paper: Sibley Bryant Richerson, my great uncle and the "first" Sibley in our family. We now have at least one Sibley in every generation since his birth in September 1897.

Uncle Sib served as a private in Company B of the 167th Alabama Infantry and saw action in the Champagne region, near Chateau Thierry at the Croix Rouge Farm, the Argonne and other fierce battles. Many times these battles degraded to hand to hand combat when the ammunition ran out, bayonets being the only weapons. He served as a part of the Army of Occupation in Germany and arrived home in early May 1919. But he left a part of him in France. He was quite smitten by a French nurse. I have often wondered how they communicated. She was killed in an artillery attack near the front lines. He never married.

Once his nephew, my father, started having children, he took an active role in teaching "you boys how to shoot and think like gentlemen". He was a giant of a man in our eyes and my two brothers and I are so grateful for his patience and skill. We learned much from him and became good marksman. PTSD was not a recognized condition then and Uncle Sib had his peculiarities. He was never in a hurry, never drove over 30 mph.



Sibley Bryant Richerson, and Best Friend



At Major's Creek in June 1956 (L>R) Mary Emily Richerson; Wilbur Ausphera Richerson; George Edward Richerson; Sibley Bryant Richerson; John Leslie Richerson (my grandfather) and Jewel Elizabeth Richerson

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Don Richerson

He would sit on his dear cousin's porch at his general mercantile in Stockton (Bryant and Cox Mercantile) and relish this time in his life. Waving at the few passers by enjoying his quiet time. Several "regulars" would stop and talk for hours. I was bored then, but I learned so much from these conversations I was hearing. A fierce protector of his siblings, he doted on them and cared for them in many ways. I wish more of us had the character of Uncle Sib.

He died in March 1969. I get emotional thinking of him and what he meant to me personally, to my family, to the community of Stockton and to this country. A true hero.

So this Veterans Day, seek out those veterans in your neighborhood, your church, your community or wherever you are. They aren't looking for a free lunch or a handout. They want to move on with their lives like we all do. Some just need a little help. God bless them and Happy Veterans Day to my fellow veterans. See you at 104.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Wanda Martin	11-3	Harry Kohler	11-20
Joyce Hewitt	11-5	Sandra Stepan	11-20
Carma Gronback	11-6	Shirley Stephens	11-21
Susan Mattingly	11-6	Mike Healy	11-25
Marilyn Renaudette	11-6	Myra Hannah	11-25
Patricia Greer	11-8	Lisa Vinson	11-27
Dolores Hammock	11-9	Reba "C" Fogarty	11-28
Pam Schultz	11-10	Mickey Ezell	11-29
Liz Cobb	11-15		

Happy Birthday



MONTHLY PROGRAM NOTES

By Charlotte Hamm

November Speaker Vaughn Drinkard

The stately homes of Mobile's Oakleigh Garden District are architectural treasures themselves, but tucked alongside one of these historic homes lies a garden treasure as well. Not far from Cathedral Square and the bustle of downtown, this beautiful garden on Government Street, offers a natural sanctuary. It is the creation of its owner, Vaughn Drinkard, to offer a retreat for pastors seeking a time of reflection, rest and spiritual renewal, while they are short term guests at the Carriage House. The garden continues the legacy of the "Dean of Camellias" as it incorporates the Blanding V. Drinkard Camellia Garden scattered throughout the other specialty gardens: the formal British Garden, the Japanese Woodlands Garden, the Fragrance Garden, the Nelson T. Harris Rose Garden, a daylily garden, the "Cliffs Shade Garden", an Herb Garden and a Sedum Garden.

Our November speaker will be the designer of this beautiful garden. His topic will be "The Gulf Coast's Royal Connection". Mr. Drinkard was born and raised in Mobile, AL and practiced law for 48 years. He is married for 53 years, to the former Linda Roan. They have 2 daughters and five grandchildren all living in Mobile. Vaughn comes from a family that loves botany—especially camellias. He conceived and developed Cornerstone Gardens which is a small botanical garden comprised of 8000 plants, made up of 125 different species, including 300 camellia cultivars. He was certified as a Mobile County Master Gardener in 2016.

He currently serves as a Trustee for the Gulf Coast Region of the American Camellia Society. Mr. Drinkard founded and remains an active member of the Sawada Camellia Club in Mobile. You don't want to miss this opportunity to hear the Drinkard family Camellia legacy.



Cornerstone Gardens

PAST EVENTS

by Lynn Barnes

A Delightful Day at Dolores's

On the glorious Autumn morning of October 17, about 20 Master Gardeners (and friends) gathered at Dolores Hammack's home and garden for a guided tour. We felt like we were in the Garden of Eden as we walked upon her garden paths and through her arched and vine-covered arbors. So many colors and types of flowers greeted us as we observed her breathtaking and leafy bowers. Butterflies and moths floated and swirled all around our heads as they found the nectar of the pollinators. She also had a vegetable patch in a bright, sunny spot. Sweet potatoes and many cool weather veggies were flourishing. Chickens and ducks clucked as we came near their shed. Our hostess showed us the many "rooms" in her large neighborhood garden.

Dolores is challenged to find plants that are deer resistant. Many deer eat her plants as if they were salad so she is often forced to enclose her plants in fencing made up as cages. Dolores knows the Latin name of all her plants and treats them all as her friends. We are so grateful that she invited us to see her beautiful home and garden!



PAST EVENTS

Coastal Garden Greenhouse Opening Day Oct. 6th by Mary Calvin and Susan Palmer



Susan Palmer, Keith Cardwell and Mary Calvin with Native Strawberries



Lynn and Julian cutting the top off of Cherokee Bean seeds, per Fred Nation in *Where the Wild Illcium Grows*



Sue Barnwell and Julian Walthall planting a wide variety of seeds.



Sue Barnwell, Lynn Barnes, Julian Walthall and Jackie Gray



Julie Cox and Jackie Gray pruning, weeding and gathering seeds.



Julie Cox and Joyce Hewitt with Twin Flowers.

WDLR VOTING INFO

by Sam Andrews and Mary Calvin

It is Time to Vote for WDLR Award

In September, you nominated four peers from among your active ranks to consider for our unique, prestigious award, the Wayne de la Rua (or "WDLR"). Now, from November 1st to the November 12th Monthly Meeting, it is time for the vote!

1. Each Active Baldwin County Master Gardener may vote; once.
2. The deadline for WDLR voting is the end of the November 12, 2025 monthly meeting (12 NOON). Special meeting paper ballots will be available to those who choose to vote at that time.
3. Please review again the WDLR nominations, which appeared in the October 2025 Grass Roots. Nominees are Dolores Hammack, Eileen Huisman, Wanda Martin, and Sara Semmes.
4. Please VOTE for your chosen candidate using one of the following two means available to you.

PLEASE send your vote only to this special email address: WDLRaward@gmail.com. Click on the email address WDLRaward@gmail.com which opens a fresh email with the correct address in the "TO" box. Please write "WDLR" in the "Subject" line. Then, type the full name of your Candidate together with your name in the body of the message.

Or last minute: Please get one of the pre-printed ballots available at the November 12th Monthly Meeting. Once you have voted, place it in the ballot box or hand it back to an Extension employee.

DO NOT FORGET to place your name on the ballot!

Thank you for your cooperation. The announcement of this "peer-nominated; peer-selected; once-in-a-lifetime" award takes place at our December 2025 Luncheon at the Foley Civic Center.

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

Baldwin County Master Gardeners

General Meeting 10/08/2025

Lynn Barnes, Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM at the Gulf Coast Research & Extension Center, located at 8300 SR-104, Fairhope, Alabama. Lynn presided on behalf of President Don Richerson, who was unavailable due to travel commitments. She asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the recognition of guests: Brian Boucher, husband of Master Gardener member Aletza Boucher. Lynn invited everyone with an October birthday to stand, as well as all past Presidents and Wayne de la Rua Award recipients. All of those individuals were acknowledged with applause from the group. A total of 75 people attended.

Lynn requested Charlotte Hamm to introduce the speaker for the day. Charlotte provided an introduction for Justin Hammers, an Urban Forester for the City of Fairhope. His degree is in Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture from Mississippi State University. He will be presenting today about the new Flying Creek Nature Preserve in Fairhope.

Justin began his presentation with an aerial picture of the Nature Preserve property in 1938. He pointed out that the original road (98) that ran through the property is now a trail in the Preserve called the Carriage Road. In 2013 the City purchased the property from the Dyas Family. Since 2022 the City of Fairhope has received over 2 million dollars from the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) grant for this project. Due to funding restraints, the project will be done in multiple phases over approximately 5 years.

Phase I has been completed and is now open to the public. Justin stated that the aim is to highlight the property's natural beauty with the longleaf pine stands, incorporating a bridge across the gully, building a bird blind, adding an overlook area, an outdoor classroom, and a tunnel connecting the two sections of the Flying Creek Nature Preserve. There are 72 acres on the north side of Veterans Drive in Fairhope and 36 acres on the south side.

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

A Butterfly Garden has been added. Justin stated that everything they have planted has been native plants. Having Alabama plants was one of the key things in the deed restriction when the property was purchased. They have Milkweed, Azaleas, Beautyberry, Buttonbushes, Oakleaf Hydrangeas, Virginia Sweetspires, Saw Palmettos, Swamp Rose Mallows, Scarlet Rose Mallows, Red Turtlehead, Purple Coneflower, Black Eyed Susans, Golden Alexanders, Stokes Aster, assorted asters, Bee Balm, Beardtongue and Blazing Star. The Butterfly Garden has been successful. He has seen over two dozen monarch caterpillars eating milkweeds.

Justin has collaborated with local companies on various projects for the Preserve. The Osprey Initiative promotes the use of glass to prevent it from entering waterways. The organization crushes glass into small particles, which are then mixed into concrete. Justin presented photos of pavers made with glass particles that reflect light. Pavers designed to resemble wood were also created for the Nature Preserve. There is a pavilion on the property available for use as an outdoor classroom.

The Pine Beetle is something that has come into the area and is affecting Longleaf Pines. There is a battle in the South with these beetles, but Justin explained that this problem can be used to educate people about the Pine Beetle and the Longleaf Pines.

Justin showed a picture of the tunnel that was located under Veterans Drive to be used for safe passage through the Flying Creek Nature Preserve. They advertise the tunnel as a pedestrian and wildlife tunnel. Deer and turkey tracks have been seen in the tunnel. The tunnel entrance was painted by a local artist, Hannah Legg, that used the Preserve as inspiration to design and paint the mural.

Benches will be added at the bird blind area for bird watching. Someone to build blue bird boxes is needed. There will be landscaping added that will be bird specific. There are two different types of trails in the Preserve: primitive trails with natural mulch surfaces and compacted gravel surface trails. The gravel trails follow the ADA guidelines for Nature Parks and Preserves. Justin showed a picture of the Flying Creek Nature Preserve entrance sign, noting that the lines above the name depict the winding path of Fly Creek. The creek was originally called Flying Creek before its name was shortened to Fly Creek. Preserving local history was important for this project.

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

The Preserve features a half-mile educational tree trail that identifies various tree species. This trail has an elevation increase, resulting in different types of trees at higher points. This trailhead starts off at the parking lot and takes about 20 minutes to walk, if you read all the signs. There are three miles of trails throughout the property.

Justin brought handouts showing the Flying Creek Nature Preserve's location with its parking area, trailhead, named trails and landmarks. If you are looking for an intensive hike with elevation changes, choose the Woodland Trail. For an easier flat trail choose the Feeder Trail or the Tunnel Trail.

Justin is a licensed Burn Manager and last April he and other volunteer fire fighters and city employees burned all the property over two days. The burn set back some invasive plants that were taking over, and now new growth is thriving. There will be burns every year at first and then changing to burns every two years.

The address for the Flying Creek Nature Preserve is 22430 Main Street, Fairhope. The website address is: <https://www.fairhopeal.gov/community/community-parks-and-trails/flying-creek-nature-preserve>

Justin answered many questions from the audience. Lynn called for a 10-minute break.

After the break, Lynn Barnes resumed the meeting and announced that Doris, Cassandra Rabren's friend, had organized an impromptu plant sale just outside the building, with profits to be shared with Baldwin County Master Gardeners.

Lynn asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the General Meeting held on September 10th, as published in the October Grass Roots Newsletter. There being no corrections or additions, Sara Semmes made a motion to approve September 10th minutes. Mary Meyer seconded the motion with all in favor.

RESOLVED, Approval of the September 10, 2025, General Meeting minutes as published in the October Grass Roots Newsletter.

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

Vice-Presidents Report: Lynn thanked all the members that responded to her call about serving in various jobs next year. The nominating committee that met on August 6th was Mary Calvin, Eileen Huisman, Sharon Smith, Cassandra Rabren, Barry Gilliland, and Lynn Barnes. The candidates for next year's Board are:

- President – Lynn Barnes
- Vice-President – Tom Fortner
- Treasurer – Nancy Schlack
- Recording Secretary – Gilda Underwood
- Corresponding Secretary – Kim Scasny
- Members at Large – Mary Meyer and Barry Gilliland

Lynn inquired whether there were any further nominations for the Board positions from the floor. There were none. Voting will be in November for the 2026 BCMG Elected Board.

ACES Report: Carmen Flammini, Regional Extension Agent, introduced the new Alabama 4-H Agent for Baldwin County, Adeline Quintana. Carmen reminded members that completing the Auburn Youth Protection Training is required to work with children in 4-H. Adeline addressed the Master Gardeners to share insights from her involvement with 4-H. Residing in Baldwin County, Adeline has participated in 4-H as a youth member, alumni, parent, and volunteer. Adeline, now serving as a 4-H Agent, said the group will undertake their first green service project next Tuesday at the Loxley Museum. The project will involve planting a variety of plants in pots at the museum. Lori Simpson, Master Gardener and co-district leader, is scheduled to attend and support this initiative.

Carmen announced an "Alabama Regenerative Grower Organic Conference" on Saturday, November 8th from 8:30AM to 4:30PM in Birmingham, Alabama. There is a \$20.00 registration cost. If anyone wants to volunteer at this conference the cost will be waived.

Carmen is partnering with the Gulf Coast Eco-Center in Gulf Shores to present "Learn to Garden in Coastal Alabama". The conference will be on October 30th from 9:30AM to 12:00PM. Travis Langen, Executive Director of Gulf Coast Eco-Center, will talk about composting. This event includes a tour of the Eco-Center and offers 3 CEU hours.

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

Carmen said that the Hwy. 104 building is shared with other organizations, and two Extension Agents will also use it for teaching. Carmen thanked everyone that helped in cleaning the building and taking items to the Self-Storage unit. Additionally, when members bring plants and items to share at the General Meeting, all remaining items should be removed before leaving the building. There will be a change regarding access to the building; a door code lock is scheduled for installation. For entry after hours or on weekends, please reach out to Carrie Ealum or Carmen Flammini. Carmen will acknowledge the Master Gardeners' appreciation for the use of the building.

Carmen unveiled a newly designed "Demonstration Garden" sign intended for use by Baldwin County Master Gardeners during project activities. She ordered 15 signs to be distributed among district leaders for use on their respective projects.

Carmen extended an invitation to all transfer Master Gardeners, Master Gardeners from other areas, and district leaders to stay following the conclusion of the General Meeting for introductions.

It was announced that we are in competition with others in the state about "Like" on Facebook. Please "Like" our Facebook page. Also, there was a stakeholder survey sent out to all with questions about how the Alabama Extension could do better. Carmen announced that BCMG won the survey. She said "way-to-go Baldwin County". BCMG gave more answers to the survey, which means there is more interest.

Treasurer's Report: Cassandra Rabren reported the checking account to be \$53,154.62, a CD of \$5,122.27 set aside for the next conference, and our new \$50,000.00 CD.

Cassandra is collecting \$25.00 Master Gardener membership dues for 2026, with assistance from Sheryl Bly. Cassandra asked everyone that cleaned at the 104 building and at the Weeks Bay building to please stand. Members applauded the volunteer workers.

Cassandra requested that all members accurately document their CEUs, MOU, and volunteer hours to maintain eligibility for voting, participation in the upcoming Board election, and consideration for the Wayne de la Rua Award. Eligibility for voting is based on last year's entries.

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

Cassandra reminded everyone that Dolores Hammack is having a Garden Open House on October 16th, 10:00AM to 2:00PM. Check the invitation flyer for further information.

Budget Report: Mickey Ezell, Finance Committee Chair, stated that budget requests have been received. He and Cassandra will prepare a budget proposal to present to the Board at the next meeting. Cassandra requested that anyone who has not yet submitted a budget request should please do so. Mickey reported that preparations are underway for a December audit.

Master Gardener Wanda Martin invited all Speaker's Bureau members, as well as individuals interested in the Speaker's Bureau, to attend a meeting on November 12th, immediately following the General Meeting. The meeting will last about one hour.

Wanda announced that the Azalea Seminar initially scheduled for October 28th has been postponed until spring. Shane Harris, Extension Agent in Tallapoosa County who will be presenting at the event, requested that it be held in March. The same all-day event was previously held in Mobile last March and is now planned to take place in Baldwin County. The date and time of the seminar will be announced at a later time.

WDLR Award: Mary Calvin stated that the Wayne de la Rua Award represents the highest honor bestowed upon a Baldwin County Master Gardener. It is an extraordinary honor that is peer nominated, and peer voted. The nominees are Dolores Hammack, Eileen Huisman, Wanda Martin, and Sara Semmes. These Master Gardeners are well deserving, and you can read about them in the letters printed in the October Grass Roots Newsletter. Voting begins on the first of November by e-mail or in person at the General Meeting on November 12th. Voting is closed at the conclusion of the meeting. For security reasons, only Alabama Extension representatives will count the votes. The WDLR Award winner will be presented at the December luncheon meeting.

Old/New Business: Mary announced she received a call from Noel Yoho, with the Environmental Advisory Council for Daphne, about Daphne having a native plant trail arboretum dedication on Saturday, November 1st, at 10:00AM. Master Gardeners are invited. There are 60 species of trees. The location of the dedication will be at the Daphne Central Park Disk Golf Course in Lake Forest. GPS address is 28 Lake Shore Drive.

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

A door prize drawing was held, and three plants were awarded to three lucky attendees.

Master Gardener and district co-leader, Shannon Russell announced that volunteers are needed on Saturday, October 25th at McMillian Bluff in Daphne from 8:00AM to 11:00AM. The site will serve as a Demonstration Garden, featuring native plantings. The City has provided pine straw, and the planned activities include pulling weeds and spreading pine straw. This charming park is a family area with beach front views.

Lynn made an announcement for Deborah Marriott who belongs to the Magnolia Springs Garden Club. On Sunday, October 26th, from 4:00PM to 6:00PM everyone is invited to a beautiful evening in the garden with jazz music by Leonard Houston. "Meet'em in the Arboretum" costs \$50 per person. Charlotte Hamm stated that Hurricane Sally damaged the gardens, and the Magnolia Springs Garden Club is working to restore this historic area in Magnolia Springs.

Sara Semmes, Outreach Coordinator, expressed her appreciation to Mary Meyer for overseeing the BCMG table at the Fairhope Library Plant Swap. She also extended her thanks to Shannon Russell for managing the BCMG table during the Daphne Community Spirit Day, along with all the volunteers that participated at these events.

Sara announced that the Fairhope Library has requested the Master Gardens return for their next Spring Plant Swap. The 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center has also contacted us to return to the 2026 Delta Woods & Water Expo. Sara acknowledged the volunteers for their work cleaning and organizing at the 104 and Weeks Bay buildings. The group completed the task of tagging and creating an inventory of items owned by BCMG. Sara requested that members contact her if they are currently using an item that should be included on the BCMG inventory list.

Sara stated that she distributes Alabama Cooperative Extension Service (ACES) brochures as handouts at BCMG volunteer locations. She asked that members review the brochures available on the ACES website www.aces.edu and inform her of any titles of interest so she can prepare copies for the Master Gardener's information table or for the Speakers Bureau.

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

Beth Murray reminded members that if they have an approved project requiring volunteers, they should provide the project's name, location, and contact details on Baldwin County's four district (North, East, Central, South) information board, which will be at each meeting for viewing and updating. Beth announced there are several new projects in the South District:

- 1) Gulf Shores Middle School needs volunteers to work with kids in their greenhouse. Master Gardener, Julie Cox is the volunteer leader of this project.
- 2) The Grove, a retirement community in Foley, has raised beds and would like volunteers to assist them with transitioning from a vegetable garden to a cut flower garden.
- 3) The Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo has Tom Bellinger, a Master Gardener from Minnesota, wanting BCMG volunteers to assist with a garden project. Master Gardener, Sheryl Bly is the volunteer leader of this project.

Carmen will be sending an e-mail to all members to remind them to enter the hours they work on an approved BCMG project into the Extension Service Report. She has to make a very accurate report for the Alabama Extension Master Gardener Service Report.

There being no further business, Keith Cardwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:33AM. Diane Roberson-Hill 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, November 12th. Social time is scheduled for 9:30AM, followed by the meeting at 10:00AM.



NOVEMBER EVENTS

Membership Dues Reminder

By Cassandra Rabren

As a friendly reminder, 2026 membership dues are \$25.00 if paid by January 31, 2026. After that date, dues will increase to \$30.00 for the year.

To remain an Active Member, everyone—unless you hold a Lifetime Membership—must have their dues paid by the deadline.

I'll be accepting cash or check payments at the next General Membership Meeting, or you can conveniently pay online using the secure link below:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/baldwin-county-master-gardeners-annual-membership>

If you have any questions about your dues or payment options, please email me at Treasurer@baldwinmastergardeners.com.

Thank you for keeping your membership active and supporting all that we do together as Master Gardeners!

35 Years of BCMG

By Loree Hadley

Celebrating 35 Years of Baldwin County Master Gardeners

This year, 2025, marks the 35th anniversary of the very first Baldwin County Master Gardener Class! To honor this milestone, I have compiled a special anniversary book filled with class pictures from the past 35 years, along with the Extension Agents through the years and the names of class members, officers, and Wayne de la Rua Award recipients. The book has been a true labor of love, many hours have gone into preserving the history of our organization. The final photo and entry of the book will be added following the presentation of the Wayne de la Rua Award at the December Awards Luncheon.

You'll be able to look through the book even if you don't wish to purchase one. If you do decide to order, please note that pricing depends on Snapfish's coupons and specials at the time, so I cannot guarantee a set price.

For reference, an example book cost about \$48 with discounts applied.

Two styles will be available to order after the December Awards Luncheon.

- Hardcover, Lay-flat, Premium quality, 8 x 11 book with sturdy, hard pages.
- Hardcover glossy-page book, less sturdy pages, a slightly less expensive option.

Both styles were shown at the September meeting for everyone to see.

This book is not for profit, it's simply a way for all of us to celebrate, remember, and share in the history of Baldwin County Master Gardeners.

Contact Loree Hadley if you would like to order a book.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



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

Online Classes

Back 2 Basics Gardening Series

Online, AL

Nov. 12, 2025 10am - 11am

Agroforestry, Forest Foods, and
Coppice Agroforestry, with Urban
Extension Agent Bronson Lubresky

Back 2 Basics Gardening Series

Dec 10, 2025 at 10:00am

Growing Plumeria in Alabama, with Urban
Extension Agent Hayes Jackson

Natural Resources Webinar: Turtle Biology, Ecology & Conservation of in Alabama

Online, AL

Dec. 3, 2025 12pm - 1pm

Come join us for a 1-hour webinar and
Q&A to learn more about Alabama's
amazing turtle diversity, species ecology
and research and conservation efforts.

Onsite Classes

Fire & Earth: Exploring the Science of Forestry, Geology, and Pottery

Nov 10, 2025 10 am - 1pm

Gulf Coast Research & Extension
Center, 8300 Alabama 104,
Fairhope, AL 36532

Join Extension and Zach Sierke
with the Eastern Shore Art
Center for a three part series
exploring the formation of clay,
clay's function in southeastern
ecosystems, and how to find and
create from our native clays.

Forest Health Workshop

Dec. 12, 2025 9am - 3pm

Ben May Library Training Room, 701
Government Street, Mobile, AL
36602

Interactive workshop for landowners
and managers on the identification
and management of pests, diseases,
and invasive plants.

One Sign that you may
be a Serious Gardener

You can
remember the
date to plant the
potatoes better
than you can
remember your
own birthday.



Q: Why shouldn't you tell
secrets in the garden?

A: Because the potatoes have
eyes, the corn has ears, and
the beans stalk.



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.

Important Deadlines

- November 15th: Hours must be entered by this date to count toward the December Awards Ceremony.
- December 31st: Final deadline for all 2025 volunteer hours.

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" improves security by reducing automated login attempts and sets the stage for stronger features such as 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

- 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 Vaughn Drinkard
- NOV. 15, 2025 Volunteer Hours entry deadline for December Awards Ceremony
- DEC. 03, 2025 BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy 104, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- DEC. 04, 2025 Mobile County MG, Holiday Greenery Sale. See website mobilecountymastergardeners.org
- DEC. 10, 2025 Awards Christmas Luncheon.
- DEC. 31, 2025 Final deadline for all 2025 volunteer hours.
- JAN. 31, 2026 Dues will increase to \$30.
- 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.

BCMG Annual Inventory Help Needed



If you have any items that belong to BCMG, contact Sara Semmes

Pictures Needed

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

Send the to Robin Newell at robin.rn@baldwinmastergardeners.com

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 November 12, 2025
9:30 am - Refreshments
10:00 am - Meeting

Speaker's Bureau meeting will follow the General Meeting. The meeting will last about one hour.

BCMG Merchandise

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