

GRASS ROOTS

NEWSLETTER OF THE BALDWIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, INC.

FEBRUARY 2026

www.baldwinmastergardeners.com

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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Lynn Barnes

A Valentine to Baldwin County Master Gardeners

Do you know how wonderful you are? You probably don't, so let me tell you. You are very unselfish with your time. You use your own money at times for the benefit of the group. You carry heavy things (like plants, bags of potting soil, bags of ice) from place to place. You work in greenhouses planting seedlings and watching them grow. You attend Arbor Days and Farmer's Markets on the weekend to help to educate and share with the public. The members of the Board attend many meetings and make plans for all our activities. You make it possible to purchase merchandise that we want to wear to proudly show our membership in Baldwin Master Gardeners! You come early to set up for meetings. You make coffee and bring tea and snacks for our meetings. You take on the monumental task of putting on a successful plant sale—sometimes twice a year! Some members prepare our annual Directory, complete with pictures! Some people answer our Helpline and give the public good gardening advice. Some people send you cards on your birthday or other occasions, which is appreciated! Some people go out into the community and give exciting and helpful speeches. Some people plan children's activities in the summer to show little ones about the natural world.

In March you support our weekly seminars by bringing snacks and smiling up at the speaker! Many of you plant pollinator gardens around the county and weed them on a regular basis. You sweat in the hot Alabama sun building gardens and teaching children.

Valentine's Day

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Lynn Barnes

Let's not forget those of you who spend countless hours on your computer using your creativity to put out a beautiful flyer or newsletter for ourselves or the public. Other people sit at their computer managing our finances and completing reports or keeping tabs on our volunteer hours. Other people prepare the necessary items for all our Outreach programs.

Countless hours are spent year-round planning for each Intern class and many of you help with these. I didn't mention everything you do; but there are so many Master Gardeners doing so many honorable things for our community.

You inspire me with your giving spirit and kindness. You are so appreciated! Thank you for joining this organization—you make it better! Happy Valentine's Day to all!



Lynn Barnes
President

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Nicole Reid	02-01	Brenda Montgomery	02-13
Gretchen Coats	02-07	Maureen Nation	02-14
Connie Gillespie	02-08	Susan Palmer	02-15
Loree Hadley	02-08	Mary Ann Underwood	02-18
Don Richerson	02-09	Patsy Conner	02-19
Gina Blakeman	02-10	Eileen Huisman	02-21
Gail Hand	02-11		
Ed Tunnell	02-11		



By Charlotte Hamm

Join us for the February General Meeting
Graham Creek Nature Preserve
23030 Wolf Bay Drive,
Foley, AL

We will meet at the usual fellowship time of 9:30 am, with the program beginning at 10:00 am. Our speaker will be Graham Creek staff members who will share their vision for the preserve and our involvement as we partner with them.

Dedicated to the preservation of native plants and wildlife, Graham Creek is a special place where one can experience nature and enjoy numerous outdoor activities. So much so, that it was voted Best Public Park in 2022 and its offerings continue to grow. Along its 10 miles of trails, numerous native and endangered plants may be observed and photographed up close. The pitcher plants and bog orchids are my favorites. The pitcher plant bog is a "must-see" in the springtime.

In the past couple of years BCMG has partnered with Graham Creek on projects. At this meeting you will have the opportunity to explore all the projects and programs where BCMG is working throughout the county! Find your passion---sign up--- get involved in our work to be a valuable resource to all communities of the county.

This is a meeting specifically designed for you to find your place of service, your place to be involved in your community, your place to share your gardening knowledge! Involvement means hours earned, but it is more than hours—it is connection to the community, connection to BCMG, and connection to friends who share your love of gardening and nature.

Don't miss this special meeting in a special place!



BCMG 2026 INTERNS

2026 Baldwin County Master Gardener Interns



Emily Allison



Donna Armstrong



LisaMarie Atchley



Angela Bernhardt



Brian Boucher



Vicki Clarke



Ann Constant



Marie Cooper



Deborah Ilyia



Mary Ann Johnston



Linda Kitchens



Laura Kramer



Dawn McKinney



Tom Meyer



Linda Mong



Leslie Nelson



Lorie O'Neill



Bob Rowe



Lawanna Sharpless

Carmen Flammini and Anita O'Connor welcomed the newest class of Interns on January 22, 2026. Kay Smith coordinated another successful breakfast enjoyed by the interns, their mentors, the board members and extension personnel. Once again, the membership will get to know them through their biographies in upcoming Grass Roots issues. Until then, I thought you might enjoy seeing the group through Loree Hadley's lens. Class will start January 29. We are so fortunate to be able to welcome this very talented group who appear outstanding and very anxious to become a part of our larger membership. Please greet them warmly as they start to attend our meetings and volunteer opportunities.

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

Baldwin County Master Gardeners

General Meeting 1/14/2026

Lynn Barnes, President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and welcomed everyone to the New Year at the General Meeting held at Gulf Coast Research & Extension Center. Lynn invited everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. She then asked those with January or recent birthdays, guests, Past Presidents, and Wayne de la Rua award winners to please stand and be recognized. There were 80 attendees that signed in for the meeting.

Program: Charlotte Hamm introduced our guest speaker, Ryan Peek. He is the Coastal Program Manager with the Alabama Forestry Commission and will speak to us about Longleaf Pines. He received his Bachelor of Science degree with a focus on Forestry Management from the University of Missouri. He has held positions in Missouri, Arkansas, Alaska, and Alabama. Joining the Alabama Forestry Commission in 2012, he became Coastal Program Manager in 2019. Since 2024, he oversees Mobile and Baldwin Counties, handling forestry management plans, invasive plant treatments, best logging practices, and fire suppression.

Ryan began his talk on Longleaf Pine (*Pinus palustris*) Ecosystem history. He evaluates the interactions between the tree and its understory vegetation, along with the species' life history traits and ecological requirements necessary for optimal growth. A prominent image showed Longleaf Pine seedlings growing amidst grasses, with no underbrush such as yaupon or yarrow present—indicating the area had been burned. This setting provides the ideal conditions for the lifecycle of Longleaf Pines.

Longleaf Pines are one of the four primary timber pines you find in the southeast. The most common is the Loblolly, a fast-growing seedling. There is the Slash Pine that does not mind getting its feet wet. Shortleaf Pine can be found in the north part of the state.

Longleaf Pines make better poles. These trees exhibit slow growth with tightly spaced rings. They are intolerant of shade, rely on fire for regeneration, and possess natural resistance to insects and diseases. Their needle-like leaves grow to 18" long. The tree matures at 80 ft. to 100 ft. tall with a diameter up to 3 ft.

The Longleaf Pine played a crucial role in shaping the South. Forestry agencies are now working to reintroduce it into the landscape because it offers greater environmental and ecosystem benefits compared to other pine species. Ryan displayed a large picture of the 34-cent stamp that depicted the pine forests understory, along with the birds and animals that inhabit it. This ecosystem is home to 900 different plant species, which offer habitat for 100 bird species, 36 types of mammals, and 170 kinds of reptiles and amphibians.

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

A range map showed where Longleaf pines exist: VA, NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, MS, TX. They can grow anywhere from sea level to 2,300 ft. elevation. Longleaf Pine once dominated coastal woodlands 150-200 years ago. Logging altered these ecosystems, and restoration is now underway. There is a wide variety of species that utilize these systems. The loss of habitat leads to the rarer animal species that are threatened and listed on the Endangered Species Act (ESA). There are 29 species endangered. Lots of conservation is being done with these species. Four of the endangered species in the coastal area are the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker, Gopher Tortoise, Black Pine Snake and Eastern Indigo Snake.

The Red-Cockaded Woodpecker likes the older 80+ years old Longleaf Pine. They make a cavity in the older sponge area of live trees. Cavities that have pine sap help in protecting them and their eggs from predators. The Forest Service will utilize cavity boxes for nesting if the trees are young.

The Indigo Snake is the longest snake in North America. The Black Pine Snake, which lives underground, has not been seen in years. Both snakes, along with many other animals, use gopher burrows.

The Gopher Tortoise is a unique Keystone species on the Gulf Coast in Alabama. They are under consideration to be on the ESA. They live in sandy soil with a low-water table. There are 200-250 animal species that utilize Gopher Tortoise burrows. The burrow can be 10-15 feet down with a 35-degree angle. The burrow record in Georgia was 28 feet deep. Record weight of the Gopher Tortoise is 20 pounds. They live to be approximately 80 years old.

Some common invasive plant species include Kudzu, Popcorn Tree (Chinese Tallow Tree), Japanese Climbing Fern, and Cogongrass. Kudzu is high in nitrogen, used to graze livestock, and will hold the earth together. Roots can be 12 feet deep. Popcorn Tree was brought from Asia to make soap. Herbicides are necessary to manage and control invasive plant species. Japanese Climbing Fern is attractive, but invasive, flammable, and spreads rapidly by climbing trees. Cogongrass propagates through both seeds and underground rhizomes. It typically grows between 2 and 3 feet tall but can reach up to 6 feet. Known as a "super weed", Cogongrass is extremely difficult to manage and control. Ryan Peek finished his presentation and stayed for questions.

After a 10-minute break the meeting resumed at 11:20 AM.

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

Lynn Barnes asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the December 10th meeting published in Grass Roots. Lynn asked for a motion to adopt the minutes as written. Wanda Martin made the motion to adopt the December 10, 2025, General Meeting minutes, with a second made by Sara Semmes. The Minutes were approved.

Lynn announced that our Treasurer, Nancy Schlack, who was elected at the previous meeting, is unable to continue in her position due to personal reasons. Cassandra Rabren has agreed to serve as Treasurer for another year. Lynn asked for all in favor of Cassandra Rabren fulfilling the Treasurer position in 2026 say aye. Members in the audience responded with aye. Lynn asked if anyone opposed. The ayes have it. The motion was approved. Lynn announced that Cassandra Rabren has been elected as Treasurer for 2026.

RESOLVED that Cassandra Rabren has been elected and will serve as Treasurer for 2026.

During the month of March, the Master Gardener's Tuesday events will start at 6:00 PM at the Gulf Coast Research & Extension Center, located at 8300 State Hwy. 104. The cost is \$5.00 per person, but with a snack contribution entrance is free. The theme for this series is "March in Bloom."

March 3rd Got Native Milkweed

March 10th Camellias

March 17th Hydrangeas

March 24th** Azalea 101 – attend event at Baldwin County Coliseum, Robertsdale.

** Wanda Martin announced that Azalea 101 will be held at the Baldwin County Coliseum in Robertsdale. The event opens for registration at 8:30 AM, and the speakers will commence at 9:00 AM. The program concludes at 4:00 PM. There is a \$10.00 fee, which will cover lunch. This is a collaborative event between the Azalea Society and the Alabama Extension Service. The Extension office is currently preparing a brochure, which will include a barcode for registration purposes. Everyone is encouraged to pre-register to have an accurate lunch count. It is anticipated that native azaleas will be available for purchase.

Loree Hadley manages the Baldwin County Master Pictorial Directory. To avoid being left out of the 2026 Directory please see Cassandra today. For photo update or if your address or email has changed, please see Loree.

The 2026 AMGA State Conference in Huntsville, Alabama will be May 6-8. Tomorrow registration begins at 1:00 AM on the AMGA Website. The registration cost is \$185.00 until February 15th; after that date, it increases to \$200.00. A group of rooms has been reserved at the Westin Huntsville at a rate of \$179.00 per night.

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

ACES Report: Carmen Flammini, Regional Extension Agent, stated if you have an old Alabama Master Gardeners badge and want a new badge, please fill out the form located at the back of the room. Send the form and a \$15.00 check to the secretary for the new badge.

Members will not have to sign the MOU form each year, if the MOU form does not change. If you have not signed a MOU, Cassandra has a paper form that you may sign. Also, it was announced that Alabama Cooperative Extension System has a new Director, Dr. Eve Bradley, beginning January 1, 2026.

Carmen announced our District leaders are Ken Gates-Central, Shannon Russell and Karon Pennington-West, Sueann Barnwell and Beth Murray-South, Laurie Simpson and Nicole Reid-North. Next month there will be a project fair at the February 11th General Meeting. Please come to see all of our projects on display.

Alabama Master Gardener Association will have a few grants available ranging from \$100.00 to \$1,000.00. All project leaders are encouraged to apply. January 31st is the deadline. Project leaders were asked to stay for a few minutes after the meeting.

Treasurer Report: Cassandra Rabren announced the checking account has \$58,970.50 and the small CD has \$5,122.27 with \$73.13 interest to be added, matures May 7th. The \$50,000.00 CD with \$692.05 interest to be added matures on May 11th. Both CDs are earning 3.9% interest.

Cassandra reviewed a couple of things that might keep a member out of the directory. There are unpaid dues, volunteer hours and CEU hours are not logged in by January 31st. This is the deadline to be in the Directory. There are 164 members enrolled and 49 members have not yet paid their dues.

Dolores Hammack announced The Spring Plant sale is scheduled for April 9th, 10th, and 11th at Weeks Bay Reserve. Setup will start on April 4th. Cassandra reminded everyone to bring wagons and items for Trash to Treasure. Cashiers for the plant sale should check with Cassandra.

Lynn announced that on Wednesday April 8th there will be a General Meeting and speaker at the Gulf Coast Research & Extension Center. Attending a General Meeting that has a speaker will award members an hour of CEUs. After the meeting, everyone should go to Weeks Bay for the BCMG Potluck Lunch at 12:30 PM, followed by plant shopping.

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

Finance Report: Mickey Ezell stated that BCMG conducts audits every three years and whenever there is a change in Treasurer. An audit took place on December 17, 2025, conducted by Mary Calvin, Lynn Barnes, and Gail Hand, with Cassandra Rabren and Mickey Ezell in attendance. There were a few minor issues with copies of checks, but all went well. Everyone should feel good that BCMG's money is being managed responsibly.

Mickey stated that \$10,000.00 was allocated in this year's budget for projects. If you are turning in tickets for project items purchased, please fill out the reimbursement form with the project account number assigned.

Intern Class: Anita O'Connor, Intern Class Coordinator, expressed appreciation to all the members volunteering to be mentors. The interns are the life blood of our organization, and the mentors are the people that give them the first glimpse of what our organization is about. She thanked Kay Smith for helping with the Intern/Mentor Breakfast. The interns, mentors, board members and the extension office personnel are invited to attend the Breakfast on January 22nd. The new Kitchen Team assisting the class of 19 is headed by Beth Robinson. Class begins January 29th and goes to the end of April.

Anita announced that Barry Gilliland will be assisting with the list of Master Gardener applicants. It is essential that all applicants are informed about what to expect when participating in the Master Gardener class. Barry will collaborate with Cathy Banning in the Extension office in Bay Minette, where applicants contact to start the process of joining the Master Gardener class. He will assist by contacting interested applicants and participating in the information sessions. We hope that next years applicants will have a clear understanding of expectations, resulting in a class full of interns eager to become Master Gardeners.

AMGA handles getting badges for members. Badges and stars are awarded in July and December. When members approach the required number of hours for earning a badge or a badge upgrade, we aim to initiate the badge ordering process in advance. Anita announced the following members will have 1000 hours and will be receiving a Gold badge: Gina Blakeman, Dolores Hammack, Kim Musson, Karon Pennington, Cassandra Rabren, and Charlie French. Those with 2000 hours receive a Platinum badge: Gordon Cooper, Maria Curow, Eileen Huisman, Deborah Marriott, Wanda Martin, Mia Martin, Beth Robinson, and Pam Schultz. If anyone is close to getting the hours required for their next badge, please let Anita know.

Lynn announced that intern Tom Meyer has volunteered to drill a hole for stars in badges.

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

Projects: Shannon Russell, our new Projects Chair, announced that projects are scheduled to be presented during the Volunteer Fair at the upcoming General Meeting on Wednesday, February 11th.

Outreach: Sara Semmes, Outreach Chair, invited all to sign up to volunteer at their choice of events. The first volunteer event coming up is the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo's Seed and Plant Swap on January 31st. Volunteers at the Zoo will not pay an entrance fee. Volunteer sign-up sheets are also available for Arbor Day at Bay Minette, Daphne, Fairhope, Foley, Loxley, Magnolia Springs and Silverhill.

Old / New Business: Don Richerson called attention to our 501 (c) 3 status with the IRS. We are a non-profit organization in negotiation with the City of Loxley. Hopefully, the leadership of Loxley will allow us to use their property to jointly construct a greenhouse. It is a delicate issue. We are waiting to hear from their attorney about the terms for a ground lease. Our Grant Committee is working on applications for grants. Lydia Chan brought attention to the Baldwin County Master Gardener website calendar to use for event posting. You will find the Main Event calendar under the Events heading.

Honey Ennis showed a sample box of new Oasis Forage Foam that is now non-toxic.

Dolores Hammack requested anyone interested in the Plant Sale Committee to please meet after the General Meeting is adjourned.

Judi Smith praised the new Kitchen Crew. Sueann Barnwell and Claudia Barbee will manage kitchen operations for meetings.

There being no further business, Barry Gilliland made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Anita O'Connor seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 PM.

The next General Meeting will be held at Graham Creek Nature Preserve, 23030 Wolf Bay Drive, Foley on February 11th at 10:00 AM with a social time at 9:30 AM.

AMGA 2026 CONFERENCE ★ The Rocket City

GARDENING
TO THE
MOON
AND BACK

Limestone • Madison • Morgan

FEBRUARY/MARCH EVENTS



Providence Foundation MARCH 19-22, 2026

ARTHUR R. OUTLAW CONVENTION CENTER

Downtown Mobile, Alabama

THURSDAY MARCH 19, 2026	FRIDAY MARCH 20, 2026	SATURDAY MARCH 21, 2026	SUNDAY MARCH 22, 2026
Preview Party <i>Ticketed event</i> 6 - 9 p.m.	Show Hours 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Show Hours 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Show Hours 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
	Lecture Event <i>Ticketed event</i> 1 - 2 p.m.	Lecture Event <i>Ticketed event</i> 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Music in the Garden 2 - 4 p.m.
	Bourbon Tasting <i>Ticketed event</i> 6 - 8 p.m.	Lecture Event <i>Ticketed event</i> 2 - 3 p.m.	



MARCH 24, 2026
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM



Learn more about Azaleas!

Featuring presentations on evergreen azaleas, native azaleas, planting & caring, and propagating azaleas. A small plant sale will be offered after workshop. Lunch will be provided. Cost: \$10,

Baldwin County Coliseum
19477 Fairground Rd.
Robertsdale, AL 36567



Register Here



<https://www.aces.edu/go/5775>

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator, employer, and provider. If you need a reasonable accommodation or language access services, contact the Carmen Flammini at 251395-0249 or by email czf0054@aces.edu by March 6, 2026

Foley Public Library
Invasive Species
with Graham Creek Nature Preserve

February 24
10:00am

Register at foleylibrary.org or scan the QR code

March In Bloom

Tuesdays with Master Gardeners

2026 Spring Workshops



Got Native Milkweed?

March 3 6pm. 8300 Hwy 104, Fairhope
Presented by Carmen Flammini, Extension Agent for Baldwin County
\$10 cash/check pay at the door.



All About Hydrangeas

March 10 6pm. 8300 Hwy 104, Fairhope
Presented by Michelle Johns of Corner Copia Gardens in Fairhope
\$10 cash/check pay at the door.



Surprising Camellias - Rediscovering Alabama's State Flower

March 17 6pm. 8300 Hwy 104, Fairhope
Presented by Forrest Latta, Vice-President International Camellia Society
\$10 cash/check pay at the door.



Azaleas 101

March 24 8:30am-3:00pm
Baldwin County Coliseum
19477 Fairground Road, Robertsdale
Presented by Alabama Azalea Society
All day symposium, \$10 includes lunch.
Pre-registration and payment is required:
<https://www.aces.edu/go/5775>



ARBOR DAY

2026 ARBOR DAY SCHEDULE

BALDWIN COUNTY CITIES

BAY MINETTE

Laurie Simpson and Jim Faulkner
Feb. 28 , Sat., 8-9 a.m.
John F. Rhodes Civic Center (City Hall)
301 D'Olive Street, Bay Minette, AL

DAPHNE

Anita O'Conner and Mary Meyer
March 28 , Sat., 8 a.m.
Daphne Civic Center Complex
2603 US Hwy 98, Daphne, AL

FAIRHOPE

Terry Delker and Tom Fortner
Feb. 21 , Sat., 10 a.m.,
Coastal Alabama Community College
On Bancroft St. Side of campus, Fairhope, AL

FOLEY

Beth Murray and Sue Ann Barnwell
Feb. 28 , Sat., 12 p.m.
Farmers & Fishermens Market
20733 Miffin Road, Off County Road 20, Foley, AL

LOXLEY

Sarah Duncan and Lynn Barnes
Feb. 27 , Fri., 8 a.m.
Loxley Municipal Park Off Hwy 59, Loxley, AL

MAGNOLIA SPRINGS

Deborah Marriott and Marcie Grace
Feb. 21 , Sat., 8:30 - 11 a.m.
Volunteer Fire Station, 14809 Gates Avenue, Magnolia Springs, AL

SILVERHILL

Carolyn Koch and Shirley Stephens
Feb. 28 ., Sat., 10-12 p.m.
Silverhill Community Center, South of the Water Tower, Silverhill, AL

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Master Gardener Helpline

Marta Stauts is BCMG Helpline Chair. Last year she was involved with the Helpline Committee with volunteers from all over the state. They have been busy creating a Helpline Manual, and a Helpline Leader Training Manual to improve all aspects of helpline in Alabama.

If you are interested in signing up to work a shift, log into the BCMG website to look at available calendar dates or call Marta at 214-649-6357. She can help you sign up and learn how to use helpline. See Tech Notes for a how-to guide to log-in Helpline Calendar.

Do you have friends or family that have gardening questions? Let them know that there is a statewide phone number that can help with everything from Aphids to Zone Maps.

Master Gardener Helpline
1-877-GROW (4769)

Robertsdale High School Greenhouse



At Robertsdale High School. Master Gardener volunteers help the students in the greenhouse daily and assist with plant sales in the Spring and Fall. If the students need assistance answering questions from the public, we are there to support them. Last year, BCMG provided study plants to the greenhouse and recently, the RHS horticulture students were awarded 1st place in local, district and state in the Future Farmers of America competition.

Would you like to be involved in this excellent horticulture program at RHS Greenhouse? Myra Lassere is point person for this project. Get in touch with her at myralassere@gmail.com. She will get you started and fill you in on the requirements to volunteer at the school campus greenhouse.

Helpline Landscaping Project



This project involves maintaining the landscaped beds around the Helpline office and has been chaired by Charlotte Hamm since 2019. This task has been a long-running one for BCMG, as Julian Walthall was previously in charge. A few times a year, depending on the weather, Charlotte will organize a work day to prune, weed, and spread new pine-straw. It sounds like a lot of work, however the members that gather enjoy sharing garden wisdom and checking out each others' gardening tools. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, contact Charlotte Hamm at charlottehamm16@yahoo.com.

PLANT SALE UPDATE

Plant Sale Committee Leaders

Plant Purchasing - Dolores Hammack

Food - Diane Robertson Hill

Cashiers & Port-o-Let Rental - Cassandra Rabren/Mary Calvin

Flyer, Facebook Event Page/Posts - Andreu Riebe

Plant Sale Layout - Kay Heinrich, Shannon Russell

Parking - Barb Comstock

Wagons - Elmer Vick

Trash to Treasure Table - Lynn Barnes, contact her for donations

Grounds Prep Oversight-Eileen Huisman-volunteers needed to clean up week prior

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

Publicity- Someone to Contact newspapers, radio, TV shows

Speakers - Someone to oversee getting speakers for Saturday

Raffle Table- Someone to buy/collect items and enlist crew to staff the table

April 4-9- Volunteers needed daily for set-up

As you can see, a lot of volunteer are needed for a successful plant sale. We still have a few opportunities for you to be involved and we will be at Volunteer Fair during next General Meeting.

Call Dolores @ 985-969-0579, if you are interested in helping.



MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

By Cassandra Rabren

As a friendly reminder, 2026 membership dues are \$30.00.

To remain an Active Member, everyone—unless you hold a Lifetime Membership—must pay their dues. Thank you for keeping your membership active and for supporting all that we do together as Master Gardeners!

You can conveniently pay online using the secure link below or QR code. :

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



2026

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

FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT

By Mickey Ezell

Financial Audit
December 17, 2026

Memo: To the Master Gardener Board and Grassroots

Audit of years 2023, 2024, and 2025 were audited on 12/17/2025.

Auditors: Mary Calvin
Lynn Barnes
Gail Hand

Attending: Cassandra Rabren
Mickey Ezell

Minor issues were found to need copies of checks or receipts and have been resolved.

Signed: Mickey Ezell,
Financial Chair

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



CEU Opportunities - Access more information at [aces.edu calendar](https://aces.edu/calendar)

Online Classes

February 12, 2026
February 26, 2026
March 12, 2026
March 26, 2026
April 02, 2026
April 16, 2026

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

VCLLI Spr '26: The Home & Garden Series
Online, AL

Learn easy to understand practices for your home and home gardening as you plan to deter pests and for spring gardening projects and yard maintenance.

February 18, 2026

10:00 am to 11:00 am

Back 2 Basics Gardening Series
Online, AL

Join the Urban Home Grounds Team on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month to learn about the basics of urban ag, limited space gardening, and many other home horticulture topics! On Feb. 18, we will have Urban Extension Agent Bronson Lubresky with us to talk about using biochar in the garden.

Get Outside with Alabama Smart Yards Webinar Series

When: The fourth Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m.
Where: The webinars are presented through Zoom, an online video presentation format.

Registration

Registration is required to attend this webinar series. The Zoom meeting number and link will be provided upon completion of the online registration.

Dates and Topics

February 25–2026 Year of Alabama Invasive Plants: Awareness, Identification, and Action
Kerry Steedley, Alabama Extension Forestry, Wildlife, and Natural Resources Agent at Auburn University
March 25–Native Alternative Trees for Alabama Brian Brown, Alabama Extension Home Horticulture Agent at Auburn University
April 22–Alabama Drought Reach Laura Cooley, Aquatic Resources Outreach Programs Administrator, Alabama Extension at Auburn University

Onsite Classes

February 19, 2026

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Beginning Gardener Workshop
Jon Archer Agricultural Center, 1070 Schillinger Road North, Mobile, AL 36608

Ready to start gardening but not sure where to begin? This Beginning Gardener Workshop covers gardening basics, including how to care for vegetables, ornamentals, and turf. Learn proven techniques to build confidence and avoid common mistakes.

Address:

Jon Archer Agricultural Center
1070 Schillinger Road North
Mobile, AL 36608

Winter Blooms

What's blooming in your yard?



Charlotte Hamm
Narcissus



Elsie Reed
Dafodill



Becky Estes
Camellias



Eileen Huismann
Camellias



By Andreu Riebe

How to Sign Up for Helpline Shifts in the Service Report System

Signing up is done through the Extension Master Gardener Service Report system, and the process only takes a few minutes.

Step 1: Log in to the Service Report

Visit www.acesagmg.site and log in using your Service Report credentials. After logging in, you will land on your My Page screen.

Step 2: Open the Calendars Menu

At the top of the page, locate the green navigation bar. Click Calendars, then select Helpline Calendar from the dropdown menu.

Step 3: View the Helpline Calendar

Once the Helpline Calendar page opens, scroll down to view the calendar grid. The system automatically shows volunteer opportunities based on your county.

Step 4: Select a Day to Volunteer

Scroll through the calendar and find a date you would like to volunteer. Click the Volunteer button on that date and follow the confirmation prompts.

Baldwin County Helpline Schedule

For **Baldwin County Master Gardeners (BCMG)**, Helpline shifts are:

- **Every Tuesday**
- **1:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

**Each shift allows multiple volunteers, so you may see several names listed as it fills.

Helpful Notes

- You will only see volunteer options for counties you are eligible to serve.
- If you need to cancel a shift, use the Cancel link to make the slot available to others.
- After volunteering, remember to log your Helpline hours in the Service Report system.
- If you have any problems scheduling your shift, contact Andreu Riebe

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

- FEB. 11 2026 BCMG Monthly Meeting, Graham Creek Nature Preserve, Volunteer Fair
FEB. 13 2026 Great Backyard Bird Count Feb. 13 - 16, go to www.birdcount.org for details
FEB. 21 2026 Fairhope Arbor Day, 10 am, Coastal Community College, Fairhope
FEB. 21 2026 Magnolia Springs Arbor Day, 8:30 am -11 am, Volunteer Fire Station, Magnolia Springs
FEB. 27 2026 Loxley Arbor Day, 8 am, Loxley Municipal Park, Loxley
FEB. 28 2026 Bay Minette Arbor Day, 8 am - 9 am, City Hall, Bay Minette
FEB. 28 2026 Foley Arbor Day, 12 pm, Farmers & Fishermen's Market, Foley
FEB. 28 2026 Silverhill Arbor Day, 10 am - 12 pm, Silverhill Community Center, Silverhill
MAR. 04 2026 BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy 104, 9:30 am - 11:30 am
MAR. 11 2026 BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy 104, Speaker TBA
MAR. 19 2026 Home & Garden Show Mar. 19 - 22, See flyer.
MAR. 28 2026 Daphne Arbor Day, 8 am, Daphne Civic Center, Daphne
APR. 01 2026 BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy 104, 9:30 am- 11:30 am
APR. 08 2026 BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy 104, Speaker TBA
APR. 09 2026 Spring Plant Sale, April 9, 10, 11
APR. 29 2026 BCMG **MAY** Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy 104, 9:30 am - 11:30 am
APR. 30 2026 BCMG Intern Presentations
MAY 06 2026 AMGA 2026 Annual State Conference, Gardening to the Moon and Back, Huntsville AL.
JUN. 09 2026 Kids Nature Day, Robertsdale Colosseum
JUN. 23 2026 Kids Nature Day, Bay Minette Holly Hills Country Club

2026 BCMG Elected Board

President: Lynn Barnes
Vice-President: Tom Fortner
Treasurer: Cassandra Rabren
Recording Secretary: Gilda Underwood
Corresponding Secretary: Kim Scasny
Members at Large: Barry Gilliland,
Mary Meyer
Past President: Don Richerson

2026 Appointed Board

Monthly Program Chair: Charlotte Hamm
Intern Program Chair: Anita O'Connor
Outreach Chair: Sara Semmes
Finance Chair: Mickey Ezell
Projects Chair: Shannon Russell

Next Meeting Dates:

Wednesday February 11, 2026
9:30 am - Refreshments
10:00 am - Meeting
Graham Creek Nature Preserve

Bring a dish to share at the General Meeting = 1 CEU Hr.
Don't forget to log in your time.

Don't
Forget!

