

# GRASS ROOTS

NEWSLETTER OF THE BALDWIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, INC.

MARCH 2026

www.baldwinmastergardeners.com

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Note	1-2
Monthly Birthdays	2
Monthly Program Notes	3
What Camellia is This?	4
BCMG 2026 Intern Bios	5-8
AMGA 2026 Conference	8
Meeting Minutes	9-13
March Events	14
Volunteer Spotlight	15
Plant Sale Update	16
Arbor Days	17-18
Mark Your Calendar	19
Tech Corner	20
Calendar	21



## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Lynn Barnes

### Weeds Weeds

What is a weed? It is a misplaced plant. Sometimes we see plants in our yard or garden that we don't like, but in another part of the world, it might be highly favored. It's just a "plant out of place" to us.

In my own experience, I've observed plants we might call weeds used as potted plants in another location. Oxalis is a perfect example. It grows all over my flower beds, but I never planted it there. I have seen it for sale at Kroger in Georgia around St. Patrick's Day, and people are eager to buy the three-leaf clover. It is also known as wood sorrel. The flowers come in yellow, pink, or white. The leaves can be eaten in salads or soups.

One time in Scotland, I noticed the "butterfly bush" plant buddleia growing between the bricks high up on old buildings. They probably think of it as a pest, but we pay \$35 for it at a nursery. It attracts swallowtail butterflies and hummingbirds. It grows better in cooler climates and originated in Asia.

Another time in Ireland, I saw acre upon acre of a wild ground cover full of bright flowers. I've also seen it as a beautiful hanging basket in Washington state—it is the lovely fuchsia plant!

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Lynn Barnes

It is well known for its graceful, dangling, two-toned flowers that attract hummingbirds, bees and butterflies.

When I was in the Virgin Islands I saw a very familiar ground cover vine growing on the roadside. It was the easy-to-grow variegated pothos plant that we see in stores as a hanging basket. It is easy to grow and is ideal for beginners!

So sometimes when we see unwanted weeds in our yard or garden we should take a second look. If we identify it, we might find that it is a beneficial herb growing where we didn't plant it!

Don't forget to support our "Tuesdays With Master Gardeners" on March 3, 10, 17 and 24th! We have lined up some excellent speakers who are experts on their chosen topics. See you there!



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Mike White	3-1	Emily Allison	3-12
Marjorie Grace	3-3		
Joyce Wheeler	3-4	Tom Meyer	1-15
Burton Sonenstein	3-11	Mary Ann Johnston	1-25
Kay Smith	3-13	Vicki Clarke	1-29
Freya Sonenstein	3-19		
Geraldine Lester	3-21		
Julian Walthall	3-27		

*Happy Birthday!*

Apologies for the late entries, but glad to celebrate our intern's birthdays!

# MONTHLY PROGRAM NOTES

By Charlotte Hamm

Our winter landscape has been graced with a number of lovely Camellia varieties starting with sasanquas in the fall and now our beloved japonicas and reticulatas that will continue for a few more weeks, UNLESS those brutal freezes turn them brown! Wouldn't it be great to have a Camellia that didn't have to contend with our on and off winter surprise freezes?

Last year I was able to attend a garden club convention in Valdosta, GA, where I heard a presenter speak about a new Camellia that had been developed to bloom in the summer. And the most exciting part is, soon it will be available courtesy of our own Flowerwood Nurseries, in Loxley, AL. Please join us as Kip McConnell of Plant Development Services at Flowerwood Nurseries will be speaking at our BCMG General Meeting on March 11.

Kip McConnell is Vice President of Business Development for Plant Development Services, the company behind well-known plant brands including Encore® Azaleas, Southern Living® Plant Collection, Sunset® Plant Collection, Better Boxwood®, and Butterfly Candy®

Working closely with plant breeders and growers across the country, Kip helps bring improved plant selections to market – plants chosen for better performance, stronger landscape value, and solutions to common garden challenges.

A graduate of Auburn University's Ornamental Horticulture program (Class of 1984), Kip has spent more than 40 years in the horticulture industry. His experience spans botanical garden management, new plant development, landscape design and installation, retail merchandising, and nursery supply sales –giving him a well-rounded perspective on what makes plants succeed in real gardens.



# WHAT CAMELLIA IS THIS?

By Barb Combstock

## What Variety Is My Camellia?

A common question we hear is, "What Camellia is this?" accompanied by a photo of a bloom. Here are the steps I use to identify mystery Camellias. Several resources are available:

1. American Camellia Society's encyclopedia, see QR at the bottom of this article.
2. International Camellia Registry, see QR code at the bottom of this article.
3. Mobile Botanical Gardens has a small library with books to help with nomenclature.
4. Attend an educational tour led by Becky Root, owner of an extraordinary Camellia garden.

The American Camellia Society encyclopedia pages allow you to search through 14 different criteria among 5,200 cultivars and species. They include videos and articles to help you understand terminology, which should aid your identification.

Start by measuring a typical bloom at its widest part. Measure a typical adult leaf at its widest and longest points. Take photos of your plant, bloom, and leaves to use as references.

Consider these questions:

- How old is the plant? This helps narrow down your search.
- When does it bloom? Fall, winter, early spring, mid-spring, or late spring?
- Is the bloom shape Single, Semi-double, Peony, Anemone, Rose Form, or Formal Double?
- Is the bloom tulip-shaped or cup-shaped?
- Do the petals have serrations? Are they waxy or shiny?
- Are the petals notched?
- Is the bloom fragrant?
  
- Are the leaves bright green, medium green, dark green, shiny, or dull?
- Are the leaves notched? Are the notches small or pronounced? Are the leaves very narrow?
- Do the leaves have features like prominent veins?
- What is the growth habit? Slow or vigorous?
- Is the bush shaped like a pillar, spreading like a Japanese pagoda, or rounded?
- What is the overall color—Red, Pink, White, or Variegated?
- Can you describe the color more specifically? Bright Pink, Medium Pink, Baby Pink, etc.? Is the variegation uniform? Are there color variations along the petal edges or splotches?
- Does the bloom have petaloids? Are there multiple layers of petals?
- Are the petals twisted at the middle or edges?
- Are the veins a different color or prominent?
- Stamens are key for identification. What color is the base? White, yellow, pink, or red? What about the tips? Are the stamens prominent, flared, or tightly packed? Are petals mixed with stamens?

Once you find a few matching descriptions, compare them with your collected information about your mystery bloom. Remember, close isn't proof enough!

Still unsure? Take the bloom to the nearest botanical garden or Camellia club meeting and ask for help!



American  
Camellia  
Societies  
encyclopedia



International  
Camellia  
Registry

# BCMG 2026 INTERN BIOS



Here is the first group of the Intern Bios. Please help to welcome them to our organization.

## Lisa Atchley

Lisa was born and raised in New Orleans and has lived in various places throughout the US before moving to Fairhope in 2017. She and her husband, Derick have two children and three grandchildren. Lisa's careers are diverse and numerous, however, her favorites are serving as the New Orleans Park Director and Superintendent for Alabama State Parks. She has pursued pre-veterinary medicine, completed the Mobile Police Academy, and currently works in real estate in both Louisiana and Alabama. She teaches fitness classes, operates a small landscaping business, and works as a veterinary nurse in large-animal medicine and rehabilitation. Lisa volunteers with animal rescue, and has many hobbies besides working in her garden. She enjoys propagating her almost 20 feet tall favorite Fiddle Leaf Fig tree and is eager to learn more about growing food and expanding her plant knowledge for her landscaping projects.



Mentor-Lee Brady

## Angela Bernhardt

Angela moved from Minnesota to Fairhope to be nearer her parents and extended family. She is married to George and they have three adult children; Kate, John and Hank. Angela retired from the non-profit career where she raised funds to support individuals with disabilities. She has worked with the Peace Corps where she was assigned to Kazakhstan, a post-Soviet country. Her Quail Creek home has beautiful gardens, shrubbery and trees. She wants to learn more about the growing conditions to maintain the beauty of her yard. Her other interests include travel, estate sales, golfing, and family time. Angela's favorite garden experience is creating a beautiful garden and meeting neighbor dogs out for walks with their owners. She enjoys meeting new people and hopes to do so as a Master Gardener.



Mentor-Ann Lemis

## Vicki Clarke

Originally from Wisconsin, Vicki has lived in Baldwin County for over 20 years. She and her husband Tom live in Gulf Shores and enjoy spending time with their four children and five grandchildren. Before retiring they owned and operated an industrial supply business in Foley. Vicki earned an MBA and a BS in Biology with a concentration in Botany. She has worked in the healthcare, banking and marketing industries. Vicki's love of nature led her to serve as Team Leader for the Share the Beach program. Currently, she volunteers at ReSale Heaven Thrift Store and serves as Gulf Shores Garden Club Secretary. Ferns are Vicki's favorite plant and one of her greatest joys is working in her beautiful garden patio, yard, and gardening in her raised vegetable beds.



Mentor-Aletza Boucher

## Deborah Ilyia

Deborah was born in Troy, Alabama, and after retiring about eight years ago, she moved to be near her family in Fairhope. She has one daughter, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. After graduating from Auburn University, she started a career in pharmaceutical sales and then moved into real estate and mortgage banking. Her most rewarding job was helping manage a medical laboratory and a nutritional supplement company. She enjoys Pilates and cycling, and is also interested in nutrition, her field of study at Auburn. She enjoys cooking and trying out new recipes. Her favorite gardening memory as a child is sitting in her grandmother's front yard under a pecan tree, shelling peas and butter beans. Her favorite plant, the Camellia is also her grandmother's favorite.

Mentor-Sara Semmes



## Mary Ann Johnson

Mary is originally from Mobile and after working years in Newport News Virginia, she returned to the Gulf Coast in 2012. Mary has two sisters in Ocean Springs, Mississippi and lives with her older brother in Fairhope. In her career working as a Graphic Information Analyst and Researcher, she worked with maps and aerial imagery for the real estate industry. These skills translate well to horticulture and environmental education.

Mary's interest in the Master Gardener program began after attending several Tuesdays with Master Gardener seminars. She is interested in native plants and wildflowers, and learning about the importance of gardens in supporting pollinators. One of Mary's favorite is the passionflower vine, which serves as a host plant for Gulf Fritillary and Zebra Longwing butterflies.

Mentor-Connie Gillespie



## Laura Kramer

Laura was born in Miami and spent 45 years in Colorado working in computer engineering. After retiring, she lived in Central America for over three years and then moved to Fairhope in 2019. She has two sons, along with four grandchildren in South Carolina. While in Colorado, she worked with Denver Urban Gardens and managed ten acres of community gardens at the National Jewish Hospital. She learned about BCMG through her involvement with the Bringing Nature Home book club and wants to learn more about growing plants in Alabama soil and natural ways to manage pests. Laura has quite a collection of Bromeliads and it is her favorite plant. She is a film enthusiast and volunteers at Eastern Shores Art Center, Fairhope Public Library, and Hope Blooms. Her hobbies also include birding, and she serves as a board member with the Mobile Bay Audubon Society.

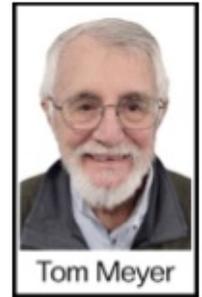
Mentor-Mary Calvin



## Tom Meyer

Tom was born in Apalachicola, FL, moved to Mobile for grade school, and has lived in the greater Mobile Bay area ever since. He attended Murphy High School, and excelled at distance running. After high school, he enrolled at the University of South Alabama, earning a BS in biology. He joined the Army National Guard and served as a Special Forces (Green Beret) medic. After his service, he returned to the University of South Alabama as a nursing student, beginning a long career as both a practitioner and a faculty member in critical care nursing, for a total of 45 years in the field. Describing himself as a lifelong “naturalist,” Tom retired five years ago and now indulges his passion for nature through hobbies such as kayaking and photography. He has been married to Mary Meyer for 54 years, who is a member of the BCMG class of 2024.

Mentor- Tom Fortner



## Linda Mong

Linda lives in Daphne with her retired husband, Dave. They have two adult children who live away. Linda often says, “two, two, and two”—referring to her two children, two grandchildren, and two large dogs. She works as the branch manager at Community Bank in Daphne. Linda enjoys meeting new people and helping others. One of her favorite volunteer activities is at the Prodissee Pantry in Spanish Fort, where she serves on the Board of Directors. She is also a long-standing member of the Rotary Club. Linda looks forward to becoming a Master Gardener to expand her knowledge of flowers and make new friends. Her favorite flowers are daisies and peonies, which only thrive in cooler climates, so she hopes that her new Master Gardener classmates will help her discover a native flower to love.

Mentor- Gilda Underwood



## Lorie O'Neil

Lorie was born in Mobile County. She has two children, a son and a daughter, and two stepchildren, and one grandchild. Lorie and her husband live on a 10 acre farm in Baldwin County, called Carlton Farms. They have a lovely garden and farm animals. Lorie considers herself a homebody and enjoys a regular exercise routine. She also likes reading, watching movies, and spending time with her husband. Her farm led Lorie to take online courses and attend a flower school. Last summer, she participated in the Bee Census, sponsored by Auburn University. This inspired her to become a Master Gardener. Her zen moment occurs in her garden and her favorite flowers are zinnias and bellflowers, however, there isn't a flower she doesn't love. She has an herb garden, which she uses when preparing meals.

Mentor-Sue Barnwell



## BCMG 2026 INTERN BIOS



### Bob Rowe

Bob moved to the area from Memphis, Tennessee. His connection to the Gulf Coast is deep, as he vacationed in the area for more than fifty years. He and his wife, Lesa, have two children and five grandchildren. Bob is a retired real estate broker. His gardening experience has been limited to maintaining the landscapes of his personal residences over the past four decades. He has hunted and fished extensively throughout Mississippi and Arkansas and enjoys the outdoors. Bob decided to participate in the Master Gardener program to stay active and spend meaningful time outdoors. His goal is to turn his "disaster" of a yard into something functional and visually appealing. While Bob does not claim a favorite plant, he has an appreciation for trees. If pressed, he would name the cotton plant because his wife owns a small farm in Arkansas.

Mentor- Charlie French



## AMGA 2026 CONFERENCE

The logo for the AMGA 2026 Conference, titled "GARDENING TO THE MOON AND BACK". The text "GARDENING" is in large blue letters with a rocket icon above the "G". "TO THE" is in smaller orange letters. "MOON" is in large blue letters with a sunflower and a crescent moon with stars. "AND BACK" is in large blue letters with a shovel icon above the "A". Below the main text are the locations "Limestone • Madison • Morgan". To the right of the logo is a large QR code. Above the logo, it says "AMGA 2026 CONFERENCE ★ The Rocket City".



# MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

Baldwin County Master Gardeners

General Meeting 2/11/2026

Lynn Barnes, President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. She asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Afterward, Lynn invited past Presidents to stand, followed by WDLR award winners and February birthdays. She then asked all guests to be recognized. Master Gardener Patsy Conner introduced her daughter Wendy Russell and Master Gardener Charmaine Peterman introduced Barbara Kelhoffer and Jenny Kelhoffer from Cincinnati, Ohio. Although Loree Hadley couldn't be at today's meeting, Lynn acknowledged her contribution in preparing the 2026 BCMG Pictorial Directories for the event. There were 90 attendees at the meeting.

Lynn asked for any additions or corrections to the January 14, 2026, General Meeting minutes which were published in the February Grass Roots Newsletter. There being a correction on page 7 concerning the March Master Gardener's Tuesday events. The minutes should read "The cost of \$10.00 per person" for each Tuesday event. If you bring food, there is no cost. Please attend as many Tuesday events as possible. A motion to accept the minutes as written and amended was proposed by Gail Hand and seconded by Tom Fortner. The minutes were duly approved.

Lynn expressed appreciation to Master Gardener Karon Pennington with a Busy Bee Award and a box of Valentine chocolates for the remarkable amount of work and time spent on projects.

Carmen Flammini, our Regional Extension Agent, expressed our appreciation to Graham Creek Nature Preserve and Ryan Caver, Nature Parks Superintendent of Foley, for hosting BCMG in their beautiful meeting space. She asked Ryan to come forward and introduce himself and speak about the Graham Creek Nature Preserve.

Ryan Caver began his new career as a Park Ranger at Graham Creek Nature Preserve during the COVID-19 pandemic period. While working there, he successfully completed his master's degree in Natural Resources from Auburn University. He also expressed his desire to learn from Foley's Sustainability and Natural Resources Director, Leslie Gahagan.

Foley aims to demonstrate the use of green spaces, while Alabama Forestry highlights Graham Creek as a leader in this area on the way they manage their habitat and control burns. The Preserve now covers 650 acres, with wetlands making up the majority of its area. The Preserve contains more than 700 identified plant species, including 14 that are classified as endangered. There are 4 species of pitcher plants in the Preserve. Every time there has been a burn new plant species have been discovered. There is a 2-to-3-year rotation on each land area burned. Also, there is now an area for Longleaf Pines which will be in the prescribed burn rotation.

# MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

Graham Creek Nature Preserve features both a Pollinator Garden and a Permaculture Garden and is actively working to introduce native milkweed back into the landscape. They are hoping to develop a Butterfly Conservatory, a substantial facility intended to attract visitors from across the region.

Graham Creek Nature Preserve offers educational programs and hosts roughly 5,000 students annually on field trips. They have 8 weeks of summer camps. Kayaking, four-disc golf courses, an archery park, fishing, boardwalks, and access to ten miles of trails are available. Graham Creek Nature Preserve is the largest Preserve in Alabama and is working toward acquiring 1600 more acres. Ryan encouraged people to organize a group outing and come see the Preserve from carts.

Carmen announced that she will be planning for two or three groups to tour and will advise members when that is scheduled.

Presidents Remarks: Lynn asked all attending the 2026 AMGA State Conference in Huntsville to raise their hands. Lynn announced that the Conference scheduled for Wednesday May 6th through Friday May 8th is slated for 350 people to attend. Currently, there are 300 registered participants. The opportunity to attend is limited, and those interested are encouraged to register soon. Spouses will not be able to attend the banquet per AMGA.

The first "Tuesday With Master Gardeners" event is scheduled for March 3rd at 6:00 PM. Carmen will speak on native milkweed species. Increasing our knowledge in this area is essential for supporting Monarch butterfly habitats. The entry fee is \$10.00 or bring food and the fee is waived.

The last Tuesday event for the month, which occurs on March 24th, will be held at the Baldwin County Coliseum in Robertsdale. The Azalea 101 event, hosted by the Azalea Society, runs from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. Please register using the QR code or the provided link. Registration is \$10.00 and includes lunch for attendees.

Treasurer Report: Cassandra Rabren, Treasurer, announced the BCMG checking account has \$55,669.18; one CD has \$50,000.00; conference CD \$5,122.27.

Finance Report: Mickey Ezell, Finance Chair, announced that the 2026 Budget has marked \$10,000.00 to cover Master Gardeners projects that you will be viewing today. He advised members that the lack of the large greenhouse and rising inflation has become a big problem.

# MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

Intern Report: Anita O'Connor acknowledged the presence of the interns at today's meeting and requested that they stand for recognition. Anita said the interns are two chapters in, and no one is overwhelmed. Anita encouraged everyone to check the February Grass Roots Newsletter for class photos. She also asked Master Gardeners to introduce themselves and welcome them whenever they see an intern out in public or volunteering.

Outreach Report: Sara Semmes, Outreach Chair, provided details about forthcoming events, which are listed at the volunteer table positioned at the front of the room. She reported 7 Arbor Day events scheduled in March, as well as a plant swap event at the Fairhope Public Library on March 28th. The April events include Earth Day at Fairhope Pier South Beach Park on April 18th, as well as the Delta Woods and Water event at the 5 Rivers area scheduled for April 25th. Sara invited all to sign up to volunteer for these current events.

Vice-President Remarks: Tom Fortner expressed his appreciation for the strong attendance at the meeting. This segment of the meeting provides all certified active members with the opportunity to participate in a voice vote. At the last Board Meeting the Board adopted a Resolution that he presented on the screen. Tom read the Board resolution.

"RESOLVED beginning in 2026, members who achieve lifetime status, by having served as president or by winning the Wayne de la Rua award, will not be exempt from paying dues to the organization. This resolution does not apply to members who earned lifetime status prior to 2026".

Tom expressed that members who have reached the lifetime status are very deserving. There are currently 20-25 lifetime members. Membership dues are \$25.00 a year. The thing that has changed in the organization is the need for a greenhouse. The biggest source of revenue is the plant sales, which impacts our profitability. Since the Daphne greenhouse is offline and we do not know when or if it will be functioning again our decision was to adjust. When we get a greenhouse back online and functioning well, we can reconsider this policy.

Tom invited questions and comments for a discussion. There were many members with pro and con comments. A motion was made by Julian Walthall to table the resolution. Robin Newell seconded the motion with all in favor. Tabling the motion allows the Board to further analyze and return to the membership with a recommendation. Tom expressed his appreciation for the membership involvement.

RESOLVE to table the following motion. "Beginning in 2026, members who achieve lifetime status, by having served as president or by winning the Wayne de la Rua award, will not be exempt from paying dues to the organization. This resolution does not apply to members who earned lifetime status prior to 2026".

# MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

ACES Report: Carmen Flammini, Regional Extension Agent, announced that Riviera Utilities and the City of Foley will have a Welcome Monarch Festival on May 9th. The event will feature guest speakers including Carmen. Also, we will have milkweed plants or seeds to distribute. Carmen hopes a lot of Master Gardeners will attend. Foley was named the first Monarch City in Alabama and Baldwin County Master Gardeners were a big part of this occurrence.

Carmen announced that there are approximately 30 projects displayed around the room for all volunteers to visit and sign up if interested. When you sign a volunteer sheet, please take a picture of the signup sheet to help in remembering project information. After you have finished signing up, please select a free Cogongrass T-shirt.

Carmen complimented members for being a strong group.

Charlotte Hamm announced that there will be a trip to Cornerstone Garden on Government Street in Mobile with a tentative date of February 20th. Last November, Vaughan Drinkard gave a presentation about the camellias in his Cornerstone Garden. Everyone interested in going is requested to meet at AL-104 to coordinate carpool arrangements. After visiting Cornerstone Garden, we will travel to Lucedale to visit Jim Smelley, a well-know camellia grower and hybridizer. Please be looking for e-mail updates.

Lynn announced a \$200,000 Capital Campaign to restore Magnolia Springs' 1894 Community Hall. Deborah Marriott shared that the Magnolia Springs Tour of Homes will be on March 22, with pre-sale tickets at \$40.00 each. An evening event, "Southern Charm", will be at held at the historic Magnolia Springs' Governors Club on March 20th from 6-8 PM. The cost is \$100.

Shannon Russell, Project Manager, introduced the Project Leaders for the four areas in Baldwin County:

Karon Pennington & Shannon Russell, district leaders for the West area

Laurie Simpson, district leader for the North area

Ken Gates, district leader for the Central area

Beth Murray & Sueann Barnwell, district leaders for the South area

Program: There are approximately 30 county projects on display today, plus the Spring Plant Sale allowing volunteers to ask questions and learn more. Signup sheets are available for interested members. Your participation will help maintain our leadership with volunteer hours in Alabama. You are not under any obligation to sign up.

# MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

Projects:

**Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo Gardens**  
**Coastal Alabama Farmers & Fishermen's Market**  
**Grove Retirement Community Pollinator Garden**  
**Gulf Shores State Park Sensory Garden / Natives**  
**Gulf Shores ECO CENTER**  
**Gulf Shores Middle School Pollinator Garden**  
**Lillian Recreational Park Beautification**  
**Riviera Utility Pollinator Garden**  
**Kids' Community Garden**  
**Robertsdale High School Garden**  
**The Museum of Loxley Pollinator Garden**  
**Weeks Bay Native Plant Demonstration Garden**  
**Alabama Wildlife Federation Butterfly Garden**  
**Spanish Fort Elementary Pollinator & Hydroponics**  
**Spanish Fort Presbyterian Preschool Garden**  
**Coastal Community College Pollinator Garden**  
**Coastal Community College Greenhouse**  
**Fairhope Youth Rotary Club Garden**  
**BCEMG Garden**  
**McMillan Bluff**  
**Nature Connect Outdoor School**  
**Pelican's Nest & Science Lab Garden**  
**Fairhope West Elementary School STEM Garden**  
**Ruff Wilson Garden Gurus**  
**The Grand Hotel Pollinator Garden**

Carmen reminded everyone of the Youth Protection Training program. Everyone volunteering in an area where there are children must complete this online course every year.

Today this information, design and presentation time is counted as continuing education (CEU) for Master Gardeners.

Gail Hand made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second from Judi Smith. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 AM.

The next general meeting will be held at the Gulf Coast Research & Extension Center, 8300 AL-104 on March 11th at 10:00 AM with social time at 9:30 AM.

# 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 Ticketed event 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 Ticketed event 1 - 2 p.m.	Lecture Event Ticketed event 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Music in the Garden 2 - 4 p.m.
	Bourbon Tasting Ticketed event 6 - 8 p.m.	Lecture Event Ticketed event 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



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](mailto:czf0054@aces.edu) by March 6, 2026

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

## 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>



Magnolia Springs  
Community Association  
presents

## 2026 Tour of Homes

# Southern Charm

March 22, 2026  
1 - 5 pm

TICKETS:  
Early Bird \$40  
Day of \$50

14775 Oak St., Magnolia Springs, AL

# An Evening of Southern Charm

March 20, 2026  
6 - 8 pm

TICKETS:  
\$100

Scan QR Code for Tickets and Additional Information

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



### GULF SHORES GARDEN CLUB EVENT

Baldwin County Master Gardeners  
attended the Gulf Shores Garden Club  
Floral Seminar - February 13

Picture by Fran Posey-Eversole

### Hwy 104 Work Day- February 16

Our "Tuesdays with Master Gardeners" Spring Workshops will be here soon and a few of our most dedicated gardeners got to work on Monday, February 16 at the Hwy 104 Research Station. Hard-working interns, Marie Cooper, Linda Kitchens and Bob Rowe, along with five veteran Master Gardeners, [Lynn, Lydia, Jim, Shannon and Maureen] brought joyful spirits and determined hands to begin the spring landscaping transformation.

Our to-do list included, edging the front and middle beds, pulling weeds, turning the soil and pine straw, and hauling away ten bags of debris. The front and middle beds now look amazing - and will transform to spectacular - once they get new pine straw. Part II will include cleaning the side bed, adding pine straw to all beds and getting the irrigation parts reassembled. All members will be invited to help, hopefully before Spring Workshops begin.

In the meantime, if you have ANY thoughts, ideas or donations of native plants that will enhance the beds at Highway 104, please share them with Maureen Krison, (mkrison051@gmail.com).

Also, we want to form a "Camellia Committee" to focus on protecting and transforming the Camellias at Highway 104. Any interested parties are asked to contact Maureen Krison (mkrison051@gmail.com) or Shannon Russell (sruessell2.home@gmail.com).



Pictures by Shannon Russell

# 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 if you have household or garden items

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

**Publicity**- Tom Fortner

**Raffle Table**- Fran Posey-Eversole, contact if you have a raffle item or if you can help staff the table.

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

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

As you can see, a lot of volunteers are needed for a successful plant sale. We still have a few opportunities for you to be involved. Call Dolores @ 985-969-0579, if you are interested in helping.



# ARBOR DAY

## FAIRHOPE ARBOR DAY

More than 230 residents turned out for Fairhope's Arbor Day celebration Feb. 21. The annual city-sponsored event featured a 30-minute ceremony at which a number of students are recognized for artwork featuring trees, businesses are awarded for eco-friendly development projects and an urban forester provides an update on "the state of the trees." As in past years, Baldwin County Master Gardeners volunteers took on the responsibility of passing out hundreds of bare-root trees encompassing 14 different species.

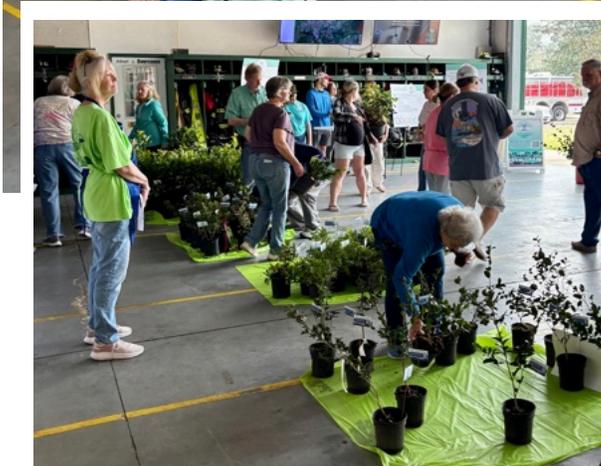


BCMG volunteers (from left) Lynn Barnes, Bob Rowe, Terry Delker, Bonnie Umberger, Pat Atzman, Barry Gilliland, Brenda Montgomery, Eileen Green, Sara Semmes, C Fogarty, Tom Fortner and Kay Heinrich.



Eileen Greene and Reba Cunningham handing out bare-root trees to a long line of Fairhope Arbor Day attendees

## MAGNOLIA SPRINGS ARBOR DAY



Mickey Ezell, Kim Scasny, Jackie Gray, Eileen Huisman, Deborah Ilya, Marie Cooper, Laura Kramer, Donna Armstrong, Vicki Clark, Margie Grace, Deborah Marriott, Liz Wojtaszek and 17 Elise Kolberg (past member)

# ARBOR DAY

## SILVERHILL ARBOR DAY



Silverhill had their Arbor Day celebration on, Feb. 28. Trees available this year were Nellie Stevens Holly, Little Gem Magnolia, Rose of Autumn Camellia, Dream Weaver Camellia and Tuscarora Crape Myrtle.

## 2026 ARBOR DAY SCHEDULE

### BALDWIN COUNTY CITIES

#### **DAPHNE**

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

*I ran into my coworker  
at the Arbor Day  
celebration.  
We exchanged  
pleasant trees.*



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR



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

## Online Classes

### VCLLI Spr '26: The Home & Garden Series

Online, AL

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

March 12, 2026

March 26, 2026

April 02, 2026

April 16, 2026

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.

### Back 2 Basics Gardening Series

URBAN GREEN

Join the Urban Home Grounds Team (online) 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!

March 18–Wildflowers for Alabama

April 1–Improving Landscape Curb Appeal for Homeowners

April 15–Houseplants for Homeowners

May 6–Propagating Perennials for Your Landscape

May 20–Vegetable Garden Pests

### 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

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

#### HOMEOWNER LAWN SCHOOL

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

The Homeowner Lawn School is a two-night educational program designed to help homeowners build and maintain healthy, attractive lawns using practical, research-based information.

**Contact** Jack LeCroy at 2512882874 or [jml0003@auburn.edu](mailto:jml0003@auburn.edu) by 2/17/2026.

This event has multiple sessions:

- Homeowner Lawn School Night 1 - March 10, 2026 at 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
- Homeowner Lawn School Night 2 - March 11, 2026 at 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

## Winter Blooms

What's blooming in your yard?



Kay Smith - Carolina Jessamine



Kim Musson - Pink Perfection Camellia



Mystery Camellia! Do you know what Camellia this is?



By Andreu Riebe

## Which Calendar Should I Use?

If you recently opened a BCMG calendar and did not see any events listed, here is what is happening – and where to look instead.

### Official BCMG Events Calendar

The official BCMG Events Calendar is located on our website:  
[www.baldwinmastergardeners.com](http://www.baldwinmastergardeners.com) → Events

All BCMG meetings, plant sales, workshops, outreach events, and programs are posted on the website calendar.

### Calendar Inside the Service Report

You may also notice a calendar feature within the Service Report system. That calendar is not connected to our website and is not used for posting BCMG events at this time.

If you are looking for upcoming events, please use the calendar on the BCMG website.

## Stay Up to Date – Subscribe!

You can subscribe to the BCMG website calendar so events automatically appear on your personal calendar (Google, Outlook, Apple, etc.).

Subscribing is one of the easiest ways to ensure you never miss a meeting or event.

### Help Us Keep It Accurate

- Have an upcoming meeting or event?
- Notice something missing?
- See incorrect information?

Please contact Lydia Chan or Andreu Riebe so it can be added or corrected.

We put in significant effort to keep the calendar updated, but given the size of our county and the numerous events occurring across districts and committees, we depend on everyone's assistance.

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### Newsletter Committee:

Andreu Riebe, Kim Musson, Linda Crowell, Larry Musson  
Article/Pictures Submissions - [grassroots@baldwinmastergardeners.com](mailto:grassroots@baldwinmastergardeners.com)  
Deadline: 20<sup>th</sup> of each month

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



# CALENDAR

- 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, Kip McConnell, PDS  
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. 04 2026 BCMG Plant Sale Setup Days, APR. 4 - 9,  
APR. 08 2026 BCMG Monthly Meeting, Research Station, Hwy 104, Speaker TBA  
APR. 09 2026 Spring Plant Sale, April 9, 10, 11  
APR. 18 2026 Earth Day Fairhope Pier  
APR. 25 2026 Delta Woods and Waters Expo, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
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



END OF YEAR PICTURE SUBMISSION  
Robin Newell - [robin.rn@baldwinmastergardeners.com](mailto:robin.rn@baldwinmastergardeners.com)



## 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  
Hwy 104

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

Don't  
Forget!

