

# GRASS ROOTS

NEWSLETTER OF THE BALDWIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, INC.

AUGUST 2026

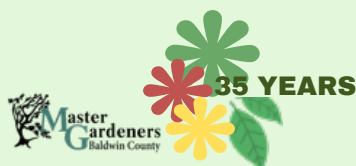
[www.baldwinmastergardeners.com](http://www.baldwinmastergardeners.com)

VOL. 34 ISSUE 8



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## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Lynn Barnes

Dear Friends,

My topic is simple—Enter Your Hours! Why do we continue to say this? Because you are awesome and we want the world to know! Until recently Baldwin County was the leader in the state of Alabama for Volunteer hours, however now we are number 2, right behind Mobile County. Maybe you are uncertain how to enter hours on the website—don't be afraid! We are in a "no-judgement" zone. Someone will help you after our General meetings. Also, when you enter your hours in a timely manner, there is no scurrying to get your hours entered by a deadline in order to receive the next level star or badge.

And if you are growing fruits and vegetables that you donate for Grow More-Give More, please record your donations on the website that we have provided in the GrassRoots. You will help us reach our goal of donating at least 250 pounds and you are helping families eat nutritious food that might otherwise eat boxed macaroni!

Did you know that BCMG has to pay 2027 dues (\$10 per member) to Alabama Master Gardeners by Dec. 31, 2026? We pay them about \$1800 per year, and AMGA has recently instituted a penalty of \$200 if we are late. **Therefore, we need your 2027 dues paid promptly before Dec. 10th.**

Dues are \$25 per person and we accept cash, checks or credit cards. Please see Cassandra Rabren and her team soon to take care of this. Thank you!



## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Lynn Barnes

I would like to share the AMGA Award system for your volunteer hours. This information was in our booklet given out at the Spring Conference in Huntsville.

|                |                       |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Bronze Star    | 100 - 299 hours       |
| Silver Star    | 300 - 499 hours       |
| Gold Star      | 500 - 999 hours       |
| Gold Badge     | 1,000 - 1,999 hours   |
| Platinum Badge | 2,000 - 3,999 hours   |
| Ruby Star      | 4,000 - 5,999 hours   |
| Emerald Star   | 6,000 - 7,999 hours   |
| Diamond Star   | 8,000 - 9,999 hours   |
| Amethyst Star  | 10,000 - 11,999 hours |
| Navy Blue Star | 12,000 - 14,999 hours |
| Garnet Star    | 15,000 - 16,999 hours |
| Rainbow Star   | 17,000 - 19,999 hours |
| Champagne Star | 20,000 + hours        |

There has been confusion and unfair delays in the past regarding the award system. I apologize to everyone that has not received their star/badge in a timely manner. I want to rectify the problem and I will soon be discussing this at the state level. Thank you for your patience.

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| Sam Andrews        | 07-09 |
| Mary Calvin        | 08-04 |
| Barry Gilliland    | 08-04 |
| Shirley Ryals      | 08-05 |
| Aletza Boucher     | 08-09 |
| Elmer Vick         | 08-10 |
| Jacqueline Gray    | 08-12 |
| Teresa Shoemaker   | 08-13 |
| Pat Atzman         | 08-15 |
| Daniel Powell      | 08-19 |
| Karon Pennington   | 08-20 |
| Jean Vick          | 08-20 |
| Lori White         | 08-20 |
| Sandra Walton      | 08-21 |
| John Fitzhugh      | 08-22 |
| Phyllis Holman     | 08-23 |
| Lisa May           | 08-26 |
| Charmaine Peterman | 08-26 |
| Andreu Riebe       | 08-28 |



# MONTHLY PROGRAM NOTES

By Charlotte Hamm



In 2019, the University of Georgia began a new program to assess the state of the pollinator population of the Southeastern United States. Goals established were to 1) generate useful data on pollinator populations, 2) create sustainable pollinator habitat, and 3) increase entomological literacy of citizens. The general public participated in the research by counting bugs in their own gardens on a specific designated day. 4000 people joined the count! The Great Southeastern Pollinator Census was born. Each year more states have joined the count. Alabama joined last year and this year Mississippi will participate. The state's respective extension programs are involved in the data collection and analysis. Participating states for 2026 will be Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina.



Our own Carmen Flammini will speak on last year's census data and give an introduction to the procedure for participating as a citizen-scientist. Many of us counted bugs last year as a part of the milkweed project that Carmen conducted on plots that Master Gardeners had planted. As Master Gardeners we are already heavily involved in pollinator work. This is another way to measure our success! Join us to learn how you can be a part of this great program.





# PREVIOUS EVENTS



## BCMG JULY AWARDS LUNCHEON



Pictures by  
Dolores Hammack

CLASS OF 2026 BCMG MASTER GARDENERS

## GOLD BADGE RECIPIENTS

| NAME             | CLASS |
|------------------|-------|
| Gina Blakeman    | 2020  |
| Dolores Hammack  | 2024  |
| Kimberly Musson  | 2019  |
| Karon Pennington | 2024  |

## PLATINUM BADGE RECIPIENTS

| NAME          | CLASS |
|---------------|-------|
| Gordon Cooper | 2007  |
| María Curow   | 2021  |
| Mia Martin    | 1998  |
| Wanda Martin  | 2019  |
| Beth Robinson | 2021  |



Pictured; Kimberly Musson,  
Wanda Martin and Karon  
Pennington.

## PREVIOUS EVENTS

### Loxley L&N Railroad Depot Historic Marker Dedication



A large contingent of Baldwin County Master Gardeners turned out Thursday, July 23, for an event dedicating a historic marker at the site of the L&N Railroad Depot in Loxley. The event was supported by a state grant as part of the nation's 250th anniversary celebration. BCMG is partnering with the city of Loxley in the construction of a 3,000-square-foot greenhouse. Master gardeners in attendance were (front row, from left) Linda Kitchens, Leslie Nelson, Vicki Clarke, Linda Mong, Mary Anne Johnston and (back row) Mickey Ezell, Dawn McKinney, Tom Fortner, Gilda Underwood, Anita O'Connor and Kim Scasny. Not pictured: Sarah Duncan.

By Tom Fortner

### Loxley Library Centennial



On Monday, June 29, several Master Gardeners, lead by Anita O'Connor, met at the Loxley Civic Center to help celebrate the 100 Year Centennial of the Loxley Library. The event focused on children's activities that were hands-on and fun!

The Loxley Library occupies a former church building on Highway 59. The event was held in the much larger Loxley Civic Center to have plenty of room for all participants. There were many tables representing many entities within Baldwin County. Each table had free give-aways. At our table, we taught eager and smiling children how to propagate a plant. We gave them the choice of a sun-loving or a shade-loving plant. They learned where to snip the cutting away from the mother plant, how to cut away excess leaves and how deep to place it in the soil. Each person was proud to take home their own new plant.

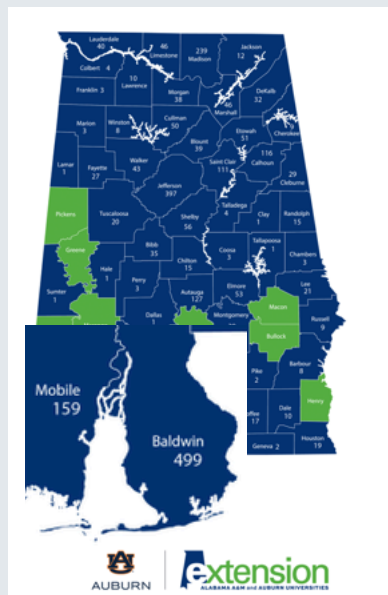
BCMG was represented by Anita O'Connor, Ken Gates, Linda Kitchens, Dawn McKinney and Lynn Barnes. If you are looking for a good place to volunteer your time, help your community and build friendships just click on the bottom right-hand corner of the web page where you enter your hours. You will find volunteer opportunities there under the option "Check for Volunteer Ops".

By Lynn Barnes



# SUNNY SIDE OF BCMG

## THE 2025 GREAT SOUTHEAST POLLINATOR CENSUS



### Participation in Alabama

**2,867**

counts were submitted from  
55 of Alabama's 67 counties  
(82% participation rate)

**499**

counts were submitted from  
Baldwin County ( 17.4% of the  
total count )



**Awesome effort by  
everyone that participated  
and supported the census.**



**extension**

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**Busy Bee** for Grant Writing  
awarded to Julie Cox. June  
General Meeting



### BCMG Speakers Bureau News

Are you looking for an expert to talk  
to your group? [CLICK HERE](#) for the  
website link for 55 available topics  
including 17 new ones!

Wanda Martin-Speakers Bureau  
Chairperson

## HANDS IN THE DIRT - BCMG HOURS REPORT

### Total Hours by County - 2026

\* This County Reports page combines Vol Hours and Travel Hours. The Statewide Summary Report provides a separate Travel Hours total.

\* Num Vols = number of unique volunteers (not number of entries)

[CLICK HERE  
TO REPORT HRS](#)

| County                               | Num<br>Vols | Vol<br>Hours* | CEU<br>Hours | Contacts |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|----------|
| 1 Mobile                             | 86          | 8742          | 775          | 343743   |
| 2 Baldwin                            | 100         | 8559          | 868          | 11479    |
| 3 Jefferson                          | 144         | 6537          | 928          | 17879    |
| 4 Wiregrass                          | 71          | 6249          | 620          | 11214    |
| 5 MG of N. Alabama (Madison Co area) | 101         | 6246          | 1165         | 10345    |

# WDLR NOMINATIONS

## It's Time Again for WDLR Nominations

by Mary Calvin

The Wayne de la Rua Award is presented annually to an active member of the Baldwin County Master Gardeners to recognize outstanding service to the organization and its mission. The award is unique as a peer-nominated, peer-selected, once in a lifetime prize. It honors dedicated Master Gardener Wayne de la Rua. He graduated in 1990 with the first Baldwin County Master Gardener class.

If you have a candidate that you would like to submit for consideration, the WDLR Committee must receive your nomination no later than September 15, 2026. The committee will only accept written nominations of 200-300 words listing significant accomplishments including dates, activities and offices held. Your written nomination will appear in the October Grass Roots with the Committee reserving the right to edit your submission.

Please note that only one person may write and sign each nomination. Other master gardeners may write additional nominations. You may discuss the candidates among yourselves, but the spirit of Wayne de la Rua does not permit members to wage marketing/publicity campaigns.

Please email your questions and your nominations to Mary Calvin, [mscalvin@aol.com](mailto:mscalvin@aol.com). Again, the nomination deadline is September 15, 2026.

Nominations are solicited through Grass Roots in August and September and published in October. Voting takes place by email from November 1 - 11, 2026, or in person at the November 11 monthly meeting. Each active Baldwin County Master Gardener may vote once for the nominee that they believe to be most deserving.

Baldwin County Master Gardeners maintain a plaque containing a list of all the past WDLR winners:

|                                                         |                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 2025 - Dolores Hammack                                  | 2011 - Selena Vaughn                           |
| 2024 - Mary Calvin                                      | 2010 - Pat Libby                               |
| 2023 - Judi Smith                                       | 2009 - Joyce Mudrak                            |
| 2022 - Lynn Andrews                                     | 2008 - Sam Andrews                             |
| 2021 - Arren Graf                                       | 2007 - Tanys Waldron                           |
| 2020 - Jamie Van Valkenburgh<br>& Julian Walthall (tie) | 2006 - Sherry Eubanks                          |
| 2019 - Paula Pritchett                                  | 2005 - Harry Anderson                          |
| 2018 - Pam Tucker                                       | 2004 - Carol Griffin                           |
| 2017 - Loree Hadley                                     | 2003 - Gail Terrell<br>& Joanne Caglione (tie) |
| 2016 - Pat Greer & Myra Lassere (tie)                   | 2002 - Mary Gibson                             |
| 2015 - Gene Sellier                                     | 2001 - Jane Wright                             |
| 2014 - Ottie Dailey                                     | 2000 - Herb Nall                               |
| 2013 - Jim & Nancy Gaines (joint nomination)            | 1999 - Jill McArthur                           |
| 2012 - Marilyn Mannhard                                 | 1998 - Maureen Nation                          |
|                                                         | 1997 - Wayne de la Rua                         |

Those listed above are ineligible to receive the award again as it may be received only once.

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## Milkweed Census Year Two

Extension Agent Carmen Flammini is conducting a five-year project to determine which kinds of milkweed grow best in south Alabama. For year two, 100 plants at the Grand Hotel in Point Clear and 100 more at Auburn University are being studied.

BCMG volunteers count the number of blooms and Monarch eggs on each plant and then try to catch pollinating insects which are sent to Auburn for identification. We will check the gardens in the morning and afternoon twice a month, June through September.

Four of the five varieties are native milkweeds:

Swamp Milkweed; *Asclepias incarnata*

Aquatic Milkweed; *Asclepias perennis*

Common Milkweed *Asclepias syriaca*

Butterfly Weed, *Asclepias tuberosa*.

Tropical Milkweed, *Asclepias curassavica*, is also being studied even though there are many reasons not to plant it in this area.

By Mary Calvin



Carmen Flammini, Laurie Simpson, Karon Pennington, Angela Bernhardt, Mary Ann Johnston, Terri Withee, Laura Kramer, Lee (Grand Hotel Gardener), Anita O'Connor, Vicki Clarke, Kay Smith, Brian Boucher, Aletza Boucher. Not pictured: Mary Calvin, Lorie O'Neil, Leslie Nelson.



# CURRENT EVENTS



## How to Participate

This challenge is open to everyone, from gardening pros to those still establishing their green thumb. The challenge runs May 25 (Memorial Day) through September 7 (Labor Day).

### 1. Plant and Grow with Purpose

### 2. Where to Donate, interactive site map link.

[Click Here for Interactive site map link](#)

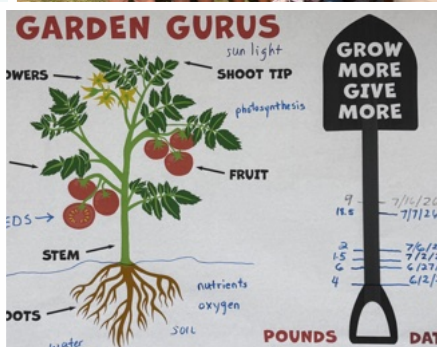
Site Map  
QR code



### 3. Record Your Donation

[Click Here for Donation Entry Link](#)

Donation Entry  
QR code



## GROW MORE GIVE MORE



Kay Heinrich's tomato and cucumber harvest.

Congrats to the Ruff Wilson Garden Guru's on multiple donations on behalf of the GMGM Challenge. Master Gardeners pictured are Karon Pennington, Linda Kitchens, Shannon Russell and Dawn McKinney



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### GREAT SOUTHEAST



## Pollinator Census



GSEPC WEBSITE LINK

Aug 21-22

A special Thank You to Beth Murray. She presented this information to our group last year.

Check out this website for counting guide, counting sheet and other resources. Click on this same link to enter your count data.

Remember, your count doesn't count if you don't enter your data.

Did you watch a plant for 15 minutes and not observe any pollinators? It is OK. You will enter "0" on that data entry.

If you have time to observe another plant, try again. It's not a contest to see who counts the most pollinators, we are looking for data.

## Mobile County Master Gardeners

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



## Homeowner Gardening Conference

extension  
ALABAMA A&M AND AUBURN UNIVERSITIES

### 2026 Homeowner Gardening Conference

Sept 25-26, 2026

\$25 per person for dinner, lunch and info on  
pollinators, lawn care, backyard greenhouse...

 [Event Registration](#)



## Happiness is the Garden!

Blount County Master Gardeners'

Fall Conference, Thursday, October 1, 2026

4 CEUs

Blount County Multipurpose Center,  
6700 County Road 1, Cleveland, AL 35049



Blount County  
Fall Conference  
Registration

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 Bethany O'Rear, Regional Extension Agent at [ba00004@auburn.edu](mailto:ba00004@auburn.edu) by two weeks prior to the program.



## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Baldwin County  
Master Gardeners**

**2026  
FALL PLANT  
SALE**

October 16, 17 & 18 (Fri-Sun)

9AM – 4PM • NO EARLY ADMISSION

Across from Weeks Bay Reserve  
11401 Hwy 98 • Fairhope

Contact: 985-969-0579

- Herbs
- Perennials
- Natives
- Shrubs
- Trees
- & More

Limited carts available  
bringing your own is  
appreciated.

Stay Connected  
baldwinmastergardeners.com  
facebook.com / baldwincountymg

Volunteer sign-up sheets will be at  
the August General meeting.  
Contact Dolores Hammack to volunteer  
for something specific.



**PLANTMANIA**

*Daphne*

Daphne , AL

October 23 & 24, 2026  
Daphne Civic Center

[Click for  
Registration](#)



**AMGA Fall Seminar**

OCT 8-9, 2026  
Auburn University

REGISTRATION OPENS  
AUGUST 1

[CLICK HERE](#)





# MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

Baldwin County Master Gardeners

General Meeting 7/08/2026

Lynn Barnes, President, called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM in the auditorium of the Foley Civic Center, Foley, Alabama.

She welcomed everyone to the General Meeting and celebration luncheon. Everyone was asked to rise and join in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. All invited guests, members celebrating birthdays, past presidents, and recipients of the Wayne de la Rua Award were asked to stand for recognition. Attendance today totaled 77 which includes 13 guests.

Master Gardener Deborah Marriott was recognized as the 2026 Grand Marshal for the Magnolia Springs July 4th Parade, a notable honor.

Lynn asked Master Gardener Sharon Smith to introduce our two 2026 BCMG scholarship recipients, Mattie Burnette from Robertsedale High School and Blake Brunick from Orange Beach High School. We are pleased to welcome Blake's mother, Kristi Brunick, who attends today to accept the scholarship on his behalf. Kristi Brunick announced that Blake will be attending Huntington College in Environmental Science with a minor in Business and will then go into Land Management. Mattie is here with her mother, Shea Burnette. Mattie announced she will be attending Auburn University in the fall pursuing a degree in Aquatic Sciences and Business. The audience applauded the students.

Lynn explained that BCMG raises funds through its Master Gardener Plant Sales and is pleased to support Baldwin County students. She thanked the students and their families for attending the July celebration luncheon.

Carmen Flammini, Regional Extension Agent, sent her regrets to everyone, especially to the graduating Master Gardeners, for not attending today's event. Carmen was required to attend a nationwide program in Denver, Colorado for all ACES Agents.

Anita O'Connor, Intern Program Chair, announced that we are honoring the 2026 Master Gardener graduating class: Emily Allison, Donna Armstrong, Lisa Marie Atchley, Angela Bernhardt, Brian Boucher, Vicki Clarke, Marie Cooper, Mary Anne Johnston, Linda Kitchens, Laura Kramer, Dawn McKinney, Tom Meyer, Linda Mong, Leslie Nelson, Lorie O'Neil, Bob Rowe, and Lawanna Sharpless.

# MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

Anita explained that many interns had jobs that made completing additional volunteer hours challenging. Of the 17 interns, the following 11 completed more than 100 or more volunteer hours and received the 100-hour Bronze Star: Mary Anne Johnston, Dawn McKinney, Marie Cooper, Lawanna Sharpless, Leslie Nelson, Linda Mong, Linda Kitchens, Laura Kramer, Donna Armstrong, Brian Boucher, and Vicki Clarke.

Lynn Barnes announced that badges were ordered and received for 8 Master Gardeners. Much to everyone's disappointment some of the badges received had misspelled names.

On August 4th some members are traveling to the AMGA meeting and will receive the corrected badges. Master Gardeners receiving these badges are Gordon Cooper, María Curow, Mia Martin, Wanda Martin, Gina Blakeman, Dolores Hammack, Kim Musson, and Karon Pennington.

Everyone was invited to break for lunch.

Keith Cardwell offered the lunch prayer, acknowledged Minister Fred Pratt Green, and read "For the Fruits of This Creation."

Following lunch, Lynn Barnes formally reconvened the meeting. She asked whether there were any additions or corrections to the June 10th General Meeting minutes, as published in the Grass Roots Newsletter. Barry Gilliland moved to approve the June minutes as written. Mary Meyer seconded the motion, and all approved.

**VICE PRESIDENT REPORT:** Tom Fortner, Vice President, gave an update to the progress of BCMG and the partnership with the City of Loxley. A few months ago, we received funding to build an Atlas greenhouse. The City of Loxley has agreed to welcome BCMG to build the greenhouse in Loxley on Loxley's Public Works property at 5151 S. Magnolia Street in Loxley. Because the greenhouse will be located on City of Loxley property, the city will technically own it. The greenhouse will be approximately 3,000 square feet, with up to 1,000 square feet used by Loxley's Horticulture Department and 2,000 square feet designated for the Master Gardeners.

# MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

Loxley's attorney has drafted a Lease Agreement for 20 years, plus two five-year renewal terms, for a total of 30 years at \$1.00 per year. BCMG's attorney, Brant Richerson, is currently working with Loxley's attorney to resolve a few points before the agreement is signed. Tom said he hopes the greenhouse will be ready in the fall.

The Nominating Committee for 2027 has several positions on BCMG's Board that will need to be filled. Tom invites anyone wishing to learn more about volunteering for Board positions or any other position please let someone on the Nominating Committee know your interest. The committee members are Tom Fortner, Don Richerson, Mary Meyer, Zetty Bauer and Wanda Martin. A slate of candidates for election to the 2027 Board will be presented to members for their vote at November's General Meeting.

TREASURER REPORT: Cassandra Rabren, Treasurer, reported that our checking account has \$99,729.65. The bank account for the greenhouse has \$164,635.92. There is also a \$5,258.83 seed CD and a \$25,000.00 CD.

Cassandra reported that she is collecting 2027 BCMG annual dues, which are due by December 31, 2026. She will collect dues at each meeting for the upcoming year, in keeping with the new policy requiring all dues to be paid by December 31st.

Cassandra announced that Master Gardener Beth Robinson is ill and staying with her daughter in Louisiana. Cassandra has the address for anyone wanting to send a card. There is also a book circulating today for members to write a message to Beth.

Lynn asked Shannon Russell, Projects Chair, and Linda Mong, Outreach Chair, to give their reports.

PROJECTS REPORT: Shannon Russell, Projects Chair, encouraged everyone to go to Baldwin County Master Gardeners website at [www.baldwinmastergardeners.com](http://www.baldwinmastergardeners.com) to check out the current projects. Andreu Riebe, Webmaster, has been working to have all projects and volunteer opportunities listed and up to date.

Shannon thanked Sara Semmes for her work on outreach projects and events and announced that newly graduated intern Linda Mong has accepted the role of Outreach Chair.



# MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

OUTREACH REPORT: Linda Mong, Outreach Chair, announced that the City of Loxley has invited all BCMG members to attend a celebration on July 23rd at 10:00 AM. The celebration will be held at the Loxley Farm Center at 1053 Ellison Street, Loxley, Alabama.

The celebration will recognize an America's 250th birthday grant awarded to the Museum of Loxley for a commemorative marker at the Loxley L & N Railroad Depot. Linda encouraged members to attend and show Master Gardener support. She invited them to pick up a handout for the event located on the entry table.

PLANT SALE REPORT: Dolores Hammack announced that the Fall Plant Sale will take place October 16, 17, and 18. The Friday-through-Sunday schedule was chosen to give working shoppers an opportunity to attend. Eileen Huisman has confirmed the dates with Weeks Bay. All members are encouraged to attend.

FINANCE REPORT: Mickey Ezell, Finance Chair, announced that Cassandra Rabren has done an outstanding job as Treasurer. Mickey reported progress on the 2026 budget, noting that projects are now more clearly defined, and members may submit reimbursement forms for project-related expenses.

For 2027, members involved in projects should consider what resources each project will need and calculate the related costs. Be prepared to have your budget numbers ready when we begin preparing the 2027 Budget. Mickey also welcomed suggestions to help make the 2027 budget process run smoothly.

PROGRAM REPORT: Charlotte Hamm, Monthly Program Chair, announced that the August speaker will be Carmen Flammini, Regional Extension Agent. She will be speaking about the Great Southeast Pollinator Census. This program was started in 2019 by the University of Georgia as a citizen science project.

University Extension will collect and enter data, tabulate the results, and analyze which flowers attract pollinators. Members are encouraged to help by observing pollinators in their gardens. Carmen will discuss last year's Alabama census, the first year Alabama participated. The participating states are Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi. It was announced at the training session that Baldwin County had the highest number of Alabama participants in the 2025 census.

# MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

OLD and NEW BUSINESS: Lynn introduced Master Gardener Mary Hamilton as BCMG's new representative to the Alabama Master Gardener Association (AMGA). Mary will serve as an AMGA Member at Large and represent BCMG on AMGA's Advisory Council, which meets quarterly in Jemison, Alabama. She attended her first meeting in June. Lynn noted that Mary accepted the role knowing it requires a three-and-a-half-hour drive to Jemison, attendance at the meeting, and a three-and-a-half-hour return trip.

Lynn further explained that BCMG annual dues are \$25, with \$10 going to AMGA. Dues sent to AMGA for the following year are due by December 31, and late payments incur a \$200.00 penalty to BCMG.

It was announced that the flowers on the tables are available for members and guests to take home.

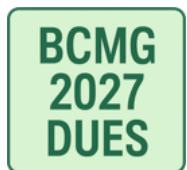
There being no further business, Cassandra Rabren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Barry Gilliland seconded the motion. All in favor, the meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM.

The next General Meeting will be held at the Gulf Coast Research & Extension on AL-104 on Wednesday, August 12th. Social begins at 9:30 AM with the meeting starting at 10:00 AM.



## CALL for VOLUNTEERS

Click here for a link  
to the Volunteer Opportunities website page.



**Payment must be made  
before DEC. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
Use the Zeffy QR Code to access  
the payment portal



PICTURE SUBMISSIONS for end of year video.  
Send pictures to this email-  
Robin Newell -  
robin.rn@baldwinmastergardeners.com

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR



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

## Online Classes

### Back 2 Basics Gardening Series

#### Online, AL

Wednesdays, 10 am to 11 a.m. CT.

August 19

Considerations for Selling Your Produce  
September 2

Stormwater Management

September 16

Starting a Lawn Care Service

October 7

Putting Your Garden to Rest

October 21

Plants for Fall Flowers

November 4

Bagworms: How to spot them

November 18

Tips and Quips From a Plant Obsessed Gardener

### Natural Resources Webinar Series

#### Online, AL

Wednesdays, Noon to 1 p.m. CT.

August 5

Protecting and Stewarding Alabama's Wild Places

August 19

What You Can Do if Prescribed Fire Is Not an Option

September 2

Reptile & Amphibian

September 16

Native Fruit and Nuts of Alabama

September 30

Ethics in Professional Forestry

October 14

Portable Sawmills and Solar Wood Drying Kilns

### Photography Class

#### Online

September 9, 2026 at 10 am

October 7, 2026 at 10 am

November 4, 2026 at 10 am

Join a group to learn about  
photography.

What did the  
caterpillar say to  
its friend on the  
branch?

"Leaf me alone!"

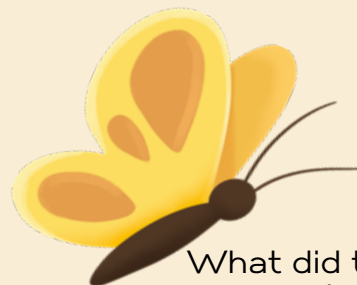


## Onsite Classes

### Baldwin County Master Environmental Educators Training

Aug. 20th, 2026 8:30 am  
Gulf Coast Research and  
Extension Center, 8300  
Alabama 104, Fairhope, AL  
36532

MEE Training: Learn to teach  
engaging natural resource  
lessons (grades 2-12);  
Registration and Background  
Check required.



What did the butterfly  
say when it got in  
trouble?  
"I butter-fly away!"



# TECH CORNER



By Andreu Riebe

## New Member Email Addresses

Every BCMG member has now been issued a personal @baldwinmastergardeners.com email address, and a welcome email with login instructions has been sent.

Using your new address is completely optional—your existing email will continue to work just as it always has. Many members enjoy having a dedicated email address for BCMG business, while others prefer to continue using their personal email.

## Questions?

If you have questions about your account or need assistance getting started, contact:

**Andreu Riebe**

[andreu.ar@baldwinmastergardeners.com](mailto:andreu.ar@baldwinmastergardeners.com)

### Tech Tip

Your new BCMG email account also includes Google Workspace with Docs, Sheets, Slides, Drive, Calendar, and Meet.

## Help Us Keep our Calendar 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.

### Newsletter Committee:

Andreu Riebe, Kim Musson, Larry Musson, Linda Crowell

Article/Pictures Submissions - [grassroots@baldwinmastergardeners.com](mailto:grassroots@baldwinmastergardeners.com)

Deadline: 20<sup>th</sup> of each month



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



# CALENDAR

AUG 05 2026 BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy 104, 9:30 am - 11:30 am  
 AUG 12 2026 BCMG August Monthly Meeting (9:30 am Social, 10 am Meeting)  
 AUG 20 2026 Master Environmental Educators Training - see the Mark Your Calendar  
 AUG 21 2026 The Great Southeast Pollinator Census Count, AUG 21 - 22,  
 SEP 02 2026 BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy 104, 9:30 am - 11:30 am  
 SEP 09 2026 BCMG September Monthly Meeting (9:30 am Social, 10 am Meeting)  
 SEP 25 2026 ACES Homeowner Gardening Conference Sept. 25-26- See flyer  
 OCT 01 2026 AMGA Fall Conference Blount County - See flyer  
 OCT 07 2026 BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy 104, 9:30 am - 11:30 am  
 OCT 14 2026 BCMG October Monthly Meeting (9:30 am Social, 10 am Meeting)  
 OCT 16 2026 BCMG Fall Plant Sale Location- Weeks Bay  
 NOV 04 2026 BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy 104, 9:30 am - 11:30 am  
 NOV 11 2026 BCMG November Monthly Meeting (9:30 am Social, 10 am Meeting)  
 DEC 02 2026 BCMG Board Meeting, Research Station, Hwy 104, 9:30 am - 11:30 am  
 DEC 09 2026 BCMG Christmas Awards Luncheon  
 DEC 10 2026 **BCMG Membership Dues Deadline**

## 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.

### 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: Linda Mong  
 Finance Chair: Mickey Ezell  
 Projects Chair: Shannon Russell

### Next Meeting

Wednesday August 12, 2026  
 9:30 am - Social  
 10 am - Meeting

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

### BCMG Merchandise

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