

GRASS ROOTS

NEWSLETTER OF THE BALDWIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, INC.

SEPTEMBER 2026

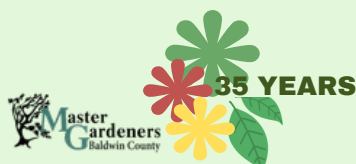
www.baldwinmastergardeners.com

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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Lynn Barnes

Gardening on a Small Scale

Sometimes in life we have to downsize. We might have to move to an apartment where we have no yard. If you love gardening, this can be a difficult aspect of the move.

But have you considered gardening on a much smaller scale with flower pots? If you have some pots in a sunny location you could plant lettuce, spinach and carrots in the cool months and in the warmer months plant cherry tomatoes, a couple of bush beans or peppers. Herbs are easy to grow and can really enhance your recipes. It is so rewarding to check your veggies, water them, fertilize every so often and then pick them! Flower pots are so much more manageable than a big garden.



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Lynn Barnes

More power to you if you have a big garden and the energy and motivation to keep up with it. I admire you. You probably have enough vegetables to share with others!

Keep the dirt under your fingernails and enjoy the rewards of your labor—whether it be on a large scale or postage stamp sized garden. We are doing our part to help our planet.

Until next time,
Lynn Barnes



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Anita O'Connor	09-01
Myra Lassere	09-05
Marilyn Mannhard	09-07
Theresa Sims	09-07
Sharon Thoele	09-08
Charlotte Croft	09-11
Tiffany Ramey	09-12
Linda Bizzell	09-13
Jill Boyles	09-16
Kimberley Scasny	09-16
Rebecca Estes	09-19
Deborah Mallon	09-19
Tampa Sykora	09-19
Maureen Krison	09-21
Pamela Tucker	09-22
Ed Pickle	09-26
Diane Roberson-Hill	09-27
Nancy Schlack	09-27
Celia Young	09-27

September

Happy Birthday

MONTHLY PROGRAM NOTES

By Charlotte Hamm

As we approach hurricane season on the Gulf Coast, we tap into county resources for our speaker this month. Our speaker will be Tom Tyler who is the director of Baldwin County Emergency Management. He will bring us up to date on emergency management for Baldwin County.



Tom has worked for the Baldwin County Commission since his retirement from the Alabama National Guard in 2022 and has been the Director of the Emergency Management Agency since August 2023. His military career spanned over 32 years, and he maintained a ten-year career in the transportation industry before beginning active duty with the National Guard in 2002. He served in various command positions, and his overseas deployments include a tour in Iraq during 2007-2008 and another in Kuwait in 2013. His culminating assignment was Director of Military Support for the Alabama National Guard from 2019-2022 where he directed all Alabama National Guard joint civil support operations during hurricanes, civil unrest, and the COVID-19 pandemic response.

He holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama and a Master's degree from Amridge University, and his military education includes the Infantry Officer's Basic Course, the US Army Command and General Staff College, and the Joint Task Force Commander's Course. His military awards include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Iraq Campaign Medal. He and his wife Tricia have been married since 1993, and they have two grown children.



**DO YOU HAVE A HURRICANE PLAN?
SUPPLIES?
WHEN DO YOU LEAVE?**

A Fragrant Farewell: Remembering Dolly Parton in the Garden



By Andreu Riebe

On August 25, 2026, the world lost Dolly Parton at the age of 80. She was a songwriter, performer, philanthropist, and an icon of East Tennessee. Her warmth extended far beyond the realm of country music. What many may not know is that her legacy also continues to thrive in the world of gardening, something that any Master Gardener can truly appreciate.

In 1984, rose hybridizer Joseph F. Winchel developed the hybrid tea rose that would become Rosa 'Dolly Parton,' which was later patented as U.S. Plant Patent PP5,608. The cultivar is a cross between 'Fragrant Cloud' and 'Oklahoma.' The patent describes its blooms as very large, fully double, rich orange-red flowers with an outstanding, heady, somewhat fruity fragrance. Modern growers commonly describe the flowers as reaching about 6 inches across. The patent was issued in December 1985, and more than four decades later, the rose remains available from specialty rose growers.

Dolly herself was candid about the honor. "I'm surprised that a wildflower wasn't named after me," she once said. "Certainly, it's a real compliment to have a rose instead." Although she admitted she wasn't much of a gardener, Dolly turned her namesake rose into a deeply personal tradition at Dollywood.

Beginning in 1992, she planted 'Dolly Parton' roses throughout the park to honor family members and friends. The tradition began at the replica of her childhood cabin, where roses were planted in memory of her parents, Lee and Avie Lee Parton. Other plantings throughout Dollywood similarly commemorate people important to Dolly, with bronze markers identifying the honorees.

Dollywood's love affair with flowers extends beyond the 'Dolly Parton' rose. Each spring, the park's Flower & Food Festival fills the grounds with more than a million flowers, elaborate garden displays, colorful topiaries, and enormous Mosaiculture sculptures—living works of art crafted from thousands of plants. In 2026, the festival ran from April 18 to June 7.

Dolly herself returned to Dollywood in March 2026 to help kick off the park's 41st season, just months before her passing. The connection between Dolly and Dollywood's gardens feels especially poignant this year: the flowers she helped inspire will continue to bloom long after her final season.

It circles back, in the end, to "Wildflowers," the song Dolly wrote and recorded with Linda Ronstadt and Emmylou Harris for their 1987 album Trio. In the song, wildflowers become a metaphor for a person who needs the freedom to grow where she belongs. Dolly spent more than three decades making that image literal, one rosebush at a time.

And perhaps that is an especially fitting way to remember her. Dolly Parton may have been famous for rhinestones and stage lights, but the rose that bears her name is something much quieter: a living plant that returns year after year, bright and fragrant, carrying a little piece of her Tennessee story into gardens far beyond the Smoky Mountains.



Dolly Parton
Hybrid Tea Rose



SUNNY SIDE OF BCMG

THE 2026 GREAT SOUTHEAST POLLINATOR CENSUS

Thanks to all that participated this year!



Coastal AL Community College
Pictures by Mary Calvin and Dawn McKinney

WDLR NOMINATIONS

By Mary Calvin

It's Time Again for WDLR Nominations

Is there someone you would like to recognize for their contributions to Baldwin County Master Gardeners? Why not nominate them for the Wayne de la Rua Award?

This award is named in honor of Master Gardener Wayne de la Rua, who graduated in the first Baldwin County Master Gardener class in 1990. It is presented annually to an active Baldwin County Master Gardener to recognize outstanding service to the organization and its mission.

If you have a candidate that you would like to submit for consideration, I need to receive your nomination no later than September 15. It should be 200-300 words, listing significant accomplishments including dates, activities and offices held.

Please note that only one person may sign each nomination. Other master gardeners may submit additional nominations.

Email your nominations and any questions to me at mscalvin@aol.com.

Again, the deadline for nominations is September 15. Your written nomination will appear in the October issue of Grass Roots. The voting will take place in November, and the award will be presented at the December awards luncheon.

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 – Tany's Waldron
2020 – Jamie Van Valkenburgh & Julian Walthall (tie)	2006 – Sherry Eubanks
2019 – Paula Pritchett	2005 – Harry Anderson
2018 – Pam Tucker	2004 – Carol Griffin
2017 – Loree Hadley	2003 – Gail Terrell & Joanne Caglione (tie)
2016 – Pat Greer & Myra Lassere (tie)	2002 – Mary Gibson
2015 – Gene Sellier	2001 – Jane Wright
2014 – Oattie 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

Pictures by Beth Murray

LIVE OAKS VILLAGE BUTTERFLY GARDEN



Kim Scasny, Joyce Hewitt, and Beth Murray planted a Butterfly Garden for assisted living residents at Live Oaks Village in Foley on August 6, 2026

Total Hours by County - 2026



BCMG currently has 159 members. To date only 103 members have reported CEU and Volunteer hours. Enter your hours today to avoid the year-end rush!

County	--	Num Vols	Vol Hours*	CEU Hours	Contacts
1 Mobile		113	10184	863	344835
2 Baldwin		103	9636	996	12160
3 MG of N. Alabama (Madison Co area)		123	7489	1387	16126
4 Jefferson		147	7253	1023	19458
5 Wiregrass		78	7032	694	12050

CURRENT EVENTS



GROW MORE GIVE MORE

1. Where to Donate, interactive site map link.

Site Map
QR code



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

2. Record Your Donation

[Click Here for
Donation Entry Link](#)

Donation Entry
QR code



Icon- Last day to participate Sept 7. To date, Baldwin County has donated 649 lbs!

SUMMER WEEDERS

Many thanks to the summer weeders at Coastal AL Community College garden. It's been fun to watch the garden change from month to month. We're looking forward to another year in the greenhouse starting in October. If you're interested in working in our native plant greenhouse, contact Mary Calvin, mscalvin@aol.com, 847-269-1594.



JUNE: Jackie Gray, Dawn McKinney, Mary Anne Johnston, Mary Calvin



AUGUST: Jackie Gray, Marie Cooper, Dawn McKinney, Mary Anne Johnston, Linda Kitchens
Not pictured, Sueann Barnwell, Laura Kramer, Terri Withee

PLANT SALE UPDATE

Fall Plant Sale October 16,17,18 9 am - 4 pm

Sign-up sheets will be available at September general meeting.

Pre-sale

Tuesday-Wednesday October 6-7 8:30 am

Grounds Cleanup

Contact Eileen Huisman at 251-215-2651 to get on her list.

Bring gloves, pruners, rakes, trash picker tools, etc.

Saturday October 10

Set-up Day

Paint lines, post signs, etc.

Monday-Wednesday October 12-14

Unload trucks, count, price distribute plants to zones, set-up tents, water plants.

Thursday October 15

Potluck 11:30 am

BCMG Shopping Open 12:30 pm

Sale Days

Friday-Sunday October 16-18 9 am-4 pm

Plant Sale Days

Volunteers needed in morning and afternoon shifts to serve in checkout area, as cashiers, to load plants into vehicles, answer customer questions, and water after closing.

Post- sale

Monday October 19

Post-Sale Breakdown Day

Assist with equipment breakdown/storage and site cleanup.

Fran's Gift Table- Contact Fran Posey-Eversole if you have a stylish or elegant Garden or Fall Decor piece.

Trash to Treasure Table- Contact Lynn Barnes if you have Garden or Fall related books or decor to donate.



UPCOMING EVENTS

COMMUNITY PLANT SWAP EVENT

Hosted at the Fairhope Library

JOIN US: Saturday, Sept. 26 at 10:00 AM Sharp!

READY TO TRADE? We're 6 weeks out!

- Perfect time to start taking cuttings.
- Pot them up.
- Label them!
- So they are rooted and ready.

BRING YOUR HOUSEPLANT BABIES OR OUTDOOR PERENNIALS

Chat with fellow plant lovers!

Get advice from the Baldwin County Master Gardeners.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND SEE YOU SOON!

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 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.

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baldwinmastergardeners.com
[facebook.com / baldwincountymg](https://facebook.com/baldwincountymg)



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 Tom Fortner / Gilda Underwood

Baldwin County Master Gardeners

General Meeting 8/12/2026

President Lynn Barnes called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. She led the members in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. After recognizing guests, members having birthdays in August, past presidents and past Wayne de la Rua Award winners, Lynn turned the meeting over to Charlotte Hamm, program chair, to introduce the speaker. There were 69 members and one visitor present at the meeting.

Charlotte introduced Carmen Flammini, extension agent serving Baldwin and three other counties in south Alabama. Carmen's topic was the Great Southeast Pollinator Census, which will be held Aug. 21-22, 2026, in a number of southeastern states, including Alabama. A large number of Baldwin County master gardeners received training to participate in the census in July. In last year's census, Baldwin County had the highest participation of volunteer census takers of any county in Alabama. Two goals of the census are to establish a sustainable pollinator habitat and to promote citizen pollinator literacy. More information about the census can be found at www.gsepc.org.

After Carmen's talk and a short break, Lynn Barnes began the business portion of the meeting at 11:14 a.m. with the President's Report. Lynn asked if there were any changes or corrections to the July meeting minutes. Hearing none, Charlotte Hamm moved to approve, and Barry Gilliland seconded. The members voted to approve the July minutes.

Lynn announced that the Fall Plant Sale will be held Oct. 16-18, 2026, at the Weeks Bay location. Unlike recent sales, this one will begin on a Friday to allow the opportunity for more shoppers who work weekdays to participate on the weekend. At the last spring sale, which began on Thursday, most plants were gone by noon Saturday. On Saturday at 10 a.m., BCMG member Mary Hamilton will present a seminar on the uses of the plant mullein, which will be available for 1 CEU credit. On Thursday this year, member volunteers will have a potluck lunch beginning at 11:30 and will be able to purchase plants beginning at 12:30.

Lynn announced that BCMG has officially moved out of the small "Trione" greenhouse at Daphne High School and removed all the equipment from that location. BCMG will no longer operate out of the DHS greenhouses.

The organization has leased a copy machine/printer and located it in the Helpline Office on the grounds of the Extension Research Center. The equipment, which should produce a net savings on printing and copying, will be operational once it is added to the local network and made accessible via Wi-Fi.

MEETING MINUTES



By Tom Fortner / Gilda Underwood

The long-term lease agreement between BCMG and the City of Loxley to share a new, 3,000-square-foot greenhouse was executed in late July. The greenhouse will be located at the Loxley Public Works facility at 5151 S. Magnolia Street. BCMG has entered a contract with Atlas Greenhouse for the construction of the building. A contract is pending with Foxcrete for the construction of the concrete foundation for the greenhouse. And BCMG is in the process of purchasing 480 square-foot storage shed to store materials, supplies and equipment.

Carmen presented her report on Alabama Cooperative Extension Service (ACES) activities. She began by saying her experience has been that master gardeners are well-received by localities around Baldwin County where we are conducting activities. Carmen announced that two workshops are scheduled to train master gardener volunteers and others on techniques to propagate native milkweed and general greenhouse plants. The first, focused on native milkweed, is at Graham Creek Nature Preserve 12 noon-3 p.m. Aug. 26. The second, dealing with greenhouse techniques, is at the Grand Hotel in Point Clear 9 am - 2 pm Sept. 15. This second workshop includes a \$10 charge to cover the cost of lunch. Both events are approved for CEU credits. Carmen will send more information about these events to members via email in the next few days.

Carmen said Kerry Smith, head of ACES, has been leading an effort to improve the functionality and usability of the website members use to report service hours. A number of BCMG members have contributed to this effort. The goals are to better document the impact of master gardener volunteers on the communities they serve and to make the process of logging service hours more user-friendly.

Shannon Russell, projects chair, discussed a new project approved for Live Oak Village in Foley – a pollinator garden. It is not yet listed on the BCMG website.

Shannon also mentioned a new group that is volunteering hours on an ad hoc basis to do maintenance on various established horticulture projects in Baldwin County – the “Weed Warriors.” She passed around a sign-up sheet for those interested in participating.

Karon Pennington discussed the upcoming Fall Plant Sale. She directed members to sign-up sheets to volunteer for various activities. They include:

- Tuesday-Wednesday, Oct. 6-7: Grounds Cleanup
- Saturday, Oct. 10: Setup Day – Paint lines delineating plant zones; post signs, etc.

MEETING MINUTES



By Tom Fortner / Gilda Underwood

- Monday-Wednesday, Oct. 12-14: Unload trucks; count, price and distribute plants to zones; set up tents for various activities (cashier, Trash/Treasure, raffle, etc.); water plants daily.
- Friday-Sunday, Oct. 16-18, (Sale hours 9 a.m.-4 p.m.): Volunteers needed in morning and afternoon shifts to serve as checkout/cashiers; loading purchases into customer vehicles; answering customer questions; and, after each day's sale, plant consolidation and watering.
- Monday, Oct. 19: Assist with equipment breakdown/storage and site cleanup post-sale.

In further business, Mary Calvin solicited nominations for this year's Wayne de la Rua Awards, which honor an active BCMG member for outstanding service to the organization. Nominations are due to Mary no later than Sept. 15 and should be 200 to 300 words describing the nominee's significant accomplishments, including dates, activities and offices held. Only one master gardener can sign each nomination. Email nominations to mscalvin@aol.com.

Under Old Business, Lynn Barnes mentioned that there appear to be missing items from our storage unit. She asked that members who may have items in their possession please return them.

There was no New Business to discuss.

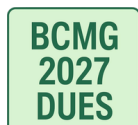
After door prizes donated by Joyce Hewitt were distributed to the lucky winners, Wanda Martin announced that the Speakers Bureau listing of topics has been updated and now lists 17 new gardening topics of interest. Find the new listing and the form to solicit a speaker on the BCMG website.

There being no further business, Deborah Marriott moved to adjourn the meeting, Sara Semmes seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.



CALL for VOLUNTEERS

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



**Payment must be made
before DEC. 10th, 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

Online Classes

Back 2 Basics Gardening Series

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

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.

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.

Eco-Friendly Fridays Webinar Series

Online, AL
The second Friday of each month
11:00 to 11:45 a.m.

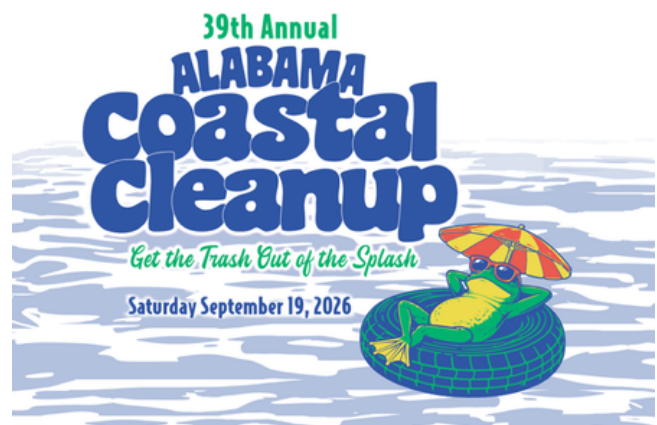
September 11—From Nest to Fledgling: Making Your Landscape Bird Friendly

October 9—TBA

November 13—E-Waste and the Environment: Problems and Practical Solutions

HARD OF HEARING?

Well, Turnip the volume!





By Andreu Riebe

Report Your Hours: Button Update

The next time you log in to the Service Report system, you'll notice a small but handy change on the "Report Your Hours" page: the Report Donations and Report CEU Hours buttons have moved from the right side of the row to the left, right next to Quick Menu and Full Menu.

The goal of this change is to improve visibility and, hopefully, increase use.

Questions?

If you run into any trouble navigating the Service Report system, reach out to:

Andreu Riebe, Hours Manager

andreu.ar@baldwinmastergardeners.com

Tech Tip

A new Download/Print page lets you download your hours entries by year, along with printable layouts.

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

Deadline: 20th of each month



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



CALENDAR

SEP 09 2026 BCMG September Monthly Meeting (9:30 am Social, 10 am Meeting)
 SEP 15 2026 WDLR Nominations due, see page 7 for details
 SEP 19 2026 Alabama Coastal Cleanup, website - alabamacoastalcleanup.com
 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 -See flyer
 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**
 APR 07 2027 AMGA 2027 Conference April 7-9, Jefferson County, Homewood, AL

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 September 9, 2026
 Research Station, Hwy 104
 9:30 am - Social
 10 am - Meeting

Plant Sale Committee Meeting to follow

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.