

GRASS ROOTS

NEWSLETTER OF THE BALDWIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, INC.

OCTOBER 2026

www.baldwinmastergardeners.com

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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Lynn Barnes

"Volunteering"

I'm sure each of you is an expert on my topic this month. Master Gardeners volunteer their time, energy, money, thoughts and life for the sake of plants. And you probably volunteer at church and other groups like garden clubs. You probably help your neighbors and take food to those who are home from the hospital.

Do you know that you might live longer because of your willingness to volunteer? It's true! I'll share a few of the benefits to your body, mind and soul.

Volunteering gives us a sense of purpose and fulfillment. It can help us feel happier and more optimistic. As we age, it can help us stay physically healthy. It helps us build confidence and self-esteem. It can help us make new friends and connect with others in the community. We can learn valuable new skills when we volunteer. We often socialize with others when we volunteer; this can add to our positive outlook.



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By Lynn Barnes

I want to thank each of you as you continue to volunteer as a Baldwin County Master Gardener. You are truly making a difference. As our Fall Plant Sale approaches, there will be many ways to help. Thank you in advance for helping to make it a great success!

Your friend,
Lynn Barnes



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

October

Sally Demott	10-01
Judi Smith	10-04
Tim Kant	10-06
Marie Cooper	10-06
Nicholas Stroh	10-09
Linda Kitchens	10-12
Sherry Cook	10-14
Sarah Duncan	10-17
Kimberly Musson	10-18
Everett Gillis	10-21
Laraine Delahanty	10-27

Happy Birthday



MONTHLY PROGRAM NOTES

By Charlotte Hamm

"TOOL MAINTENANCE"

Mr. James Miles is a speaker from my Master Gardener intern class of 2019, that stood out to me, not for my interest in the topic, but that he made the topic interesting. If my memory is correct, he spoke on fruit trees and how to properly prune them. See what I mean...I had no fruit trees and had no plans for grapevines in my gardening future. But I listened, because he was an interesting, effectual speaker. And I have heard him speak on other topics in workshops, since that first time in class. Sometimes those teachers come into your life and it is good to remember them. Please join us for our October general meeting on Wednesday October 14, as James Miles will speak on Tool Maintenance. I know some members will be involved with sale set-up at Weeks Bay, but please come hear him speak on this task we all "are" or "should be" doing to prolong our tools and actually make gardening tasks easier.

James Miles graduated with a bachelor's degree in Horticulture from Alabama A & M University in 1990, and was employed by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System in 1991. There he served as a Regional Extension Agent (REA) with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System in southwest Alabama for 30 years and retired in 2020. In that position, he was the Commercial Horticulture REA for 11 counties, and his office was in the Jon Archer Agricultural Center, Mobile, AL. He has worked in all areas of horticulture on both the home and commercial programming levels. He was also involved with several On-site Result Demonstrations in the area of Fruits & Vegetables, Turf, and Christmas Trees. He conducted several pesticide meetings over the years, including Worker Protection Standards. Tony Glover and James Miles co-founded the Mobile County Master Gardener Program.

Having retired from his extension career, he was hired in 2020 by Natural Resources Conservation Services as a Soil Conservation Technician. In this position, he provides assistance to the Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) in his assigned area. A major part of his responsibility is to work with landowners to apply and maintain numerous conservation practices.

James Miles loves fishing, traveling, gardening, and cooking. Take note all you fisherman out there; he regularly competes in bass tournaments throughout the southeast U.S.



KNOW YOUR HOURS, KNOW YOUR AWARD

By Andreu Riebe

What to report, when to report it, and how your hours become an AMGA award.

The hours reporting year runs from January 1 through December 31. **All hours are due by December 31 each year.** That gives us time to review entries and prepare the award orders.

How your award total is calculated

Awards are based on your Total Lifetime hours, counted from the start of your Master Gardener career.

Total Lifetime = Lifetime Vol Hours + Lifetime CEU Hours

Lifetime Vol Hours = your volunteer hours + travel time to and from volunteer activities

Lifetime CEU Hours = your continuing education hours

AMGA award levels (Reach for the Stars)

100 – 299	Bronze Star	8,000 – 9,999	Silver Star Pin Diamond
300 – 499	Silver Star	10,000 – 11,999	Silver Star Pin Amethyst
500 – 999	Gold Star	12,000 – 14,999	Silver Star Pin Navy blue
1,000 – 1,999	Gold Name Badge	15,000 – 16,999	Silver Star Pin Garnet
2,000 – 3,999	Platinum Name Badge	17,000 – 19,999	Silver Star Pin Rainbow
4,000 – 5,999	Silver Star Pin Ruby	20,000 and up	Silver Star Pin Champagne
6,000 – 7,999	Silver Star Pin Emerald		

When are awards presented?

All awards are presented to members at our July awards ceremony. Hours recorded during 2026 are presented at the July 2027 ceremony.

Staying Certified Active

To remain Certified Active each year you need at least **25 volunteer hours** and **10 CEUs** in the Service Report, a **signed ACES MOU**, and current local and AMGA **dues**. Only Certified Active members, including Advanced members, may vote, hold office, or serve on the BCMG board. BCMG dues are \$25 per year.

Questions? Contact Andreu Riebe, BCMG Awards & Volunteer Hours Manager, at andreu.ar@baldwinmastergardeners.com.

A full member guide with every membership classification is on the BCMG website.

WDLR INTRODUCTIONS

By Mary Calvin

Wayne de la Rua Nominations

Thank you to those who wrote these wonderful contributions to three outstanding Master Gardeners. They include an unusual double nomination. Please take your time to read all three and consider how you will vote this year.

Active BCMG members will receive an email ballot from Extension on November 1. You may vote only once. If you choose to vote by email, please return the ballot to the special email address WDLRAward@gmail.com with your name and your nominee's name. If you would prefer to vote in person, Carmen or her representative from Extension will have ballots at the BCMG general meeting on November 11. In-person and email voting ends at noon on November 11. The winner will be announced on December 9 at the awards luncheon.



The Wayne de la Rua Award, named for Wayne de la Rua, a member of the 1990 BCMG class, is a peer-recognition award that a member receives through a process of written nomination from one or more active master gardeners and selection through secret ballot of the membership.

The award is a lifetime achievement honor that a master gardener earns through consistent demonstration of passion and hard work toward the BCMG organization and its mission. Rarely, a member might make a singular, perhaps one time, contribution of outstanding merit.

Nevertheless, it is the quality, not the quantity of service hours that a master gardener contributes that earns a Wayne de la Rua Award.

WDLR NOMINATION LETTERS

Nomination of Gilda Underwood Submitted by Lynn Barnes

I would like to nominate Gilda Underwood for this prestigious award. She truly has a servant's heart as evidenced by how much behind-the-scenes work she does and never seeks attention for her good deeds. When we have board meetings or general meetings, Gilda usually arrives at least an hour early in case the room needs to be set up and the temperature adjusted. She often moves a lot of tables around and rearranges chairs. And then she stays to clean up.



Gilda was instrumental in helping us receive the large grant from the Schmieding Foundation. Once we received the money, she was enthusiastic and diligent about lining up contracts with the City of Loxley, Atlas Greenhouses, and Foxcrete Concrete Company. She's also working on getting the proper sign made for the location. She is a very determined person.

As Secretary, Gilda has taken minutes for two years for our board meetings and general meetings. She is a stickler for accuracy and completeness. She is extremely competent and confident as our Secretary. She always meets her deadlines and spends many hours working in this capacity.

She volunteers at many of our community events. When we have an event that involves children, she often plays Pollinator Bingo with them and supplies the prizes. She likes to work with all ages. She is always kind and engaging when she interacts with the public. She dedicates her time, labor and skills to help Baldwin Master Gardeners and mankind. She is a shining example as she fulfills our mission statement. Please consider Gilda Underwood as the next winner of the Wayne de la Rua Award.

WDLR NOMINATION LETTERS

Dual Nomination of Don Richerson and Gilda Underwood Submitted by Anita OConnor



I nominate Don Richerson (2021) and Gilda Underwood (2024).

Looking back 35 years, our organization on 4 occasions has had 2 people share in the Wayne de la Rua award (2003, 2013, 2016, 2020). This year I believe both Don and Gilda have worked hand-in-hand to secure the future lifeblood of our organization, working to build our greenhouse in Loxley.

Don Richerson accepted the nomination of presidency in 2024. He served two terms because the then VP did not move up to president. This alone was a huge donation of his time (4 years) for the BCMG organization. Don participated a number of years at the Daphne Greenhouse (2021-2024). He quickly realized the handshake agreement with the Baldwin County School Board (that Frank Trione established) was in jeopardy. He formed a search committee to secure property on which the organization could build our greenhouse. After many attempts and 3 possible parcels, he was able to secure an agreement with the City of Loxley. He provided a lawyer pro bono as well to complete our contract.

Gilda Underwood, while serving on the board and being very connected to the City of Loxley along with the help of the grant committee, was able to secure the money necessary to build the first greenhouse our organization will occupy for 30 years.

WDLR NOMINATION LETTERS

Nomination of Don Richarson and Gilda Underwood, continued.

Plant propagation is vital to our organization. We are now very secure and able to depend on our own plants for the plant sale. This is a huge relief and we owe much gratitude to these nominees.

Don has also participated in the annual Arbor Days, the Seed Swap in Bay Minette, and has generated large company donations for our very successful conference. Don has worked the plant sales as a cashier and volunteered as a mentor for the class interns.

Gilda has been very involved in hospitality for our meetings, luncheons and especially the intern class. She too has volunteered as a mentor. Gilda has served on the board as the recording secretary and been nominated as a member at large to follow through with the building of the greenhouse. She too has been involved with our plant sale. Gilda has been instrumental in securing monetary support for the Coastal Alabama Community College Greenhouse.

I cannot stress strongly enough how important these past two years of their work will be for the continuation of the success of our organization as we have known it to be over the past 35 years.

Don and Gilda embody the passion and hard work needed to sustain BCMG success in the coming years. Their work represents a huge contribution and both are deserving of this award.

WDLR NOMINATION LETTERS

Nomination of Elmer Vick Submitted by Tom Fortner

"Salt of the Earth" is an old-fashioned expression that describes someone who is exceptionally honest, hard-working, reliable and humble.

I cannot think of a person who better fits this description than Elmer Vick. For that reason, and for his many years of selfless service to Baldwin County Master Gardeners, I nominate Elmer (Intern Class of 2016) for the Wayne de la Rua Award.



Because I only completed master gardener training two years ago, I have only recently become better acquainted with Elmer. I served with him during my first year on the board of directors, which happened to be the last of Elmer's three years as projects chair. Then in the last six months, as activity has ramped up on the development of a greenhouse with the City of Loxley, I have had the opportunity to work more closely with Elmer.

Now I know why so many of our veteran master gardeners speak so highly of Elmer Vick. I'll give you one example. Because he is knowledgeable about such things, Elmer was tasked with finding a storage shed to house supplies and equipment for our new greenhouse. In short order, he identified the perfect shed to meet our needs and arranged for its delivery to the site. But that's not all. The day after the shed was delivered, Elmer called me about his plans for wiring the shed himself and either building or purchasing shelving. That's when I realized that Elmer is always one step ahead in asking the question: "What can I do to help?"

That positive attitude has redounded to the benefit of our master gardener community in a multitude of ways over the years. That's because Elmer is an unusually capable man. He can build anything, grow anything (even before he became a master gardener), fix anything and teach anyone how to do any of these things themselves.

WDLR NOMINATION LETTERS

Nomination of Elmer Vick, continued

Just a few examples:

- Shortly after intern training, Elmer became a fixture in the Helpline center. For five years, he consistently logged hours each week assisting callers with their gardening questions. When he didn't know the answer, he researched the question and got back to the caller, even when he was no longer on duty. And he was often the first to answer the call for experienced master gardeners to supervise interns completing their required Helpline hours.
- Elmer was a huge help when we took occupancy of the small greenhouse at Coastal Alabama Community College. He was part of a group that got the greenhouse in ship-shape condition for nursery activities, and he built a propagation table that is still in use today.
- Elmer and his wife Jean (an honorary master gardener) for years have grown tomato plants from seed and sold them at master gardener meetings. Their tomato of choice, known for performing well in coastal Alabama's heat and humidity, was developed by Elmer's master gardener mentor, horticulturalist John Kitch. The Vicks donate all the proceeds from the sales toward cancer research in memory of Mr. Kitch, who died of the disease.
- At the BCMG state conference in 2024, Elmer led a team of master gardeners in a demonstration of how to build a greenhouse with PVC pipe and plastic sheeting. This innovative seminar provided attendees a welcome diversion from the more typical lecture-style sessions.
- Whenever the greenhouse at Daphne High School needed a little TLC, Elmer was at-the-ready with tools, materials and know-how to do whatever was needed.

It's been a long-standing conviction of Elmer's that BCMG needs a greenhouse to call our own. As we come closer to realizing that goal, I realize and appreciate that it's people like Elmer – honest, hard-working, reliable, humble – that got us here.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

RUFF WILSON GARDEN GURUS-What an effort !

Karon Pennington, Linda Kitchens,Dawn McKinney. Picture-Shannon Russell



Grass Roots
Blue Ribbon
Award



72	9/14
71	9/13
70	8/30
69	8/29
68	8/23
67	8/16
66	8/14
65	8/12
64	8/10
63	8/8
62	8/3
61	7/30
60	7/23
59	7/16
58	7/9
57	7/2
56	6/30
55	6/27
54	6/11
53	6/2

POUNDS

DATE

BUSY BEE RIBBON



Claudia Barbee, Gilda Underwood, & Sueann Barnwell. Picture-Loree Hadley.

PLANT SALE UPDATE

**Fall Plant Sale
October 16,17,18
Friday, Saturday, Sunday
9 am - 4 pm**



Want to help with plant sale? It's not too late to sign up!

Tuesday-Wednesday October 6-7 8:30 am Grounds Cleanup

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

BRING YOUR OWN: gloves, pruners, saws, loppers, trimmers, rakes, trash grabbers, 5-gallon bucket for sticks, weed-eaters, and water to drink.

Saturday October 10 Set-up Day

Call Karon Pennington at 504-339-5947 to let her know you will be onsite.

Paint lines, post signs, manage ant piles, etc.

Monday-Wednesday October 12-14 9:30 am Plant Deliveries

Call Dolores Hammack at 985-969-0579

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

Thursday October 15 11:30 am Potluck

BCMG Shopping Opens 12:30 pm

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.

Sunday-Monday October 18-19. Post-Sale Breakdown Day

Assist Dolores with equipment and table breakdown/storage and site cleanup.

DONATIONS NEEDED

The Blooming Gardeners Table- Contact Fran Posey-Eversole if you have a stylish or elegant Garden or Fall Decor piece that can be used for the silent auction.

Yesterday's Treasure Table- Contact Lynn Barnes if you have gently used Garden or Fall related books or decor to donate.

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

**30+
Ginger
Varieties!**

- Shrubs
- Trees
- & More

Limited carts available
bringing your own is
appreciated.

Stay Connected
baldwinmastergardeners.com
facebook.com / baldwincountymg



PLANTMANIA

Daphne

Daphne , AL

October 23 & 24, 2026

Daphne Civic Center

** Friday/Saturday expo **

Now Accepting Vendors



Pumpkins & Poultry 360

Register now!
Cost \$10

**Ideal for backyard
poultry owners,
home gardeners,
and pumpkin
enthusiasts**

**Gulf Coast Research &
Extension Center**
8300 Hwy 104 Fairhope
October 9
9:00 am - 12:00 am

Grow it! Cook it! Feed it?

- Growing healthy pumpkins
- Storing & preserving
- Pumpkin nutrition
- Myths vs. facts on pumpkins in chicken keeping

Plus! Make & taste pumpkin soup & cinnamon rolls!

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 free language access services, contact Sarah Butterworth at sb0010@aces.edu by October 1, 2026.



Ladies, Land & Livestock

LEARNING • LEADERSHIP • STEWARDSHIP

October 8
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Grass Hopper Farms
Rosinton

Spend the day on the farm enjoying hands-on learning, meaningful fellowship, and practical livestock and land management experiences alongside other women in agriculture.

Lunch will be served.



Register Here



ACWA
USDA
FSA
extension

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 free language access services, contact Sarah Butterworth at 251-937-7176 by Oct. 1, 2026.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Save the Date!

2027 AMGA State Conference

April 7-9, 2027,
Homewood



 **UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION** | 

**GREAT SOUTHEAST
Pollinator Census**

AUGUST 20-23, 2027

Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Monday

An Equal Opportunity Institution.

New for 2027
Counting for 4 days, an app will be introduced and the
State of Tennessee will be helping with the count.



CALL for VOLUNTEERS

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

**BCMG
2027
DUES**

**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

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

Baldwin County Master Gardeners

General Meeting 9/09/2026

Lynn Barnes, President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. She requested everyone to stand and join in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Lynn asked guests to raise their hands, and Marianne Todd raised hers as a returning guest. Lynn asked all September birthday members to please stand. All past Presidents and Wayne de la Rua award winners were also asked to stand and be recognized. Members applauded these recognitions. There were 74 people in attendance.

Lynn asked Charlotte Hamm, Monthly Program Chair, to introduce the guest speaker. Charlotte welcomed Tom Tyler, Director of the Emergency Management Agency, who provided an update on emergency management in Baldwin County. He joined the Baldwin County Commission in 2022 after careers in transportation and the National Guard, where he held several command positions and overseas deployments. From 2019 to 2022, he served as Director of Military Support for the Alabama National Guard, overseeing joint civil support operations during hurricanes, civil unrest, and the COVID-19 pandemic response.

Tom Tyler asked how many attendees remembered Hurricane Sally, the county's most recent hurricane, as well as Hurricanes Frederic, Ivan, and Camille in 1969. September 10 marks the peak of hurricane season, and storms later in the season are often the most intense. The Gulf of America's water temperature drives the region's climate. This year, the positive news is an El Niño climate pattern, which primarily affects the tropical Pacific.

To prepare for storms, he recommended storing one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days. Residents should also plan for power outages by securing supplies, gas, food, home wind protection, and reliable local weather information. Most storm-related deaths result from storm surge and heavy rainfall that causes flooding. He also reminded everyone never to place a generator in a garage or near an open window.

County and local authorities can recommend an evacuation, but only the Governor can order a mandatory evacuation. The county has a list of locations for emergency shelters and this year Baldwin County Coliseum in Robertsdale is a pet-friendly emergency shelter that will serve 300 people. Always remember FEMA has a treasure trove of information that is shared with the public.

He noted that while hurricanes are a common emergency concern, Baldwin County's rapid growth is creating additional challenges. New subdivisions are expanding throughout the county, and industrial development is increasing in the north part of the county. As a result, north-south roads become critical evacuation routes during emergencies, and growth also places pressure on schools. He said about 15 families move to Baldwin County each day. The county's population was 231,000 in the 2020 census and approached 270,000 in the 2025 census.

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

Baldwin County has a written plan for almost every emergency. Tom invited all to research the emergency plans on the Baldwin County website:

<https://www.baldwincountyal.gov/services/ema>

Tom said industrial growth has increased his emergency-management focus on hazardous-material risks. Hazardous materials already move through Baldwin County along I-10, I-65, Highway 59, and the Intracoastal Waterway. In 2026, the U.S. Coast Guard will partner with Baldwin County Emergency Management to conduct a hazardous-materials drill on the Intracoastal Waterway.

A major challenge in Baldwin County disaster management is coordinating communication among the many agencies and organizations involved. Large emergencies may involve state, federal, county, local, private, and nonprofit partners, as well as the party responsible for the incident. When leadership is not immediately clear, these groups work together through a unified command structure. Baldwin County 9-1-1 serves as the county's communications specialist.

Baldwin County has 37 fire departments, of which 31 are career departments. Local volunteer fire departments typically respond to wildfires. The Alabama Forestry Commission controls prescribed burns and works with landowners to mitigate the spread of forest fires.

Lynn thanked Tom Tyler and invited a few more questions from the audience. Attendees applauded, and the meeting paused for a short refreshment break.

After the break, President Lynn Barnes opened the business portion of the meeting. She asked whether there were any corrections to the August 12th General Meeting minutes. Hearing none, Gail Hand moved to approve the minutes, Barry Gilliland seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Tom Fortner, Vice President and member of the Nominating Committee, announced the slate of seven members to be elected as officers on the Board for the 2027 year. The selected officers are President, Tom Fortner; Vice President, Deborah Marriott; Members at Large, Brian Boucher and Gilda Underwood; Corresponding Secretary, Kim Scasny; Recording Secretary, Aletza Boucher; Treasurer, Marty French. This slate of officers will be announced at our October General Meeting and will be elected by written ballot at our November General meeting. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the meeting. Six additional members will be appointed to Board positions and announced later.

A new 12' x 40' white storage shed was delivered last Friday to the greenhouse site at 5151 Magnolia Street in Loxley and is now in place. There has been discussion back and forth with Atlas and Foxcrete on the recommended concrete slab requirements. We are waiting to get a new cost quote for the updated slab. Atlas will be delivering greenhouse components on a large trailer that will sit on the greenhouse property in September. About three weeks after that Atlas will send a crew to assemble the greenhouse.

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

They will also send an electrical team to do the wiring. Assembly should take about a week. Perhaps by the end of October or early November we will be able to take possession. We will have a special opening party for all the membership.

Special thanks were given to Elmer Vick for his work in securing the shed. Lynn Barnes reviewed the City of Loxley's lease agreement with all the members. Under our 30-year agreement with the City of Loxley, BCMG pays \$1 per year while Loxley provides electricity, gas, and water. Loxley will use one-third of the greenhouse, and BCMG will use the remaining two-thirds.

ACES REPORT: Carmen Flammini, Alabama Regional Extension Agent, reminded everyone to report their volunteer hours in their Service Report. Reporting volunteer hours is very important. She reminded us that "we are the best county ever".

There will be a greenhouse training session next week on Tuesday September 15th from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Grand Hotel in Point Clear. You will need to register by sending an email request to Carmen. She will reply by sending you a link for registration. There is a charge of \$10.00 as lunch will be provided. The class is limited to 42 attendees. The Grand Hotel has offered BCMG two tables in their greenhouse to use for the milkweed project. Also, Stapleton Elementary School has offered BCMG space for growing milkweed.

On April 10, 2027, BCMG will help the City of Foley with their "Welcome Back Monarchs" event at 9:00 AM in the new Foley Community Library located at 230 East Orange Avenue in Foley. We will have a Monarch presentation and will have 200 milkweed plants to donate. They have requested we have someone to dress like a butterfly.

In October or November, a workshop will be held for all BCMG Speakers Bureau members. The session will cover presentation techniques and marketing for the new "And Justice for All" program, which informs the public about non-discrimination policies. Also, anyone interested in giving presentations should attend. Carmen will contact Wanda Martin.

If you would like to build a terrarium and/or Christmas ornament, Carmen needs 12 participants. Having a Christmas activity will be fun.

The Great Southeast Pollinator Census should have data entered by Monday. The portal closes on September 14. Also, on September 14, 15, 16 there will be BCMG volunteers needed to teach 7th graders from Fairhope at the Pelican Nest as they practice doing the Pollinator Census for the future.

Lynn Barnes asked members paying their \$25 dues today to give their checks to her in Treasurer Cassandra Rabren's absence. A portion must be sent to AMGA by December 31, 2026, to avoid a penalty.

Karon Pennington and Dolores Hammack gave a report on the upcoming Fall Plant Sale to be held in October at Weeks Bay.

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

They had a chart for every day of the week beginning with grounds cleanup headed by Master Gardener Eileen Huisman on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 6 and 7. The Site Layout, which is painting the aisle lines and setting the signs, will be done on Saturday October the 10.

Basic setup for tables and tents will begin Monday, October 12, along with unloading and pricing plants. After pricing, plants will be moved to their sales areas. Setup will continue Tuesday and Wednesday, October 13 and 14. Volunteers are needed to water plants each morning and afternoon from Monday, October 12, through Saturday, October 17. The Master Gardeners' potluck lunch will be held Thursday, October 15.

The Fall Plant Sales will start on Friday, October 16 and go through Sunday the 18th. There are flyers prepared for you to take and distribute. When the sale starts, we will need people at the checkout lines to pull the price tags and put on a tally sheet to give to the customer to go to the cashier's station. Runners will be needed to offload the plants at a loading zone and get the wagons back into circulation. Gilda Underwood will manage this on Friday, but we will need a checkout line team leader on Saturday and Sunday.

Lynn announced the regular General Meeting with a speaker (CEU) will be at Gulf Coast Research Center on Hwy. 104 on Wednesday October 14. BCMG members will be at two places on Wednesday. Dolores said that most deliveries will be scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, but there might be a truck that comes on Wednesday. Dolores will have this timeline in the October Grass Roots Newsletter. Sign up sheets are available today. Dolores was happy to announce that there will be really nice ginger plants this year. A variegated banana will be on the donation ticket table. Dolores invited everyone to let her know if there were plant(s) you would like to order.

OUTREACH EVENTS: Linda Mong, Outreach Chair, announced that on September 26 at the Fairhope Public Library at 10:00 AM there will be a community Plant Swap event. María Curow is the chairperson. A signup sheet is available.

On October 3 there will be Daphne Community Spirit Day at Lott Park in Daphne. Shannon Russell is the chairperson. BCMG will have a table and tent. Sign up sheets are available for the hours 1:30 - 3:30 PM and 3:30 - 5:30 PM. Bring a chair if possible. Master Gardeners will provide information and provide a children's game and prizes. A signup sheet is available.

TREASURER and FINANCIAL REPORTS: Finance Chair Mickey Ezell reported that BCMG has \$ 61,700.00 in the checking account, \$98,574.73 in the grant money market account for the greenhouse, a \$5,298.21 CD for seed money, and a \$25,000.00 CD. Major purchases this month included a storage building for \$16,158.06 and a \$16,720.43 deposit to Foxcrete for the greenhouse foundation.

Members in charge of projects need to calculate the money spent in 2026 and give a close estimate for the money needed in 2027.

MEETING MINUTES



By Gilda Underwood

If anyone needs to be reimbursed for money spent, please get the reimbursement form and tickets turned into Cassandra for reimbursement. Last year there was some guessing about the money needed. We hope this year we all are able to predict a close estimate of the funds needed. There are a lot of programs and more programs to come. We want to be prepared for 2027.

Mickey asked each program and event leader to estimate their 2027 funding needs on the budget form and submit it to him or Cassandra by the November General Meeting. He also encouraged members to work hard on the Fall Plant Sale to help ensure adequate funding for 2027 projects.

Mickey announced that on September 17 there will be a Weeks Bay garden clean up day from 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM. Volunteers are needed.

Lynn invited Master Gardener Donna Armstrong to speak about the "Grow More Give More" program. Donna reminded members that this year's program included a 250-pound challenge ending on Labor Day, with 55 counties participating. Baldwin County ranked 22nd and exceeded the challenge by donating and recording 733 pounds of food. Members who shared excess garden produce with neighbors, food banks, churches, and others helped address food insecurity in the community. Donna explained that this program was modeled after the Victory Gardens of World War I and World War II.

"Grow More Give More" did not end on Labor Day; it continues year-round. Deborah Marriott suggested we continue donating and recording into the fall with our Satsumas.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS: Lynn announced a "Busy Bee" award goes to Sueann Barnwell, Gilda Underwood, and Claudia Barbee for taking down tables and setting up chairs for the General Meeting.

Lynn announced that the AMGA Advisory Council meets quarterly at Petals from the Past in Jemison, Alabama, with the next meeting scheduled for November 2. AMGA encouraged strong BCMG attendance, and Lynn invited interested members to attend and consider carpooling. BCMG has sent \$1,800 to the Alabama Master Gardeners Association (AMGA) for membership dues.

A door prize drawing was held for a flower arrangement, two plants and fresh eggs. Also, Connie Gillespie brought Rosemary plants to share.

Tom Fortner moved to adjourn the meeting, and Vicky Franks seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the General Meeting adjourned at 12:07 PM.

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 am

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 pm

October 14

Portable Sawmills and Solar Wood Drying Kilns

Eco-Friendly Fridays Webinar Series

Online, AL

The second Friday of each month
11:00 to 11:45 am

October 9–TBA

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

Photography Class

Online

October 7, 2026 at 10 am

November 4, 2026 at 10 am

Join a group to learn about
photography.

Alabama Smart Yards Webinar Series

Online, AL

When: The fourth Wednesday of
each month at 1 pm

October 28–2026 Great Southeast Pollinator
Census Updates

November 25–Phenology in Flower Gardens

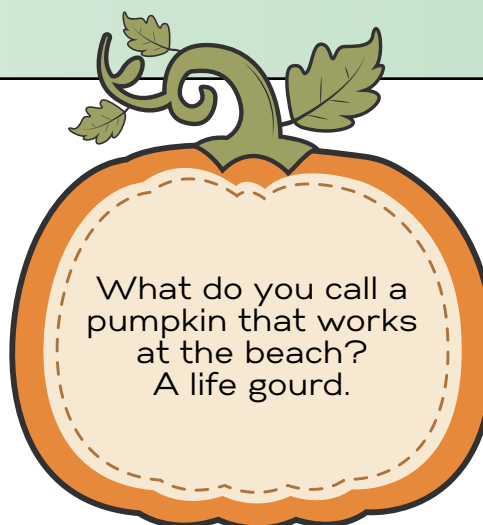
Onsite Classes

Tree Care Workshop Mobile County

**Jon Archer Agricultural Center, 1070 Schillinger Rd N,
Mobile, AL 36608**

Nov. 17, 7:30 am to 3:30 pm

A workshop that covers the care and needs of trees
in the landscape settings.
CEUs and master gardener credits available.





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.

Total Hours by County - 2026

* This County Reports page combines Vol Hours and Travel Hours.

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

Totals as of 10/01/2026

County	Num Vols	Vol Hours*	CEU Hours
1 Mobile	118	11995	1132
2 Baldwin	108	10598	1200
3 Jefferson	151	8667	1144
4 MG of N. Alabama (Madison Co area)	126	8658	1489
5 Wiregrass	80	7900	824

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

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), James Miles
OCT	16	2026	BCMG Fall Plant Sale, Weeks Bay. Oct 16,17,18th. Friday, Saturday, Sunday
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)
NOV	11	2026	WDLR Voting Deadline
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

**How did the tree get a new job?
She had the right qua-leaf-ications.**

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 October 14, 2026
Research Station, Hwy 104
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.