

GRASS ROOTS

NEWSLETTER OF THE BALDWIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, INC.

March 2007

Volume XV Issue III



Meet Your Daphne Greenhouse Volunteers

By Tanys Waldron

This column has been called 'Meet Your Board Members'. It has been expanded so that Baldwin County Master Gardeners can meet more of our Volunteers.

Baldwin County Master Gardeners give their time and enthusiasm to two different greenhouses. Daphne High School greenhouse and South Baldwin Center for Technology greenhouse in Robertsdale. This article will be about Daphne Greenhouse and in September the SBCT greenhouse volunteers will be featured.

Both greenhouses grow plants that are sold at the Master Gardener Plant sale in March. The purpose of the greenhouse work is to have plants available at very low cost for the plant sale. The revenues from the plant sale go towards funding Scholarships given by Baldwin County Master Gardeners to students taking Horticultural and Agricultural programs at a college and university level and for special Master Gardener projects.

The Master Gardener team who help at the Daphne High School Greenhouse are Urte Bollen, Jeff Doherty, Betty Gay, Ann McAdams, Louis McGrath, Linda O'Rear, Michelle Patton, Ann Pierce, Judy Stauder, Rebecca Trosclair, Selena



L-R: Ann McAdams, Rebecca Trosclair, Ann Pierce, Ronnie Zak, Linda O'Rear, Judy Stauder

Vaughn and Ronnie Zak.

Many of the volunteers have worked there for years. Three volunteers who deserve special mention for their efforts over the years are Urte Bollen, Judy Stauder and Gail Terrell. Urte has worked at the greenhouse since 1995, Judy since 1998 and Gail since 1999. These three Master Gardeners love

(Continued on Page 5)



President's Corner

by Sam Andrews

March is the month when the Last Average Frost Date arrives for much of Baldwin County. It is time to breath a lot of fresh air, listen to the arriving birds and get your hands dirty.

Your group has a very busy month ahead. Especially important is our Spring Plant Sale that provides the money we need for operations, projects and our horticultural

scholarships.

Linda O'Rear and Selena Vaughn are leading us in this major effort. Preparation for the Plant Sale requires many months to plan and execute. Plant lists, suppliers, publicity, signage, transportation and many other things are developed. The Daphne

(Continued on Page 5)

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|---|
| <i>Meeting Minutes</i> | 2 |
| <i>Program Notes</i> | 2 |
| <i>Armadillos and Insects</i> | 2 |
| <i>Projects Report</i> | 3 |
| <i>Festival of Flowers</i> | 3 |
| <i>Plants of the Month-March</i> | 4 |
| <i>Meet Our New Crop of Interns</i> | 6 |
| <i>Alabama State Master Gardener Conference</i> | 6 |
| <i>Plant Sale Flyer</i> | 7 |
| <i>Mark Your Calendar</i> | 8 |



Meeting Minutes

by Ann Pierce

President Sam Andrews opened the meeting at 10:00 am, welcoming visitors and Master Gardeners attending this open meeting.

The BCMG Plant Sale will be held March 16 and 17 at the usual location at Weeks Bay Reserve. Selena Vaughn has volunteer sign-up sheets on the back table for this important project.

The new Intern class, organized by Joyce Mudrak, has 29 students, with several interns here today. The State Convention will be in April, with Harry Anderson and Liz Mundine planning to attend. The National Convention will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Selena Vaughn and Tanys Waldron are facilitating outreach at Lowe's in Malbis during March, April and May, one Saturday each month. Volunteers will be giving out the Info Line phone number and address to interested gardeners.

Diane Nowicki announced that the Gulf Shores Tour of Homes will be held Saturday, February 24. A \$20.00 ticket will include raffle tickets, and proceeds will go to local charities.

Harry Kohler has sign-up sheets for the Info line. We have been asked to cover Mobile MG slots March 22, 23, 29 and 30, and several BC slots are also still open. The Info Line phone number is 1-866-855-1909.

Ann McAdams announced that the Festival of Flowers will be held on the Providence Hospital campus again this year, on March 21 through 25. We are helping Mobile County Master Gardeners this year, and we need 28 volunteers to sign up at the March MG meeting.

Marilyn Mannhard has a list of projects available for volunteers.

Sam mentioned that Service Record Booklets are in the back of the room. He invited guests to join the Master Gardeners program.

At 10:15, after the brief business meeting, Michelle Patton introduced Carol Griffin and her husband, Frank, who assisted Carol in giving a very comprehensive and interesting program on Plant Propagation. She gave the basics of all types of plants that can be grown from existing plants and seeds. She gave an example of propagating cuttings of petunias that could perpetuate the plants for several years. Carol gave us so many helpful tips on growing plants that someone asked if she planned to put it all in writing. She said her demonstrations were so different each time that it would be difficult to write it down.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30, with 1½ CEU's given for attending this program.



Program Notes

By Rosemarie Morgan and
Rebecca Trosclair

Thursday, March 8, 2007

9:30 A.M.—Social

10:00 A.M.—Meeting

10:30 A.M.—Program—
Identifying Trees in Winter

Guest Speaker: Dr. Harry Larsen

Dr. Larson, retired forestry professor at Auburn University, will conduct an informative hands-on class to help us identify woody plants before the leaves emerge.

Looking ahead: Guest speaker Sam Renfroe will present "A Year in the Rose Garden" at our meeting on April 12, 2007.

with the Mississippi State University Extension Service, said armadillos tear up lawns looking for food such as ants, beetles, grasshoppers, crickets and grubs.

"To minimize damage, take care of their No. 1 food item — insects," Strickland said. "You typically do that by using some type of insecticide on the lawn." A second tactic is to limit the brushy vegetation in a yard.



Armadillos and Insects

By Bonnie Coblentz

MISSISSIPPI STATE -- While more than one singer has longed to "go home with the armadillos," most Mississippians just want the annoying beasts to leave their yards alone.

Jerry Jeff Walker popularized the line in "London Homesick Blues," but homeowners with a yard full of divots each morning feel no such love.

Ed Hunter has 2 acres in Monroe County outside Amory. He gets up many mornings to dozens of about 2-inch square pieces of grass dug up and turned over across his yard. He said he rarely sees the armadillos that do the damage to his lawn, but he is trying to battle them.

"I drove up one evening and saw one in my parking area," Hunter said. "He dove into my irises and disappeared."

The next day, Hunter chopped down his irises and found a hole he thought was the armadillo's burrow. He flooded it with water in hopes of getting it out, but apparently the animal had already left.

"I have gotten out in the middle of the night three or four times with a flashlight to find their holes and flood them or fill them," Hunter said. "But they keep coming back."

Bronson Strickland, wildlife specialist



"If you have a clear, open lawn, you'll decrease the likelihood of having an armadillo on it. Smaller yards with a lot of brushy vegetation give armadillos places to hide," Strickland said.

A final way to battle the armadillo is to simply remove them. Armadillos are not classified as a "nuisance" species, so they cannot be shot or killed at will. Contact your Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks for rules and information concerning trapping and removing armadillos if they are damaging property.



Projects Report

By Marilyn Mannhard

In spite of the cold weather we've had lately, it is almost spring and along with the early blooming bulbs and pine pollen everywhere, the projects for BCMG are beginning to heat up. We are entering perhaps our busiest month of the year in terms of activities. Arbor Day will be over by the time this reaches you, but we hope it will have been a great success. The next big event is our annual plant sale scheduled for March 16 and 17. Please be sure to volunteer for as much time as you can give to this, as it funds all our other activities for the year. It is followed by Festival of Flowers which also requires many volunteers, and finally, the last weekend of March we have two events, the Wolf Bay Plant Sale and the official dedication of the Foley Rose Trail. Please volunteer for all these activities if you can. There will be sign up sheets for all these at the March meeting. We will also be staffing an outreach booth at Lowe's in Daphne the first Saturdays of March, April, and May. Selena Vaughn will be asking for volunteers for that.

Please check your email for a detailed list of the BCMG projects and the coordinators for each project. It was sent out as a Word attachment and should be a good reference for you. If you cannot open this document or do not have email, Sam will have a few printed copies at the March meeting. Please contact the coordinator for the project you are interested in to volunteer to help. Let me know what is going on new with your project and it will be in the next newsletter. Happy spring!

Bon Secour Wildlife Refuge

The Bon Secour Project is beginning. Jan Uthe and Harry Anderson have met with Ron Hollis of the Refuge on two occasions and begun to get a feel for what we will plant. Ron has brought in some topsoil and will add some compost to the beds ASAP. We will then begin to acquire the plants, which Bon Secour will buy and we will plant and then mulch. Some of the plants are available by transplanting from the site of the former Refuge office and from under a large power line, which we have received permission to dig from as needed. We hope to begin the planting very soon.

Jan can be reached at 981-2190 and Harry can be reached at 928-7190 or weeksbay@aol.com.

Lowe's

The brand new Lowe's store near Daphne on Hwy. 90 at the intersection of Hwy 181 (which used to be Hwy 27) has asked Baldwin County Master Gardeners to volunteer to staff a Gardening Information Booth. Master Gardeners have said "yes". The information booth will operate on Saturday, March 3. Saturday, April 7, and Saturday, May 5 from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon. You can work for all or part of the morning.

We will give their garden department customers general advice on the art and science of gardening. Be sure to wear your BCMG nametags and shirts if you have them. This is going to be a really fun opportunity to work together and with Lowe's customers.

If you would like to volunteer, please call Selena Vaughn at (251) 605-6243 or email her at Vaughn@mchsi.com.

Outreach Education Booth at Master Gardener Plant Sale

There will be an Outreach Educational Booth at the Master Gardener Plant Sale on Friday, March 16 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and Saturday, March 17 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. This is a very enjoyable way to talk to enthusiastic gardeners and learn about some of the new and unusual plants that are available. Master Gardener volunteers always eat well at our plant sales. You can work any portion of the day or you can work all day. Please call Tanys Waldron (251) 947-4121

Outreach Education Booth at Foley Rose Trail Dedication

There will be an Outreach Education Booth at the Foley Rose Trail Dedication on Saturday, March 31. The City of Foley is going to be hosting the day with Rose Trail tours and a Dedication ceremony. Volunteers are needed to staff the Outreach Booth from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. You can work any portion of the day, or you can work all day. Please call Tanys Waldron at (251) 947-4121.



Festival of Flowers

by Ann McAdams

At our March meeting it will be time to volunteer for Festival of Flowers. Look for the green sign decorated with flowers. Baldwin County will need to provide 2 volunteers for each shift.

The dates are:

Wednesday, March 21
Thursday, March 22
Friday, March 23
Saturday, March 24
Sunday, March 25

The shifts on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday are:

8:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

The shifts on Sunday are:

10:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.
2:30 p.m.—5:30 p.m.

Just a short review. Festival of Flowers is held at Providence Hospital on Airport Blvd. in Mobile. It is a grand event. When you volunteer, you get free admission to the Festival, you spend a few hours in a wonderful environment with people who are excited about gardening and you get to record your volunteer hours.

Outreach Education Booth at Wolf Bay Plant Sale

There will be an Outreach Education Booth at the Wolf Bay Plant Sale on Friday, March 30 and Saturday, March 31 at the Mifflin Community Center on Hwy 20 East. The Plant sale starts at 8:00 am each day to 4:00 pm. If you would like to volunteer to work at the Outreach Booth or help with the Wolf Bay plant sale, please call Tanys Waldron (251) 947-4121. You can work any portion of the day, or stay for the whole day. The Wolf Bay plant sale is held in conjunction with the Elberta Sausage Festival, so the Wolf Bay volunteers always eat very well. The proceeds from the Wolf Bay Plant Sale are used to help support the Wolf Bay Watershed Watch (WBWW) which is a grassroots citizen's advocacy organization whose mission is to protect and preserve the natural resources of the Wolf Bay Watershed. To learn more about this great organization go online to www.wolfbaywatch.org.



Plants of the Month—March

By Tanys Waldron

Festival's Choice Award Winners

The five plants in this article were chosen by the Festival of Flowers as their Festival's Choice 2007 plant Award Winners. The Festival's Choice plant selection program was conceived by the Mobile horticultural community. It is a selection of plants of outstanding merit for home gardeners in the distinctive Lower/Coastal South region.

Plants that are awarded Festival's Choice 2007 status must exhibit outstanding aesthetic appeal and be in a propagation program which insures availability to home gardeners. These five plants are the right plants for our Gulf Coast climate. They exhibit high standards for hardiness, disease, pest resistance and ease of growing.

The 2007 Festival's Choice Plant Award Winners:

- *Hydrangea Macrophylla* 'Tokyo Delight' (Big Leaf Lacecap)
- *Hydrangea serrata* 'Blue Bird' (Lacecap)
- *Hydrangea serrata* 'Fuji Waterfall' (not available at plant sale)
- *Heliopsis Helianthoides* 'Alabama Oxeye Daisy' (Aster Family)
- *Michelia skinneriana* 'Banana Shrub' (Magnolia Family)

*** To make it easy to have these plants in your garden you can buy four of them at the Master Gardener Plant Sale at Weeks Bay on Friday March 16 (8:00 am to 5:00 pm) and Saturday March 17 (8:00 am to 4:00 pm).

Hydrangeas

Blue Bird - (*Hydrangea serrata*) 'Lacecap Hydrangea' or 'Mountain Hydrangea' or 'Sawtooth Hydrangea'

An old Japanese cultivar with strong growth habit. It blooms from June to November without interruption. The Lacecap is made up of a center of tiny deep blue fertile flowers (small inside flowers), surrounded by pale lilac-blue sterile petals (large outside flowers). It is bluer in acidic soil than alkaline, but it's fairly blue in any soil condition. As insects pollinate the fertile flowers of the center, they turn their petals to

reveal a pinker reverse side. Leaves are bronze-red in fall.

In 1960, 'Bluebird' was honored by the Royal Horticultural Society with the Award of Garden Merit. It often remains in the 3-4 ft. range as a mature shrub, but its ten-year size can be as much as 5-6 ft. tall and 5-6 ft. wide. Although its size does not exactly constitute a small shrub, it is smaller than Big Leaf Hydrangea, hence more suited to smallish gardens.

Tokyo Delight - (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) 'Big Leaf' 'Lacecap Hydrangea'

This hydrangea is described on the web page of Bobby Green's Nursery in Fairhope www.greennurseries.com/heirloom/ as colorful, attractive, strong, vigorous, large, yet with a lovely light character. White lacecap florets surround pink or blue central flowers. White changes to blush, then pink with age. Bloom time summer to mid-fall. Height: 5-6 feet; Spread 5-6 feet.

Fuji Waterfall - (*Hydrangea serrata*) (not available at M/G plant sale)

The semi-double, white to pale pink sterile flowers look like tiny water lilies held away from the central fertile florets on two inch long petioles. There is a sense of the "cascade" the name implies in this very beautiful shrub. Summer blooming; Height: 3-4 ft.; Spread: 3-5 ft.

General Information on Care of Hydrangeas

The previous years' flowers which dry, on the branches can be left through winter for their own moderate ornamental interest. Deadheading and pruning can wait until late winter or early spring. Bloom occurs on old wood. Prune by cutting back flowering stems to a pair of healthy buds. This will strengthen the amount it blooms.

While spring pruning, it can be beneficial to under limb a bit, removing some of the snaky straggling branches that grow outward from the bottom. Prune out weak or winter-damaged stems in early spring. This will increase the upright growth and keep it from wasting too much energy on weaker or creeping bottom-branch blossoms that get bug-eaten on the ground.

Like most heavy bloomers Hydrangeas need regular feeding to bloom their best. A good spring fertilizing minimally, and perhaps a couple more times throughout the year. Hydrangeas need to be watered. They are not like azaleas which can be happily neglected unless a drought occurs.

Hydrangeas grow best in rich, medium wet, well-drained soils in part shade. Soil pH generally affects the flower color of species plants, namely, blue in highly acidic soils and lilac to pink (occasionally red) in slightly acidic to alkaline soils. Add aluminum sulfate to the soil to make the flowers bluer or add lime to the soil to make the flowers pinker (begin soil treatments well in advance of flowering, as in late autumn or early spring).

Banana Shrub - (*Michelia skinneriana*) Family: *Magnoliaceace*

A very vigorous growing Magnolia with an upright pyramidal to rounded form. Creamy yellow sweet banana scented blooms and shiny leaves. It is a small evergreen tree or a large evergreen shrub, growing about 15-20 ft tall, 8-12 ft. wide. Blooms 4-5 weeks in late spring to early summer. It is cold hardy and pretty to look at. It likes morning sun and afternoon shade. Average water and well drained soil.

Oxeye Daisy or Oxeye Sunflower - (*Heliopsis helianthoides*) sweet var. 'Alabama Sun' Family: *Asteraceae/Compositae* (aster/daisy)

Perennial and a U.S. Native. Height is 2-3 ft.; Spread 2-3 ft.; Small shrubby bush.

There are many varieties of *Heliopsos Helianthoides*. What makes this one distinctive is that the flowers are small, about 2 inches wide with a yellow-brown center and it has approximately 5 petals on each flower. It is a shrubby bush with a rounded shape. It blooms profusely summer through fall with bright yellow daisy like flowers.

It is a hardy plant that is easy to grow. Oxeye Daisy prefers full sun but will tolerate partial shade and likes average water.

(Continued on Page 5)

Meet Your Daphne Greenhouse Volunteers

(Continued from Page 1)

working with plants and they have given generously of their time by sharing their knowledge and experience with other Master Gardeners.

The volunteers work at the Daphne High School greenhouse every Monday morning from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Walking into the greenhouse in February is like arriving on a Caribbean island. The air is soft and moist and the temperature is tropical. There are rows of healthy green plants of all sizes. Some of the flowers have started to bloom. It feels wonderful to be there. A great deal of that feeling of wonderful comes from the team of Master Gardeners who work there.

When Ronnie Zak was asked why she continues to work at the greenhouse she said "I have learned a lot from the volunteers who have been working there a long time; i.e., producing new plants from cuttings, proper repotting of seedlings when their roots start crowding the small pot they were originally planted in, fertilizing, proper watering, weeding and pest control. It has been a great experience with something new to learn each week. All of this plus the great camaraderie." Ronnie also worked as the co-coordinator of the 2006 plant sale.

Everyone at the greenhouse helps all of the new team members learn how to propagate, and how to plant and nurture the plants from small seeds and cuttings to maturity. Rebecca Trosclair commented on why she keeps volunteering her time. "I enjoy working with everyone in a cooperative way. Everyone works together. Each year when we start to organize the March Master Gardener Plant Sale we all take on specific duties and yet we still work together as a team. That makes it more fun and less stressful." Rebecca also worked as the co-coordinator of the 2005 March Plant Sale.

Many of the plants used for propagation in the greenhouse come from the volunteers' home gardens. This gives all of the work put into growing these plants a very personal feeling. The greenhouse team grows approximately 1300 plants each year for the March plant sale. Some of the plants currently being grown at the

greenhouse for the March plant sale are *Lobelia cardinalis* 'Cardinal Flower', *Echinacea* 'Ruby Star', *Gaura* 1. 'Siskiyou Pink', *Phlox* 'David', *Bulbine bulbosa* 'Bulbine lily', *Sinningia sellovii* 'Hardy Red Gloxinia', *Sinningia tubiflora* 'Hardy White Gloxinia' and *Stokesia lavezis* 'Blue'. To find out about the rest of the plants the greenhouse volunteers are growing, you must come to the March plant sale. 100% of the profits made on selling these plants goes back to Master Gardener scholarships and projects.

There will be some famous plants available at the March plant sale. This year the Festival of Flowers started its first annual plant awards selection called the Festival's Choice 2007 Awards. The plants were chosen on the basis of their suitability for our Lower/Coastal Southern climate and for their outstanding aesthetic appeal. In other words, the chosen plants are tough and pretty.

There were five plant award winners. Linda O'Rear and Selena Vaughn (the co-coordinators of our 2007 March Plant Sale) ordered four of these award winners for the plant sale. They are the Oxeye Daisy Sunflower - var. 'Alabama Sun' (*Heliopsis helianthoides*), 'Banana Shrub' (*Michelia skinneriana*), 'Bluebird Hydrangea (*serrata*)' and 'Tokyo Delight Hydrangea (*macrophylla*). For more information on these plants, please read "Plants of the Month" in this newsletter. Linda O'Rear has also been the co-coordinator of the March Plant Sales in 2005 and 2006. Linda has a love of plants and gardening, a talent for organization and an ability to deal competently with many details. (This is known as a high pain threshold.) If anyone would like to become a Daphne Greenhouse Volunteer, please call any of the current volunteers for directions on how to get to the greenhouse.

Many thanks to all of the Daphne Greenhouse Volunteers from the Baldwin County Master Gardeners for all of your time and dedication given to growing the plants that make our plant sales successful. Thank you for being great Volunteers.

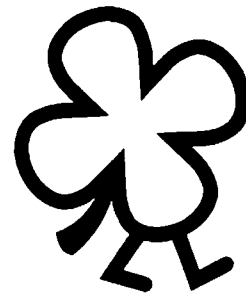
President's Corner

(Continued from Page 1)

Greenhouse Team gathers and propagates BCMG-grown plants that provide us with substantial "profit".

Linda, Selena and the year-round volunteers deserve a lot of thanks. However, so do you, as we prepare plants, make signs, unload/load plants, tell our friends and spend a busy couple of days helping the public obtain the plants they need for the growing season ahead.

You are going to volunteer, right? I will see you then! Oh, while volunteering, please be sure to take the time to introduce yourself and make welcome our new Interns. Soon they will be the friends and Master Gardeners that make each of you so special.



Plants of the Month

(Continued from Page 4)

The flower looks like a classic Daisy. You want to pick it up and ask the traditional question "He/She loves me? He/She loves me not?" as you pull off the petals. If the answer turns out to be "NO, He/She loves me not", take heart and keep the Oxeye Daisy planted in your garden. You will be beloved by Bees and Butterflies. They adore its beautiful flowers.

Summary: Be the first in your neighborhood to have a Festival's Choice 2007 award winning plant in your garden. See you at the Master Gardener's Plant Sale at Week's Bay on March 16 and 17, 2007. One of the benefits of being a Volunteer at the Plant Sale and helping set up on Wednesday, March 14 and Thursday, March 15 is that you have first choice of all the wonderful plants to buy.



Meet our New Crop of Interns

Each year we ask our interns to submit an autobiography so that we can get to know them. Here are the first of the autobiographies from members of our 2007 class.

~GORDON COOPER~

My wife and I relocated to Fairhope in 2004 after living more than 35 years in downtown Chicago. I spent most of my career with Stone Container Corporation, a multi-national paperboard and corrugated box manufacturer, retiring as director, Corporate Marketing & Communications. My wife and I collect and sell antiques at the Daphne Antique Galleria, a venture I describe as more of an expensive hobby than a moneymaker. I also enjoy working on my house and in the garden, going to the gym and serving as president of my homeowners association. With limited gardening experience as an adult, I am looking forward to learning all that I can about gardening in the Coastal South and sharing my newfound knowledge.

~LOREE HADLEY~

I live in Lillian, Alabama and have been there for almost four years. Before that, I lived in the Dallas area for 25 years and raised my family there. I was born in North Dakota near the Canadian border. My parents were farmers, and I still have that farm. I am a beautician and work part-time doing hair. Hobbies are cake decorating, sewing, folk art painting--any kind of craft. I love it all.

We moved to Lillian in 2003 and built a house on a cow pasture. I had an empty slate except for many beautiful old oaks on the property. I've been busy planting ever since.

I am interested in Japanese red maples and have about 400 that I have just started to grow and another 100 Japanese maples that I bought just for grafting. I want to grow as many varieties as I can in this area.

I joined the Master Gardener program to learn as much as I can and to hopefully one day know all the right answers on growing things and to be able to share that information with anyone that wants to learn.

~MARIE SPINNATO~

I grew up during the 40's and 50's in Groton, Connecticut (the renowned Submarine Capitol of the world). Both of my parents enjoyed gardening. My dad grew a wide variety of vegetables and herbs, and his mulch was not run of the mill. The seaweed from Long Island Sound did the job.

At age 19, I married my high school sweetheart, Richard. We have 2 daughters. Ellice, our youngest, is a Master Gardener living in El Dorado, Arkansas.

We made several major moves during my husband's working career, but the best one was our move to Mississippi in 1979 from New Hampshire and its snow and ice.

Gardening along the Gulf Coast has proven to be a major challenge for me. I've learned a lot from my mistakes. I quickly discovered that many of my favorite flowers did not enjoy Southern living as much as I did.

I'm thankful for this new opportunity to learn and to serve.



2007 Alabama Master Gardener Conference

The 2007 Alabama Master Gardener Conference registration form is now available online at www.alabamamg.org

Hosted by the Tuscaloosa County Master Gardeners, Inc.

To be held in Tuscaloosa, Alabama on April 19-21, 2007. The location is the Sheraton Four Points Hotel. The theme is "Timeless Gardens"

The 2007 AMGA Conference will be held at the Four Points Sheraton (205-752-3200 or 1-800-325-3535) near the University. It is next door to the Bryant Conference Center. The Room Rate is \$82.00. The Room Rate does not include the 11% Lodging Tax. We have 145 rooms available at Four Points by Sheraton and reservations are already being taken. Registration begins at 2:00 P.M. on Thursday the 19th and again at 8:00 A.M. on Friday morning the 20th. The Conference will end at noon on Saturday, the 21st. Anyone planning on coming on Wednesday and spend the night for the 2007 AMGA Conference, please contact Sybil Phillips at 205-349-1873 or svphi2@comcast.net to get more information required to make the Wednesday night reservation at a special conference discounted price.

The Vendor Committee for the 2007 AMGA Conference invites any interested Alabama Master Gardener or any Alabama Master Gardener Association to participate as vendors. The table rent for a Master Gardener or Master Gardener Association is \$50.00. If interested, contact Elaine Farabee at rayfarabee@comcast.net or 205-349-5026.

Intern Class Luncheon

*Our Intern Class Luncheon
will be held on
March 21, 2007.*

*There are 30 interns enrolled in
the class. Sign-up sheets will
be at the next meeting.*

*Please make every effort to
come and show your
support for our new
crop of Interns!*

*Rolls, condiments and drinks
will be provided.*

~Joyce Mudrak



9th ANNUAL

PLANT SALE

***Highway 98, West of Fish River Bridge
Across From Weeks Bay Reserve Entrance***

FRI., MARCH 16

SAT., MARCH 17

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Local Growers

**NATIVE SHRUBS & PERENNIALS
HUMMINGBIRD & BUTTERFLY ATTRACTING PLANTS
CAMELLIAS FROM BOBBY GREEN * LOUISIANA IRIS *
NEW PLANT INTRODUCTIONS
& MANY MORE PLANTS FOR YOUR GARDEN NEEDS**

FREE SOIL pH TESTS

MASTER GARDENER ANSWER TABLE
**Proceeds Benefit the BCMG Scholarship Fund &
Other Out-Reach Projects**



Mark Your Calendar!

- March 3, 2007 – Mobile County Master Gardener Assoc. 3rd Annual Seminar, 10:00 am–2:00 pm, Springhill Baptist Church, 2 McGregor Ave., Mobile, AL
- March 3, 2007 – Outreach Booth at Lowe's, 8:00 am–12:00 pm
- March 7, 2007 – Intern Class–Entomology, 9:00 am–12:00 pm and Pesticide Safety, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm
- March 8, 2007 – Monthly Meeting 9:30 am–Research Station Hwy. 104
- March 14, 2007 – Intern Class–Propagation, 9:00 am–12:00 pm–Ornamental Research Station, Mobile; and Plant Selection, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm–Mobile Botanical Gardens
- March 16-17, 2007– BCMG Plant Sale–Weeks Bay
- March 21, 2007 – Intern Class–Hurricanes & Trees, 9:00 am–12:00 pm; Luncheon, 12:00 pm, and ACES Website, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm
- March 21-25, 2007– Festival of Flowers–Providence Hospital, Mobile
- March 28, 2007 – Intern Class–Horticultural Info-Line, 9:00 am–3:00 pm
- March 30-31, 2007– Wolf Bay Plant Sale, 8:00 am–4:00 pm–Miflin Community Center
- March 31, 2007 – “Spring in the Forward City”–Dedication of Foley Rose Trail, 8:30 am–5:00 pm–Heritage Park, Foley
- April 4, 2007 – Intern Class–Turfgrass, 9:00 am–12:00 pm and Weed Science, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm
- April 7, 2007 – Outreach Booth at Lowe's, 8:00 am–12:00 pm
- April 11, 2007 – Intern Class–Care & Maintenance, 9:00 am–3:00 pm, Bay Minette
- April 18, 2007 – Intern Class–Fruits, 9:00 am–12:00 pm and Vegetables, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm
- April 19-21, 2007 – Alabama State Master Gardener Conference, Sheraton Four Points Hotel, Tuscaloosa, AL



Grass Roots

The BALDWIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENER newsletter is published monthly. The publishing date is the first Monday of each month. The deadline for submitting items to the editor for publication is the 20th of the month preceding publication.

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Next Meeting: 9:30 A.M.—March 8, 2007
Guest Speaker: Dr. Harry Larsen