

# GRASS ROOTS

NEWSLETTER OF THE BALDWIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, INC.

April 2007

Volume XV Issue IV



## Meet Your Arbor Day Volunteers

By Tanys Waldron

Baldwin County Master Gardeners were on hand at Arbor Day celebrations on February 24, 2007 in Daphne, Fairhope and Foley. The turnout of volunteers was outstanding. In total, 13,500 trees were given away. The three photos accompanying this article are some of the Volunteers at the three Arbor Day locations.

Daphne Arbor Day was held at the Civic Center. There was a selection of 14 types of trees for the general public to choose from and a total of 3,000 trees were given away. As an added bonus, the City of Daphne gave away bags of mulch to help in the proper planting and care of the trees.

The Master Gardeners and Interns who volunteered in Daphne were Kathy Meilleur, the Coordinator for Daphne Arbor Day, and her team included Judy Crimmins, Ottie Dailey, Jett Freeman, Carolyn Koch, Michelle Patton, Ann Pierce, Frieda Romanchuk, Pat Smith, Selena Vaughn and Ronnie Zak.

Fairhope Arbor Day was held at the Faulkner State Community College campus. There was a selection of 12 different type trees from which to choose,



**L-R: Kathy Meilleur; Russell Alexander; Elaine Spradlin; and Ronnie Zak ,**

and a total of 2,500 trees were given away. Volunteers were Harry Anderson - who was the Coordinator of Fairhope Arbor Day and his team: Wilma Albers, Alice Brown, Debbie Calhoun, Marian Currie, David Legier, Ann

*(Continued on Page 5)*



## President's Corner

by Sam Andrews

What a busy March, and April will be a full one too! For the many of you who had some part in our Plant Sale, it was a fine success generating enough revenue to fund our budget for 2007. Thanks to each and every one of you for this achievement.

Our Intern Lunch, with the current class, was held on March 21. Unfortunately, many of you did not attend or bring a dish. Joyce

Mudrak and her team deserve better. They work hard over the 14 weeks of a typical class. As a graduate yourself, you know what an effort it is to attend the classes. To be in charge of them is quite another challenge. Intern Class Coordinator is one of the most responsible and time-consuming positions that our group has.

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## Meeting Minutes

by Ann Pierce

President Sam Andrews opened the meeting at 10:05 am. He announced that the new speaker system is being used, and a new format of tables and chairs has been set up for the meeting, rather than rows of chairs.

With the Board's approval, Sam has established a monthly President's Award, or "Busy Bee Award", to inspire the membership. It awards spirit of service for immediate or long-term service. He made the awards retroactive to the beginning of this year. Ribbons were given to January's recipient, Tany's Waldron; February, Ed Wirgowski; and March, Joyce Mudrak, for their enthusiastic and outstanding volunteer work.

Sam gave Jim and Nancy Gaines' financial audit report of the treasury, stating that Treasurer Jane Wright did excellent work throughout the year, with everything in order.

The State Master Gardeners' Conference will be held April 19-21. Harry Anderson is the contact for those wishing to attend the conference. Harry gave an update on the Bon Secour Wildlife Reserve landscape project. Jan Uthe met with Ron Spinks; plants are bought and beds are ready. A signup sheet is on the back table for volunteers to help complete this project. Harry also mentioned that the Master Gardeners' Horticulture Scholarship application deadline is March 10; then letters will go out. Applications are all open as of now. Our plant sale proceeds fund the scholarships.

Mary Gibson said that Judy Thompson sent condolence cards to Rebecca Trosclair upon the death of her

father, and to the John Riggs family.

Ann McAdams requested signups for a few more workers for the Festival of Flowers for March 21-25.

Hank Alexander announced that the Foley Rose Trail roses will be blooming soon, with the dedication of the trail planned for March 31. Jason Powell from Petals from the Past will be there to participate in a flower show and plant sale from 9:00 am-5:00 pm.

Sam said the Arbor Day tree giveaway was successful and thanked members and interns who volunteered their assistance.

Tom Dukes announced the Wolf Bay Plant Sale will be held March 30 and 31, and needs help with this project. The Swift School project can use donated plants.

Joyce Mudrak said the Master Gardeners are asked to provide lunch for the new intern class on Wednesday, March 21. She has a signup sheet for food, and invited members to attend that day. The class consists of 27-28 enthusiastic interns. Sam urged everyone to help interns to get involved in our activities.

There will be a Pine Beetle Seminar at the Daphne Recreation Center March 12 at 6:30 pm. CEU hours are given, and the seminar will be a benefit to InfoLine workers.

Selena Vaughn is managing an Outreach booth at Lowe's in Malbis on the first Saturday in March, April and May. Contact her to volunteer.

Linda O'Rear announced the Daphne High School plant sale to be held March 31 and April 7. Our own MG plant sale starts next week, setting out plants at Weeks Bay on March 14 and 15, with the sale on March 16 and 17. About 900 plants will come from the DHS Greenhouse MG propagation program (mostly all profit), with other plants coming from several vendors and South Baldwin Technical Center. Lunch will be served each day for the workers. Sam urged every one to get the word out about the sale.

Carol Griffin said the SBTC plants are ready for sale at the MG plant sale, and will have their own sale Saturday, March 24.

Dick Stewart asked that everyone park toward the rear of our building, not near ditches or the paved parking area, and not to block our parking area.

Fred Nation introduced today's speaker, Dr. Harry Larsen. He told us about his extensive educational background and career as a professor at the Auburn School of Forestry for 32 years, before retiring to Lillian. He has received many awards for service to the environment, and is a most knowledgeable tree authority in the State. Dr. Larsen's subject today is how to identify trees from twigs or limbs before the leaves emerge. He distributed small limbs for us to identify using his keys to characteristics of different trees.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45. There is 1 hour CEU for this program.



## Program Notes

By Rosemarie Morgan and  
Rebecca Trosclair

Thursday, April 12, 2007

9:30 A.M.—Social  
10:00 A.M.—Meeting  
10:30 A.M.—Program—  
"A Year in the Rose Garden"

Guest Speaker: Sam Renfroe

While living in Mobile, Sam Renfroe lost many trees to Hurricane Frederick and thus gained so much sunshine that he became an avid rosarian. His present garden in Fairhope contains 200 Hybrid Teas. Sam has chaired many rose shows and is a Past President of the Mobile Rose Society.

Looking Ahead: James Preast will conduct a tour of his lovely little nursery, Preast's Petals and Pottery on Gayfer Avenue (near our meeting site on Highway 104). A master plantsman, Jim will share with us his knowledge of flowering shrubs.



Dr. Harry Larsen at our March meeting



## Projects Report

By Marilyn Mannhard

Spring is in full swing now and so are continuing and new projects. Big projects which involved most of the membership this month included Arbor Days in several towns, BCMG Plant Sale, Festival of Flowers, Wolf Bay Plant Sale, and Dedication of the Foley Rose Trail. A huge thanks to all who helped with these worthwhile projects. It makes for a hectic month with lots of work for master gardeners, but it is also lots of fun and an opportunity to really get into spring planting activities.

We also have reports on two ongoing projects and a request for assistance on a new project. I would like to thank Jan Sanders and Ottie Dailey for sending on their project reports, and encourage the rest of you who are involved with a special project to send me updates by the 20th of each month so they can be included in the newsletter. Also, Jan Sanders found a copy of the Project Proposal form that was used in the past to evaluate each new proposed project. It is a very helpful form, and I will send a copy to anyone who would like to propose a new project. Speaking of new projects, we had a request from Spanish Fort Elementary School for help with an outdoor classroom on that campus. If anyone is interested in helping, please let me know, and I'll give you more information.

### Lillian Recreational Park

*Submitted by Jan Sanders*

The Lillian Recreational Park is now getting more volunteers including intern, Marie Spinnato, and everyone is doing a great job. We added additional white cedar to the Bill and Mary Dodd Native Azalea Garden. The

plants are just beginning to bloom and we hope to have plant identification signage for each plant shortly. There are now well over 100 native azaleas as well as companion plants in the garden. If you are into native azaleas, you might want to visit the gardens within the next month while they are in bloom. We were also able to redo one of our daylily beds, moving the daylilies to the border and planting six different varieties of the Korean Azalea Poukhanense in the center. The original seeds for these azaleas were collected by Bill Dodd in Korea. We are looking forward to seeing these in bloom.

### Spanish Fort Presbyterian Church

*Submitted by Ottie Dailey*

Joyce Mudrak and Ottie Dailey are members of the Spanish Fort Presbyterian Church and have been working on a landscaping project there since October. The minister decided the landscaping should be upgraded across the front of the church which borders Highway 31. After a number of meetings, the landscaping committee decided to hire John Adams to install a sprinkler system and Tom Dodd, IV as the landscaper. Tom brought a number of plants to one meeting for the decision and had a plan for the island flower beds which the committee considered.

The first work day was December 20 with approximately 20 volunteers from the church. Existing azaleas were dug, and many were moved to new locations in accordance with the overall plan. On January 6, another work day was held at which time the volunteers helped to plant the new plants brought over by Tom Dodd, IV. At least 35 hours or more were spent by the committee in

organizing and implementing this beautification project. All of the work was finished before the official dedication ceremony on January 21. Since then, Mondo grass dug by Ottie Dailey was planted by Joyce Mudrak. This will be an ongoing project as the committee will be responsible for maintaining the new plantings. All of the committee members did a commendable job.

### Earth Day / Earth Fest

*Submitted by Tanys Waldron*

Earth Day is now called Earth Fest. Earth Fest will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2007 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm at its new location at the 5 Rivers Delta Center.

Each year Master Gardeners have an Outreach Information Booth at Earth Day/Earth Fest. The booth this year will provide the usual educational hand outs. In addition to the booth, Master Gardeners will be nature tour guides. There are walking trails through the woods and around the delta. We will do short 20 minute tours identifying the vegetation. The tour presentation will be scripted and the plants identified with signs, so Master Gardeners will have an enjoyable walk and talk with their fellow nature enthusiasts.

This is a beautiful location and a wonderful place to enjoy being on the Delta. We need Volunteers to help in the Booth and to guide the Nature Tours—or do a little bit of both. You can volunteer for whatever part of the day suits your schedule. The first volunteers are needed at 8:00 am to help set up. Close up will occur at about 6:00 pm. Please call Tanys Waldron at 947-4121.



## Gardening Tip

When pruning, disinfect tools with each cut. "Listerine" must be used full-strength to be effective against many diseases. You can also use rubbing alcohol of 70 percent, 91 percent, or 99 percent concentration. Do not use "Pine Sol" or household bleach to disinfect your tools. Tests show they are highly corrosive to metal. Remember that no disinfectant can provide complete protection against disease.

If the intent is to clear tools of virus, skim milk is the best method to inactivate the virus on tools. Just dip tools in skim milk after each use. A tray of skim milk, made from powdered milk or direct from a store, is cheap and effective. The protein in milk attaches to the virus and makes it inactive.



## Plant of the Month—Lawn Grass

By Tanys Waldron

Lawns are an important part of most home landscapes. It is the foundation plant around which the rest of the garden is planned. Realtor surveys have shown a well maintained lawn to add at least \$2,000.00 in resale value for an average home.

The question most asked at the Festival of Flowers Outreach Booth this year was about lawn care. Everyone was having problems with weeds and the overall health of their lawn. The Mobile Master Gardeners had organized some outstanding Lawn Care handouts. These information sheets had been researched and prepared by James Miles, who is one of our Regional Extension Agents. (If you ever have an opportunity to hear James Miles give a seminar, make sure you get to the class early. He is an excellent and informative speaker and his talks fill up quickly.)

If you follow the month to month guidelines recommended by James Miles, you should have a healthy and mostly weed-free lawn. There are no silver bullets to perfection in plant and lawn care, but you can get close.

The four most popular warm season grasses suitable for Baldwin and Mobile Counties are Centipede, St. Augustine, Zoysia, and Bermuda. These turf grasses all have the same time frames for pre-emergence and post-emergence applications and for watering and mowing maintenance schedules. The big difference is that Centipede has a different fertilizer requirement.

Lawn care is a huge topic. To try and do justice to the different grasses, Centipede will be covered in the May newsletter issue. In June there will be more information on Zoysia and Bermuda grass. If you would like a copy of what to do to your Centipede lawn before May, come to the Master Gardener April monthly meeting on Thursday, April 12th and there will be handouts available. The handouts will also be available at the Robertsdale Information Line Office.

General Schedule of St. Augustine, Zoysia, and Bermuda Maintenance for South Alabama

by James D. Miles, Regional Extension Agent (2005)

**February:** Apply pre-emerge herbicide.

**April:** Aerify compacted soils.

Begin regular mowing:

Once every 5 days if clippings are left on lawn.

Once every 7 days if clippings are removed.

Generally, do not remove more than 1/3 of the grass blade per mowing. Mow as low as possible without scalping (weekly irrigation is necessary). Otherwise mow to 1.5 inches high.

Begin weekly irrigation:

Wet the soil down to 4 to 6 inches. Best time is between 2:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Continue irrigation if no rain occurs until grass is dormant for the winter.

Map Molecricet activity for future treatments. Use slow release fertilizer with 24-6-12 @ 4 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. or according to soil test results.

**May:** Watch for Spittle Bugs and Chinch Bugs and treat if needed.

Apply Ammonium Nitrate if more growth is desired @ 3 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft.

**June:** Apply post-emerge herbicide.

Fertilize with 24-6-12 @ 4 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. or according to soil test results.

Continue to watch for Spittle Bugs and Chinch Bugs and treat if needed.

**July:** Treat for Molecricet in the areas mapped in April

Apply Ammonium Nitrate if more growth is desired @ 3 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft.

Continue to watch for Spittle Bugs and Chinch Bugs and treat if needed.

**August:** Fertilize with 24-6-12 @ 4 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. or according to soil test results.

Continue to test for Molecricets in the areas mapped in April.

**September:** Winterize weak turf with 5-5-25 or 0-0-64 @ 4 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft.

**October:** Apply pre-emerge herbicide.

Optional: Over-seed with rye grass. (Not a recommended practice)

\*\* Do not use pre-emerge herbicide if over-seeding.

**November:** Soil test.

**December:** Lime according to soil test.

\*\*\*\*\*

The following information comes from the book "Alabama Gardener's Guide" by Jennifer Greer. It is a good reference book that is well written and easy to read. It is part of the library at the Robertsdale Information Line Extension office and can be borrowed. Her well researched information will help you keep your grass green and healthy. Then, you can be a happy and less frustrated gardener.

St. Augustine grass (*Stenotaphrum secundatum*) is one of the most attractive and shade tolerant of the warm season grasses. It grows a rich blue-green color. St. Augustine is fairly aggressive, but can be controlled around walks and borders with trimming. Mowing height is 1-1/2" to 2-1/2".

Disadvantages include poor wear and susceptibility to common lawn herbicides. Older selections of St. Augustine are plagued by insects and diseases.

When applying fertilizer, use a spreader as this distributes evenly. Water soon after applying fertilizer. If chemicals sit on grass too long, it will burn the blades. Unless recommended by soil test, avoid fertilizers containing heavy amounts of phosphorus, as they can cause iron deficiencies.

Water lawn regularly and deeply to promote deeper root growth. One solid hour of watering per week is much better than 20 minutes of watering three times a week.

There are at least seven different varieties of St. Augustine. If you are starting your lawn from bare dirt be careful about which type of St. Augustine you pick. One variety will be better for your garden than another. (ex. More shade or less shade)

Now that your lawn is on its way to better health and a gorgeous color of rich green, you can enjoy going out to "smell the flowers". I recommend the Foley Rose Trail. The blooms are beautiful, and someone else is looking after them.

## Meet Your Arbor Day Volunteers

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Luscombe, Marilyn Mannhard, Mary Ann Miller, Rosemarie Morgan, Jan Sanders and Judy Thompson.

Master Gardener Carol Griffin was at Fairhope Arbor Day as a workshop leader. She presented a very well attended seminar on Plant Propagation that was free and open to the public. A quote from one of our new Interns, Debbie Calhoun: "I really enjoyed Carol Griffin's class. She has such an understated presence and presents the information so clearly. The audience was very diverse, yet all understood the material".

Foley Arbor Day was held at the Foley Heritage Park. It was the busiest of the three Arbor days with a selection of 12 different types of trees to choose from, and a total of 8,000 trees were given away. Approximately 7,200 trees were given to the general public and the balance of 800 trees were donated to Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. Ed Wirgowski and Tom Dukes were the Co-Coordinator of Foley Arbor Day. Their team consisted of Barbara Carlson, Dawn Garcia, Carma Gronback, Rosa Janssen, Caterina Kenworthy, Pat Libby, Jessica Mahoney, Marie Spinnato, Gus Utter, Carol Willis and Jane Wright.

The purpose of being a Master Gardener is to share the latest horticultural information. It is also to teach environmentally sound practices from the world of research for use in the landscapes and gardens of our local communities. By helping the public learn how to properly plant a tree and care for them, you have helped make the world a greener and healthier place.

There were eight Interns who took the plunge and volunteered at a Master Gardener public event for the first time. Your contributions were appreciated.

Many thanks to all of the 2007 Arbor Day Volunteers and Interns from the Baldwin County Master Gardeners' Membership for sharing your time and your knowledge. Thank you everyone for being great Volunteers.



*L-R: Harry Anderson; Marilyn Mannhard, Jan Sanders and Alice Brown*

# Arbor Day



*L-R: Pat Libby, Caterina Kenworthy, Ed Wirgowski, Carol Willis, Dawn Garcia and Marie Spinnato*



## 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 several autobiographies from members of this year's class.*

### ~DAVID LEGIER~

My wife, Jane, and I moved to Fairhope back in August of 2006 from New Orleans. We are both natives of NOLA and after many years of searching for a final retirement city, we picked Fairhope. I am a retiree who loves nature, sailing, photography, skeet shooting, history, gardening, cooking, wines and reading. I consider myself very fortunate to be in Fairhope and in the Master Gardener Program.

### ~LINDA FLORENCE~

I was raised on a farm in central Kentucky and helped raise a huge vegetable garden each year. That is one of the reasons that I still like to work outside with plants. I moved here nine years ago and found out quickly that gardening is NOT the same. I love it here since I can be outside and grow more flowers because of the longer growing season.

I was a high school special education teacher, but retired when I moved south. I have two grown sons and five grandchildren. My hobbies are gardening, biking and playing bridge.

### ~CAROL WILLIS~

I was born and raised in Hueytown, Alabama, a suburb of Birmingham. I have been married to Mickey Willis for 24 years, and we have two sons.

I worked for many years in management, with emphasis in marketing, sales and manufacturing. I was fortunate to travel extensively in the U.S. with my jobs, but it left no time for hobbies. I also worked with the Junior Service League, served on the Board of our local Chamber of Commerce, and various other community projects.

After some serious health problems, I decided to give up my career and work toward improving my health. That is exactly what I have done in my gardening. I was fortunate to meet members of the Wolf Bay Watershed Watch and began working with the greenhouse project. Along with the

greenhouse, I have attended the water monitor training. My goal is to protect our beautiful environment by learning as much about it as possible and, hopefully, helping others do the same.

We are all blessed to be able to live in this area of our state, and I look forward to working with the Master Gardeners and other volunteers to maintain and protect the natural beauty of this area.

### ~PAMELA HEILMEIER~

I was born and raised in Jefferson County, Alabama and have lived in Baldwin County for fourteen years. I am married—no children—but have three dogs that think they are! My husband and I have the Heilmeier's Salvage-Auto Parts business in Foley. My hobbies are gardening (of course), reading and yoga.

### ~JUNE McCORD~

Farming has been in my family for generations. My father loved farming and growing flowers. I see an open field and begin thinking of growing plants. When my father died, my family moved to Mobile. We got away from gardening for years.

I met and married Sam, my college sweetheart. We lived in Mobile until my husband's elderly parents needed assistance. We moved to Foley to be near Sam's parents.

I helped with the gardening during the summer months and dabbled in growing shrubs and flowers. During the school year, I taught elementary science to sixth graders. Working in the yard helped me relax.

Three years ago, I retired from teaching and worked long days in the yard catching up on overgrown shrubs and trees. The barn and greenhouse needed repairs. Many hours were spent repairing and landscaping the property. Most of the planting was just "beginner's luck". I didn't know a lot about fertilizing plants and nothing about pH requirements.

I'm taking this class in order to learn how to produce healthy plants. I've always been one to share what I know, so volunteering is "up my alley". I hope to learn a lot over the time in class and continue to research afterwards.

### ~JUDY R. CRIMMINS~

I am the mother of two and wife of a Deacon in the Catholic Church. I am a retired Nursing Instructor.

### ~MYRA HANNAH~

I became a full-time resident of Orange Beach in September 2006 after retiring as Business Administration Department Chairperson and Accounting Instructor at Calhoun Community College in Decatur, Alabama. My interest in gardening began because of my parents. My mother's garden of flowers and my father's garden of vegetables are fond memories from my childhood. My gardening experience has been in the clayey soil of North Alabama. I look forward to learning and sharing information about gardening in the sandy soil of the Coastal South.

### ~ANN L. LUSCOMBE~

I was raised in the Detroit, Michigan area during WWII. As a result of this, we had a huge vegetable garden in our back yard. That wasn't enough for my father, so he also had another garden in the empty lot next door. His garden was completely organic, except he dusted the cabbage! Our compost pile was huge and included everything my Dad could put his hands on. Chicken manure was brought up from my Grandfather's farm. Old shoes, carpet and anything that would decompose went into that limed pile. Unfortunately, he never instilled his love and knowledge in me.

After graduating from college, I lived in Arizona for 39 years. There is where I learned to appreciate plant life and its tremendous desire to survive. I cultivated native plants and prided myself on the ability to transplant them from the desert to my house. I then moved to Pennsylvania where my husband and I battled rather unsuccessfully the same kind of pests and diseases that I am finding here in Alabama, only more so. Hopefully with the Master Gardener class, I can learn to control them and nurture my plants and trees with the same talent that my Dad had so many years ago.

*(More Autobiographies on Page 8)*



# Festival of Flowers

by Ann McAdams

The 2007 Festival of Flowers ended on Sunday afternoon, March 25<sup>th</sup>. It was a huge success and crowds were large. The Mobile Master Gardeners put together a great display of a small Italian garden.

Our goals for the Festival were to help people become better gardeners, to help people become familiar with the Extension Service and to recruit people interested in becoming Master Gardeners. With all of the conversations we had with the visitors and the publications we handed out, we feel we met our goals.

Baldwin County Master Gardeners were well represented at the Festival. The following Master Gardeners and Junior Master Gardener volunteered to staff the booth:

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Ann Pierce        | Margaret Pavey   |
| Carma Gronback    | Diane Nowicki    |
| Amy Cockrell      | Barbara Carlson  |
| Kathryn Cockrell  | Marilyn Mannhard |
| Elizabeth Mundine | Julie Ford       |
| Michelle Patton   | Ronnie Zak       |
| Ottie Dailey      | Alice Holmes     |
| Leila Martin      | Tanys Waldron    |
| Carolyn Koch      | Ann McAdams      |
| Jim Huggins       |                  |

The Intern Class had the following volunteers:

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| John Meyer      | Linda Florence |
| Jeanette Catlow | Jodie Klugel   |

A great big thanks to each of you . You helped make our booth an interesting place to visit.


## President's Corner

(Continued from Page 1)

The 2007 class is full of excellent people who will make wonderful Master Gardeners. Please support their training, talk to them about your own MG activities, and invite them into our circle of purposeful friends.

On May 16, the Interns will make their presentations and earn their certificates. Be there. There is probably no more important thing that you can do this busy spring than attend either the final session or drop in to speak and get to know the Interns at a regular class. ...And, say "Hi" to your fellow Master Gardeners on the Team. They are making sure that the BCMG will be around for a long time to come. Won't you as well?





## Busy Bees

- Tanys Waldron — January
- Ed Wirgowski — February
- Joyce Mudrak — March
- April? —*Buzz, Buzz...*

We have a new honor for our members who are making major contributions – short or long term – to BCMG goals. Unlike the Extension's hour-based "Star Awards", these prizes are given in recognition of a member's importance, effectiveness and spirit of service. A "President's Award of Special Merit" (or the "Busy Bee") will be presented each month to a deserving member.

## Meet Our New Crop of Interns *(Continued from page 6)*

### ~JOHN MEYER~

Before my wife and I moved to Fairhope, I had spent my entire life in the Chicago area. My father loved to garden and, although not schooled in botany, he had an instinct for making flowers and vegetables flourish. Schooling kept me busy, however, with a doctorate in social psychology, spending 34 years in public education as a school administrator.

When I became a Chicagoland homeowner, I began to enjoy the challenges of gardening in a climate with unpredictable weather and not much sun. Living in Southern Alabama brings new learning opportunities about gardening. As President of the Fairhope Garden Club, I have met so many knowledgeable gardeners and Master Gardeners in Baldwin County from whom I continue to learn. Although a professor for the University of South Alabama, I still consider myself a student when it comes to gardening in the South.

### ~CATHY BLAKE~

I am a native of the South and a resident of the Belforest community. My husband, Phil, and I moved from North Mobile County to Baldwin County five years ago. We were both Chemists with Ciba Specialty Chemicals in Washington County and were looking for a haven from the 24/7

non-stop life of chemical production.

Two years ago, I became involved with Habitat for Humanity in Baldwin County as a way to fill my off-days which rarely coincided with Phil's. I chose to leave Ciba after nearly 17 years to become a Site Supervisor with Habitat for Humanity. One week later, Phil retired and is now my "right-hand man".

With a new focus came a new life. I began to garden again. The former farmland yielded pleasant surprises such as the volunteer crop of peanuts and nitrogen rich clover. It also became my first contact with the Master Gardener Infoline.

High on my "100 Things To Do Before I Die" list was to become a Master Gardener. Although I am busier now than ever, I am extremely excited to be a part of the Master Gardener program. It allows me to engage my curiosity, plays into my scientific background and continues the learning and volunteer experience that I desire. It also brings me into contact with people from all over Baldwin County and makes it seem a little more like home.

### ~CARRIE DORTCH~

I spent my childhood in Michigan where the earth is rich and black. I grew up thinking I had a "green thumb" because everything grew so well, and

our fruits and vegetables were always delicious.

I spent 20 years of my adult life in Naples, Florida where I worked full time as a nurse and raised three boys. The soil was sandy, and the sun was too hot. The Eureka Palms grew fast, and we always had key limes from the tree in the back yard.

I then moved to Nashville where I spent five years. Nashville was the first time I started landscaping with birds in mind. I learned, to my dismay that white-tailed deer like to eat the same plants that the birds favor.

Now living here on the Gulf Coast these past five years, it's almost like heaven for me. My husband and I are down to the last two children in our seven-child, blended family. My bird oriented landscaping has become more narrowly focused to mainly hummingbird attracting plantings. Being retired, we have time for a lot more bird-watching, volunteering, and discovered a new love, ballroom dancing!

I love the Master Gardener program. It's great to learn the science behind the planting, and I am looking forward to sharing my newfound knowledge with all of the friends we have made in the lovely community of Fairhope.



*Above L-R: Pat Libby & Tanys Waldron at Plant Sale*

*Far Right: Sam Andrews & Tanys Waldron at Outreach Booth*

*Center: Marilyn Mannhard & Sam Andrews*





# Plant Sale

*Above Left: Cashiers and Ticket Writers at the Plant Sale*  
*Above Right: Selena Vaughn assists with Plant selection*  
*Right: Rosemarie Morgan and Judy Thompson*



## Plant Sale Report



**PLANT SALE INCOME** **\$25,682.00**

Mail Expense—postcards	(\$120.00)
Food for Workers	(\$396.70)
Vendors Paid to Date	(\$11,757.10)
Uppaid Vendors-Dodd & Dodd	(\$1,630.80)
Estimated Value of Unsold Plants	(\$1,262.25)
Unpaid Misc. Expenses	N/A
Donation for Truck Use-EMI	(\$100.00)
Truck Rental	(\$108.15)
Misc.	(\$10.59)

Total Expenses: (\$15,385.59)

**PLANT SALE PROFIT** **\$10,296.41**

**Profit Margin** **40.09%**

Budgeted Target \$9,500.00

Comparative Result \$796.41



## Mark Your Calendar!

- April 4, 2007 — Intern Class—Turfgrass, 9:00 am—12:00 pm and Weed Science, 1:00 pm—3:00 pm
- April 7, 2007 — Daphne High School FFA & Lake Forest Garden Club Spring Plant Sale, 7:30 am-10:30 am, Daphne Greenhouse
- 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 12, 2007 — Monthly Meeting 9:30 am—Research Station Hwy. 104
- 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
- April 21, 2007 — Earth Fest, 10:00 am—5:00 pm; 5 Rivers Delta Center
- April 25, 2007 — Intern Class—Nomenclature and Native Plants, 9:00 am—3:00 pm, Weeks Bay Reserve
- May 2, 2007 — NO INTERN CLASS
- May 2-5, 2007 — International Master Gardener Conference, Little Rock, Arkansas
- May 5, 2007 — Outreach Booth at Lowe's, 8:00 am—12:00 pm
- May 9, 2007 — Intern Class—Landscape Design, 9:00 am-3:00 pm
- May 10, 2007 — Monthly Meeting 9:30 am—Research Station Hwy. 104
- May 16, 2007 — Intern Class Presentations, Graduation and Luncheon, 9:00 am—12:00 Noon



## Grass Roots

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**Publisher**  
Sandra Walton

**Editorial Staff**  
Committee Chairperson  
Lynn Andrews  
Committee Members  
Sam Andrews

Fold, Stamp and Mail Team  
Teresa and Everett Gillis

Please address articles to :  
Baldwin County Master Gardeners,  
22398 Palmer Street  
Robertsdale AL 36567

or e-mail : [lynnandrews@mchsi.com](mailto:lynnandrews@mchsi.com)

## Change of Address

If you move or make any changes to your address, phone or E-mail, please contact:

Jane Wright  
13789 Underwood Road  
Summerdale, AL 36580

Tel: 251-965-3003

E-Mail: [Janwri@gulftel.com](mailto:Janwri@gulftel.com)



22398 Palmer Street  
Robertsdale AL 36567

Next Meeting: 9:30 A.M.—April 12, 2007  
Guest Speaker: Sam Renfroe