

# GRASS ROOTS

NEWSLETTER OF THE BALDWIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, INC.

February 2008

Volume XVI  
Issue II

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## Meet Your Volunteers Tanys Waldron

THE MASTER GARDENERS IN THIS photo are getting ready for the new Intern Class of 2008. They are organizing and compiling all of the class study material for the 27 new Interns. It takes a full three days to do this task. On the second day the photo copier at the Bay Minette Extension office went into melt down, and it took the repairman a full day to get it up and running. Just to give you an idea of how much material each student receives, Joyce Mudrak, the Intern class coordinator, weighed one of the student manuals. It was 9 pounds. Multiply 9lbs. x 27 students = 243 lbs. of paper. That is a lot of organization.

The 27 new Interns start class on Wednesday, February 6th. The first class will be held at the Bay Minette Extension office and the rest of the classes will be held at the Hwy 104 Extension building. There are 14 days of class and graduation day will be May 7th.

The 2008 Intern class has a new feature: it is a mentoring program. Each Intern will be partnered with a graduate Master Gardener and this MG will be a resource buddy during the program. The goal of this program is to help the new Interns feel more welcomed and included in our group. The mentor will offer guidance, support and encouragement aimed at developing the competence of the Intern. The mentor will encourage the Intern to become an active MG after graduation. The Mentoring program will start on the second day of class, Wednesday Feb. 13th. If you would like to be a part of the mentoring program, please call Joyce Mudrak.

The Intern class could use some more volunteers to help in the kitchen. The commitment would be for three Wednesday classes from 8:30am to 3pm. It is a great way to listen to some lectures on plants, reconnect with some of your Master Gardener friends and meet the enthusiastic group of Interns. If you are interested call Joyce Mudrak, Intern class coordinator, at (251)-621-8011.



L to R: Marilyn Mannhard, Joyce Mudrak, Travis Mitchell, Loree Hadley, Pat Libby, Mike McQueen - MG Extension Advisor

## President's Corner Sam Andrews

IN SOUTHERN BALDWIN COUNTY, OUR average last frost dates occur in February. The month ahead is when our thoughts turn to spring, and our activities jump into high gear.

Please remember the BCMG is a very complex, multi-faceted operation. Our members devote themselves to a number of operational and project activities. It is amazing how much we accomplish, how much talent we have, and how effectively we pursue our goals. As members we 1) inform, support and educate the gardening public and 2) assist the Extension Service in their outreach activities.

Please read your e-mails and answer your phones over the next month. Sign-up sheets for our various activities will be in the back of the meeting room. Please give of your time... generously!

Oh, do not forget that we need volunteers for our internal activities as well as our public ones. Only if we continue to maintain a sound organizational foundation can we have the strength, focus and means to enjoy our meetings, fulfill Extension requests and sponsor community projects. Let's keep our BCMG posts filled with dedicated, enthusiastic people... like you.

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## Meeting Minutes Ann Pierce

**THE FIRST BCMG MONTHLY MEETING** of 2008 met at the regular location on Highway 104. Tanys Waldron presented a collection of a few photos taken from the first year of Master Gardeners' organization in 1992 with pictures of the first Master Gardener plant sale and continued with photos of many activities during 2007. This was an impressive presentation by one of our new members, Loree Hadley. Thanks, Loree!

President Sam Andrews introduced a new committee: Service Hours Committee with Jane Wright, Lynn Andrews and Carma Gronback. This group will study ways to standardize volunteer hours reporting for ease and accuracy for members, interpretation by Extension Service Coordinator Mike McQueen and submission to Auburn Extension Service for justification of our program.

Jane Wright presented the Treasurer's report, and then gave a big thank you to Sam for his past year's service as President, awarding him with two gift certificates as outgoing President

and accepting the office again for this coming year. She also asked for three more volunteers to contact members and to correct sheets for Service Hours when submitted.

Ann McAdams, Festival of Flowers Chairman, asked for workers to staff and set up the display for the March event in Mobile. There will be a meeting for input of ideas in February, then a workday March 3 to set up our display. Workers are also needed to dismantle on Sunday afternoon after the Festival. Trucks and vans are needed. A sign-up sheet was passed around to check areas of interest in working with this project.

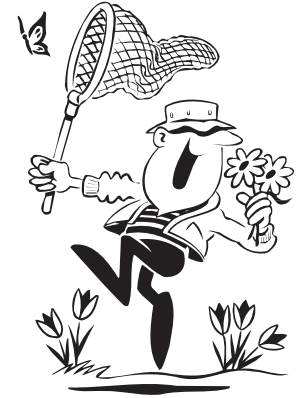
Tanys announced Arbor Day, February 23, to be held in Daphne, Fairhope and Foley, needing three coordinators and 3 workers for each location to help with trees and information handouts.

Joyce Mudrak will be working with the 2008 Intern class and is asking for help at the Bay Minette Extension office on January 16 and 17 at 10 am. There is also a need for volunteers for kitchen duty, with only two days of rotating duty for each helper. Call or e-mail to volunteer. There have been 29 applications this year.

Marilyn Mannhard, Projects Chairman, asked for updates of current projects by January 20, and is looking for a new coordinator since Dawn Garcia became ill and can't accept the position.

Sam also needs a team to set up for meetings.

Jody Klugel offered to obtain tickets for March performances of the play "To Kill a Mockingbird" in Monroeville. Tickets will go on sale March 3.



Selena Vaughn commented on the upcoming Master Gardeners' plant sale planned for March 14 and 15. She will have sign-up sheets at the February meeting. This is our primary fund raiser event and involves many details of planning.

Sam said that Harry Kohler will again be in charge of the Info line workers. We will still be using the old building until the new one is ready in Robertsedale.

There will be a Board Meeting next Thursday, January 18.

Cindy Knowlton, coordinator for the Extension Service since 2002, spoke to us about the idea of helping the youth with a Heritage Garden at the Baldwin Heritage Museum in Elberta to help commemorate the 200th year of Baldwin County. Marilyn will present the project for approval at the upcoming Board meeting.

Sam announced the Busy Bee Award for this month to a totally surprised recipient - me, Ann Pierce.

Rosemarie Morgan presented our own Jim Gaines as our speaker today on Camellias. He inherited his interest of camellias from his grandfather and has collected many plants of his own out of the approximately 32,000 varieties. They bloom while dormant, can be planted any time, preferably in semi-shade, and planted HIGH in the hole so the roots can breathe. Always buy a plant in bloom to be sure of the variety. Camellias are basically trouble free but a little cleanup of fallen petals can help avoid diseases. The Camellia Show will be held at the Bel-Air Mall January 18 and 19 and will be worth the visit.

*There is 1 CEU for this meeting.*



# Busy Bees

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**Ann Pierce**

# Projects Report

## By Marilyn Mannhard

**GREETINGS TO YOU ALL** AND a big thank you for sending in your updates over the last three years that I have served as Project Coordinator. This will be my last article as Ross Bollen has agreed to be our new Project Coordinator. He will write next month's article so please send your updates to him at [rossbollen@aol.com](mailto:rossbollen@aol.com). Please give him your cooperation and support. I am excited to have some time to pursue some different Master Gardener activities.

### Foley Rose Trail

Hank Alexander reports that there will be eighty-seven more roses picked up from Petals from the Past and delivered to Foley. During that week (January 21), the Master Gardeners will complete the planting of roses on the north end of the Rose Trail close to the Justice Center. This will almost complete the trail; however, there will be some additional roses to be planted on the south end. This will bring the total number of roses planted on the trail to around 500.

As Spring approaches, the rose trail will begin to put on its splendor, and those who visit the trail will be awed by the beauty of the roses. If you have not made a trip to see this beautiful working classroom, please make a point to do so around the end of March or first of April. The trail is located just north of Heritage Park at the corner of highways 59 & 98 in downtown Foley. You will be in for a real treat!

I would like to add to Hank's update that I (Marilyn) will be in charge of the Outreach Booth at the City of Foley Garden & Flower Extravaganza on Saturday, March 15 and Sunday, March 16. This is the same weekend as our plant sale at Weeks Bay so it will be a very busy time. However, I will be looking for some good volunteers to help man the Outreach Booth. The booth was very popular with visitors last year and we were able to help many people with information and pamphlets, so please think about volunteering. I will have a sign-up sheet at the February meeting.

### Habitat for Humanity

Cathy Blake reports that Habitat for Humanity Baldwin County has a full construction schedule in 2008 and will begin building a house in Bay

Minette on January 19. We will begin landscaping four weeks thereafter (Feb. 16) to include installation of sod and ornamental plantings. Additional houses will be started with one house to be built in Foley, starting in February and two houses to be built in Fairhope, starting in March. Landscaping will occur in March and April (dates to be determined later). All Master Gardeners are invited to participate in the beautification of these homes as well as helping homeowners learn about landscaping.

Another idea in the works is to conduct a seminar for the Habitat homeowners, many of whom have never owned a home or had a yard to keep up before. We will get back to the membership with more information about this effort.

### Arbor Day

Tany's Waldron is coordinating Outreach for the three Arbor Days held the last Saturday in February. This is her information and request for assistance.

Arbor Day will be held in Baldwin County on Saturday morning, February 23. Master Gardeners help out with Arbor Day in the cities of Daphne, Fairhope and Foley. MG's pass out trees and information on how to plant trees as part of the Arbor Day Celebration.

The Outreach Education Committee needs Volunteers for Arbor Day. If you do not think that you know enough about trees and how to plant them, do not worry. The Outreach Committee has two wonderful brochures that cover this information. We will give out these brochures at the monthly meeting on February 14 and to the general public on Arbor Day. If someone asks a question you cannot answer, you will be working with other Master Gardeners who probably will know the answer. If no MG has an answer, ask the person to call the Information Helpline and give them the Extension Bookmark with the phone number and the [www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu) website.

If you would like to volunteer, please sign up at the February meeting or call Tany's Waldron (251)-947-4121 or email [tanyswaldron@yahoo.com](mailto:tanyswaldron@yahoo.com).

### Daphne Arbor Day

**Time:** 7:30 am to 12:30 pm.

**Location:** Village Point Park on Village Point Dr.

**Directions:** If driving south from I-10 on Hwy. 98, turn right onto Scenic Hwy 98/Main St. at the Kentucky Fried Chicken and BP gas station. Drive ½ mile to Village Point Dr. and turn right. Follow road until you get to the parking area.

If driving north from Fairhope, turn left at the intersection of Hwy 98 and Whispering Pines Rd. Go past the Daphne Convention Center and Library. Turn right onto Scenic Hwy 98/Main St. Go north approximate 1 mile. Turn left on Village Point Dr. Follow road until you get to the parking area.

### Fairhope Arbor Day

**Time:** 8:30 am to 1 pm.

**Location:** Faulkner State Community College Dahlgren Hall.

This is at 450 Fairhope Ave at the corner of Fairhope Ave. and School St.

### Foley Arbor Day

**Time:** 9:00 am to noon.

**Location:** Foley City Park at the corner of Hwy 59 and Hwy 98.

For all the Arbor Days you can be there for the entire event or for part of the morning. Whatever works for your schedule is fine. Not only will you receive volunteer hours but you will also be able to pick and choose what trees you would like to adopt and take home for your own yard.



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## Festival of Flowers *The Great Get-Away* Ann McAdams

The Festival of Flowers is an annual event sponsored by Providence Hospital. The proceeds from the event are used for different projects in the hospital. Master Gardeners have long been associated with the Festival, and at our February meeting we will be asking for volunteers to staff the Master Gardener Booth at the Festival.

The Festival is in its 15th year and is recognized by the Southeast Tourism Society as one of the Top Twenty events. Not only do they offer landscaped gardens to view and outstanding speakers in the seminars, but they try to educate the public about good gardening practices. This is our mission. We want to help people become familiar with the Extension Service and to recruit people interested in becoming Master Gardeners.

The Festival is located on the grounds of Providence Hospital on Airport Boulevard in Mobile and will be held *Wednesday, March 5th through Sunday, March 9th.*

Shift schedules run as follows.

Wednesday thru Saturday: 8:30-11:00 • 11:00-2:00 • 2:00-5:00

Sunday: 10:30-2:30 • 2:30-5:00

*We will need two volunteers per shift.*

When you volunteer for a shift, you get to see the Festival free, sit in on any seminar that day, count your volunteer hours (including travel time,) and have a wonderful experience. This is a premier flower show, and I know you will want to be part of it. Check your calendar to see when you are available and be ready to make a commitment at our February meeting.

If you are unable to make the February meeting and want to volunteer, call me at 580-4214.



Hiram Templeton, Manager of Alabama Power's Bay Minette office, presents BCMG President Sam Andrews with a \$1214 grant check. The Alabama Power grant will be used for an irrigation project at the Week's Bay Reserve.



## 2008 Festival Choice Plant Selection

Last year the Festival of Flowers added a new program called Festival's Choice. This is a selection of plants of outstanding merit for home gardeners in the Coastal South region. Listed are this year's winners.

### Shrubs

*Camellia Stephanie Golden*  
*Camellia Tiny Princess Japonica*  
*Camellia High Fragrance*

### Perennials

*Acanthus Summer Beauty*  
*Dianthus First Love*  
*Veronica Georgia Blue*

You may see photos of these winners at [www.festivalofflowers.com](http://www.festivalofflowers.com).

Members of the Horticulture Committee making the selections include Dr. Bill Barrick, Marion Drummond, Bill Finch, Bobby Green and Colleen Van der Giessen.

The following plants will be available at the March plant sale:

*Camellia High Fragrance*  
*Dianthus First Love*  
*Veronica Georgia Blue*



## Program Notes

### Rosemarie Morgan and Rebecca Trosclair

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2008

9:30 SOCIAL  
10:00 MEETING  
10:30 PROGRAM:  
"JUDGING HORTICULTURAL  
SPECIMENS"

GUEST SPEAKER: PAT LIBBY

THIS VERY ACTIVE MASTER GARDENER is also a Master Flower Show Judge. Pat will present an overview of the entry guidelines and judging procedures. She might even inspire you to enter your best plant in the Amateur Horticultural Exhibit and Competition at this year's Festival of Flowers.

## Looking Ahead: March Selena Vaughn

THURSDAY, MARCH, 13, 2008

THE MARCH MEETING WILL BE held at the Plant Sale location across the street from Weeks Bay Estuary.

10:00 Short Meeting  
10:15 Weeks Bay Arboretum Tour  
by Dr. Harry Larsen

Plants will be available for purchase to MG's following the meeting. The plant sale set up will be in full swing prior to and following the meeting. Join in the set up if you can. Lunch will be served to plant sale set-up volunteers following the meeting.



## 10th Annual Spring Plant Sale

### Selena Vaughn

IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE we are here again. Our plant sale is right around the corner, March 14th and 15th. This grand undertaking would not be possible without the huge turnout of tireless Master Gardener volunteers who make it happen each year. You know what they say – you can never be too skinny, too rich or have too many volunteers. The Daphne Greenhouse volunteers and the SBTC Greenhouse volunteers have been working for months growing many of the beautiful plants we will sell. We will have many reliable standards as well as beautiful new varieties. Sign up sheets for presale set up, days-of sale (selling and check out), outreach booth, food service and post sale break down will be at the February meeting. This is truly a group effort so please be certain to volunteer.

Set up days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday prior to the sale. Come on out and bring your check book!



## ALMG Advisory Council

### Frieda Romanchuk

INFORMATION ON THE ANNUAL ALMG Conference IS NOT (as of 1-14-08) on the state MG website. The Wiregrass group plans to get info up and running shortly. For conference info monitor [www.alabamamg.org](http://www.alabamamg.org).

May 18 & 19 – Lee County Spring Garden Tour – Seven gardens all 'in town' (Auburn / Opelika) this year (as opposed to years previous when people were driving all over the countryside.) Information is to be available at the state conference.

April 8 & 9 – Felder Rushing is the featured speaker offered by Tuscaloosa MG's . Rushing hosts THE GESTALT GARDENER on MPB Radio. Check out his website at [www.xxx.com](http://www.xxx.com) for a bio and the nitty-gritty on this seemingly very laid back gardener.

Kerry Smith, the MG's Auburn connection and MG coordinator, lead a question-and-answer session that included some of the following exchanges:

**Accident Insurance:** In the simplest of terms if a Master Gardener is injured while doing a Master Gardener activity, your personal insurance will have to cover you. In recent years the interns signed a waiver that basically states this. Chapters

need to update that all their members have signed such a waiver.

**Liability Insurance:** Basically if, for example, a Master Gardener unwittingly after doing research gives incorrect information when on the Info Line and a client's grass 'burns up,' the Master Gardener IS COVERED for this liability by the Extension Service since we are doing this in lieu of the agent. The same applies for information we might give in Outreach situations.

**State Meetings:** Anyone, Master Gardener or not, is welcome to attend the state conferences and other education offerings if space allows. Members in most chapters are free to audit intern classes for free as a refresher if space permits.

A Volunteer Hours online system tutorial was suggested. Only 20 hours of volunteer service are needed for a Master Gardener to renew his/her lapsed membership. Annual dues are to be paid as well. If a chapter wanted to reactivate a group of Master Gardeners, one large project could knock off 20 hours quickly. Besides paying yearly dues, each MG is requested to volunteer 20 hours.

# Special Announcements



## Calling All Volunteers!

The Monthly Program Speakers Coordinator position is currently open to a creative Master Gardener or Master Gardener team. The term runs from March to February of the following year. Below is a quick run down of the responsibilities for this position.

### Secure a speaker.

Find a good speaker and learn about the topics on which he / she can speak at the monthly meetings. Or select a program and find a credible speaker on the topic. Speakers may be selected from local professionals, garden clubs, membership suggestions or from our own group of talented members. Be resourceful.

### Grass Roots Article

Send a brief article describing the upcoming program to the Grass Roots editor. Articles should include the speaker's name, topic and a brief biography.

### Gratuity for Speaker

Write a thank-you note and enclose the required gratuity to the speaker at the meeting.

Programs may also be held off site at local nurseries, botanical gardens or even our own member's gardens.

Contact Rosemarie Morgan or Rebecca Trosclair if you are interesting in the position. We look forward to another year of interesting and informative programs!



**Crabgrass can grow on bowling balls in airless rooms, and there is no way to kill it that does not involve nuclear weapons.**

~Dave Barry

## Service Hours & Phone Calls

**THE SERVICE HOURS COMMITTEE NEEDS** your input. Your service hours are being brought up to date. We want to start the New Year 2008 with our MG records in order. A number of our Master Gardeners will be receiving Service Badges at the next Awards presentation in July, and we want to make sure that everyone who has earned a new Badge will receive one.

Here is how you can help: the Service Hours committee will be calling you to confirm how many volunteer hours you have worked each year. Those hours will be added up to see what badge you are qualified to receive. It would help us if you could get your service hours handy and be ready for the call. Each volunteer on the committee will be calling 35 people, and we want to have all of this finished by early February.

When your committee member calls you, please tell them what badge you currently have and what badge you are entitled to. If you would like to be proactive, you may "Carpe Diem" and call your committee member and update your hours immediately. We will be talking to everyone soon.

Below are the committee members and the Master Gardeners whom they will be calling:

Lynn Andrews	31 - 55	Henry Albers to Carol Cary
	929-7922	
Ross Bollen	56 - 80	Jeanette Catlow to Gordon Dyess
	990-0574	
Carma Gronback	81-105	Judy Earle to Myra Hannah
	955-2100	
Ann McAdams	106-130	Tonya Harang to Ann Kelley
	580-4214	
Joyce Mudrak	131-155	Caterina Kenworthy to Lulu Null
	621-8011	
Tanys Waldron	156-180	Linda O'Rear to Marylee Smith
	947-4121	
Jane Wright	181-107	Pat Smith to Ronnie Zak
	965-3003	

Listed are the hours required and badge abbreviations:

B = Badge	•	BB = 100 hr Bronze Star
BS = 300 hr Silver Star	•	BG = 500 hr Gold Star
GB = 1000 Hr Badge	•	PB = 2000 Hr badge

For future reference please save a copy of the Volunteer hours you submit each year. These records will ensure that each Master Gardener receives the correct badge and recognition they deserve.



10<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Plant Sale

**March 14 & March 15**

Friday 9AM - 5PM / Saturday 9AM - 4PM

Hwy 98 West of Fish River Bridge  
Across from Weeks Bay Reserve Entrance

Locally Grown Plants

Natives / Perennials / Shrubs

Hummingbird & Butterfly Attractors

Camellias / Native Azaleas / Master Gardener Favorites

- Master Gardener Information Booth
  - Free Soil Ph Test
- Proceeds Benefit BCMG Scholarship Fund  
& Community Outreach Projects

**Bring this flyer for 10% off one plant.**



# Mark Your Calendar!

feb

- 14 Monthly Meeting 9:30
- 16 Habitat for Humanity Landscape Day
- 23 Arbor Day

mar

- 3 Festival of Flowers Set-up Day
- 4-6 Master Gardener State Convention
- 5-9 Festival of Flowers
- 13 Monthly Meeting 9:30
- 14-15 BCMG Plant Sale
- 15-16 Foley Flower & Garden Extravaganza
- 26 Luncheon with MG Interns
- 27-29 Wolf Bay Plant Sale

may

- 7 Luncheon with MG Interns



The Baldwin County Master Gardener newsletter is published monthly. The publishing date is the first Monday of each month. The deadline for submitting articles to the editor for publication is the 20th of the month preceding publication.

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Sandra Walton

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22398 Palmer Street  
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or e-mail to  
marysol206@gmail.com

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### Change of Address

If your address, phone or e-mail changes please contact

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Tel: 251 / 965-3003  
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**NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 14, 2008 @ 10:00 AM**  
**GUEST SPEAKER: PAT LIBBY**  
**HWY. 104 RESEARCH STATION**