

GRASS ROOTS

NEWSLETTER OF THE BALDWIN COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS, INC.

November 2007

Volume XV Issue XI



Meet Your Volunteers

By Tanys Waldron

This was a landmark year for the 67th Annual Baldwin County Fair. The fair moved to its new location in Robertsdale. The 55 acre site, which features a 79,000 sq. ft. arena and a 32,000 sq. ft. two story coliseum, is located behind Robertsdale High School on Fairgrounds Rd. just off Hwy 59. All Baldwin County Master Gardeners will soon know where the new coliseum is located because this will be the new home of the Robertsdale Info Line office starting in the spring of 2008.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) has played a major role in the fair since it began in 1950. The main focus of the fair has always been about home industry, livestock and 4-H club participation. There are competitions in cooking, canning, sewing, crafts, livestock, etc. The Fair is a Baldwin County tradition. Helping to organize and plan the many competitions were Susan F. Wingard, Baldwin County Extension Coordinator, and Sandra Walton, Baldwin County Administrative Support Associate.

The Fair is held the last week of September, and the dates this year were from Tuesday, September 25 to Saturday, September 29. The Baldwin County Cattle and Fair Association received nearly \$10 Million in federal aid to help build the coliseum, which will be the first



L-R: Tanys Waldron, Dawn Garcia, Jodie Klugel, Ed Wirgowski

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President's Corner

by Sam Andrews

November is the month known for harvest and thanksgiving. For our ancestors, November meant the planting season was done and the seed safely stored away until spring. For our Baldwin County Master Gardeners group, we also look forward to our winter rest and festivities. However, we are also busy preparing for the burst of activity that comes post-solstice with February's Arbor Day and a new Spring Intern class.

Our ancestors used the winter as a time of planning, repair, and tool making. Our organization – a business and social entity – is also busy doing so as well. Framed with its Gardening Education mission and filled with trained, enthused volunteers, the BCMG provides us with the social support, resources

and community contact to carry out our numerous projects.

Your Board, in a recent meeting, made a commitment to update and integrate our volunteer organization and its 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporate sides. In doing so, the Board authorized a special Committee to help guide the process. Different parts of the group will investigate insurance issues, accounting, records, organization, by-laws and other such things. Hopefully, the end result will be a more tightly-focused, more responsive organization focused on our Garden education mission.

Finally, below is a wonderful article on Frost. It is a very timely reminder from an

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Meeting Minutes

by Ann Pierce

President Sam Andrews began the BCMG monthly meeting at the 5 Rivers Delta Center on the Mobile Causeway by welcoming everyone to the wonderful State facility.

Sam awarded this month's Busy Bee Award to Pat Libby, who just conducted a very successful Seminar last week, pulling everything together so well. There are four CEU's for attending the entire event.

Jane Wright announced that the Association actually made a profit on the Seminar, although all the bills have not come in. Dues of \$20.00 are payable now through November, with an additional \$5.00 surcharge made if paid after December 29, since the dues must be sent on to the State by that time.

Sam will be calling a Board Meeting in the next couple of weeks.

Tanys Waldron, Nominating Committee Chairman, asks that our talented members please say "Yes" if approached for an office for the coming year.

Marilyn Mannhard, Projects Chairman, told about the project form and list of projects that have been sent online. Please send reports to Marilyn. Any proposed projects will come before the Board.

Sam has met with Kerry Smith, State MG Coordinator, who is establishing new equipment and computers for the new Info Line location in Robertsdale, with a place for permanent records.

Tanys Waldron, Outreach Chairman, mentioned two projects, which are the Weeks Bay Plant Sale and the Wolf Bay Plant Sale in Miflin, where we will have outreach booths. Jody Klugel and Dawn Garcia were her main helpers at the Baldwin County Fair outreach booth last week.

Sam said the Wayne de la Rua ballots should be in by November 8, and the winner will be announced at the December banquet. Nominees are Tanys Waldron and Ed Wirgowski.

Judy Thompson announced that the Wisteria Garden Club is having Jason Powell from Petals from the Past as its speaker on November 2 at the Nix Center at 10:30 a.m.

Tom Dukes stressed that annual

volunteer reports are due November 1 for the period from November 2006 through October 2007. Please use the forms sent by email, and send them on to Tom, so he can compile all information to send on to the State for their records. There is an information sheet "Defining Volunteer Hours" that was passed out today to help with calculating service hours. Mike McQueen stated that our volunteer work makes his job a lot easier and is very much appreciated.

Tom is also working with the Wolf Bay Plant Sale to be held October 26 and 27, in tandem with the Elberta Sausage Festival. There will be Encore azaleas, citrus, blueberries and shrubs, which are not plants which conflict with the Weeks Bay Plant Sale.

Harry Kohler has sign up sheets for October and the 2 weeks in November of the Info Line.

Hank Burch, manager of the 5 Rivers facility explained the concept of this new facility and how it was developed. There are 40,000 acres, 12 miles by 30 miles, that are under this educational program. On October 18 the Visitors Center will open in coordination with the Bird Fest. He showed a film and then took our members on a short tour of the complex.

There is 1 CEU hour for this program.

President's Corner

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old friend of mine, Barry Schlueter (Houston, TX).

"There's a lot of misunderstanding about the conditions under which frost occurs. Here's the simple truth. With some of its energy removed, steam becomes liquid water. Remove some more energy, and the liquid water becomes ice. And that's the way frost forms: moisture in the air comes into contact with a cool surface (such as a hibiscus leaf) and condenses (dew forms), because the gaseous water loses some of its energy to the cool leaf surface.

The cooling of the leaf occurs when there are no clouds and the leaf is exposed to the cold sky. When enough energy is lost, the dew solidifies into frost (ice).

It is important to understand that, while water always turns into ice at 32° F and below, it is possible to have frost form on leaves when air temperature is higher than 32°F, even up to 38°F! The reason frost can form above 32°F air temperature is that energy leaves the dew so rapidly (much faster than it can from the air itself). So the temperature of the dew reaches the freeze point of water quicker than does water in the surrounding air. Surfaces which are more-nearly vertical, or those facing other warmer surfaces (such as a nearby

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Pat Libby



Busy Bees

- 🐝 Tanys Waldron — January
- 🐝 Ed Wirgowski — February
- 🐝 Joyce Mudrak — March
- 🐝 Selena Vaughn — April
- 🐝 Tom Schubert — May
- 🐝 Tom Dukes --- June
- 🐝 Lynn Andrews --- July
- 🐝 Marilyn Mannhard --- August
- 🐝 Rod & Linda Chappelle—September
- 🐝 Pat Libby—October
- 🐝 November—*Buzz, Buzz...*



Projects Report

By Marilyn Mannhard

Fall greetings to everyone. I hope your garden is growing nicely now that we have had rain and maybe soon some cooler weather. We have a new project to report. The Board of Directors met Thursday, October 18 and voted to approve the Lower Alabama Search and Rescue (LASAR) Building Grounds project. This project is located in Lillian and had asked for Master Gardener assistance in designing landscaping for their new building and instructing LASAR volunteers with new plantings and maintenance. Master Gardeners involved with this project are Jan Sanders and Alice Brown. Please contact one of them if you are interested in helping with this project. Jan's phone number is 961-1530, email: jansanders@gulftel.com and Alice's email address is rbrown@gulftel.com.

An existing project that needs someone to update it is the Vendor List. This would include calling the vendors on the old listing to verify that their information is correct and also to add new vendors to the list. If anyone is interested in working on this, please

contact Jane Wright at 965-3003 or janwri@gulftel.com.

Harry Anderson reports that the Bon Secour Wildlife Refuge Landscaping Project has been on hold recently. Goals for this winter are to replace some of the plants lost during the long, hot, dry summer. In spite of the drought, the first bed that was planted looks very good. The Conradina and Gaillardia seem to be well established and are looking great. The very large bed in the center of the circular drive also looks good, but a number of plants died over the summer and need to be replanted this winter. There has been a change of management at the Refuge and the original contact person has been transferred so the BCMG volunteers do not yet know if the Refuge will want to expand the project or not.

Thank you to all who have sent in reports and have submitted both new project proposals and have updated information on existing projects. Please keep the reports coming in.



Program Notes

By Rosemarie Morgan and Rebecca Trosclair

Thursday, November 8, 2007

9:30 A.M.—Social
10:00 A.M.—Meeting
10:30 A.M.—Program
“The Best of English Gardens”
Guest Speaker: Gaynell Dumas

Gaynell will present her stunning photographs of 5 public and 3 private gardens of England. She will take us on a photographic adventure of her recent trip with highlights of the Chelsea Flower Show. Gaynell is one of our talented and dedicated Master Gardeners

LOOKING AHEAD: The December Luncheon and Awards Presentation! December 13 at PZK Hall. Plan to make a favorite dish to share (details will come with the next issue), and join in the fun!



Continuing Education Hours—2007

By Tanys Waldron

To make adding up your hours for 2006/2007 easier, here are the Continuing Education dates and hours. When you see “CEU” it means Continuing Education Credit and “BCMG mm” means Baldwin County Master Gardener monthly meeting.

There are 10 BCMG monthly meetings with seminars per year. (No seminars in December or July. We have Awards and great food celebrations instead.)

This list is for general Master Gardener CEU hours. The CEU hours for other specific events (ex: state conferences) will need to be figured out by the individuals who attended those conferences and seminars. If you need help determining how many hours CEU you have earned for a specific seminar, please call Tom Dukes at (251) 986-8448 or e-mail wolfbaytom@gulftel.com

NOVEMBER 2006

November 9—BCMG mm—Shade Gardening—Mary Jo Broussard—1 hour CEU.

JANUARY 2007

January 8—Fairhope Garden Club seminar—Bill Finch— 1-1/2 hours CEU.

January 11—BCMG mm - Susan Hess - Butterfly Gardens - 1 hour CEU.

January 31—BCMG Info Line Training - 2 hours CEU.

FEBRUARY 2007

February 8—BCMG mm - Carol Griffin - Propagation - 1-1/2 hours CEU.

February 22—Gulf Shores Garden Club -Dr. Arlene Kestner - 1-1/2 hours CEU.

February 24—Arbor Day in Fairhope - Propagation seminar - Carol Griffin - 1-1/2 hours CEU.

MARCH 2007

March 3—Mobile Master Gardener Cont. Ed. seminar - 4 hours CEU.

March 8—BCMG mm - Dr. Harry Larsen -Identifying Trees in Winter - 1 hour CEU.

March 21-24—Festival of Flowers seminars - 1 hour CEU each.

March 31—City of Foley Rose Trail seminars - 1 hour CEU each.

APRIL 2007

April. 12—BCMG mm- Sam Renfroe - Rose Gardens -1/2 hour CEU.

April 19—Earth Day at Five Rivers - Plant I.D. Group - 1-1/2 hours CEU.

April 22—Earth Day at Five Rivers - Seminars held in Theater - 1 hour CEU.

April 22—Earth Day at Five Rivers - Guided Nature Tour - 1-1/2 hours CEU.

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Meet Your Volunteers

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hurricane shelter in the state built to withstand 200-mph winds. When it is completed, it will have the capacity to shelter 5,000 people overnight and 1,800 people long-term. This is great news for us as it means that our new Info Line office will have a good chance of surviving any future hurricanes.

The amazing thing about the County Fair was that it happened. The building of the fairgrounds and coliseum were three months behind schedule. The fairgrounds stadium section where we had our Outreach Booth was unfinished and was surrounded by great amounts of fresh Alabama red dust and dirt. When all of the exhibitors arrived to set up first thing on Monday morning, no one had any idea what to expect. While carrying our supplies onto the open air concrete slab, we had to dodge operating bulldozers building a dirt ramp into our area. To keep us company during the week we had a crew laying concrete right behind our booth, and on the other side we had horses kicking up dirt while going through their competition paces. It was nothing short of miraculous that all the exhibitors got everything set up and conducted business as usual. To everyone's surprise and relief, everything at the fair went just fine, plus the weather cooperated with lots of sunshine.

We decorated our Master Gardener Booth with 67 flowering plants loaned to us from the South Baldwin Center for Technology (SBCT) greenhouse. Many thanks go to Jeff Kelley, the head instructor at SBCT for allowing us to borrow their plants. It is probably boasting to say that our Booth was one of the best looking at the Fair, but the truth is the truth. Our booth looked

great!!!

The focus of Outreach is public education. This goal was accomplished with plants that were both attractive and interactive. The interactive plants were herbs and gingers. Herbs were used to talk to the public about scents, tasty cooking and herbs as butterfly food. The gingers were the real education success story. Everybody wanted to squeeze the pinecone ginger and experience the smooth feeling of its lotion. Gus Utter, one of our BCMG's supplemented our collection of Pinecone gingers by bringing in some huge pinecones from his garden. By the end of the fair they were still squeezing out lots of lotion.

Lots of the fair goers stopped at our booth and wanted to know what flower was producing the lovely scent. It was the White Butterfly Ginger flower which smells like gardenias. Then everyone admired the beauty of the Hidden Ginger Lily which has a flower that looks like an orchid with it's colors of creamy white and pink. You can buy these three gingers from SBCT in Robertsdale anytime during school hours. BCMG's volunteer at SBCT every Wednesday morning.

The first day of the fair (Tuesday) is the busiest. It is Senior Day, admission to the fair is free and there are lots of giveaways. If you come to the fair next year, our booth will be set up in the air conditioned comfort of the new Coliseum building, and our Info Line office will be right next door. It will be very civilized and pleasant. But this year was an experience. We were pioneers at the new fair grounds. The heat index in our booth was about 105 degrees, and we sweated behind the heavy plastic curtains set up to keep

out the red dust. We kept busy during the slow times slapping at the enthusiastic and abundant love bugs. This was a great year to have been a part of the fair.

My favorite memory of the fair is Jodie Klugel dragging a 150 ft. garden hose through the red dirt to our booth to water the plants. Dawn Garcia got out her pocket knife and cut a hole in the heavy plastic curtain so we could stuff the hose into our booth and Edwin Wirgowski watered all our SBCT plants as fast as he could while trying not to flood our booth or squirt passersby. Our week at the fair was hot, sweaty and fun.

Baldwin County Master Gardeners were represented in other areas of the fair. Carma Gronback, a member of the Gulf Shores Garden Club had an entry in the competition for cut flowers display. Edwin Wirgowski had two entries in the Craft competition in ceramics and wood carving. Dawn Garcia won Blue Ribbons in 5 categories, Dixie Relish, Canned Pears with Cinnamon, Jalapenos sliced for nachos, Chinquapins (chinkypins) from the wild chestnut tree and Oriental Eggplants. She also won a White Ribbon for Brown Eggs and Boiled Jumbo Peanuts. Gus Utter entered in gourds. Gus also had his own booth at the Fair which displayed his Rock Hound (lapidary) collection.

A huge thank you goes to Dawn Garcia, Jody Klugel, and Edwin Wirgowski from the Baldwin County Master Gardeners for all of your time and sweat in organizing and staffing the Outreach Booth. Thank you for being great Volunteers.



Daphne Greenhouse Volunteers

By Rebecca Trosclair

This is a photo of some of the volunteers at the Daphne Greenhouse. Our list of volunteers are as follows: Urte Bollen, Jeff Doherty, Gordon Cooper, Marion Currie, Jim Huggins, Jodie Klugel, Ann McAdams, Linda O'Rear, Ann Pierce, Judy Stauder, Rebecca Trosclair, Selena Vaughn and Ronnie Zak.

What a great group of plant growers...who love to garden and have fun!



Continuing Education Hours

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MAY 2007

May 8—Mobile Master Gardener tour - Petals from the Past - 3 hours CEU.

May 10—BCMG mm - James Preast - Flowering Shrubs - 1 hour CEU.

May 11—Fairhope Garden Club Walk-Volunteer education tour- 1-1/2 hours CEU.

May 12—Fairhope Garden Club Walk-Point Clear Hotel seminar - 1 hour CEU.

May 18 & 19—Mobile Botanical Gardens tour “Gallery of Gardens” - 2 hours CEU.

JUNE 2007

June 14—BCMG mm - Elizabeth Mundine - Courtyards - 1 hour CEU.

AUGUST 2007

August 9—BCMG mm - Randy McQueen - Turf Grass - 1 hour CEU.

August 18—Fruit Pruning Workshop (in Alan Norden's Orchard) - Ed Tunnell--3 hours CEU.

SEPTEMBER 2007

September 13—BCMG mm - Russell Coker - Landscape Design - 1 hour CEU.

OCTOBER 2007

October 4—Baldwin County Master Gardener Continuing Ed seminar - 4 hours CEU.

October 11—BCMG mm - Frank Burch - Five Rivers Delta Center - 1 hour CEU.

October 11—Weeks Bay Plant Sale - Fred Nation plant I.D. talk - 1-1/2 hour CEU.

This excellent quote was passed on to us by Frieda Romanchuk's daughter and son-in-law.

Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty.

Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.

~Henry Ford



President's Corner

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house, garage, or heavy foliage), don't accumulate much dew and aren't exposed as much to the colder sky directly overhead, and therefore aren't likely to have as much frost formation.

Frost is prevented from forming by an overcast sky or other direct overhead blocking of the super-cold sky (such as a protective covering: sheet, shade cloth, etc.), or by temporary strategic heating of the surfaces on which dew would form. “Washing off the frost” from the leaves before sunrise heats the leaves (tap water is usually around 50-60°F), and frost is eliminated. Since frost generally forms in the wee hours of the morning, such washing also needs to be done then. Frost is also prevented when a rapid breeze of ambient air re-heats the dew on the leaf surface more-quickly than frost can form.

Are plants hurt by frost? Yes, at least new growth can be damaged, and foliage is “burned”. Actually, the surface cells of the plant tissue swell as 32°F is approached, because freezing water expands, sometimes to the point of rupturing the leaf cells.

Curiously, if there is a thick enough coating of ice on a leaf surface, the thickness itself provides a certain amount of insulation, which is often sufficient to hold the actual leaf cells' temperature closer to that of the ambient air and thereby prevent damage to some plants.

So, it's a two-stage process: moisture in the air condenses on a leaf, which is then stripped of its heat by a cold night sky to become frost (ice). To prevent frost on your bushes, cover them, or place them beneath a tree or porch overhang or provide some heat.”



Infoline News

By Harry Kohler

The Infoline needs your support in November.

Please check your schedules to see if you can fill any of the many open time slots.

If you can help, please send an e-mail to kohlerharry@earthlink.net or call me at (251) 929-2619. Thanks for your support!!

MONDAY

Nov 5	AM	Barbara Carlson
	AM	Mary Gibson
	PM	Ed Wirgowski
	PM	Sam Andrews
Nov 12	AM	Barbara Carlson
	AM	Jane Wright
	PM	Sam Andrews
	PM	Ed Wirgowski

TUESDAY

Nov 6	AM	Thomas Schubert
	AM	OPEN
	PM	OPEN
	PM	OPEN
Nov 13	AM	Thomas Schubert
	AM	OPEN
	PM	OPEN
	PM	OPEN

WEDNESDAY

Nov 7	AM	OPEN
	AM	OPEN
	PM	Tom Dukes
	PM	OPEN
Nov 14	AM	OPEN
	AM	OPEN
	PM	Tom Dukes
	PM	OPEN

INFOLINE CLOSSES FOR THE YEAR—REOPENS FEBRUARY 2008



Mark Your Calendar!

November 1, 2007—	Annual Report Due
November 2, 2007—	Foley Heritage Harbor Day Presentation by Don Shadow, 2:00 pm-4:00 pm, Foley Civic Center
November 8, 2007—	Monthly Meeting 9:30 am—Research Station Hwy. 104
November 8, 2007—	Wayne de la Rua Ballots counted
December 13, 2007—	Christmas Luncheon and Awards, PZK Hall, Robertsdale
January 10, 2008—	Monthly Meeting 9:30 am—Research Station Hwy. 104



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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Reminder – It's Dues Time Again!!!

Annual dues are \$20 per member, and must be paid prior to December 29. A late fee will be assessed after that. Your Alabama Master Gardener Association dues are included in this fee. You can pay your dues at the November 8 meeting, or the December 13 Holiday Party, or you can mail them at any time!

Please send your dues to:

BCMG
c/o Jane E. Wright
13789 Underwood Road
Summerdale AL 36580

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Change of Address

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

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Next Meeting: 9:30 A.M.—November 8, 2007
Guest Speaker: Gaynell Dumas