



The Prairie Mud

A Publication of Capital City Master Gardener Association
Montgomery, Alabama

Volume 8, Number 1 January 2006

January 2006 CCMGA Meeting

The January meeting of the Capital City Master Gardeners Association will be held at Vaughn Park Church of Christ on Tuesday, January 24, 2006, at 10:00.

Dr. Marcus Wilson will present the program. Dr. Wilson is the Director of the Ornamental Horticulture Technology program at Trenholm State Technical College (TSTC) as well as a Rheumatologist. He will relate some of his fascinating life story that led him to his current position and his love for plants. In addition, he will discuss the training opportunities at TSTC.

Col. John Brantner, who completed the Master Gardener classes several years ago with some of the CCMGA members, will join Dr. Wilson in presenting information about some of his own special interests in plants and gardening.

Garden Clippings

By Mary Eleanor Hines, President, CCMGA

I hope all of you enjoyed a joyous Christmas and New Year holiday and are ready to begin a year full of fun gardening experiences in the new year. We promise you that you'll have plenty of learning opportunities during the year. You won't want to miss any of them.

To say thank you to Dianne Bush hardly seems adequate for a year of one success after another. Our sincere appreciation goes to Dianne for all of her hard work and earnest effort in making '05 a very productive and positive year for CCMGA. A sincere "thank you" goes to Rhonda Goode as well for the many, many hours she spent so successfully in producing *Prairie Mud*. It was for more than four years that she is to be commended for this effort. Thank you, Dianne and Rhonda.

Our Christmas luncheon was a wonderful event to end our year. It was greatly enjoyed by all 49 members and guests. Kudos go to Cathy Maddox for planning the event, and hats off to Lynne Kuhlmann for a well-planned and executed auction. We made \$869.50, our best ever.

Congratulations to 19 new master gardener graduates who were recognized at the luncheon. They are D. J. Anagnos, Suzanne Brookhart, Peggy Byrd, Karin Carmichael, Betsy Coley, Nell Copeland, Emily Frye, Carol Gietl, Deborah Giles, Dick Hodges, Mac Porter, Susan Samuel, Ludy Sanderson, Anne Searcy, Jane Shalhoop, Jim Thibodeaux, Peggy Weimorts, Melissa Wilson and Judy Youngblood. CCMGA welcomes them as valuable additions to the gardening community.

You've chosen a most rewarding and fun activity to be involved in to continue learning while benefiting yourself and your community. We'll enjoy this wonderful experience together and make 2006 a green year to remember!

Let's make 2006 a year of learning, accomplishments and fun for all. See you on Jan. 24th. Happy gardening!

CCMGAs 2006 New Officers

Mary Eleanor Hines,
President (277-7927),
Cathy Maddox,
Vice President (279-8587),
Lynne Kuhlmann,
Secretary (834-8557),
Mary Cochran,
Treasurer (272-1512).

Thank you to the new officers for agreeing to serve our organization.

Kudos to Rhonda Goode

Thank you, Rhonda, for your excellent work as editor of *The Prairie Mud* newsletter for four and one half years as well as producing a yearly directory for the membership. In the year that we have been associated with the CCMGA, we eagerly looked forward to each issue of the newsletter. What a daunting task we have ahead of us to produce the same quality newsletter because of your high standards. Again, thank you, Rhonda for your outstanding dedication as editor.
Anne Searcy and Betsy Coley

New Member

CCMGA has a new member:
Dean Stearns
70 Menawa Pass
Millbrook, AL 36054
285-1425.
Welcome, Dean.

CCMGA December 13, 2005 Meeting Minutes

CCMGA held its December meeting at the Wynlakes Golf and Country Club. The annual Christmas Luncheon and Silent Auction were held prior to the meeting. **Dianne Bush** called the meeting to order with **Maggie Stringer** giving the invocation from a book of children's poems that was touching and very seasonally relevant. Forty members, one representative from ACES and 7 guests were present.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved as submitted in the newsletter.

Lynne Kuhlmann was managing the silent auction and will submit the treasurer's report to the secretary and the newsletter committee after the meeting.

Committee Chairperson Reports

Newsletter Editor, **Rhonda Goode**, was absent. The members recognized Rhonda's long and diligent service to CCMGA for her 4+ years as newsletter editor. Anne Searcy and Betsy Coley will be working together to publish the Prairie Mud for 2006.

Historian, **Jan Scott**, reported that the CCMGA Scrapbook is up to date. She also reported that Lynn Summer Sherman is scheduled for a bone marrow transplant and that Jan had sent an email to members with the information. The membership wishes Lynn a speedy recovery.

Information was provided to our Sunshine Committee Chair, **Judy Osborn**, regarding concerns for members. Dianne Bush reported that E.C. Lewis's wife passed away and that EC would enjoy receiving cards from anyone who wants to send them

Projects/Volunteer Opportunities

Master Gardener Hotline – **Jim Thibodeaux** was absent but Dianne reported that plans are progressing for implementation of the Hotline in April 2006.

Anna Owen reported that the Ordeman House courtyard is receiving continued attention from CCMGA. Watering continues by the committee that volunteers for this project.

Karen Weber announced that she will not be using any volunteers until the first of the year. She thanked everyone for their continued help and support.

Maggie Stringer reported that Lily's Garden at Forest Avenue School is flourishing due to the help of the new Master Gardeners, especially **Carol Gieti, Ludi Sanderson, Beryl Chestnutt, Lisa Lennox**. **Maggie** said that the garden has been transformed by these wonderfully dedicated new master gardeners.

There were no reports regarding the Head School project or the Bear School Project.

Betsy Coley had no progress report on Jr. Master Gardener Program.

Suzanne Brookhart reported that the Dannelly School garden looks great! She encouraged members to go see how lovely they look. She said that they have been totally refurbished by CCMGA members.

Old Business

Dianne reminded everyone that their membership dues are due before the end of December.

[Continued on page 3.]

Reach for the Stars Program

To receive a star, members must accumulate volunteer hours as follows:□

- Bronze Star
100 - 299 hours
- Silver Star
300 - 499 hours
- Gold Star
500 - 999 hours
- Gold Badge
(awarded by AMGA)
Over 1000 hours.

Report volunteer hours no later than the end of January to Shane Harris, Regional Extension Agent/Master Gardener Coordinator, at 256/825-1050 or harria5@auburn.edu, and to Sandra Thompson, CCMGA Stars Chairperson at sandra12@comlinkinc.net. Sandra will also take this information at the January meeting.

Sunshine Committee

Suzanne Lowry, Chairperson of the Sunshine Committee, requests that members bring to the next meeting any of their extra or unwanted greeting cards that are appropriate to send to members. For instance, Get Well, Encouragement, and blank cards will be useful. Everyone can sign them at the meeting(s) and they will be ready to send out.

[December Meeting minutes continued from page 3.]

Yvonne Evans reported that plans are progressing for a memorial tree in honor of Jere Werner. She has spoken with Mrs. Werner and received favorable response to our idea of planting a tree in his honor at his church or his home

Cathy Maddox reported that the 2006 Master Gardener classes will begin on January 19 and the sign up sheet for providing lunches & refreshments is available for members to pick a date to volunteer.

Betsy Coley reported that the AMGA Grant project is moving along. A meeting was held at the Governor's Mansion to discuss the possibility of CCMGA applying for a \$1000 grant to improve the herb and vegetable garden at the mansion. Plans include extending the herb and vegetable garden, installing plant markers and more. The grant application must be completed in January.

Dianne commended the membership on our becoming politically active during 2005 by helping to successfully pass the new tree ordinance for the City of Montgomery.

New Business

Dianne Bush informed the members that a reference library is going to be established at the Montgomery ACES office and **Jimmy Smitherman** has requested that CCMGA donate either funds, or materials or both. Shane explained that he is working on a grant that would provide funds for some of the library materials and requested that CCMGA wait until the January meeting to determine what will be needed and what we may want to donate. He also said that any member may donate funds or books to the library for use by MGs and ACES staff. **Cathy Maddox** inquired as to whether the books donated by CCMGA members or books bought with funds donated by members would be the property of CCMGA or of the state? Jimmy said it could be either and that some materials would be designated not to be checked out i.e. reference books for in-office use only. Members agreed to table this item until January.

Shane Harris and Cathy Maddox awarded certificates to the new Master Gardeners who have completed the course work and at least 40 hours of volunteer work.

Sandra Thompson reminded members to submit a copy of their volunteer hours to her by January 31, 2006 to her for the **Reach for the Stars** volunteer Recognition program. She gave her new email address as: sandra12@comlinkinc.net

Dianne Bush installed the new CCMGA officers for 2006: **President- Mary Eleanor Hines, Vice President – Cathy Maddox, Secretary – Lynne Kuhlmann, Treasurer – Mary Cochran.** **Dianne** urged all members to give the new officers their support. **Cathy Maddox** announced that any request or suggestions for programs for next year will be greatly appreciated.

Shane reported that there are 20 confirmed students for the 2006 Master Gardener class and we may have 5 additional for a total of 25. He also announced a Homeowner Tree Care Workshop on February 23 from 9am until 3 pm at the Loeb Center at Old Alabama Town. Charge is \$10 including lunch. 2006 MG students will be in the class and all are welcome. He asked us to help spread the word and encourage participation. The class will include topics dealing with planting, pruning, storm damage, liability, etc. He also stated that there will be a [Continued on page 6.]

Selecting Fruits and Pruning Workshop

On Saturday, February 18, 2006, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System will conduct a Selecting Fruits and Pruning Workshop. This workshop is designed for homeowners, Master Gardeners, commercial growers, and anyone else interested in growing fruits. Topics for the 3-hour workshop include Fruit Selection & Varieties, Planting and Training Fruits, Pruning Small Fruits, and Pruning Tree Fruits.

The workshop will be held outside (weather permitting) on the farm of John Neighbors in Eastern Coosa County. The farm is located on Hwy. 259 in Coosa County, near the 8-mile marker. It is approximately 7.5 miles southwest of Alexander City and 7.5 miles northeast of Equality.

There is a no charge for the workshop, which begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at noon. People interested in participating, however, are asked to register by contacting the Coosa County Extension office at 256-377-4713 or the Tallapoosa County Extension office at 256-377-4713.

Tentative Schedule for the Selecting Fruits and Pruning Workshop

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome & Announcements

- 9:05 a.m. Fruit Selection & Varieties
 - Examples of Adapted Varieties
 - New Fruit Opportunities

- 9:45 a.m. Planting and Training Fruits
 - Planting Procedures
 - Training and Directing New Growth

- 10:15 a.m. Pruning Small Fruits
 - Blueberries
 - Blackberries
 - Muscadine and Bunch Grapes
 - Figs

- 11:00 a.m. Pruning Tree Fruits
 - Apples
 - Peaches
 - Pears
 - Persimmons

- 12:00 p.m. Conclusion
 - Q & A and Door Prizes
 - Turn in Workshop Evaluations

Contact Shane Harris at 256/825-1050 or harria5@auburn.edu if you have any questions.

Home Tree Care Workshop

On Thursday, February 23, 2006, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, in partnership with the Alabama Forestry Commission and the City of Montgomery, will host a Home Tree Care Workshop. The workshop is designed for homeowners, Master Gardeners, landscape professionals, and others across the Montgomery area.

The workshop will be at the Loeb Center Auditorium, 301 Columbus Street in the Old Alabama Town section of Montgomery, from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The \$10 registration fee includes lunch. Participants must register by Friday, February 17, 2006, by calling the Montgomery County Extension office at 334-265-0233, and submit payment to the Montgomery County Extension office, 125 Washington Ave, Montgomery, Alabama 36104. Seating is limited to no more than 100 people.

Tentative Agenda

- 8:30 a.m. Welcome and Announcements - Shane Harris
- 8:45 a.m. Urban Landscape Tree Selection - Ken Tilt
 - Site Evaluation
 - Selecting the Right Tree
- 9:45 a.m. Planting Procedures and Care - Chip East
 - Outside Tree Planting Demonstration
- 10:45 a.m. Break
- 11:00 a.m. Common Tree Problems - Austin Hagen
 - Plant Diseases and Insects
 - Environmental and Nutritional Disorders
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Maintaining Tree Longevity - Russell Stringer
 - General Maintenance
 - Do's and Don't 's
- 1:00 p.m. Tree Health Assessment - Rick Beauchamp
 - Trimming and Removing Trees
 - Evaluating Storm Damage
- 1:30 p.m. Liability Concerns and Issues - Steve Nelson
 - Hazardous Trees and Insurance
- 2:15 p.m. Legal Rights & Responsibilities - Lori Lein
 - Property Lines
- 3:00 p.m. Conclusion
 - Q & A and Door Prizes
 - Turn in Workshop Evaluations

Contact Shane Harris at 256/825-1050 or harria5@auburn.edu if you have any questions.

Dues

Dues must be paid as soon as possible so that members are not taken off the mailing list. A check for \$15.00, made out to Capitol City Master Gardener Association (or CCMGA), can be given to the Treasurer, Mary Cochran, at the January 24 meeting.

Member Contact Updates

Members should submit any changes in their contact information to Anne Searcy, who will be keeping the Membership Directory current.

[December Meeting minutes continued from page 4]

training session for Hotline volunteers in March for a kickoff on April 3. Mondays is designated as the responsibility of Montgomery County Master Gardeners to man the phones. He thanked all CCMGA members for their help and support in the ACES office in all the community projects we supported with our time and efforts.

Lynne Kuhlmann announced the results of the silent bids and collected the money for each item. The total amount earned through this fund raising event was \$8698.50.

The meeting was adjourned with best wishes for a **Merry Christmas**, a **Joyous Holiday Season** and a **Happy New Year!** The next meeting will be January 24, 2006.

The meeting was adjourned by President, **Dianne Bush**.
Respectfully submitted by Cathy Maddox for Nancy Goins

Capital City Master Gardener Association
6524 Gloucester Mews
Montgomery, AL 36117

