



The Prairie Mud

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Montgomery, Alabama

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September Meeting at Grace Church



The next meeting of CCMGA will be on Tuesday, September 26, at Grace Episcopal Church in Pike Road. The program, starting at 10 a.m., will be in two parts. Martha Barber of the Alabama National Fair will present how to compete for horticultural awards at the fair. Afterwards there will be a tour of the lovely church gardens with CCMGAs own Karen Weber as tour guide.

Directions to Grace Church:

Drive out Interstate 85 North toward Atlanta.
Turn Right at the Vaughn Rd/AUM Exit, Taylor Rd.
Stay on Taylor Rd until it intersects with Vaughn Rd.
Turn Left onto Vaughn Rd.
Stay on Vaughn Rd until it intersects with Pike Rd.
Turn Left onto Pike Rd and travel about one-half mile. Grace Church will be on the Left

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Future CCMGA Programs:

The October CCMGA meeting will be at Southern Homes and Gardens on Vaughn Road. There will be a seminar on creating holiday decorations from items in your garden. After the program there will be a luncheon in the SH&G cafe. More information on the menu and cost will be provided later.

The November meeting will be back at Old Alabama Town (OAT). The program will be an educational tour of OAT, including the Ordeman-Shaw House where CCMGA members care for the courtyard.

The Christmas Luncheon and Silent Auction, on December 12, 2006, will be held at the newly renovated and expanded Wynlakes Country Club. New Master Gardeners from the 2006 class will be recognized. Members should bring great items for the auction and guests to bid on them.

Capital City Master Gardener Association

August 22, 2006 Meeting Minutes



Gardening Tip

Pass this on to anyone who likes sitting out in the evening or when they're having a cook out. So you don't like those pesky mosquitoes, especially now that they have the potential to carry the West Nile Virus?

Here's a tip that was given at a recent gardening forum. Put some water in a white dinner plate and add just a few drops of Lemon Fresh Joy dish detergent.

Set the dish on your porch, patio, or other outdoor area. Not sure what attracts them, the lemon smell, the white plate, or what, but mosquitoes flock to it, and drop dead shortly after drinking the Lemon Fresh Joy/water mixture, and usually within about 10 feet of the plate.

Check this out -- it works just super!

CCMGA held its August meeting at the Loeb Auditorium in Old Alabama Town. The meeting was called to order by the President, **Mary Eleanor Hines**, at 10:05 a.m. There were 34 members and 2 guests in attendance. **Mary Eleanor** reminded everyone to be sure to sign in each month so that an accurate record of attendees can be maintained.

Mary Cochran gave the Treasurer's Report. The adjusted balance as of August 19, 2006, was \$1,791.15. It was moved and seconded that the Treasurer's Report be approved as submitted. **Mary** also reported that the revenue from the Door Prize ticket sales is paying for many of CCMGA's monthly expenses.

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes from the July meeting be approved as submitted.

The membership was asked to let **Lisa Lenox** know if you still need a Newsletter mailed to you.

Much thanks to **Cathy Maddox, Dean Stearns, Debbie Wakefield** and **Nell Copeland** for the delicious refreshments for today's meeting.

Old Business

It was reported that the ACES updated website is up and running both State and County wide.

The Tee Shirt Committee will be meeting today following this meeting. Those committee members are **Chris Brown, Nell Copeland, Carolyn Wright, Peggy Weimorts, Jane Shalhoop, Lisa Lenox, Carol Gietl and Norman Scott.**

It was reported by **Judy Youngblood** that she will be contacting those who volunteered to help for the Fall Flower Show at the Alabama National Fair.

Jim Thibodeaux was not in attendance at the meeting but it was reported that he has filled all of the slots for the month of September for the **Helpline.**

The Bus Trip Committee will be meeting on September 11 at 10:00 at **Karin Carmichael's** home in Hillwood. Those serving on this committee include **Sandra Thompson, Chris Brown, Peggy Weimorts, Dianne Bush** and **Mary Eleanor Hines.**

New Business

Dianne Bush has volunteered to e-mail the membership regarding events going on throughout the region. **Suzanne Lowry** will form a phone committee to inform those members of these events who do not have e-mail addresses.

There has been a Garden Party planned at Pratt Park in Prattville on October 3 at 6:00 p.m. to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Master Gardener organization in Alabama. Please bring your spouse or a friend, a pot luck dish and a plant to swap. We would like good representation from Capital City Master Gardeners. Directions will be in the Newsletter. A rain location has been set.

Darlene Slate announced that she has brought several packets of seeds for today's attendees.

Lastly, **Chris Brown** announced that a wonderful Old Alabama Town Herb Society trip has been planned for Saturday, September 30, to the Sipsey Wilderness located in Bankhead National Forest.

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Garden Clippings

By Mary Eleanor Hines, CCMGA President



Minutes [continued from p. 2]

The cost is \$80 per person, which includes bus transportation from Perry Hill Shopping Center. Please contact **Chris** for further details.

This event will be on a first come, first serve basis (50 person maximum).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25

Submitted by Lynne Kuhlmann

Letter to the Editor

Thanks a lot for another wonderful NL/web site. They are becoming my favorites and are great to save in a folder for reference.

At Jim Kennedy's suggestions, I downloaded Adobe 7.0 (the newest reader) so that I could select and save PDF graphics or selected text, something that the 5.0 I was using would not let me do. I would recommend anyone doing this. It will automatically take over as the default after it is installed. The download takes about an hour and a half on a dial-up connection, but I just did it at bedtime and let it run until morning.

See you next time.

EC [Lewis]

When potted mums appear for sale in the nurseries, and the US Open Tennis Tournament and football overtake the sports channels on TV, cooler weather is just ahead. Even the nighttime temperature is finally dropping into the 60's. The late summer blooming plants love it, and early morning gardeners do too.

So what do you have left blooming in your garden? Possibilities are the wonderful, heat resistant lantana, purple and pink Mexican petunias, hibiscus, roses, portulaca, gerber daisies, vinca, and globe flower. These all struggle in my yard. I do have a healthy passion flower vine and purple angel trumpet plant both in full shade that I'm proud of. It's been such a hot summer, and the sprinkling system has remained in overdrive!

As we move into the fall season, plan to attend the Master Gardener 25th Anniversary Garden Party on Oct. 3 at 6:00 PM at Pratt Park in Prattville. Invite your spouse or a friend to enjoy this event with you. It will be covered dish with the three Master Gardener groups participating. A plant swap will be part of the fun, so bring a plant and join in.

Here are the directions to Pratt Park from Montgomery: Take I 65 North and exit at Cobbs Ford Road (Rt. 14) going left at the end of the ramp. Cobbs Ford Road becomes Main St. Go through town and turn left on Northington, which takes you directly to the Park. You may also take Hwy. 31 North turning left on Main St. then left on Northington to the Park. Don't miss this very special event.

Each Sunday in the bulletin at All Saints Church, where I attend, there is an environmental tip as part of our stewardship of creation program. One very useful tip is the use of BurnOut instead of Round-Up or Finale. BurnOut is made from vinegar and citrus oils and is organic. This is a very good alternative instead of using harsh chemicals. Try it! You'll find it works!

You're in for a real treat at Grace Church on Sept. 26, our next meeting. Don't miss these beautiful gardens. There will be no raffle.

"Gardening has compensations out of all proportion to its goals. It is creation in the pure sense."

Phyllis McGinley, from *Gardener's Book of Wisdom*



Forest Avenue School Project

The following message is from Lisa Lennox to CCMGA members.

With the fall coming up, we figured there would be a lot of people thinning out their irises and daylilies. We sure could use those plants to fill in our garden. We could also use some mums. I know a lot of folks throw their fall mums out when they stop blooming, but we plant them and have had a lot of luck with them, and they just look fantastic. If anyone could send those spent mums our way, it would be much appreciated. In fact, any plant that needs thinning in the fall would be appreciated.

We also need wild grape, grape or kudzu vines for a wattle fence project. The vines need to be woody- new growth will not work. The sections need to be at least 7 feet long for our particular use. If anyone is pruning, these vines would be of great help to us.

While our wildflower beds are blooming well, weeds are doing pretty good too. We could use a few volunteers to help with the weeding, and we are also going to try to get another truckload of mulch from Maxwell. Anyone with access to the base would be of much help to us.

One of our benches needs some repairs done- the wooden slats that make up the seat are rotted, and have gotten to the point of being a little dangerous. Any persons with the know-how to fix one of these benches, please contact us.

We are going to be announcing a work day soon, and hopefully get a lot of this stuff done. Forest Avenue needs You!

If you have donations or suggestions, please call either Carol Gietl at 396-0925, or Lisa Lennox at 269-1486.

Thank you for your continued support!
Lisa Lennox

The Ten Laws of Gardening

1. Nothing ever looks like it does on the seed packet.
2. Your lawn is always slightly bigger than your desire to mow it.
3. Whichever garden tool you want is always at the back of the shed.
4. The only way to ensure rain, is to give the garden a good soaking.
5. Weeds grow at precisely the rate you pull them out.
6. Autumn follows summer, winter follows autumn, drought follows planting.
7. Evergreens go a funny shade of brown in the winter.
8. The only way to guarantee some colour all year round is to buy a garden gnome.
9. However bare the lawn, grass will appear in the cracks between the patio paving stones.
10. "Annuals" mean disappointment once a year.

www.organicdownunder.com/tenlaws.htm



Baby Blue Eyes at "Petals"

Garden Gossip from Petals from the Past

The 2007 wildflower seed has arrived and available for sale by the tablespoon or teaspoon. We have a great selection of old favorites and some new additions. A surprise this Spring was Baby Blue Eyes shown to the left. It was lovely! We will be planting this again. Old favorites are larkspur, bachelor buttons, Dames Rocket, California poppies and corn poppies. Prepare your bed by tilling lightly, then mix the seed with some builders sand for even distribution, and scatter on the prepared area and water. Many of these seeds need the cold weather to germinate. Plant seed between October and January.

Events at Petals from the Past

October 7 and 8 is the date of our Fall Gardening Event . This year we are featuring Chris Wiesinger AKA The Bulb Hunter. He will give a presentation on old bulbs at 1:00pm on Saturday, October 7, and again on Sunday, October 8, at 2:00pm.

On Saturday we are offering a 'Lunch with the Speaker'. Chris will be available to mingle, chat and answer any questions you may have while enjoying a lunch on our deck. Please call for reservations for lunch a 205-646-0069. There is a \$15.00 charge.

Jason will be speaking at 10:30am on Saturday on 'Why we garden in the Fall'. Dr. Powell will be talking on Sunday at 3:30pm on Fall Fruit for the Garden. This should be a very interesting weekend

Events at Southern Homes & Gardens

Saturday September 23 *Fall Planting Festival*

Come kick off your fall planting season by taking part in great store, greenhouse and nursery specials. Both locations, 8am - 6pm.

Saturday September 30 *Annual Tent Sale*

Wetumpka Hwy only. Thousands of containers, Fall items, Christmas items and more below retail cost.

Free Seminar: Pansies, Mums & Kale

Both locations. 9:30 a.m. Instructors to be decided.

Saturday, October 7 *Free Seminar: Color Schemes*

Kelly Nice of Nice ReDesigns, LLC will discuss everything color - how to pick them, how to utilize them and how to love them and make them work for you. Time to be decided. Vaughn Road Only

Garden Party

Celebrate the
25th Anniversary
of Master
Gardener
associations in
Alabama

Tuesday, Oct. 3
6 p.m.
Pratt Park
Prattville

*Bring your spouse
or a friend, a
covered dish, and a
plant to swap.*

(See "Garden Clippings" on
page 3 for driving directions
to Pratt Park.)

Cornmeal Whole Wheat Muffins

From the American Heart Association Cookbook

6 Tablespoons oil
1/3 cup sugar
1 1/4 cups skim milk
1 egg (or 2 egg whites
 or egg substitute
 equivalent to 1 egg)
1 cup whole wheat flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
4 teaspoons baking
 powder
1 cup cornmeal
 oil for muffin tins

Mix together the oil and the sugar; then add milk and egg, stirring until mixed.

In a large mixing bowl, combine whole wheat flour, salt and baking powder.

Add the liquid to the flour mixture, stirring quickly and lightly until mixed. Do not beat.

Stir the cornmeal into the batter until mixed.

Fill oiled muffin cups 2/3 full.

Bake at 425 degrees F. for 25 minutes.

Yield: twelve 2 1/2 inch or eighteen 2 1/4 inch muffins.

Approximate calories per muffin:

One 2 1/2 inch muffin equals 170 calories

One 2 1/4 inch muffins equals 115 calories

Capital City Master Gardener Association
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