

# THE PRAIRIE MUD

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 4  
APRIL 2010

SOWING SEEDS



Capital City  
Master  
Gardener  
Association  
Montgomery, Alabama

Thank you; two words I heard over and over from fellow gardeners state wide and CCMGA members. Appreciation of the collective efforts of our organization is indeed rewarding. It is good to both show and receive appreciation.

Each of you worked hard and without your dedication our success would never have happened. We all know that nothing is perfect and there will be those who are impossible to please. I hope you will choose to dwell on the many positive outcomes of the conference. I know I will. A beautiful garden doesn't just happen. In the garden one will find a few weeds and pests mixed in with the beauty. These small imperfections are greatly overshadowed by the overall glory of the garden. You are outstanding in every way. God bless each of you. Cecelia

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## A **V**ictorious ending for the 20th Annual AMGA Conference



April 27, 2010, CCMGA Monthly Meeting will be at Vaughn Park Church of Christ  
10:00am Refreshments, 10:15am Speaker, 11:00am Business meeting

### **Plant Sale 2010: Things to remember**

1. Plant donations will be picked up at the April meeting of CCMGA. Trucks will be located in the parking lot of the Vaughn Road Church of Christ at 9:00AM to pick up your donated plants and garden items for the sale.
2. Please have each plant marked with identification in permanent marker. Plants with pictures and information always sell well. Be sure plants are rooted and viable.
3. The Plant Sale takes place Saturday, May 8 at Old Alabama Town from 8-2PM. Any members who want to join in the selling process are always welcome.
4. **We need all the help we can get.** Our location is the same as years past, behind the Lucas Tavern and under the arbor.
5. Remember the success of the Plant Sale depends on you.
6. If you have any questions call Suzanne Brookhart 272-3424 or Gail Cotney 277-5548

### **All About Tomatoes! 'Home Grown' Workshops - April 2010**

The Backyard Tomato Workshops are back! Coming up in April, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System will host five area All About Tomatoes! 'Home Grown' Workshops in East Central Alabama. Details below:

Tuesday, April 20th - First Baptist Church, Sylacauga, Talladega County

Wednesday, April 28th - Heflin Arts Center, Heflin, Cleburne County

Friday, April 30, 2010 - Cane Creek Community Garden, McClellan (Anniston), Calhoun County

All participants are asked to pre-register. Fee is \$15 per person and includes lunch. More information as well as registration forms can be found: <http://www.aces.edu/homegarden/HomeGrown.php>. For the Calhoun County location, see

<http://www.aces.edu/counties/Calhoun/documents/registration.pdf>

Shane Harris

Regional Extension Agent  
Alabama Cooperative Extension System  
125 N. Broadnax Street, Room 23

## THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE THANKS YOU

As those of you who attended the AMGA Conference a few short weeks ago saw, CCMGA had quite a lot of beautiful door prize and silent auction baskets to offer to the attendees. Most of those baskets (over 100) were the direct result of your generous contributions. I don't know if you recognized anything you contributed but every item donated was used in some manner except one little terra cotta bunny that broke during handling. I want to especially thank Anita Ward and Emily Frye for their beautiful and creative work on the baskets. Barbara Samuels, in spite of a diagnosis of breast cancer, chemo and radiation treatments during all of this process, plowed right on with being in charge of the gift bags including the Fafard soil. I have to give special recognition to Dick Hodges who hauled many boxes of "stuff for the conference" to his office, stored it for many months and then provided a space for the Hospitality Committee to assemble everything. We could not have transported the "stuff" to the hotel in such an efficient manner without Tom McLemore's trailer and his expert driving. Also, I would

like to thank Mary Bullard, Linda Carleton, Sandee Ferguson, Emily Frye, Elaine Galt, Kitty Huffaker, Elizabeth Littleton, Jane Martin, Mac McLellan, Kellie Sensintaffar, Anita Ward, Karen Weber and Gay Winter for their help with the guided tours both Thursday and Saturday. There were so many others on the committee that worked countless hours before and during the conference (Tina Bowles, Sid Brown, Margaret Cooley, Nell Copeland, Barbara Forsythe, Chris Shoup, Barbara Witt and Judy Youngblood - I hope I didn't leave anyone out). And last but certainly not least, I could not have kept my sanity without the unwavering support, both mental and physical, of my co-chair, Maggie Stringer. Every area of the hotel where our committee had responsibilities, there were always CCMGA members and Interns manning the booths, working the loading dock, toting and fetching, packing registration bags, "putting out fires" and cleaning up. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that each of you did to make this conference a huge success.

Karin Carmichael



This tree at the Huntsville Botanical Garden, said to be 135 years old is dying. Moved to this site in May 1995, it began its decline last year and now more than half the tree is dead. The picture was taken in 2009 at the AMGA Conference. The photo below was taken recently. .



### CCMGA Treasurer's Report

March 6, 2010

**Beginning Balance** **\$6194.88**

Deposits

Fieldtrip \$1020.00

Membership dues 30.00

Raffle/Badges 3.00 \$1053.00

\$7247.88

Checks

#1301 Eufaula Heritage Assoc. \$2754.00

#1302 Banner (ACES) 399.00

#1303 AMG dues 95.00

\$3248.75

**Ending Balance**

**\$3999.13**

April 5, 2010

CCMGA Officers

President-Cecelia Terrell

Vice president-Kellie Sensintaffar

Secretary- Anna Owen

Treasurer-Suzanne Brookhart

# What's Coming Up

## Event Calendar for April and May

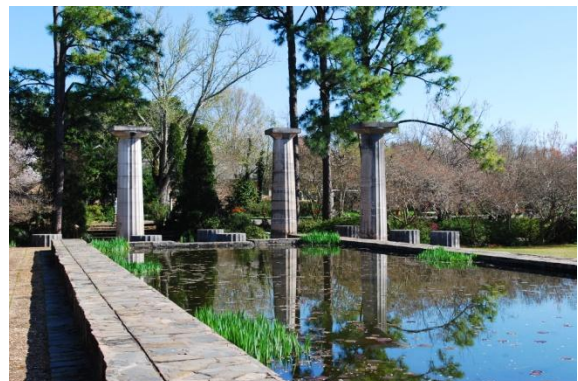
May 8  
Old Alabama Town  
CCMGA  
Annual Spring Plant Sale  
8:00AM - 2:00PM  
bring your donations to the April 27  
meeting of CCMGA at Vaughn Park  
Church

**April 21, Lunch and Learn: "Flower Power"** 10:00am - 12:00noon Aldridge Botanical Gardens 682-8019 [www.aldridgegardens.com](http://www.aldridgegardens.com) \$23 nonmembers. Scot Wedgeworth, floral designer for the stars. Floral design demonstrations.

**April 24, Seminar: "What's the Buzz?"** 9:00am - 11:00am Aldridge Gardens, 682-8019 [www.aldridgegardens.com](http://www.aldridgegardens.com). \$18 nonmembers Reese Halter, PhD. This class is not specifically for beekeepers, but for 'bee folks'.

**May 2, "High Tea in the Garden: An English Country Afternoon."** Grace Episcopal Church, information 215-1422, advance ticket \$8.00 day of \$10.00, children under 5 free. Maypole dancing, bagpipes, and refreshments.

**May 15-16. Lee County Master Gardeners Garden Tour,** Seven private gardens & two public gardens in Auburn & Opelika. May 15 & 16. For more information contact Tour Coordinator, Jolly Roberts, 334-826-1595.



Mr. Jim Inscoe was our tour guide at Jasmine Hill Garden for our March 30 meeting.

## CCMGA Meeting Minutes for March 30, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Cecelia Terrell. We had a brief meeting before Jim Inscoe gave us the history of Jasmine Hill before our tour. Mary Eleanor Hines gave Anita Ward her Silver Star for volunteering for over 300 hours. Suzanne Brookhart gave the treasurers report and the ending balance for March was \$6,194.88.

The plant sale for May 8 was reported by Gail Cotney and Suzanne Brookhart. They will be picking up plants at our next meeting. Please use a water proof marker and if the plants bloom state what color and put a picture of the bloom on the plant. Help is needed to move the plants from Gail's home to the sale.

The following people furnished the refreshments for our meeting : Cecelia Terrell, Dianne Bush, Karin Carmicheal, Emily Frye, Mary Eleanor Hines, Maggie Stringer, Marilyn Harper, Gail Cotney, Suzanne Brookhart, Anita Ward, Mary Bullard, Peggy Dorminey, Carol Gietl, Maureen Emerson, Buddy Murphy, Chris Henderson, Linda Carlton, Jane Martin and Richard Moore,

Bus Trip: We will meet at Bruno's parking lot on Perry Hill road at 6:45 a.m. The bus leaves at 7:00 a.m. wear comfortable shoes and please bring an extra dollar to tip the bus driver. The bus will leave Eufaula at 5:00 p.m.

Phil Easter will speak at our next meeting April 22, 2010.  
Attendance: 59

Respectfully submitted, Anna Owen, Secretary, CCMGA



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## Russ Morgan Orchestra to Appear in Montgomery

Master gardener and trombonist Jack Morgan, leader of the Russ Morgan Orchestra, and good friend of Mary Eleanor Hines, will bring the orchestra to Montgomery on April 27 for a special concert at Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church. Jack took over the orchestra in 1969, when his famous father died, and is celebrating the orchestra's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The Russ Morgan Orchestra was one of the top name bands of

**Every garden is unique with a multitude of choices in soils, plants and themes. Finding your garden theme is as easy as seeing what brings a smile to your face.**  
**- Teresa Watkins**

the big band era and was noted for its "Music in the Morgan Manner." Jack has continued that distinctive style to this day.

Jack and wife Bonnie have a beautiful home on the Mississippi River in Rapids City IL, where they both excel in gardening and have created an impressive, tiered landscape of native plants with almost continuous blooms of one kind or another throughout the spring, summer, and fall seasons.

The concert will be held in Wesley Hall beginning at 7pm. Tickets are \$12 and are available at Frazer's Bookstore, MAX Credit Union (Eastdale Branch only), Cohen's Electronics-Appliances, Capitol Music, and the Crump Community Center. You may also contact Mary Eleanor for tickets and further information.



## ALABAMA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

March 30, 2010

Cathy Maddox  
Chair 2010, AMGA State Conference  
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Cathy,

On behalf of the AMGA Board of Directors, I express our thanks and congratulations to your conference committee for planning and hosting our 2010 State Conference "Gardening...a Capital Idea!" It was a "Capital Idea" and the Capital City Master Gardeners exceeded in making it a success.

One of the main things I noticed about this year's conference is that I had a good time. As President, I had expected to be so absorbed with all of the details that I would not relax, but I found the opposite to be true. Your Conference Team had everything so well organized, that there was nothing for me to be concerned



*To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow*

with. Everything appeared to go like clockwork and that is the measure of an excellent conference. You and your fellow Master Gardeners made it look so effortless. You all were everywhere you were needed at all times.

The Roundtables sessions seemed to be well attended and timely. Thanks for adding this back to the lineup this year. The dinner at the Capital Club, with its' view of the city, was a wonderful way to start the conference. I do not remember an opening night being so well-attended. Everyone sure seemed to be enjoying themselves. It was wonderful that you had such a facility open to the gardening types.

The conference facilities, vendors, and sponsors were all appreciated by those of us who were able to be part of this event. You had a great line-up of speakers and I applaud your group for using Alabama celebrities. We have a lot of talent here at home and it is always great to take advantage of it. Every aspect of the conference was well-planned and executed and the effort expended by your group for over two years was appreciated more than we could ever express.

Thanks so much for a job well done!

Sincerely,

Patricia Patty  
President  
Alabama Master Gardeners Association



## GETTING TO KNOW YOU (A new column)\*

Interview with Mac McLellan, Master Gardener Intern 2010.

### Tell a little about yourself

I am a retired army officer, after 26 years of service I retired in 1993. At the time I was attached to the Office of the Secretary of Defense in Washington DC. We ended up in Montgomery when my wife, who was a director of Child Development Services in VA. was transferred to Maxwell Air Force Base in 1997. She left federal service at Maxwell in 2000 to return to teaching. My wife retired as a Special Ed Teacher at the end of last school year, 2009. She taught at Churchill Academy.

I have done a number of things since my 1993 retirement, I was a small business contractor for the Army, I was a general manager of a restaurant and several other things. I went to work as a Commercial Credit Review Officer for Regions Financial Corporation in February 1998 and retired at the end of September 2009. Currently, I am a writer and photographer for the Frazer Family News

We live in Pike Road and have two grown sons, both are graduates of the United States Coast Guard Academy, in New London, CT. Our oldest son is now a forensic engineer and lives in Ft. Lauderdale while our youngest is a Lt. Commander in Washington, DC. We have three grandchildren, two girls and one boy.

### How did you get interested in gardening?

I got interested in gardening through volunteering. Last summer our Sunday School Class at Frasier decided to do something to help a satellite church with their landscaping. Twelve of us got together and went down there on a Saturday morning and planted 55 plants, put down 55 bales of pine straw and a pallet of sod. The feedback we got was just tremendous. The parishioners felt so good and proud of their church that it made us feel great.

Our project was led by a Sunday school member, John Branter, who is a MG from the 1990's. I decided I wanted to learn more about Master Gardening and continue to help people. I am involved with volunteering through Frasier and now with MG, I have unlimited areas to be useful.

### What is your favorite type of gardening?

My basic interest and passion is in landscaping as that is an area that has a large impact on people.

### What projects would you like to see the Master Gardeners take on next?

I am interested in working in areas that would help improve people's quality of life. Helping improve the environment, improve people's quality of life, working on nursing homes and other places that would appreciate a little beauty in their lives. Basically, any project that helps people over-all. Submitted by Jerry Belcher, Intern 2010

\* We hope to interview at least 2 people each month, and hope this will help all of us to get to know the new members and the old members.

## Alabama Wild Things

by Kellie Sensintaffar

For a few years I have been interested in wildflowers. I have taken more than one hike to see them. I have recently noticed that many of our wildflowers bloom all around us, right here in Montgomery city limits, right under our noses. I call them the wild things or the ditch flowers. But, they are our native species (mostly) that bloom here in vacant lots, around buildings and in the medians. I thought I would take some pictures this spring and summer of these flowers and share them with you. My first 'wild thing' is the Atamasco Lily. AKA the Southern Easter Lily, Fairy Lily or Rain Lily. It is in the *Amaryllidaceae* (or Amaryllis) family and is botanically known as *Zephyranthes atamasco*. Since they are part of the Amaryllis family, they are related to *Narcissus*, *Hippeastrum*, *Galanthus* (snow drops) and *Leucojum*. There are about 50 species in the genus *Zephyranthes*. Many are brightly colored. Here in Alabama we see the Atamasco mostly around Easter. I took these pictures at St. Marks' Methodist Church on Taylor Road on this Easter Sunday. I was really glad I did, because they mowed that area the next day. However, about 3 days after that the lilies began to bloom again. If you go by there you may still be able to see them.



## Questions from Master Gardeners and Answers from Mallory Kelley, Extension Agent

### Do Iris turn colors over time?

While we were on the Eufaula Pilgrimage, a discussion about Irises took place that was really fun and interesting. Everyone had their opinion. This is what occurred: Have you ever noticed that blue Iris, appear to turn white over time? This is what my grandmother told me, they just 'get worn out'. But, during our discussion it became obvious that it is more than this. It was time to ask a expert. Who better than Mallory Kelley, Home Grounds Extension Agent. This is what she reported back to us: "It is not anything cultural, I am often asked about soil pH, like in Hydrangeas. The genetics is complicated. It is called a "somatic mutation" resulting from a reversion to one of the former breed parents, or that is the way a breeder in the Agronomy Department explained to me. There is nothing you can do to convert the flower back to its former color. I would recommend consumers purchase irises from reputable bulb dealers on the internet such as von Bourgondien, Holland Bulb Farms, Bulbmeister, or McClure & Zimmerman rather than Walmart, Lowes', etc. You'll pay more, but get a higher quality product. And, she assures us that you can plant the old white ones (the species 'Albicans') without fear of your purple iris turning white. Mallory's reply came from the ACES website. This is a great way to get reliable, scientific information.

## Eufaula Pilgrimage

April 9, 50 members (give or take a couple) filled a bus and headed for Eufaula, AL for our annual trip. We were delighted by many Victorian Homes and several lovely gardens that the people of Eufaula were gracious enough to share with us. We were able to get just a glimpse of what life was like in the 1800's in south Alabama. As you can see we enjoyed a beautiful day, full of fun, music and delights for our eyes.





We are pleased to announce that the membership attending the 2010 Conference in Montgomery has chosen the Distinctive License Plate design for the Alabama Master Gardener Association. Attached is the rendering by Mr Bruce Dupree. We hope that your members will enjoy the choice. After approval from the State of Alabama your organization will be notified and members can then go to their local Secretary of States office to sign up for the Master Gardener distinctive license plate. Cost of this plate is \$50.00. \$42.17 of each plate will come back to AMGA. The proceeds from this plate will be designated as follows:

50% of all proceeds will be designated to the AMGA Scholarship Endowment Fund at Auburn University. These funds will then be used to provide scholarships to students studying horticulture at Auburn University.

50% of all proceeds will be designated to support the Alabama Master Gardener Program. Funds received by the Alabama Master Gardener Program will be utilized to support Master Gardener Programs throughout the state. Funds will be used for and not limited to the following:

- Master Gardener Intern Scholarships
- Home Grounds Team Support
- Helpline Support (reference materials etc)
- Support Specialist travel for trainings
- Video Equipment for use by MG's to make educational clips for internet, You Tube, etc

We hope that members will consider purchasing this plate when it becomes available.

Kathie Bass  
AMGA Fundraising Chairman

Kerry Smith  
State Master Gardener Coordinator



# CCMGA Shines as Host to 2010 AMGA Conference!

“You all made it look seamless”. That is my favorite of the many positive comments that I received about CCMGA hosting the 2010 AMGA Conference. I am so happy and so proud of all of you who made this happen. We began our conference planning with high standards for success and through your participation from planning to delivery we upheld those standards. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to work with each of you in hosting this outstanding event. I also appreciate the generosity of our community at large for assisting us with donations, publicity and participation. Even in our planning process we demonstrated our conference theme “Gardening – A Capital Idea!” by our focus on offering conference attendees access to some of our most treasured public spaces in Montgomery. I am thankful that the conference is over but most of all I am thankful to have had this wonderful experience of working with each of you to make this the best AMGA conference ever held.

## Sincerest Thanks, Cathy Maddox



Friendly faces, helping hands and soaring spirits made the 20th Annual AMGA Conference a success.  
Thanks to all of you!

This newsletter is produced by Kellie Sensintaffar, MG2007; Chris Henderson, Intern 2010; Jerry Belcher, Intern 2010 and Mac McClendon, Intern 2010. If you would like to contribute, please submit your information to [kelliegardens@yahoo.com](mailto:kelliegardens@yahoo.com) by the first Friday of each month. I