



The Prairie Mud

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Montgomery, Alabama

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Your Experts for Life

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CCMGA August Meeting to Feature Judge Peggy Givhan

The August meeting of CCMGA will be Tuesday, August 28, at 10 a.m., at the Vaughn Park Church of Christ. Since that day is the City Election and the usual meeting room is a polling place, the meeting will be in another room at the church. One of the members will be posted outside to direct you to the other room. Judge Peggy Givhan will present a program on "How To Design and Maintain an English Herbaceous Border." Judge Givhan is well known in this area for her gardening expertise and will have some of her books for sale at the meeting.

Also at the August meeting, information sheets and entry tags will be distributed for the CCMGA Horticulture Show to be held at the September meeting. Judy Youngblood, a Master Flower Judge, will judge the show and discuss the rules and techniques for entering the Fall Flower Show presented by The Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs at the Alabama National Fair. Everyone is encouraged to enter at least one stem of anything from his or her garden. In addition, Karen Weber will demonstrate and discuss the proper way to create and maintain a Container Garden. Feel free to bring your best container garden to be judged by Karen.

The September 25 meeting date coincides with the conference at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, which many CCMGA members plan to attend. (See page 5 of this newsletter.) There is a proposal that CCMGA move the September meeting to Tuesday, September 18. A vote will be taken at the August meeting. Check the September newsletter for an update.



CCMGA Meeting Minutes July 24, 2007

Petal from the Past Events

August 25, Saturday at 10:30 a.m. *Walking Tour of the Apples and Muscadines.*

Dr. Arlie Powell will talk about cultural requirements and variety differences in apples and muscadines planted at Petals.

September 9, Sunday at 2:00 p.m. *Walking Tour of the Asian Pears and the Fall Apples*

Dr. Arlie Powell will conduct a tour of the pear and apple planting and discuss maintenance and varieties.

September 16, Sunday at 2:00 p.m. *Making Hypertufa Containers Workshop.*

Jane Jones will conduct this workshop and help you to make your own hypertufa container. This very popular class will fill up quickly. Limit 12. There is a charge of \$45.00 for the materials and class.

September 23, Sunday at 2:00 p.m. *Alabama and Florida Hummingbirds - A Lot more than Most people Know.*

Fred Basset, a certified bird bander who has worked with hummingbirds for over 15 years, will discuss ruby throated hummingbirds in our area and over-wintering western birds.

President **Mary Eleanor Hines** called the CCMGA meeting to order at the Vaughan Park Church of Christ at 10 AM. Thirty-four members signed the attendance roster. **Fred Shaw** was introduced as a new member. **Anita Ward** read an inspirational message. **Martha Blackwell** introduced her guest and daughter, **Bonnie Beasley**.

The June minutes were accepted as printed in the July newsletter. **Jane Shalhoop** gave the treasurer's report, which was also accepted. Contributing members who donated refreshments were acknowledged.

Old Business:

Anna Owen, membership chair, distributed the 2007 rosters. **Lynne Kuhlmann** was recognized and thanked for typing the information in the rosters, and **Jane Shalhoop** and **Lisa Lenox** were also recognized for printing and assembling the rosters. Discussion followed about printing the 2008 rosters just after the January meeting, rather than waiting until the intern class finished.

New Business:

Mary Eleanor suggested that the success of the trip to Atlanta in April indicated that CCMGA might be interesting in considering another trip in 2008. Future fund-raising was mentioned as a way to pay for another trip. The Birmingham Botanical Garden and the Aldridge Gardens were mentioned as possible destinations in 2008.

Mary Eleanor reported that the CCMGA Board met in July and discussed the possibility of hosting the 2010 State MG Conference. **Cathy Maddox** (Secretary AMGA) reported that Montgomery County had been asked to consider hosting the state conference in 2010. The Board was in favor of taking on this project. Cathy stated that the state MGA would be giving up-front monies to an association to take on this project and that many of the associations that sponsored the conference were able to make a nice profit in the past. A vote on this project was delayed for another month.

Vice president for programs, **Karin Carmichael**, announced that **Judge Peggy Givhan** had agreed to be the guest speaker in August. She will talk about "English Herbaceous Borders" at the August 28 monthly meeting. **Karen** also talked about the September meeting. **Judy Youngblood**, CCMGA member and Master Judge, is scheduled to judge and give pointers to members about entering the Alabama State Fair in October. She asked each member to bring a specimen plant, bulb, fern, or container picture to the meeting. **Karen Weber** will give pointers to members planning to enter the container garden section in the Fair. Creative Living applicants need to contact **Alice Hargate** for further information about entering. The Flower Show will run from October 5 – 14.

Announcements from the floor:

On August 25th, **Maggie Stringer, Judy Youngblood and Chris Brown** will present a program on "Herbs" at the Southern Homes and Gardens Health Fair on the Wetumpka Highway.

[Meeting Minutes continued on page 3.]



Gardening Tips from Petals from the Past

If you grow transplants for your fall garden it is time to get the cabbage, broccoli and Brussel sprout seed planted.

Remember to plant your bulbs this fall. Daffodils, Tulips, Grape Hyacinth, Hyacinths, Crocus, Blue Stars and Spanish Hyacinths are just a few of the great bulbs you plant in the fall for blooms in the late winter and early spring.

Don't forget to plant seed for spring blooming annuals this fall. Between October and December works best for us. Some seed that does well planted in the fall: Larkspur, Corn Poppies, Coreopsis, Baby Blue Eyes, Iceland Poppies, Peony Poppies and Dames' Rocket

[Meeting Minutes continued from page 2.]

A reminder that Auburn University will be hosting two upcoming programs which were mentioned in the July *Prairie Mud*.

Jan Scott said that she had five thornless blackberry bushes that she wanted to give to any interested members. She also has a seedling pecan tree. Please contact her if you are interested.

Shane Harris announced a future Drip Irrigation Workshop was being planned. Details will follow.

A discussion about why CCMGA was not included at the Farmer's Market Day occurred.

Shane announced that there would be an evaluation conference about the "Help Line". State agents plan to meeting to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the program.

The meeting was adjourned and **William Wade**, Montgomery Planning Department, and Assistant Urban Forrester, gave an informative talk on the critical issue of the Montgomery tree canopy. He stressed the that City needs to maintain it's urban forest. He also talked about the Legacy Tree program, and the City's vision for the future and the plans to make Montgomery a Tree City.

Respectfully submitted,
Dianne Bush, CCMGA Secretary

Growing Grapes in Alabama Seminar

Interested in growing grapes in Alabama for commercial production or personal use? That will be the topic at a statewide Growing Grapes in Alabama Seminar on Friday, September 14, 2007, in Birmingham at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Learn more about varieties that do better in central Alabama; the art of winemaking; handling disease problems; pairing food and wine; value-added food products such as jams, juices, and jellies. The seminar will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The pre-registration fee is \$10. More information and a registration form can be accessed at

<http://www.aces.edu/counties/Jefferson/files/GrapeGrowers2007.pdf>.



Garden Clippings

By Mary Eleanor Hines, CCMGA President

There are positive sides to this oppressively hot August. You ask what could possibly be positive on a 100-degree day? Well, the compost cooks well. The zinnias, marigolds, black-eyed Susans and many other hot weather beauties thrive very well day after day of tropic-like heat. We're so spoiled with the need for comfort that we forget Alabama's steamy summers are part of a wonderful cycle.

I enjoyed working with NELL COPELAND and SARA BROWN on the Helpline recently and decided that this four-hour experience is probably the most educational, along with taking the MG course, volunteer time one could earn. You're consistently researching answers to callers' questions, learning with each question. If you refer to the Guidelines for Calculating Service Hours, you realize you're validating your volunteer work in a most productive way, i.e., providing service that is

Beneficial to the community;
Not associated with a commercial group;
Related to gardening, the environment or an extension program;
Helping ourselves and others learn more about gardening.

For me this activity does have a specific learning objective and certainly adds to my CEUs or Continuing Education Units. And not only is the time spent on the Helpline attributable as volunteer time, but travel time to and from the Extension Office also counts and can be documented accordingly. Please refer to the "Guidelines" frequently to know that you are counting your hours correctly. I will have copies of these guidelines at our meetings.

We welcome new members FRED SHAW, ALBERT "BUDDY" MURPHY and PAMELA MURPHY. We are proud that these three new members bring our total membership to 96.

I look forward to seeing all of you on Tuesday, August 28, at 9:30 AM at Vaughn Park Church. KARIN CARMICHAEL has another excellent program planned for us. We also have a very important vote to take. (See AMGA Conference 2010, this issue.)

Master Gardeners to Present at SH&G "Gardening for Health" Seminar

Chris Brown, Maggie Stringer, and Judy Youngblood will present at the August 25 "Gardening for Health" seminar at Southern Homes and Gardens at the Wetumpka Highway location only.

The event will run from 9 until 12:30, with their "Health and Herbs" program from 10:15 - 11:00. Other guest speakers will present how gardening is a key element for physical and mental health.

For more information, call 277-6746.



Sustainable Landscape Conference

*Tuesday, September 25, 2007 - 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.
Birmingham Botanical Gardens*

Pre-conference morning stroll (7:30 - 8:30 a.m.)

Fred Spicer, Executive Director, Birmingham Botanical Gardens (BBG).

What does it mean to landscape "Sustainably?"

Bill Finch, Environmental Editor,
Mobile Press Register

Sustainable initiatives at the BBG

Fred Spicer, ED, BBG

Breakout Sessions

Session 1

How to use heirloom plants to reduce dependence on

chemicals - Lacey Neeley, *Petals from the Past*

Dispelling landscape myths - Tony Glover, REA

How to use the distance diagnostic equipment at the extension office - Jim Jacobi, Extension Pathologist

Session 2

Basics of propagating and growing native wildflowers - Jan Midgley, Wildflower Nursery

Controlling fire ants in the landscape both safely and in an environmentally sound way - Kathy Flanders, Extension Entomologist

What happens to nutrients after they are applied to your lawns and landscapes - Charles Mitchell, Soil Scientist, Auburn University

Session 3

Native woody plants and how to use them in the landscape - Kerri Smith, Master Gardener Coordinator

The whys of wise gardening advice - Daniel Jones, Professor Emeritus of Biology, UAB

You can stop termites from eating your home - Sallie Lee, County Extension Agent

Session 4

Landscape design with water in mind - Rebecca Hyatt, DSLD Land Management

Invasive plants in Alabama - Harvey Cotton, Director, Huntsville Botanical Gardens

Global warming 101 - Facts without the media hype - Roy Spencer, Climatologist, UAH

To Register for the Conference

For a registration form, check the Summer Issue of *Garden Pathways* or the ACES website calendar.

Contact Tony Glover, Regional Extension Agent, gloveta@auburn.edu or call 205 / 879-6964 ext. 15 for further details, or to pay at the door.

The pre-registration fee of \$20 includes lunch. (Registration at the door is \$30.) The check should be payable to Jefferson County MGA. You must register by September 10 in order to have a lunch provided.