



The Prairie Mud

A Publication of Capital City Master Gardener Association

Montgomery, Alabama

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To the Membership of CCMGA,

Thank you so much for the very generous gift certificate to Southern Homes and Gardens. In the process of building a sunroom on the back of our house, much of the back gardens close to the house were destroyed. Your kind gift will help so much to restore and improve those gardens. I can't wait to go plant shopping in the early spring and can use the cold winter months to plan a new design for those gardens.

It was an honor and pleasure to have served as your president during 2008, and I look forward to a wonderful and productive year in 2009. Thank you again for the very unexpected and much appreciated gift.

Sincerely yours,

Karin Carmichael



Meeting Time and Place
January 27, 2009 10am-12pm
Vaughn Park Church of Christ



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The Garden Scoop

THE GARDEN SCOOP

As I am writing this, my last article for the newsletter, I can't help but think about all of the wonderful experiences that I have had this past year. You are truly a wonderful group of gardeners and I am lucky to call you my friends.

We couldn't have accomplished all that we did in 2008, without everyone contributing many hours and tons of effort. However, I want to recognize the following members who served tirelessly and without complaint. I could not have done my job without them.

Maggie Stringer – Vice President/Program Chair

Jan Gill – Secretary

Jane Shalhoop – Treasurer

Lisa Lenox – Newsletter Editor; Ordeman Shaw Garden Chair

Anna Owen – Membership/Directory Chair

Cathy Maddox – Projects Chair; AMGA Conference 2010 Chair

Sara Brown – Devotions Chair

Jan Scott – Photography/Scrapbook Chair

Suzanne Reaves, Cookie Ruth, Marie Tomlin – MG Intern Class 2008

Cecelia Terrell – Sunshine Chair

Marie Tomlin – Helpline Chair

Emily Frye – Refreshments Chair

Carol Gietl – T-Shirts; Lily's Garden Chair

Kellie Sensintaffer – Assistant Editor of the Prairie Mud; Home Grounds Chair

Suzanne Brookhart, Jan Gill, Gail Cotney – CCMGA Plant Sale

Nell Copeland – CCMGA Trip Chair

Mary Eleanor Hines – Governor's Mansion Garden Chair

Mary Cochran – MMFA Garden Chair

Laurice Goorley – Speaker's Bureau Chair

Betsy Coley – Assistant Editor of the Prairie Mud; Place Card Designer and Creator

I hope that I didn't leave anyone out and I want to thank everyone for making my year as your president a wonderful experience. I wish you and your families a wonderful holiday season and a safe and happy new year. Good luck to all of the new officers and committee chairs in 2009.

Karin Carmichael



CCMGA Officers

President Karin Carmichael

Vice President Maggie Stringer

Secretary Jan Gill

Treasurer Jane Shalhoop

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CAPITAL CITY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
November 25, 2008 Meeting Minutes

President Karin Carmichael called the November, 2008 meeting to order at 10:00 am at Vaughn Park Church of Christ. Refreshments were provided by Emily Frye, Gail Cotney, Ken Whitehead & Suzanne Brookhart.

The devotion was given by Sara Brown. She read a Thanksgiving Prayer by Shelly Marsh Washington.

The program was given by Judy Youngblood & Anna Owen on Floral Design.

The October minutes were presented and a motion was made that the minutes be accepted. The motion was seconded and passed.

Committees

Scrapbook/Jan Scott – Committees need to help send pictures. Whoever takes the pictures, please attach names.

Sunshine/Cecelia Terrell – Please let Cecelia know if anyone needs a card sent.

Membership/Anna Owen – Last day to get your name in the directory.

Intern Class/Suzanne Reaves – New interns will be installed at the Christmas luncheon at Wynlakes.

Nominating Committee – Voted on Officers for next year. The slate is as follows:

President – Maggie Stringer

Vice President – Cecelia Terrell

Secretary Judy Crockett

Treasurer – Suzanne Reeves

Old Business

Christmas Luncheon and silent auction is 12/9/08 at the Wynlakes Country Club. The cost is \$18.00 and can be paid at the November meeting or mailed to Enestine by December 1.

Jimmy Smitherman discussed changes at the extension office. The committee needs to meet to review 2009 applications for the MG class starting in February. There have been some changes in the classes that will be taught.

New Business

Barbara Samuels has been named Chairman for our spring trip.



Announcements

1. If you win a door prize, don't forget to bring one to the January meeting.
2. AMGA dues are due by December 31 and volunteer hours are due by December 31.
3. If you report hours online, you need to print a copy for your own records and give the total number of hours to Sandra Thompson for Reach for the Stars rewards (hours only)
4. Don't forget to bring you auction item to the Christmas Luncheon on Dec 9, at Wynlakes Country Club
5. The AMGA Conference registration for 2009, in Huntsville, will be announced in the winter issue of the Garden Pathway. Also at the AMGA website.
6. Today's meeting counts as one volunteer hour and one CEU. Remember you can count your CEU's as volunteer time, but still record them separately.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Gill, Secretary



Some Crafty Ideas

Build a beautiful winter basket for Christmas, and then keep it going until spring.

What you will need:

A large basket, approximately 20" diameter and 10" tall.

Various plants from the green house: Some tall (amaryllis, hydrangea, paper whites) some medium height (ferns, begonias) and some short and trailing.

Line the basket with foil or plastic, then start in the middle adding your plants in the containers they were purchased in. Add the tall plants first and work to the outside. Make sure the plants are well watered before placing them in the basket. Water them carefully, using a turkey-baster. As the blooming stops, add other plants. Use seasonal plants in colors that you like. For more information on how to keep this basket looking good through the holidays and into spring, go on line to Southern Living.

For a quick present or last minute decoration: Buy a 8" glass tile, the kind used for glass wall or window. Remove the bottom port, and put a small strand (about 100 lights, white or green wire) of clear or colored lights through it (leave the strand leader out). Tie a bow made of wired fabric ribbon around this as if it were a package. (The ribbon looks best when it is at least 3" wide and is somewhat transparent.) Plug it in, it is like a little glowing present. Use it under your tree, on a bookcase or end-table.



CCMGA
Treasurer's Report
 December 10, 2008

Beginning Balance - Nov 12, 2008			\$4,698.86
Deposits	Raffle and Badges	\$31.00	
	Luncheon	1044.00	
	Membership	255.00	
			1,330.00
Checks	Meeting Expenses	297.74	
			(297.74)
End. Bal - Dec 10, 2008			\$5,731.12



Dear Readers,

You might have noticed that for this particular issue, I have chosen brevity over santity. That is, there are no names to the many photographs included herein. Instead, I will let you suss that out. Have fun doing so, as I have had fun looking at your many faces over the past year. You will forgive me for not being more retentive, as over the past 48 hours I have had both my hot water heater and garbage disposal fail on me. This means insanity in the Lenox household. And while today I have both hot water (happiness is a hot shower- don't let anyone tell you differently) and a garbage disposal, the madness of the past few days has left an indelible mark on us, kind of like one of those tattoos you get out of a gum dispenser. It lasts a few days, then bits of it wear off and you're stuck with an arrow through the remains of a heart for weeks on end.

I would like to point out our extremely handsome graduating class this year. Their smiling faces can be seen below, with the notably sad exception of Dianne Brodman, who is commemorated on page 9. We have high hopes for this class as we are all ready share a bit of ourselves with them. We hear they are all energetic and ready to rock and roll. Okay, I'm making that bit up. But I'll bet there is a lot of stored energy in them, and they are ready to get out there and master garden their little hearts out.

I couldn't have done this job over the past year without the help of very special people- Betsy Coley, Kellie Sensintaffar, Jan Scott. You've made this so much easier for me. I hope to be able to do an even better job in the coming year. So for the time being, I'm going to be stuck to you all like a gumball tattoo. Only you're all the heart.

With loving frustration
Lisa Lenox





December/January Calendar

December 1-31, Old Alabama Town, take a tour of Alabama History and Authentically designed decorations for the holidays. Call 334-240-4500 for information.

Thursday, December 25, MERRY CHRISTMAS

Friday, December 26 and Saturday, December 27, SALE at Southern Homes and Gardens

Do you need a few extra volunteer hours? You can still find them at various gardens: Alabama Shakespeare Garden, call Karen Webber, 334-277-8649 to find out when her next work day is. Also, school projects are still needing work. Call Maria PW at Lannark 285-4550

Thursday, January 1, HAPPY NEW YEAR

Tuesday, January 7, Camellia Day, at the Alabama State Capitol. North side of the State Capitol. Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Governor John Patterson changing the state flower from the Goldenrod to the Camellia.

Tuesday, January 27, CCMGA Meeting.

Please send any events or work opportunities that you know of in the Montgomery area (Wetumpka, Prattville, Auburn, Selma, etc.) to Kellie Sensintaffar, 334-277-6905 or kelliengardens@yahoo.com. Thanks for sharing this information.



MELINDA DIANNE BRODMAN
17 January 1961 - 26 November 2008

It is with sorrow that the Capital City Master Gardener Association remembers intern Dianne Brodman who died recently. She had completed all of her requirements and will graduate posthumously with her class on Dec. 9, 2008. She was a cheerful and lively addition to the 2008 class with unwavering enthusiasm to learn about gardening. Her compassion and loving service to others made a difference in many of the lives she encountered.

She moved to the Montgomery area from Newport News, VA in 2007. She loved her home in Pike Road and shared her generosity of spirit with all whom she met.

This event in our lives brings about some of God's most noticeable examples of His grace. Her compassion, generosity and love are fitting for all of us to emulate. While Dianne isn't physically accessible, her spirit remains an integral part of all of our lives. She will continue to weave her laughter and glistening smile in the fabric of our daily activities.

Dianne will be greatly missed.

