

# THE PRAIRIE MUD

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 7

July 2010



Capital City  
Master  
Gardener  
Association  
Montgomery, Alabama

SOWING SEEDS

## Summer Fireworks!

There is a lot to see in the summer yard. I hope you are spending time being a casual observer of summer's magic.

Bright flowers, butterflies, and hummingbirds to enhance your visual stimuli; frogs, crickets, and June bugs to tickle your ear drums; fresh berries and veggies you will wish for in January: all enrich your senses and stimulate your creativity.

Don't miss summer's spectacular show. Search for opportunities to immerse yourself in God's ever changing canvas. To be able to see, hear, touch, and taste the world around us is truly a blessing. Take advantage of your blessings and share them with your friends. See you at the tea party!

Cecelia Terrell, President CCMGA

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Anniversary

CCMGA will Meet July 27, at Vaughn Park Church of Christ at 10:00 am to 12:00. We will celebrate our

### Tenth Anniversary !

Charlotte Wood and others will recreate the 'Tea Party' that was presented at the AMGA Conference. We will also have speakers from those who were among the first members of CCMGA. Please bring your favorite tea cup and a flower or cutting from your garden.

### Email from Jimmy Smitherman

Kellie,

I am back in the office for periods of time each day since I am still in recovery mode.

I want to thank all the MGers and interns for their prayers, letters, and cards!! It is a great feeling to know that so many people care about my well being.

If any of the MGers are near the office please feel free to stop by and visit. I will try to come to the meeting on the 27th.

Jimmy



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CCMGA Minutes  
June 27, 2010 minutes

President, Cecelia Terrell called the meeting to order and also gave the devotion.

Ashley Henderson gave us a program on water quality of runoff water in rivers, streams and ponds.

Members who furnished refreshments were: Buddy Murphy, Cat O'Brien, Carolyn Wright, Judy Crocket, Suzanne Brookhart and Michelle Burns.

Directories are still available. You can pick up yours at the meetings.

The minutes were approved as written. Suzanne Bookhart gave the Treasurer's report.

The ending balance for May was \$5,537.37.

Jerry Belcher will be our new volunteer coordinator. The board had a meeting on projects. Anyone can submit a project to Cathy Maddox and her committee. They need to contact Cathy and get a form to fill out and present it to the committee.

After it passes the committee it goes before the membership for a vote. The following are the projects we have at this time: Ordeman-Shaw house courtyard, MMOFA entrance circle flower bed, Governor's mansion garden AMGA

Grant project, CCMGA-plant sale fund raiser and Central Alabama Master Gardner Helpline.

Sunshine: Jane Martin is feeling better. Cards can be sent to the extension office for Jimmy Smitherman.

Auburn will have a workshop for master gardeners on August 10 in Auburn.

New business:

Three items the membership needs to be thinking about and a vote will be taken by the membership.

1. Lunch for master gardener class

2. Refreshments for meetings

3. Larger space for our meetings ( we give the church \$200.00 a year as a gift for letting us use their space) we might have to increase the amount in order to stay. If anyone knows of a space that is close to the interstate and in a central location let someone on the board know.

Cat O'Brien is giving a cooking class and workshop on herbs for small gardens July 21, 2010  
At the Coliseum Library.

Attendance: 41

Please remember to turn cell phones on mute at meetings !!!!!

Respectfully submitted by Anna Owen

### Treasurer's Report

June 8, 2010

**Beginning Balance \$5547.37**

Deposits

Membership \$10.00

Raffle/Badges \$45.00

AMGA Conf.

*return to host* \$2937.00

\$3033.00 **\$8580.37**

Checks

#1307 dues to AMGA \$5.00

#1308 AMGA (Delta  
printing invoice 25%) \$97.62

### *Request from Lisa Lenox*

"The peach tree in the working block at OAT is in some distress. With the peaches, the wind and the rain lately, some of the branches have become stressed and broken, the others have begun to sag dangerously. Does anyone out there have the proper type of props to help the limbs until they finish bearing the fruit? And additionally, do we have a couple of fruit tree experts willing to do some work on the tree in the fall? It needs to be properly pruned at the right time."

If you can help Lisa please give her a call. Kellie Sensintaffar

# Getting to Know You: Sid Brown

by Jerry Belcher

Interview with Sid Brown

## **Sid, tell a little about yourself**

I am retired from the Dept. of Corrections, doing psychological interviews as part of classification process to determine which custody level, institution and programs for the inmate. I have also worked with drug & alcohol treatment programs

## **What other volunteer organizations do you participate in?**

Besides being a member of Old Alabama Town Herb Society, I am on the board of ARMS, Alabama Roots Music Society. They bring music to Montgomery. I am publicity chairman for Montgomery Unitarian & Universalist Fellowship.

## **How did you get interested in gardening?**

I have been interested in gardening and have had flower gardens for over 25 yrs. I really enjoy growing things that make my yard more attractive.

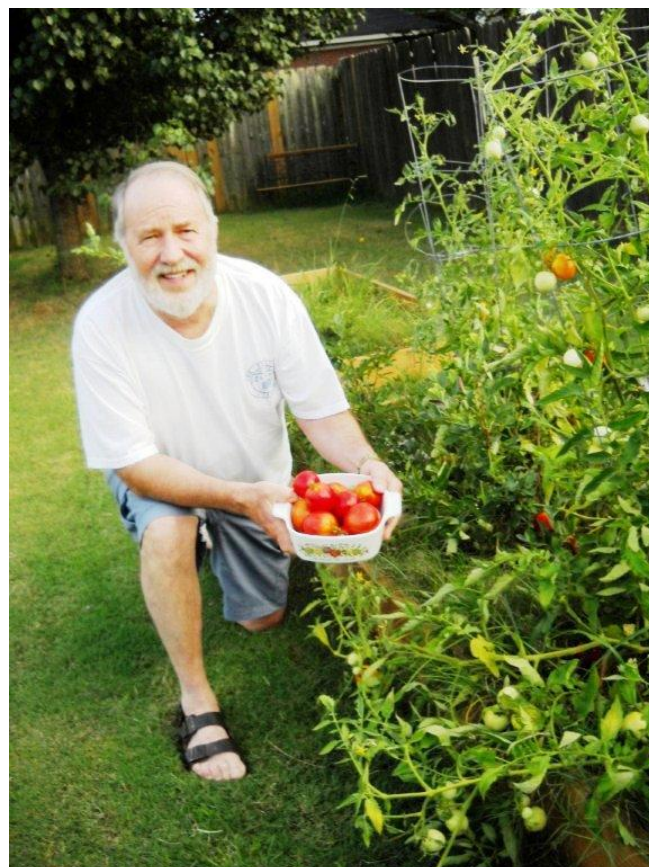
## **What is your favorite type of gardening?**

Flower gardening is my favorite. I have learned what to plant that will do well in raised beds and Prairie Soil. I always have petunias, impatiens, marigolds, zinnias, pansies, snapdragons and winter cabbage.

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

Until I joined CCMGA, I never gave it much thought. But I am anxious to work with MGer's and my Intern class to work on future projects.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who make the Master Gardener Intern Program possible. I was so impressed with the lectures, the people who organized it and the people who facilitated it each Thursday. I have a couple of master's degrees and I thought this was the best course I ever took. It improved my flowers, the appearance of my yard and also my tomato production. And CCMGA gives me the opportunity to give back to the community



Sid Brown is a 2010 Intern. He lives with his wife Cindi in Montgomery.

Sid Brown Interview con't.

When anyone asks me for advice I let them know that the most important thing I learned in class is to get a soil analysis because you cannot grow anything adequately until you know what you are trying to grow it in.

*Jerry Belcher will continue to seek interviews with members, old and new. Please help us to get to know who you are and what your interests are. When he sends the interview format please fill it out. Kellie*

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*From Dianne Bush, Advisory Council Representative*

## **SUMMARY OF AMGA ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

### **July 6, 2010**

The AMGA Advisory Council met in Clanton at the Experimental Station in the Clanton Master Gardener building. Stan Roark presented the committee proposal to facilitate the development and use of educational materials by local Master Gardener Associations. Drawing from responses to the Advisory Council Educational Resource Survey (sent in June to all Advisory Council Representatives of each local association – 56% response rate), the justification for the proposal was based upon local associations playing a greater role in the delivery of educational gardening programs for the public and within their associations.

Concerning the acquisition of hardware (digital projectors, laptop computers, screens, sound systems, etc.), the committee suggested:

- Encourage local associations to acquire their own equipment with their own funds
- Apply for AMGA state grant program to acquire the hardware

Recognizing the vast availability of digital educational programs, the committee recommended a combination of three avenues to increase availability of these materials:

- The recruitment of a digital librarian (ideally a volunteer) who would have digital copies of available materials to duplicate and then send

by CD or DVD to local association when topics were requested

- The creation of a section on the AMGA website for posting of digital materials that members could download as needed
- The formation of a similar site on the ACES website for the design/creation and posting of materials

The committee looked at production of new and needed materials and proposed a series of workshops to teach PowerPoint and other digital materials, hardware, presentation skills, digital cameras and photography, and development of new materials, such as ACES publications on the web, Extension, YouTube, and use of the MG blogs.

Stan mentioned (although not a part of the proposal) that the current MG handbook section on conducting a workshop effectively should be updated. A proposal for the upcoming International Master Gardener Conference (in West Virginia) was the consideration of a multi state working group for the Southeast to initiate the sharing of digital materials. The Advisory Committee voted to have Mr. Roark present the above proposal to the AMGA Board at their September meeting.

Kerry Smith (State MG Coordinator) reported:

- She had sent letters to each local association asking what their specific outreach activities

Advisory Council, con't.

- were in their respective communities and how each association was going about these outreach activities. She is interested in how associations are getting their hands on the information that they need for their activities
- She presented the 2009 MG Annual Federal Service Report which you can read at: <http://www.aces.edu/mg/documents/2009AnnualReport-MG.pdf>
- Kerry announced that there is going to be a major change in service reporting. It is in draft form now. Essentially when the new reporting system goes into effect your hours under the present reporting system will be carried over and then your new hours will be recorded in one of 22 new categories. The system will include a calendar, and everyone will have to reregister. The recorder from each association will be able to access their own MG county hours for the Stars program. There will be a new form

for those who report their hours non-electronically.

- Kerry also reported that starting this fall all MG Interns applicants will be required to undergo a background check for criminal records. This is basically a liability issue for MGs, Extension, and Auburn and is associated with the vulnerable population that we serve, i.e. in schools, nursing homes, etc.. The background check will be handled by the folks in Risk Management in the Human Resources Department at Auburn. Of interest is that FL, GA, OH and CA already have this in place in their MG programs.

Patricia Patty (AMGA President) announced that, due to resignations, the AMGA Board is seeking a newsletter editor for Pathways and a new Board Member to serve. Contact her directly through the AMGA website if you would like to volunteer. Patricia also announced that the AMGA website is in the process of being redesigned.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Dianne Bush, CCMGA Advisory Council Representative

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Need a little coolness on a hot Summer night? Try **Orange Basil Granita.**

A. Mix 1 cup water and 1cup sugar, bring to a boil for 1 minute, add 1cup fresh basil leaves. When cool, strain to remove the leaves. (This part is like making mint julep.)

B. Add 2 cups orange juice and 2 cups white wine (any slightly sweet kind) (or sparkling white grape juice)and 1/4 cup Gran Mariner.

C. Place mixture in a shallow pan (cake pan will do), cover, place in freezer over night.

D. Prior to serving, allow solidly frozen mixture to set for 30 minutes.

E. Scrape the top of the frozen mixture with a fork, so that it breaks up into crystal pieces.

Serve in a small swallow cup or wine glass, garnish with fresh basil leafs , eat with a spoon. This is great before, during or after dinner. Ahhhh! So refreshing.

## Cool Recipe from Dianne Bush

I have failed (since our meeting at Jasmine Hill) to get this recipe to the Prairie Mud, but it has finally made it to the top of my To-Do list (which certainly does not mean that I am caught up with everything). Below is the recipe for the cold shrimp and rice salad that I brought to our lunch in the Grecian Statue room at JH. Before I give the readers the recipe, I want to mention that I happen to have taken all of my MG classes in that very same room so got to contemplate all of those Greek men for hours as speakers blathered on about Integrated Pest Management and like subjects..... The recipe is from Craig Claiborne's *The New York Times Cook Book*, copyright 1961. Time flies. DB

### Cold Rice and Shrimp Salad (5 servings)

1 cup raw rice  
3 scallions  
1 bunch of chives  
½ small onion  
1 ½ cups cooked, cleaned shrimp  
1 cup mayonnaise  
Pinch of ginger ( I use fresh grated)  
Salt and Pepper to taste  
Lemon juice to taste  
Lettuce to garnish (Boston leaf is nice here)  
Toasted sesame seeds

1. Cook rice according to directions and cool
2. Chop scallions, chives, onion finely. Fresh tarragon or fresh basil are also nice to throw in. Add to cold rice
3. Add shrimp and mayonnaise. Season with ginger, S & P, lemon juice and refrigerate until serving time
4. Heap on lettuce leaves and garnish with sesame seeds

This recipe comes to us just in time for hot hot summer relief, Thanks Dianne.

A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining,  
the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing,  
and the lawn mower is broken.

- James Dent

# whats comin' up?

## CCMGA Event Calendar for August and September

Tuesday, July 27, 2010, CCMGA Monthly Meeting, Vaughn Park Church of Christ.  
10:00-12:00.

Tuesday, August 24, CCMGA Monthly Meeting, Vaughn Park Church of Christ. 10:00-12:00

**Please plan to attend the Master Gardener School at Auburn. This is an excellent opportunity to obtain some quality CEU's.**

### **Auburn Master Gardener School**

Tuesday, Aug 10, 2010

Ham Wilson Livestock Arena

(Directions: Ham Wilson Arena is located at 650 S Donahue Dr.

From the intersection of College Street and Donahue Dr, turnwest toward the stadium. Ham Wilson is on the left after the traffic light at Lem Morrison Dr (Mel Street) and Donahue Dr)

8:30 – 9:00 Registration (preregistration expected, see p. 2)

### **9:00 Dr Amy Wright: Wild About Native Plants**

Native plants are receiving a lot of good press these days! However, because there are so many great species to choose from, it can be tough to know where to start when adding them to a landscape. We'll talk about some native plants that belong in every southeastern garden, ones that are low maintenance, and those that can provide ornamental interest year round.

10:00 Break

### **10:15 Kerry Smith: Backyard Botany**

How often do we hear the question – “Can you tell me what plant this is?” Much like diagnosing plant problems, it's about observing the details. You'll learn to notice the plant characteristics that are strong clues in plant identification. And yes, we'll talk a little about botanical names too.

### **11:00 Carolyn Robinson: Gardens for Wildlife**

Gardens for Wildlife: Attracting wildlife is a fairly simple process, but how can you have your cake and eat it too? What if I have pets, can I attract wildlife? What if I don't want any more deer? Proper plant selection and placement can allow you to attract those you want and not the ones you don't!

12:00 Lunch

### **1:15 Dr Harry Ponder: Lessons from the Plant Doctor**

Learn a systematic approach to diagnosing tree and shrub disease problems – spots, cankers, wilts and more. Like any other diagnostic investigation, you need to become a keen observer and know how to recognize the normal from abnormal appearance of a plant's parts.

### **2:00 Dr Raymond Kessler: DIY – Step by Step Water Garden Installation**

So you want a water garden in your landscape! Learn everything you need to know from planning to adding plants and fish; starting with the precautions you should take before beginning excavation and ending with an honest assessment of maintenance requirements.

### **3:15 Dani Carroll: Make Every Drop Count**

Drip irrigation is a more efficient way to water the garden and landscape. No matter your water source (collected rain water or city), you can easily learn how to design and connect the simple parts. This session will end with an outdoor demonstration.

\*Note – CEU's for this event = 5.5

**Registration Form**

Auburn Master Gardener School, August 10  
(Fee is nonrefundable after August 2, 2010)  
August 10  
\_\_\_ Master Gardener School \$40.00  
(Includes Lunch)

Checks payable to:  
AU Department of Horticulture – MG School

Send this form and check to:  
Dani Carroll  
101 Funchess Hall  
Auburn University, AL 36849  
(Class size is limited so please register early)

**Please use one registration form per person**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Master Gardener Assn Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Petals From the Past**

<b>Petals Fruit Harvest Schedule</b>	<b>Blueberry Fields Open for U-pick</b>
<p>Blackberries--Early June to July 5 Blueberries--Mid June to late August Figs--Mid July to late September Asian Pears--Late August to late September Japanese Persimmons--Early October to late November Satsumas--Early December Meyer Lemons and Kumquats--November to December</p> <p>Please call to check actual availability 205-646-0069.</p>	<p>The blueberry u-pock fields are now open and very plentiful. priced at \$3.25 a pound</p> <p>We also have picked blueberries in pints at \$4.00 each. Fig are not quite ripe yet. It should be just another couple of weeks. Please call the retail shop to check on availability. 205-646-0069</p>

**See the Petals From the Past website for a listing of their educational events, go to [www.petalsfromthepast.com](http://www.petalsfromthepast.com)**

By Mallory Kelley  
Regional Extension Agent  
Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests



## Controlling Summer Weeds

(In the Vegetable Garden, Landscape and Lawn)

A weed can have many definitions, but its true definition is “a plant out of place”. Some weeds are more than just irritating eyesores. Weeds can be aggressive, which is why you see them popping up beside less competitive flowers, shrubs and vegetables, and in the weaker areas of your lawn. As all gardeners know, weeds love vegetable gardens. There's plenty of sun, the soil is great, water is plentiful, and the competition is weak. So what exactly should we do about them?

If weeds are in your vegetable garden, the old proven method of hand pulling, hoeing and tilling are best as many weeds are close to the vegetable plants and you do not want a herbicide to come in contact with it. Other than the old proven method Roundup is the best herbicide that you can use in the vegetable garden. Roundup kills all vegetation and starts working immediately. The great thing about this herbicide is that it only affects the green plant tissue it comes in contact with. Once roundup touches the soil it becomes inactive so no need to worry about it getting into the water and affecting other plants. For best results apply roundup when weeds are actively growing. For very hard to kill weeds it will more than likely take multiple sprays before you kill the weed, but general weeds usually begin to wilt within hours and are dead within one to two weeks.

Spray roundup when air is calm to prevent drift to desirable plants. One gallon covers approximately 300 sq. ft., and again, becomes inert when it touches the soil. Just be sure to use a piece of cardboard or plastic to shield your vegetable plants when you spray. Making sure that no spray comes in contact with your vegetable plants.

Roundup can also be used in the landscape, but again, make sure to shield all desirable plants from any drift. If you begin to see leaves on plants in your garden or landscape have a puckering inbetween the veins and a distorted look it is more than likely the result of herbicide drift.

**Here is an example of roundup drift on beans**



In a vegetable garden you could also use black plastic to stop weeds from sprouting, but you must consider how you are going to get water to those plants. If using black plastic you will more than likely have to put in drip irrigation first. Another method often used in the landscape to keep weeds out is to use weed fabric below the mulch. This will work well for the first year or two, but will more than likely cause you much more work than just pulling weeds years down the road. Eventually soil will build up on top of the fabric and then the weeds will begin to grow on top of the fabric. Then as the years pass the fabric will become weak, rip and tear and then when you finally decide to remove the fabric it is almost impossible. So my best suggestion is to stay away from the weed fabric in the landscape.

The best method I have found in either the vegetable garden or in the landscape bed is to use thick sheets of newspaper around your plants and then cover with a layer of two to four inches of mulch (pine straw or pine bark). The newspaper and mulch will keep weeds out just about from Spring to Fall (depending on how thick) and it will add nutrients to your soil while inhibiting weed growth. The more you control weeds this year, the less of a problem they'll be next year.

Summer Weeds con't.

As for the weeds in the lawn it is best to apply a pre-emergent herbicide to help you get a jump start on controlling those Spring and Summer weeds, but once the weeds begin to appear it is first of all important to know what type of grass you have. Only certain kinds of herbicides can be used on certain types of grasses. I have listed some general **post-emergent herbicides (Active ingredients)** below and what type of grass they can be used on to treat broadleaf weeds. For summer broadleaf weed control on Bermuda and Zoysiagrass you can use any product that has 2,4-D listed as its active ingredient on the label.

**\*Some other products with 2,4-D along with other active ingredients can also be used on Centipede or**

**St. Augustine, but you must read the label to be sure!**

For Centipede lawns there are other products that are safe, but those with the active ingredient, Sethoxydim, are only safe on Centipede.

For broadleaf control in Bermuda, Zoysia, Centipede and St. Augustine look for products that have: bentazon, halosulfuron, or imazaquin listed as the active ingredient.

**\*All three of these active ingredients are safe on any of these types of grasses!**

**When using Herbicides-Always read and follow label directions.**

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## New Master Gardener Class in Elmore County

I will be starting the next Master Gardener Class in Elmore County in September on Thursdays from 8-12:00 at the Elmore County Extension office. We need more applicants and I know people in Montgomery and Autauga know people who live in Elmore County so we want to get the word out to everyone in the area!

**If you know of anyone in Elmore Co. who might be interested in applying, (Applications are due July 25th)!**

**Please mail the Application to:**

**340 Queen Ann Road  
Wetumpka, AL 36092**

*The philosopher who said that work well done  
never needs doing over, never weeded a garden.*

- Ray D. Everson

CCMGA Officers, 2010:  
Cecelia Terrell - President  
Kellie Sensintaffar - Vice president  
Suzanne Brookhart - Treasurer  
Anna Owen - Secretary

This newsletter is only as good as the members of CCMGA make it!  
Thanks to this month's contributors; Mallory Kelley, Dianne Bush, Suzanne Brookhart, Anna Owen, Jerry Belcher, and Kellie Sensintaffar. Please send any contribution you can make (pictures, stories, areas of interest, short research questions) to Kellie Sensintaffar, by the first Friday of the month (August 6). All are welcome.

# Enjoying the Fruits of our Labor

The Sister Schubert Tea Event as presented at the AMGA 20th Annual Conference will be the feature of our next CCMGA meeting.

We are celebrating

## Capital City Master Gardener's Tenth Anniversary

Where: Vaughn Park Church of Christ

When: Tuesday July 27, 2010 at 10:00AM

RSVP: If you plan to attend, please reply to Kellie Sensintaffar, email [kelliegardens@yahoo.com](mailto:kelliegardens@yahoo.com) by July 21st

PS: Bring your favorite tea cup and a cut flower or herb from your garden

