

The Prairie Mud

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Spotlight on Jan and Jane

Jan Gill and Jane Shalhoop share a number of characteristics. Both became Master Gardeners in 2005, are currently CCMGA board members, work during tax season, and are interested in garden design. Both are active CCMGA volunteers, having participated in projects such as our Plant Sale, the Governor's Mansion Garden, the Water Festival at AUM, the Shakespeare Garden, and our annual Silent Auction. And both tend to shun publicity!

CCMGA Secretary Jan Gill and her husband John live in Arrowhead, where John is President of the Homeowners' Association. In addition to their two sons, Jan's 82-year-old mother Margaret Mock also lives with them. Jan does taxes for H&R Block and has her own Document Search and Retrieval business. Along with gardening, she enjoys photography, reading, and pottery. (And she and John have been known to "shag and swing" on a dance floor!)

Jan's special garden interest is in perennials. She comments, "I like to garden as if I'm painting a canvas." The colorful plantings surrounding her home with flowers of every description and hue are indeed reminiscent of Monet's garden paintings. Jan's favorite gardening references are the *Southern Living Garden Book* and the *Southern Garden Book of Lists*.

Our 2008 Treasurer Jane Shalhoop started a Master Gardener class in Birmingham in 2004, but she dropped out to marry Jack and move to Montgomery. She excitedly enrolled in a class here the next year, and has made many of her Montgomery friends through CCMGA. Asked about her favorite area of gardening, Jane says, "I'm a jack of all trades, master of none. I just love the process of starting with a patch of hard ground. I don't really care if it's ever finished. Programs by P. Allen Smith have really helped me see form and design a *little*—it's an uphill battle!"

Jane has three daughters—one's a gardener—and two grandsons, all in Birmingham. She and Jack live in Wynlakes, so they are familiar with the "prairie soil challenge." Jane is a CPA who has worked the past three tax seasons with the Diamond Roller Taunton and Carmichael Accounting Firm. This is her second term to serve as our CCMGA Treasurer.

It is a great responsibility to be custodians of an organization's records and finances. CCMGA is fortunate to have the competent and committed "Jan and Jane Team" to manage those for us. *Yvonne Evans*



The Garden Scoop

We have had some very strange weather fluctuations this year, but I think that the “Dog Days of Summer” have set in for now. As I come in from the yard without a dry stitch of clothing on, I am reminded that back in January, I was sitting by the fire dreaming of the warm days of summer. Be careful about what you wish for.

Last week, I hired my first (ever) yard help in the form of a teenaged boy from the neighborhood. He plays football and basketball for his high school and was in very good physical shape. I worked him pretty hard as we tried to take control of the perimeters of my yard. I tried to remember why I had not chopped vines and seedling trees from my outer beds and hedge rows last year. Then it struck me that we had a brutally hot and early summer season last year. I didn't go outside during June and July (forget about August) because the temperatures were already in the high 90's and even 100's then. I was really thankful for those few days with low humidity during the first week of July when the hired help and I beat back the jungle that had developed in just one season of neglect. It is truly amazing how much growth can occur in such a short period of time. As we worked on taking back control of the outer reaches of my yard, I made mental notes of several things.

The first observation: Why would anyone in his right mind ever plant Thorny Elaeagnus? Mine had grown from a three foot tall shrub to a sprawling monstrosity with fifteen foot shoots and killer thorns in just

one year. (I know, I know – they are great in floral arrangements even if they do maim.) The second observation: Why do we love Honeysuckle so much and think that it defines the South? If you let it do its thing, it would cover the entire Earth not unlike kudzu. Thank goodness I don't have any of that (kudzu) in my yard. The third observation: If you water your yard and your neighbor doesn't, every vine including Vinca major and English Ivy will find its way into your beds and multiply one thousand times its original size. The fourth observation: If there is one Cherry Laurel tree within a mile of your yard, you will have a billion seedlings in your beds every Spring. The fifth and certainly not the last observation: Teenage football players are not as tough as old garden ladies.

Thanks go to all of you old and not so old garden folks who have braved the heat and humidity to work on



our various projects. It takes everyone to water and weed our gardens around town and keep them in good shape. If you haven't volunteered for one of these projects, it's not too late! Also, thanks go to all of you who have worked the Helpline thus far. We have really made a contribution to those in need of gardening advice and in one case helped a gentleman in Massachusetts. You just never know who is going to be on the other end of that telephone line. Please note the calendar of upcoming events. Some of them occur really soon. Also, watch for the Garden Pathways which comes out this month. It should have more information on statewide events.

CCMGA Officers

President-
Karin Carmichael
Vice President-
Maggie Stringer
Secretary-
Jan Gill
Treasurer-
Jane Shalhoop

Newsletter Staff

Lisa Lenox- Editor
Betsy Coley- Assistant Editor

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We should have a very interesting and fun program at the July meeting with “Pass Along” plants. We will meet at the church in the Teen Room (the same room that we met in last July with Judge Givhan) – look for the signs. Don’t forget to bring your plant(s) for the swap. Also, if you won a door prize last month, don’t forget to bring one to this meeting. See you on July 22. Karin Carmichael

All pictures courtesy of Sandra Thompson and her garden. Read more on page 8



CCMGA July 22, Meeting

Our July meeting will involve all members! The topic is *Pass Along Plants*. Carol King from Old Alabama Town will be the guest speaker. She will talk about heirlooms-the plants our parents, grandparents, and others have passed along over the years. Your involvement will include sharing a plant that has been passed along to you and to receive a plant passed along from another member. Fun ha?

You were given a form at our last meeting to furnish information about the plant you are sharing. Please include it with your plant. There will be extra forms at the meeting. Someone will take your plant when you arrive and you will be given a ticket to hold until it is called for you to receive a plant. I hope you will share extras for the “take one” table. Have Fun!

PLEASE NOTE: THE MEETING ROOM HAS BEEN CHANGED TO THE “TEEN ROOM” WHICH IS THE ROOM WE MET IN LAST JULY WITH JUDGE GIVHAN. LOOK FOR THE SIGNS MARKING THE WAY.

Future CCMGA Meetings

August 26 Kerry Smith, State MG Coordinator, will present a program on *Worm Composting* and our president, Karin Carmichael, will share the presentation on *Going Green-Compost*.

September 23 CCMGA will have a *Flower Show* to be coordinated by Judy Youngblood.

Get ready for the annual National Fair floral competition.

October 28 Carol Saas, founder of the Biophilia Nursery in Elberta, AL, will present a program on *Butterflies*. She will talk about host plants and identify all the stages of butterfly growth.

November 25 *Floral Arranging for Dummies* will be presented by CCMGA members, Yvonne Evans, Anna Owens and Judy Youngblood. Learn to make an arrangement for the holidays.

Maggie Stringer,
Programs

CAPITAL CITY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

June 24, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Vice President **Maggie Stringer** called the June, 2008 meeting to order at 10:00 am at Vaughn Park Church of Christ. Refreshments were provided by **Chris Hornaday, Susan Matthews, Judy Youngblood & Harper Bowden.**

The devotion was given by **Annie Smith.** We need to remember **Chris Brown** while she undergoes treatments for colon cancer. We had several interns visiting this month. Next month there will be new seating designed to make the meeting go smoother. There was a motion that the May minutes be accepted and the motion was seconded.

Old Business

- Cathy Maddox is the Chairman for the 2010 AMGA conference. A contract has been signed with the Renaissance. Please make sure you have been assigned to a committee - if not, call Cathy. Any good ideas are welcome.
- Helpline – **Marie Tomlin.** Thanks to all the volunteers. Things are going great.
- There will be no membership cards for a while.

New Business

- none

Announcements

- Sunshine – **Cecelia Terrell** will send cards to **Gail Cotney** on the death of her sister and **Suzanne Reaves** on the death of her sister-in-law
- The July meeting is at Vaughn Park Church of Christ in the teen center (where Judge Givhan spoke.)
- The program next month is going to be on Pass Along Plants given by **Carol King.** Please bring some plants to pass along and write down the plant name, a history, its needs and any other comments. Also include your name and telephone number. We will need 2 volunteers to handle and help raffle off the plants. There will be spillover area for just taking plants. This is a good time to share as gardeners.
- Thanks goes to Wildbirds Unlimited for presenting our program and donating the door prizes.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Gill, Secretary



A border
in
Sandra's
garden

RECORDING VOLUNTEER HOURS ONLINE

Go to - http://www.aces.edu/mg/volunteer_area.php and click on Service Report (there is a tutorial on this page which will help you set up the account). Click on “Sign Up Here” and fill out the requested information. Where the program asks for the MG Passcode, type in MGA04. Click on “Submit” and you are set up and good to go (don’t forget your password as you will need it to access your account to add your hours). Always keep a hard copy of your hours for yourself in case of a problem with your account. If you have any problems, give Marie Tomlin a call at 271-2710. Good luck and keep those hours rolling in. Remember, each volunteer hour is equivalent to \$18.05. The more volunteer hours that we report, the more funding for obtaining future Extension Agents is possible. Also, proof of the worth of the Master Gardener program is validated.

JUNE MEETING:

CEU’s for attendees at the June meeting was 1 hour

VOLUNTEER HOURS for attendees at the June meeting was 1 hour

Don’t forget to log your credits.

Daylillies and Queen Anne’s Lace from Sandra’s garden.



CCMGA Treasurer’s Report

July 9, 2008

Beginning Balance	June 9, 2008		\$ 4,573.98
Deposits		Raffle and Badges	\$ 50.00
		Contribution	5.00
		Membership	90.00
		Voided check-Ord. Shaw	20.00
			165.00
Ending Balance	July 9, 2008		\$4,738.98

We have 97 paid members

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Blueberry Workshop Blueberries are great backyard fruit and ornamental plants. In addition to their healthy berries, they have attractive flowers and brilliant red fall foliage. To learn about planting, pruning, variety selection, health benefits, recipes and preservation methods, attend a workshop.

WHEN: Thurs. July 10

WHERE: Chilton County, Clanton, 205-280-6268

WHEN: Tues. July 22

WHERE: Lee County, Opelika, 334-749-3353

WHEN: Thurs. July 24

WHERE: Autauga County, Autaugaville, 334-361-7273

Workshops begin a 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 2:00 p.m. Workshop participants will receive blueberry publications, a blueberry recipe book, a T shirt and lunch. To register and for directions, call the Extension Office number for the workshop you plan to attend. For more information contact Regional Extension Agent, Stan Roark at 256-357-2841.

FALL VEGETABLE GARDENING WORKSHOP

WHEN: Thurs. July 24, 2008

WHERE: Tuscaloosa County Extension System Office

COST: \$15 (includes lunch)

Call 205-349-4630 to register. Space is limited. Participants need to check in between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m. on the day of the program.

AUBURN MASTER GARDENER SCHOOL

WHEN: August 12 and 13

COST: August 12 – BBQ Supper at 6:30 p.m. - \$10.00, Ham Wilson Livestock Arena

August 13 – Master Gardener School - \$50.00 (Includes Lunch)

You can download the form from the Master Gardeners' website at www.alabamamg.org or you will find more information in the AMGA publication, Garden Pathways, which is being sent out in July.

FALL AMGA CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

WHEN: Sept. 23

WHERE: Wallace State Community College, Hanceville, AL

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Sept. 16

COST: \$20 (includes a box lunch)

For more information, contact Martha Wood at petewood@tds.net or 256-634-4221. To make reservations, send your check payable to Martha Wood, PO Box 552, Mentone, AL 35984. (We should have some registration forms at our July meeting.)

Hydrangeas in Sandra's garden





Happy nasturtiums at Sandra's.

July Name/Phone # Name/Phone # Name/Phone #

7 Ernestine Lewis – 334-271-0667__ Alan Weil – 334-281-1737 ____ Linda Carelton – 334-277-1664____

ernestinel@knology.net nawil@aol.com ta99ch03@knology.net

14 Cecilia Terrell – 334-277-6845__ Jan Gill – 334-273-0045 _____ Susan Mathews – 334-277-7833_

catjgtjmmet@yahoo.com jangill@bellsouth.net gbertbsn@gmail.com

21 Nell Copeland – 334-277-6989 Sara Brown – 334-279-1200 _____ Selena Hardy – 334-271-4726____

Simplydivine1@yahoo.com

28 Peggy Weimorts – 334-277-3648 Dianne Bush – 334-281-4310 _____ Jerome Thomas – 334-288-6524

pweimorts@bellsouth.net diannekbush@aol.com jaromejerry3655@aol.com



Feature Garden- Sandra Thompson

I have a real passion for daylilies.

It took me a long time to learn to put more and more perennials in the garden.

Now my entire garden is made up of different perennials- most are shade-loving. I find myself using lots of hosta and ferns. I use annuals just to give the garden color. I sow larkspur and poppy seed in November to give spring color in the flower beds and later sow zinnia seed in late April for July color. I love roses but I just don't get enough sun, the BIG key today is getting water to everything- plants need lots of water.

Sandra Thompson





Thank You for the cards and other expressions
of sympathy received on the death of my
sister-in-law.

Tragic events are made easier by the
love and support of good friends
and there are none better than
Master Gardeners.

Suzanne Reaves