



# THE PRAIRIE MUD

A Publication of Capital  
City Master Gardener  
Association  
Montgomery, Alabama

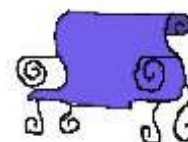
Volume 11, Number 5  
May 2009

## In This Issue

From the Garden	1
CCMGA Meeting Info	2
Plant of the Month	3
Plant Sale	4
Rehnberg Garden	5
Lillie's Garden	6
Garden Tips	7
Book Review	8
Helpline	9
What's Coming Up	10

Meeting Time and Place  
May 26, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Georgia Reinberg's Home (see  
page 2 for directions)

## FROM THE GARDEN



Fellow Master Gardeners,  
We are growing by membership, we are enlarging our outreach through community projects/services, we are racking up numerous volunteer hours and we are swelling our coffers—by more than \$1500.00 this past Saturday at our third **plant sale**. WOW!

**Suzanne Brookhart and committee members; Karin Carmichael, Gail Cotney, Jan Gill and Jane Shalhoop** spent many hours gathering, pricing and selling the plants we donated. When you read this, stand and applaud them! Now, applaud yourselves if you donated one or more (hopefully, more) plants. Applaud yourselves again if you purchased one or more plants for your own garden. Thanks. VERY SPECIAL THANKS GO TO THE PLANT SALE COMMITTEE. Plant sales have increased each year, which means we are inching toward the \$2,000+ target. We can do it. We will do it! The donations you make to the silent auction and plant sale- except for booth rental- yield expense free income. It is through your generosity that our fundraising has been so successful—the more reason for ALL members to participate.

Speaking of membership growth, we are nearing one hundred members. With this many talented, active, productive members, one is bound to sound a little “short” sometime. Should that happen, remember we are all much kinder than the worst thing we ever say.

**Nell Copeland** arranged for me to speak at the Blue Cross Blue Store

this week. I wondered what the Blue Store might have to sell. I thought there might be shelves and displays of “something”. That was not the case. There was a small office space at the front and one along the side of a large space that served as a meeting room with long tables and chairs for their audience, who was neighborhood residents and anyone else interested in the topic of the day.

The Blue Store provides a monthly calendar of events for the public on subjects such as “Alzheimer Awareness”, “Organizing Your Life: Ways to Find More Time for You” and “Gardening for Health” which was my topic. The audience was small, but interested in the topic. Some seemed to be regulars. Businesses like the Blue Store provides an opportunity for us to share our “expertise and services to support the Cooperative Extension Effort related to the horticultural sciences”. Nell has scheduled another session for June 1st. at 12:00 noon at the Blue Store. **Marie Tomlin** will speak on “Raised Bed Gardening”.

They serve a healthy snack for participants. The Speakers Bureau serves as an excellent forum to



*Continued from page 1*

promote the mission of Master Gardeners.

The newsletter staff has listed more gardening opportunities in this issue. It seems there is always something interesting to do in or near Montgomery. Why not take advantage of the volunteer and CEU hours while learning and having fun?

Happy Gardening,  
Maggie Stringer

**CCMGA Officers**  
President Maggie Stringer  
Vice President Cecelia Terrell  
Secretary Judy Crockett  
Treasurer Suzanne Reaves

**Newsletter Staff**  
Editor Lisa Lenox  
Assistant Editor Kellie Sensintaffar

**ACES Office**  
Montgomery County Extension Office  
Two East Office Center  
400 Eastern Blvd, Suite 107  
Montgomery, Al. 36117-2043  
334/270-4133

**New Extension Agent Announced:**  
From an announcement by Kerri Smith on 5-14-09, "a new REA, Mallory Kelley, will be responsible for programming in Coosa, Autauga, Elmore, Montgomery, and Macon Counties. Her 1st official day is May 25th....Mallory's home office will be in Elmore County for now."

---

The Plant Sale in full swing

---



## CCMGA MONTHLY MEETING

Capital City Master Gardener Meeting will be Tuesday, May 26, 2009. The meeting will be at the home of Georgia Rehnberg, 20 Lindsey Road, Millbrook, AL. Georgia is a member of the Day Lilly Society and a enthusiastic Day Lilly grower.

Directions to Georgia's house: Phone: 334-285-1324. From Montgomery, take I65 North to exit 179 (Millbrook-Coosada). Go to the 3<sup>rd</sup> traffic light (about 5-6 miles at the Millbrook City Hall), turn right on Coosada Road. Travel 1 ½ miles, just past the Jackson Chapel Church turn left on Lindsey Road. Continue about 30 yards, look for a sign that says 20 Lindsey Road, and turn right, travel to the house on the hill.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH-



**Melampodium Divaricatum**

**Common name:** butter daisy

**Family:** Asteraceae/Compositae

Many of you may be familiar with Melampodium and what fantastic little plants they are, but it was four years ago that I first discovered them. Because I had to wear one of those tall, Darth Vader boots due to foot surgery and couldn't bend down to plant anything, my neighbor took pity on me and brought some little plants to put in my yard. They began blooming with small yellow flowers that looked like little daisies, and they bloomed all season! My romance with Melampodium began that summer.

Their foliage is a bright green, so they contrast well with the bright yellow petals. They are a summer annuals, but guess what! They make seeds that produce plants all during the growing season, and little seedlings pop up the following year, saving you money. Melampodium like lots of sunshine, well drained soil, and need to stay watered, but I found that after they become mature, they appear very hardy and are actually no trouble at all. They are quite drought and heat tolerant once they are established.

If you haven't experienced the joy of growing melampodium, now is the time to try out a few plants and see how much happiness they produce. My seedlings are popping up now and are ready to "strut their stuff".

Judy Crockett

# PLANT SALE 2009

Grand weather and a good turnout worked in our favor this year. Good PR, plus word-of-mouth, is also bringing a crowd to our three year old event on Herb Day. Repeat customers are beginning to show-up with wagons intent on rounding up bargains and bringing their friends. The steady stream of interested gardeners kept everyone busy.

Our fundraiser brought in \$1529.60, an increase over last year. To all the members who donated from your gardens, fixed baskets, bought plants to be sold for profit, or provided garden items like ceramic pots or art for sale, we thank you. Our event would not be possible without the contributions from our membership. Plants this year were especially healthy, attractive, and varied. The pictures and helpful information included made selling easy!

Special appreciation goes to all the members who showed up to help promote the sale of our donated plants. It was such a **big help** to the committee to have the extra influx of energy. We cheer each and everyone who took the time to pitch in and help. A special *thank you* to members of the Class of 2009 who were there. What a dynamic group! With future Master Gardeners like these, we will be in great shape in the future.

The Plant Sale Committee could not be a more dedicated group of worker bees. Their diligent and well organized efforts help make this event run like a well oiled machine. Be sure to let Suzanne Brookhart, Gail Cotney, Jan Gill, Jane Shalhoop, Karin Carmichael and Dianne Bush know how much you appreciate their efforts on behalf of CCMGA.

A special shout out to Cookie Ruth and Jane Martin, who provided plant transport at the last minute, and to Karen Weber and Christine Shoup who were invaluable to people who wanted particular information about the plants they chose. As this event continues to grow, we hope more of our membership will become actively involved.





Kellie Sensintaffar and Lisa Addison planned and planted a raised bed in connection with Earth Day and Lower New Homes Green Projects on April 25, 2009. Information on raised beds and vegetable gardening from the Montgomery County Extension Service was distributed to many interested visitors and neighbors of the Model Home in Stoney Brook.

## **Rehnberg Garden**

Home of Blair and Georgia Rehnberg

Located in West Elmore County in the Town Limits of Coosada about 10 miles north of Montgomery is the home and garden of the Rehnbergs. The Rehnbergs spent most of their careers working in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, retiring in the mid nineties and returning to Coosada to Georgia's family farm. The garden was started in 1998 and is still a work in progress.

Georgia's interest in daylilies began after answering a want ad in the Raleigh newspaper. She thought she had died and gone to daylily heaven upon arriving at the garden advertized in the want ads. However, the desire for more daylilies had to be put on hold until they built and got established in their new home in Alabama.

In the beginning the daylily beds started small and held mostly older daylilies. As the love for daylilies grew so did the number and quality of daylilies. At present the Rehnbergs grow 900-1000 cultivars encompassing the old and new cultivars representing mainly full formed daylilies with some minis, some unusual forms and a few spiders. In the spring the most recent cultivars from hybridizers such as the Stamiles, Trimmers, Smith, Petit and others will be in bloom.

Along the periphery of their garden, Georgia grows strawberries, blueberries and muscadines. In the shady area of the garden you will see hostas, hydrangeas, camellias, rhododendron, ferns, and other shade-loving plants. The shady area of the garden is accented with a pergola that has a stone patio and chocolate vine and sago palms planted along the columns.

We look forward to your visit and to sharing our love of gardening, especially the growing daylilies.

# LILLY'S GARDEN: *Art in the Garden*

**May 14** Forest Avenue Students were treated to “Art in the Garden” by a group of dedicated master gardeners. Classes were scheduled to come to the garden to do watercolors. They could choose to paint flowers that were in bloom, or the arbor, the fountain, the bottle tree, sundial garden, or anything in the garden that interested them.

Suzanne Brookhart, Karin Carmichael, Maggie Stringer, Judy Crockett, Carole Gietl, and Ann Oldham, Lilly’s mom, patiently handed out art supplies, organized the enthusiastic students, and identified the blooming plants for classes.

Suzanne Brookhart, Reggie Gipson and Annie Smith had worked the week before to refresh the garden in anticipation of the event planned for the next week. As a result, the garden was in lovely condition and many things were blooming.

Teachers and students were very appreciative of the opportunity to be outside in the beautiful setting and utilize the garden that is maintained by CCMGA.



---

Above- Forest Avenue children enjoy painting scenes from Lilly’s Garden.

Right- Suzanne Brookhart, Maggie Stringer and Karin Carmichael at Art in the Garden.

---



## GARDEN TIPS FOR MAY AND JUNE: KEEPING TOMATOES IN BOUNDS

You still have time to plant tomatoes. In fact, if you have already planted some, by planting some later you will extend your harvest time. Or, you can try another variety. Keep tomatoes tidy in summer months by using one of several types of ties; twine, stretch ties or tomato clips. For sturdier support use galvanized cattle panels, Texas size cages or heavy duty trellises.



Wooden or metal stakes and wire pens are widely available. Keeping tomatoes supported will help protect the plants and make sure the fruit is protected from blemishes.

A combination of stakes and cages can be effective for preventing the tomatoes from blowing over. Drive a 4' metal fence stake into the ground in the spot where you plan to plant the tomato, plant the tomato in front of the stake. Make a cage from 'pig wire' (6") approximately 16" circumference and 4' tall, or use a heavy duty pre-made cage. Place the cage around the stake and fasten it with wire so the stake is at the back. This ensures support and is not likely to blow over in a windstorm.



---

Legacy Tree dedication  
in honor of Diane  
Brodman.

---

# BOOK REVIEW

**“Healing Teas: How to prepare and use teas to maximize your health.”**

**By Marie Nadine Antol**

**Published by Avery**

This is book for everyone who has an appreciation for tea, as a plant as well as the medicinal effects that can be achieved. Many pharmaceutical drugs in use today originated in a steaming cup of healing tea. In some countries, alternative health practitioners work side by side with mainstream physicians utilizing tea.

The author also addresses various methods of preparing healing teas at home. There are many descriptions of tea rituals. This includes making infusions and decoctions, and old recipes for making everything from poultices to salves and sits baths. The book gives a good accounting of the history of tea, the origins of tea, and the trade of tea. It will renew your appreciation of tea and spark your curiosity to find out more about tea. I purchased my copy at TEAVANA in Atlanta. You can find TEAVANA on the internet.

Kellie Sensintaffar



# JUNE HELPLINE

## MG INTERNS

- 1 Lisa Lenox – 315-0362 \_\_\_\_\_ Carol Gietl – 396-0925 \_\_\_\_\_  
Betsy Negron – 286-9357 \_\_\_\_\_  
[tlclenox@knology.net](mailto:tlclenox@knology.net) [megien@charter.net](mailto:megien@charter.net)  
[thriftyb@knology.net](mailto:thriftyb@knology.net)
- 8 Lisa Lenox – 269-1486 Betty Faircloth – 279-8904 \_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Moore – 279-7089 \_\_\_\_\_  
[tlclenox@knology.net](mailto:tlclenox@knology.net) [byf523@yahoo.com](mailto:byf523@yahoo.com)  
[richardlmoore@bellsouth.net](mailto:richardlmoore@bellsouth.net)
- 15 Linda Carleton – 322-3612 \_\_\_\_\_ Melinda Merijanian – 262-4004 \_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Merijanian – 262-4004 \_\_\_\_\_  
[ta99ch03@knology.net](mailto:ta99ch03@knology.net) [blueneews@charter.net](mailto:blueneews@charter.net)  
[bees1954@charter.net](mailto:bees1954@charter.net)
- 22 Mary Eleanor Hines – 399-2209 \_\_\_\_\_ Kellie Sensintaffer – 354-1320 \_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Jane McCracken – 517-1114 \_\_\_\_\_  
[Mariaeleanor@cs.com](mailto:Mariaeleanor@cs.com) [kelliegarden@yahoo.com](mailto:kelliegarden@yahoo.com)  
[mjmccracken@knology.net](mailto:mjmccracken@knology.net)
- 29 Mary Eleanor Hines – 399-2209 \_\_\_\_\_ Melinda Merijanian – 262-4004 \_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Merijanian – 262-4004 \_\_\_\_\_  
[Mariaeleanor@cs.com](mailto:Mariaeleanor@cs.com) [blueneews@charter.net](mailto:blueneews@charter.net)  
[bees1954@charter.net](mailto:bees1954@charter.net)



On April 9<sup>th</sup> the Master Gardener Interns brought pot luck for lunch. As you can see we have some very talented MG Interns. Charlotte Wood decorates cakes . She has been trying out recipes from her sister's new cookbook on the class. Millie Ledford is a Prattville intern and graced us with her decorative ideas with veggies.



---

Above- Millie Ledford

Left- Charlotte Wood

Below- Plant sale- Jane Shalhoop assists as a customer needs help with her choices.

---



# WHAT'S COMING UP

Events for May and June 2009



## Birmingham Botanical Gardens



### **Birmingham Fern Society Annual Lecture**

May 20

7:00 p.m. The Birmingham Fern Society cordially invites you to attend their annual lecture at Birmingham Botanical Gardens. The speaker this year will be Pat Riehl of Vashon Island, Washington. Pat will be speaking on stumperies, Victorian inventions that utilize the interwoven stumps of fallen trees to create beautiful sculptural backdrops for plantings of ferns.

Saturday, May 23

There will be a morning seminar on floral photography at Birmingham Botanical Gardens followed by an afternoon trip to the Cahaba River. Cost for this workshop will include lunch and transportation. For more information, contact Henry Hughes at 205.414.3951.

Saturday, June 13 9:00-5:00pm *Black and Blue Berry Festival*

Enjoy lots of black and blue berry treats at our tasting. Attend Dr. Arlie Powell's seminars on how to grow black and blueberries. Pick some of our delicious black and blueberries to take home with you to use in your favorite recipes. Kick back and enjoy some Blue Grass Music in the gardens. We will also have pony rides and a petting zoo, face painting and Southern Sweets will be serving lunch in the barn. Hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks will be available in the gardens. Informational talks on growing black and blue berries at 10:00 and 12:00. Fee \$3.00. First Aid Station will be available near the shop.

**Saturday, June 27 Annual Greenhouse Sale 7:00am to 2:00pm**

Everything in our greenhouse growing area is sold at wholesale prices. Don't miss this sale. It's a great time to landscape your yard at half the price