

# THE PRAIRIE MUD

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MAY 2010



Capital City  
Master  
Gardener  
Association  
Montgomery, Alabama

## SOWING SEEDS

Spring was delightful this year and all the beautiful weather made my spirit soar. I was pleased to be outside and one with God's creation. I hope you have been able to take time to be in the garden and be still long enough to soak up all the hope and inspiration found there.

Gail, Suzanne, Jan, and all the members that participated in our 2010 Plant Sale; we extend our thanks to you. The fellowship was great and the event was well planned and executed. Your dedication to the success of CCMGA is greatly appreciated.

A rise in temperature and humidity will certainly occur as we head into our summer season. Change is good and brings with it opportunities for implementing tried and true wisdom as well as innovative new ideas. This is true in the garden and in our organization. Each individual's contributions are necessary for continued growth. I hope you will take time to call a member of our organization and thank them for being a part of our success.

Cecellia Terrell, President CCMGA

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What's Comin' Up?

May 25, 2010, CCMGA Monthly Meeting will be at Vaughn Park Church of Christ  
10:00am Refreshments, 10:15am Speaker, Freddie DiPlacido, Wildflowers of  
Alabama, 11:00am Business meeting

**Freddie DiPlacido will be our speaker for the May meeting. She is the daughter of Ken Whitaker, MG and member of CCMGA. Apparently, the love of nature runs in the family. For Freddie this interest has spread to many facets of her life. Her education at Birmingham Southern, where she majored in Biology, her career, where she taught children Environmental Studies, and her social life, where she is a member of many clubs and organizations that include The Wildflower Society, The Sierra Club, and Tennessee Trails Hiking Club. She enjoys hiking and taking pictures as she goes. Like many of us she hopes to enjoy the pictures when she can no longer hike to see them.**

CCMGA Meeting April 27,2010

Cecelia Terrell, President called the meeting to order. The devotion was given by Suzanne Brookhart and refreshments were provided by the following: Ludy Sanderson, Maureen Emerson, Lynne Kuhlmann, Sandee Ferguson, Anne Hamner, Michelle Burns and Jane Martin.

A correction was made to the minutes on last month's date. The meeting day was April 27, 2010. Our Jasmine Hill tour was on March 30,2010. The minutes were approved after the correction.

The treasurer's report ending balance as of April 5,2010 is \$3,999.13.

Cecelia read a letter from Patricia Patty on the conference thanking us for hosting the conference and how smoothly everything went. She also thanked us for our financial donation and our continuing assistance with the State Association.

The State annual report can be read on the ACIS web site. If you are not receiving the "Garden Pathway" by e-mail or mail let Kellie know.

Sunshine Committee: Please keep these members in your prayers due to illness. Jane Martin, Judy Youngblood and Dick Hodge's wife Sally. Also, Annie White's mother passed away.

Plant sale May 8, 8:00-2:00 Mothers day weekend. We will load up 5:30 to 6:00 a.m. to take plants to Old Alabama Town.

Advisory Council meeting- Cathy Maddox –The Advisory Council has established a committee to work with Kerry Smith on giving Master Gardner chapters educational material.

Interns attending the meeting: Barbara Forsythe, Brenda Jordan, Chris Henderson, Maureen Emerson, Barbara Witt, Jerry Belcher, Mac McClellan and Margaret Cooley.

A donation of \$50.00 will be given to the Alabama State Fair to be used in the living center for container gardening.

People are needed to sign up for projects. Signup sheets are at each meeting. Cathy Maddox is Chairwoman for projects. If you need to submit a form or get a form contact Cathy.

Plant It Montgomery is May 15<sup>th</sup> 9:00-12:00 at Oak Park CCMGA has a table-----come help!!!

Door prizes: Please bring plants and let Cecelia know what kind of door prizes you want if not plants. Anyone can bring a door prize.

Our next meeting will be at the Church.  
Attendance for April meeting : 55

Respectfully submitted,  
Anna Owen

## CCMGA Treasurer's Report

April 6, 2010

**Beginning Balance**        **\$3999.13**

### Deposits

Raffle/Badges    \$60.00

Membership        30.00        \$90.00

### Checks

#1304 Fair Sponsorship    \$50.00

#1305 AMGA aprons        30.00

\$80.00

**Ending Balance**        **\$4009.13**

May 7, 2010

## EARTH DAY EVENTS

Many CCMGA members participated in Earth Day Events around Montgomery starting April 22 and extending through the week end. Particular thanks to Lee Fuerst, Jane Martin, and Jerome Thomas for their participation in the Maxwell AFB Earth Day festivities, they saw over 200 students and made newspaper hats for them. The students were educated and delighted at the same time.

Robert Cope has supported several recent events in connection with the Tree Committee. Also, Dianne Bush and Laurice Goorely were involved in Earth Day Events.

Many others have been busy with events that contribute to public education. Thanks to all who were part of these activities, as well as the Water Festival at AUM. These activities are the heart of the service of Master Gardeners.

## Growing and Caring for Roses”

by Mallory Kelley, Montgomery County Extension Agent

Whether you grow hybrids, garden roses, climbers, or even just knockouts you have probably had questions at one time or another about caring for your roses. The rose is America’s national flower and by far the most popular of garden plants. Today, there are more than 6,000 varieties, offering a wide range of forms, colors, and fragrances from spring until late fall. There are many different uses for roses as they can be used in the landscape as single specimen plants or in masses for an impressive color display. They may also be used as borders or hedges, on trellises, and in cut-flower beds. Each year new varieties, in a wide range of colors and forms, are introduced by plant breeders.

You can grow roses successfully with some thought and planning and a little regular care. First of all and most importantly you must select a planting site that receives a minimum of 6 hours of full sun daily. Roses are susceptible to many diseases and sunlight helps decrease those disease problems.

Plant roses in a well-prepared bed of garden soil mixed with organic matter (well-composted animal manure, peat moss, or decayed leaves). Roses perform best in clay soil that is slightly acidic (pH 5.5 to 6.5) and a soil test should be taken several weeks before planting to help determine fertilizer and liming needs of the rose bed. Poorly drained soils should be avoided, since roses will not survive "wet feet" conditions and plan to plant roses at least 2 feet apart. This will provide access to sunlight and more air circulation as the roses grow which will in turn decrease disease incidence.

Watering of roses should be done early in the morning and always avoid wetting the foliage as this will promote disease problems. Roses need lots of water (about an inch of water each week from rain or irrigation) and the more mulch you apply will help conserve soil moisture and suppress weeds. Remove flowers from the plant without damaging the remaining parts of the plant and prune the plants every year to keep them healthy and in good form. Weekly you should go out and inspect



plants to prevent insect or disease damage and treat as needed.

### Tips for Pruning

Pruning roses improves the size, quality, and color of blooms. As soon as the danger of frost is over, you should get ready to prune. Select three to five vigorous, healthy canes to be left to produce flowers. The amount of pruning varies with the variety of rose. However, the first pruning should remove dead, damaged, or weak growth.

Your pruning can also regulate the number of flowers produced. Leave longer canes if more flowers are desired. If large show-type blooms are desired, cut back to only a few canes and cut back the remaining canes to 12-14 inches above the ground.

Bush roses (grandifloras, hybrid teas, floribundas) should be pruned in early spring. Prune after the last frost has occurred or when buds begin to swell. As for climbing roses, many of these roses bloom in early spring and need pruning at the end of flowering. Any new canes that have developed should be left since these will produce flowers the next year. Cut all old canes back to the ground immediately after flowering. Some varieties of climbers will continue to bloom throughout the

growing season. These varieties produce new canes from old canes rather than from the base of the plant. It is best to leave five or six strong healthy canes and to remove the older canes at the ground. Sometimes these remaining canes produce heavy branching. To control growth and encourage flowering, these lateral branches should be kept headed back. And always remove faded flower clusters to promote more flowers longer in the season.

**Insect Problems** Even though rose growing is a rewarding hobby, controlling pests is one of the requirements. Insects, mites, and diseases can quickly make a beautiful plant unsightly. The number and quality of blooms will also be greatly reduced if pest control is not practiced. As for the insects these are some that you will commonly face on your roses sometime throughout the growing season.

**Aphids**--In early spring aphids appear on the first buds, stems, and leaves. They leave behind a sticky substance we call "honeydew" which makes leaves sticky and shiny and provides a starting place for sooty mold. Begin treatment when aphids build up on plants early in the spring. Inspect plants regularly. Treat in the fall to reduce the number of aphids that may produce overwintering eggs. For control use products with the active ingredients such as: Malathion, Diazinon, dimethoate, or acephate.

**Caterpillars**--Corn earworms, armyworms, rose slugs, and other caterpillars may feed on blossoms, buds, and leaves. Treat when small caterpillars are present. For chemical control use products with the active ingredient -carbaryl (Sevin).

**Bud-, Blossom-, and Leaf-Feeding Beetles**--These may attack roses in various stages of development. For chemical control use products with the active ingredient -carbaryl (Sevin).

**Spider Mites**--These pests attack the undersides of leaves. Infested leaves develop a yellow flecking or

stippling, turn brown, curl, and drop off. In severe infestations webbing is present. Spider mites are extremely small and can be examined closely only by the use of a microscope or hand lens. For Control use insecticidal soaps or insecticidal oils with a direct spray to the undersides of leaves

**Rose Diseases** Because of the long growing season, high annual rainfall, heavy dews, and relatively mild winters in Alabama, roses are subjected to prolonged attacks by several plant diseases. Fortunately, control measures are available for most of these diseases. These are two diseases that commonly occur in Alabama that affect roses.

**Black Spot** which is probably the most damaging disease of roses in Alabama.

Symptoms consist of circular black spots with jagged margins appearing on the leaves.

Frequently, the spots are surrounded by a yellow halo.

Infected leaves turn yellow and fall prematurely. When the attack is severe and allowed to continue, repeated defoliation will occur, resulting in a weakened plant. The fungal spores are spread primarily by splashing rain or water.



**Powdery Mildew** is a fungal disease that occurs in

Alabama during the spring and fall. It is rarely a problem during the mid-summer months when black spot is at its worst.

The presence of the powdery mildew fungus is confirmed by the white powdery masses of spores on young leaves, shoots, and buds. Symptoms consist of distorted foliage and stunted shoots.



**Control for (Black Spot and Powdery Mildew):**

Good control of black spot and powdery mildew can be accomplished with season-long fungicide applications (with Active ingredients such as myclobutanil, propiconazole, tebuconazole, triforine, or thiophanate-methyl). Black spot can also be controlled by a fungicide with the active ingredient- Chlorothalonil). Important points to

## (Roses Continued)

consider are regularity of spraying and thorough coverage. Fungicides act as a protective shield. Once infection occurs, however, they are of little value to already infected plant tissue.

Keep in mind when purchasing roses that they will vary considerably from one kind of rose to another in their reaction to black spot and powdery mildew as well as other diseases. If a low-maintenance rose bed is desired, choose a variety with multiple disease resistance.



Black Locust tree on Pike Road, near Jones community.

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## ALABAMA WILD THINGS

by Kellie Sensintaffar, MG 2007

This time of year there are two flowers that fill vacant lots and the road roadside fields with beautiful drifts of blue and yellow. They are common vetch and common buttercup. To me these plants are anything but common, they have uniqueness and value.

Common vetch includes several species that we have in Alabama which include: *Vicia sativa* L., *V. villosa*, and *V. grandiflora*. There are many other species which would be considered common vetch. We pass by these every spring and take for granted that they will be there every year without realizing that this plant plays an important part in soil building and animal and human survival. This tiny legume is a nitrogen fixer, and enriches the soil with Nitrogen each year, therefore it is a good 'green manure' or cover crop. When allowed to dry it can be used as hay for animal feed. In some parts of the US it is planted along side of cereal grains to prevent weeds. Because of the nitrogen, there is also a good amount of plant protein and therefore nutritious. The early settlers actually ate this as a part of their diet as they traveled across our country. One source I came across said, "just pull it up, shake off the ants and chomp."

The common buttercup, aka swamp buttercup, marsh buttercup or water buttercup is actually a small yellow *Ranunculus*, *R. flabellaris*, *R. septentrionalis*, or *R. acris*. A small aquatic, herbaceous perennial, these flowers look very

similar and unless you are very familiar with them it is hard to tell which species you are looking at.



When you look at this little flower up close it is quite beautiful. It has five shiny petals, like cellophane. Its stamens and pistils are numerous and arranged exquisitely geometrically in a circle. It's name belies the places where it can grow (due to the various species), filling up almost any area where the soil holds even a little moisture. Have a closer look next time you come across it.

"The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies." -- Gertrude Jekyll

## Getting to Know You:

### Jerry Belcher

Interview of Jerry Belcher by Mac McClendon

You read his article, "My Grandfather's Garden," in the March 2010 edition of *The Prairie Mud*. Now meet the man himself, Jerry Belcher, a fellow Intern in the Montgomery County 2010 Master Gardener's Class.

Jerry currently resides in Pike Road, AL, on the lake in Bridle Brook. He retired and moved down here from New Jersey, which, no matter what you might think, is proclaimed on its license plates as the "Garden State." His daughter teaches on an Indian reservation in upstate Wisconsin, and his son is a Paralegal living in Vancouver, WA. He has three grandchildren living in Washington State. Jerry was born and raised in Youngstown, OH. He spent most of his working career, about 30-years, in New Jersey. After retiring, Jerry and Cindy were married and he came to Alabama. Jerry actually owes his gardening expertise to his wife. When they moved to Pike Road in 2005, she had about 200 plants she had been nurturing in her office. "We had some shrubs around the house but everything else was lawn," Jerry said. "We have 250 feet of lakefront, which was like a perfect empty pallet. We no sooner started putting in raised beds when Cindy fell off a ladder, broke her leg, and couldn't walk for two years. That is how I became the 'Accidental Gardener'. By the time I finished I had to admit I was enjoying this."

Jerry's favorite type of gardening has been ornamental flowers; however, now he is becoming interested in vegetables, as a result

of the Master Gardener's Program. This was uncharted territory for him.

As far as volunteering in the community, Jerry's key interests include the Montgomery Tree Committee, the Cypress Pond Project, and the Herb Society. "I enjoyed packaging the seedlings for Arbor Day and handing them out at the curb market," Jerry continued. "I really enjoy working with other people as opposed to working by myself. It's much more fun to me."

Going forward, Jerry would like to see the Master Gardeners tackle putting in a bike trail in Montgomery. Jerry is currently working on the Cypress Pond Project, and feels that at least putting in a walking trail would give parents an opportunity to bring their children down to see nature face to face, as well as saving our environment. Jerry feels "There needs to be more things for people to do in Montgomery than there are right now. Given that, I have two Golden Retrievers, I would love to see a dog park. This would be a park where people can take their dogs and let them off their leashes. The dog park would be landscaped by Master Gardeners, of course."

Interview: 1 April 2010 by Mac McLellan, Montgomery County MG Class of 2010.

*Please continue to look for more interviews. The plan is to interview everyone in CCMGA, that would be about 124 people. I hope you will respond to Jerry's request to fill out the form he sent this month to all the interns. Eventually, we will get around to everyone. CCMGA has grown dramatically, if you can't tell. This is an effort to find out more about each other. So, we can get to know each other. Kellie Sensintaffar*

**Thanks** with a great big sigh of delight to all those who helped with the Plant Sale.

We pulled it together and came up with a great outcome (but I will let Suzanne tell you about it at the May meeting). Special thanks to Gail Cotney and Suzanne Brookhart for their tenacious efforts to get us all moving in the same direction as well as many hours of hard labor. I saw many CCMGA members who came to unload plants, load plants, sell plants, and general chores that are needed, thanks to all of you. We enjoyed some lovely weather and a lot of interest from the crowd at the Herb Day Festivities. Thanks, to all those in The Herb Society who work with us in making this fund raising event possible. It is always good to see people working together, doing what each person can do to accomplish a goal. KS



"You give me some of your green stuff and I'll give you some of my green stuff."



Still smile'n, after all those pots!



Two down and fifteen hundred to go.

**PLANT SALE SUCCESS!!**

**We do not usually publish obituaries, but this seems like an exception. Cap'n Pat blazed the trail of preservation for the Riverfront in Montgomery. This article was submitted by Jan Scott.**

DOZIER, "Cap'n Pat," Richard T. Jr. died April 21, 2010 at the age of 79. A lifelong resident of Montgomery, he was the son of Julia Marks Dozier and Richard T. Dozier and brother of Jane Marks Harris. He loved Montgomery and was very active in trying to preserve its natural and historical assets. He founded the Old Cloverdale Association and served as its first "mayor." He went on to found the Cottage Hill Historic District. He served as president of the Rotary Club. His real passion became the riverfront in Montgomery, and he founded the Montgomery Marina 37 years ago, bringing access to the treasures and great views of the river to the citizens of Montgomery. He was an early proponent of waterfront development and spurred interest to create that City program. He supported the arts, sponsoring several art shows. He also supported boating groups, the rowing association, and was involved in hundreds of river rescues over the years. He is survived by his daughters, Chris Thomas of Seattle, WA, Patricia Palmer of Montgomery, and Laura Dozier of Burlington, VT and his grandchildren Philip and Elena Thomas, Trace and Will Palmer, and his beloved dog Rosie. His most recent crusade has been one for saving Cypress Creek and Pond, a stream that runs from North Montgomery to the River that resulted in the current efforts of the Montgomery Tree Committee to preserve these natural treasures. A celebration of his life will take place at the Montgomery Marina at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday April 24th. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to: Montgomery Tree Committee for Cypress Pond Park, P.O. Box 70333, Montgomery, AL 36107.

Funeral Home: none

Publication Date: 04/24/2010

"We come from the earth, we return to the earth, and in between we garden."



# whats comin' up?

## CCMGA Event Calendar for June

Saturday, June 19, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
3975 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, AL

*Pecan grove on the corner of Perry Hill and Vaughn Roads perpendicular to Vaughn Road Park*

You are invited to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual MarketFest Arts & Crafts Fair.

The MarketFest celebrates the beginning of the children's Ready, Set, Grow! Pumpkin Growing contest. Proceeds from the MarketFest fund this seven year old educational program that is offered free to children ages 5-12. Find out more about the contest at [www.readysetgrowal.webs.com](http://www.readysetgrowal.webs.com). MarketFest features: Southeast U.S./Regional, artists and crafters of all media types. Heart of Dixie Mustang Club Car Show. Live Music and Food Vendors as well as Childrens Activities.

**Tuesday, June 23 10:00 am- 12:00 noon, Vaughn Park Church of Christ, CCMGA Monthly Meeting**

Note: Your input is needed for the newsletter. If you have pictures, stories, articles or ideas that you have found or created, please send them to me. If you have participated in any events, there are others who care about our participation, please send an email. The newsletter is about CCMGA and the members are CCMGA.

This newsletter is published from the desk of Kellie Sensintaffar. Monthly contributors are Jerry Belcher, Jan Scott, and Mac McLellan, Suzanne Brookhart, Anna Owen, Dianne Bush. Deadlines for June Newsletter are June 7. Projected publishing date is June 14.