

The Prairie Mud

Volume 11, Number 2
February, 2010



**Capital City
Master
Gardener
Association**
Montgomery, Alabama

Sowing Seeds

It's February! Happy Hearts Day!

A special thank you to Elaine Galt and Jane Martin for locating a place to have our January meeting. Thanks to all who helped make the change of venue go smoothly. Working together, respecting others, and most importantly, a willingness to serve are characteristics that make our organization great. I am honored to be a part of CCMGA

These next eight weeks will provide many opportunities for us to show our appreciation to the members that have gone the extra mile and put together a state wide conference we can all be proud of this year. These members have put months into this effort and they need our presence to carry out the plans for three days. Be ready to enjoy time together helping yourself and others learn more about what we love!! Every member is special and your presence is vital to our organization.

Thanks to each of you for your support as I went to be with my friends. The surgery went well; well. Kelley is doing well as can be expected. Your thoughts and prayers are appreciated. We will know the pathology report by February eighth. We will learn more about her condition at that time. Thank you again for being so kind.

Cecelia Terrell, President, CCMGA



**February 23, 2010
CCMGA Monthly Meeting
Vaughn Park Church of Christ
10:00am-12:00pm
GO-GO-GO for Conference!
Everything you want to know.**

Table of Contents

1. **President's Message**
2. **Information you can use**
3. **What's Comin' Up?**
4. **Gardening by the Stars**
5. **Raining Beauty on LAMP Campus**
6. **Mobile County Seminar**
7. **January Minutes**
8. **January Treasurer's Report**
9. **Eufaula Pilgrimage**
10. **Thanks to Mentors and County Commissioners**



Plant Sale

The biggest fundraiser of the year is the annual CCMGA Plant Sale at Old Alabama Town. This year will be our fourth year to participate, so mark Saturday, May 8, 2010 on your calendar. It is easy to remember because it is always the Saturday before Mother's Day. Members are asked to donate plants they have grown from seed, rooted or potted from their gardens, or purchased for sale. Herbs are always popular plants as is anything blooming that time of year; as well as decorator pots, or any garden related item that you think someone might purchase. As we wind up February and head into a warmer March, continue to make your plans for this event and decide what you will donate. The success of the Plant Sale depends on every member helping by providing the product.
Suzanne Brookhart, Plant Sale Chairperson



Sunshine Committee

Please contact Mary Jane McCracken, Chairperson of the Sunshine Committee at 334-517-1114 or email her at mjmccracken@knology.net about members who are experiencing illness or other concerns that can be shared. Let's not forget about the celebrations of life. We would also like to pass on the good news. We are getting to be a large group, but we want to be a caring group, so please let her know as soon as you can.

Telephone Committee

Chris Shoup is the 2010 Chairperson for the Telephone committee. This is a vital service to members who need to get notification of events and news about CCMGA in a timely way. Many thanks to Chris, and those who assisted her, in notifying everyone when we had the last minute change of venue for our monthly meeting. If you need to be on the call list, please let her know.



Would you like to improve your computer skills?

Here is a great opportunity to improve your computer skills. Ann Hill, Master Gardener is offering classes at MACOA (Montgomery AL Council on Ageing). Ann has been a master gardener for some time, she volunteers regularly at Lanark. MACOA (Montgomery Area Council on Aging) The Archibald Senior Center, is located at 115 E. Jefferson Street which is downtown behind St. John's Episcopal Church. It offers computer classes to any one over 55 years of age. The next Windows XP class begins Thursday, February, 18th from 12:30-3:00, and continues on Thursday, Feb. 25th at the same time. The introduction to Computers class is on Friday, Feb. 19th from 10:00-12:00noon. For more information call MACOA at 240-6767.



What's Comin' Up?

CCMGA Calendar for February and March 2010

Tuesday, February 23, CCMGA Monthly Meeting, Vaughn Park Church of Christ, 10:00-12:00.

Saturday, February 20, Southern Homes and Gardens' Fourth Annual Seminar, February 19, 20, 21.

Call store for details. Master Gardeners will participate on February 20

Saturday, March 6, Mobile County Educational Seminar. Registration form included in the newsletter

Petals From the Past

Saturday, February 27, 2010, Antique Roses - Jason Powell

10:30am - 12:00 Jason will discuss variety selection, care and maintenance of antique and old garden roses.

12:00 - Lunch - You may bring your own or a box lunch may be ordered for \$10.00. Please call the retail shop before 3:00pm on Friday, February 26, to place your order. 205-646-0069

12:30 Pruning techniques for antique roses.

Saturday, March 27, 2010 Managing Citrus in the Home Garden and Patio - Dr. Arlie Powell

10:30am - 12:00 Dr. Powell will discuss variety selection, care and maintenance of a wide array of citrus plants for home gardeners such as Satsuma, Meyer Lemon, Naval oranges, Limes, Kumquats and calamondin.

Don't forget to plant Nasturtium seeds (Tropaeolum) after February 14.

The CCMGA Directory will be available at the February 23 meeting. Many thanks to: Jan Scott (photography), Jan Gill (data base), and Jane Shelhoop (membership) for all their hard work in creating the directory. This is our number one communication tool. Thanks for all of your efforts.

Easy Registration!

*Register for the AMGA State Conference
at the next CCMGA meeting on Tuesday, February 23.*

Just bring your registration form (enclosed in the January AMGA newsletter, "Pathways,") and your check.

The Conference Registration Committee members will be at the front table to take your form and check.

*See how easy? No addressing an envelope, no digging around for a stamp.
And you'll save 44 cents.*

*****Seasons (More Gardening by the Stars)*****

Last fall (2009), Judy Youngblood asked if I would do an educational exhibit about the seasonal change of fall for the Alabama National Fair. I did the exhibit and I learned a lot about the Autumnal equinox. Then last month I wrote an article, 'Gardening by the Stars'. I mentioned that spring is heralded by the astronomical event called the Vernal equinox (spring or March equinox). All of this got me to thinking about the other astronomical events that effect our seasons. I was amazed. I guess I just wasn't paying attention in the fourth grade (or whenever they taught us this in school). I thought maybe some other master gardeners would be interested; so, here is the short version of what creates our seasonal changes.

There are actually four astronomical events that mark the seasons. The solstices, together with the equinoxes, mark the seasonal changes. In some cultures they are considered to start or separate the seasons, while in others they fall in the middle of the seasons. The events are: the Vernal (spring/March) equinox, the summer (June) Solstice, the Autumnal (fall/September) equinox, and the winter (December) Solstice.

As the earth travels around the sun it travels on an elliptical path and is tilted on its axis at approximately 27.4 degrees. Because of the tilt and the orbit, the rays of the sun reach the earth at varied angles. The more direct the rays the more intense the rays. During summer the rays are the most direct and the sun is clearly over us. In winter the rays are very weak, and the sun appears low in the sky.

The word solstice means 'sun stop'. The actual event of the solstice is only 1 minute

long. This 1 minute 'sun stop' is the point at which the days or nights start getting longer. The solstices' dates are on June 20 or 21 (summer) and December 21 or 22 (winter).

The word equinox means 'equal night'; as day and night are equal. The equinox occurs twice each year when the earth is neither tilted toward or away from the sun on its axis. The equinoxes' dates are on March 20 or 21 (rarely) (spring) and September 22 or 23 (fall).

At the spring equinox (March), the days start getting longer, at the fall (September) equinox the days become shorter. This event marks significant changes in photoperiodism, (I remember this word from MG Intern class.) Photoperiodism is a major factor in determining when you can grow specific plants.

It is important to note that the earth does not move at a constant speed in its elliptical orbit. Therefore the seasons are not of equal length: the time taken for the sun to move from the March equinox to the June solstice, to the September equinox, to the December solstice and back to the March equinox are roughly 92.8, 93.6, 89.8 and 89.0 days respectively. The consolation to us in the northern hemisphere is that spring and summer last longer than autumn and winter. Yea! It is especially great for us in the lower part of the US; we have a very long growing period.

I love looking at the stars almost as much as I love gardening. Gardening makes me feel at home on the earth. Looking at the stars and thinking about how my life is connected to them somehow makes me more at home in the universe.

Researched and written by Kellie
Sensintaffar, Master Gardener 2007



Raining Beauty on the LAMP Campus

The LAMP Visual Arts students are creating interesting designs to be painted on rain barrels to be sold as a fundraiser to benefit the LAMPlighters' campus beautification team and the art department. Besides helping the environment, an obvious reason for harvesting rainwater is to save money. Depending on the size of your house and the amount of rainfall in your area, you can collect a substantial amount of rainwater with this simple system. This extra water can have a significant impact on your water bill. The rain barrels have all the proper fittings, screen and hoses already attached and ready to use.

If you're harvesting rainwater with rain barrels to use for watering your landscaping, the rainwater can help to improve the health of your gardens, lawns, and trees. Rain is a naturally soft water and devoid of chlorine, fluoride, and other chemicals. For this reason, plants respond very well to rainwater. After all, it's what plants in the wild thrive on!

If you are interested or would like to know more about this fundraiser project please call Anna Williams at 244-6887 - email annaw@charter.net, or Lee Fuerst at 271-5074 - lee.a.fuerst@us.army.mil. The rain barrels are being sold for \$100.00 each. You may purchase one that has already been painted or you may order any design you would like. The barrels that are in process are on display in the LAMP auditorium and Anna can send additional pictures of the ones which are currently available if you are interested.

If you would like to purchase your rain barrel to order, simply send an email to Anna or Lee with the information listed below and you will be contacted regarding your design request. This is a really exciting opportunity to help our environment and support the landscaping project for LAMP. Proceeds also benefit the art department at the school. If you would like to get involved in this project, we would love to have any additional participants. Thanks to Coca Cola Bottling Company for donating the barrels, and Ashley Henderson for her support and assistance with this project!!

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Desired Artistic Elements _____

How Many? _____

Mobile County Master Gardeners 6th Annual Educational Seminar

Speakers: Scott Ogden and Lauren Springer Ogden

As horticulturists and designers, this husband-and-wife team have created public and private gardens across the country. They lecture internationally, emphasizing plant diversity and ecological attunement, and have authored several books in which they pioneer new plants and garden aesthetics. Book sales and signing will follow their two presentations:

1. *Plant-Driven Design: creating gardens that honor plants, place, and spirit*

Challenging current landscaping trends that result in static, over-designed plant installations or mere outdoor living spaces, the Ogdens explore marrying a love of plants and design without sacrificing one to the other. They will show how making plants the starting point of design creates enduringly beautiful, ecologically intelligent gardens.

2. *Designing with Bulbs: celebrating spontaneity and change*

Few plants give so much in return for so little as perennial bulbs. Planting bulbs is easy – integrating them into a garden’s design requires more thought. Scott and Lauren will explore these cyclical plants’ possibilities with diverse styles, companions, layering, and effects in gardens both large and small.

Date: Saturday, March 6, 2010

Registration: 9:30 A.M.

Seminar: 10:00 A.M. to about 3:00 P.M.

Place: Dauphin Way Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

3661 Dauphin Street, Mobile, Alabama

Admission: \$25.00 (\$15.00 Mobile County Master Gardeners Only)

Box Lunch Provided

Non-Refundable Advance Reservations – Deadline, February 27, 2010

Seating is limited and will be on first come basis to people with paid reservations.

Make checks payable to the *Mobile County Master Gardener Association*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ State/ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail (for reservation confirmation): _____

Mail to: Jo Hayes, 1233 Chimney Top Drive West, Mobile, AL 36695

251-607-9392 / johayes2@bellsouth.net

Master Gardeners – A group of volunteers dedicated to sharing the art and science of horticulture

CAPITAL CITY MASTER GARDNER ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 26, 2010 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Vice President Kellie Sensintaffar brought the meeting to order. Cecelia Terrell our President was unable to attend due to an illness of a close friend. Our meeting was held at St. Johns Episcopal Church. Refreshments were provided by Michelle Burnes, Jane Martin, Ernestine Lewis, Cecelia Terrell, Kellie Sensintaffar and Anna Owen.

The devotion was given by Laurice Goorley. Last months minutes were approved and accepted as written. The financial books for 2009 were audited and closed and turned over to the new treasurer. The beginning balance for 2010 is \$5,122.85.

Membership chairperson, Jane Shalhoop announced that we had 94 members and to please proof the new directory and put a check by your name if correct. Dues are still due!!

Marie Tomlin gave out awards for the helpline and thanked everyone who helped. Awards: bronze award- worked two times- Pam Murphy, Chris Hornady, and Ernestine Lewis. Cathy Maddox, Charlotte Wood, Linda Hedrick, Jarome Thomas, Lisa Lenox, Ellen Clute, Randy Merijanian, Mary Jane McCracken, Mary Eleanor Hines, Anna Williams and Anna Owen. Silver awards were presented to Linda Carlton, Diane Bush, Carol Gietl and Kellie Tom McLemore and Melinda Merijanian received this award.

A special award was given to the association by Linda and Randy Merijanian who gave a program on "bees" to a federated garden club "Canterbury Bells" and donated their honorarium to us.

Mary Jane McCracken gave the 'Sunshine Report' and gave her e-mail address for

people to contact her about members who need remembering, phone 517-1114 or email her at mjmccracken@knology.net

Standing committees:

Conference- Cathy Maddox, chairperson gave an up date of the convention. What to expect at the conference and how the membership would be needed to help with all phases of the conference that weekend. Registration for the conference is in "Garden Pathways" and on line at agma2010@gmail.com.

All committees gave a brief report. Suzanne Reeves gave a brief report on who would be speaking at the conference and where our publicity would be posted in town and in the state travel magazines. Suzanne also talked about the workshops and the tours we would be giving around town. Dianne Bush gave a report on the hotel. Betsy Coley's report was on membership and how they are going to handle the packets, registration, tours and workshop assignments for attendees. Peggy Weimorts gave the report on t-shirts. They are black with the convention logo on one side. Karin Carmichael gave her report on hospitality.

Karin and her committee are in the process of putting the hospitality bags together and they need more volunteers to help! They have put together 70 bags so far. Karin told us about the hospitality bags that conference attendees would get. Mary Eleanor Hines talked about the food and table centerpieces. Lynne Kuhlmann is chairman of the book signing. Jane Shalhoop is treasurer for the conference and silent auction. Clinton Carter is in charge of evaluation of the conference.

The Montgomery County Commission recognized the 2009 interns for the 2000 hrs of volunteer work and gave the association a \$2,000.00 donation for the conference.

Old business:

Logo for CCMGA

A motion was made and seconded to revote on the logo for CCMGA as the banner committee thought the membership should at least see the "proposed,

Minutes Continued

Revised” logo, which had been developed by the committee since last August. The first vote was whether to keep the “conference logo” and only 5 voted to keep this logo.

The second vote was for using the “proposed, revised” logo, with a few revisions, i.e., tweaking flower color, adding some stars and darkening the sky color. This logo was approved by the membership as CCMGA’s official logo.

A head count of 75 attended.

New business:

Anna Owen told about the bus trip. The trip will be Friday April 9, 2010. The “group” will go to the “Eufaula Pilgrimage” and leave the Perryhill parking lot at 7:00 a.m. we will have a light breakfast on the bus and arrive in Eufaula around 9:00 a.m. we will be met by our guide and begin our tour. The tour will have 4 mansions, 4 privately owned gardens and a catered lunch buffet. Also included in your package is an open air art show and an antique show that has

heirloom jewelry, glassware, pottery and some small furniture. If you have time you can tour 3 of the church’s and the bus will leave Eufaula at 5:00 p.m. to return to Montgomery . We will have a snack and a drawing for prizes. Cost of the ticket is \$51.00. This price includes mansions \$25, gardens \$16, buffet \$10. If you would like to see the tour, go to www.eufaulapilgrimage.com .

These tickets are non refundable. We will have a cut off date for members and interns then guests will be welcome!! Payment is by check only.

February meeting: Vaughn Park Church of Christ 10:00 to 12:00.

The March meeting will be the 30th at Jasmine Hill Gardens. There is a \$7.00 entrance fee. Refreshments will be available at the end of the tour.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Owen

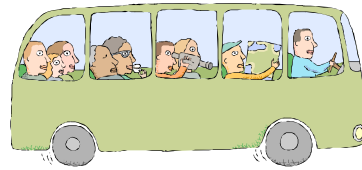
CCMGA Treasurer's Report	
January 07, 2010	
Beginning Balance	\$5122.85
Deposits	
Membership dues	\$330.00
Raffle/Badges	32.00
Ck # 352	20.00
	<u>\$382.00</u>
	\$5504.85
Checks	
Ck # 1293 Supplies	\$ 19.56
Ck # 1294 OATHS	50.00
Ck # 1295 Bus deposit	\$200.00
Ck # 1296 STARS	35.00
	<u>\$304.56</u>
Ending Balance	\$5200.29
February 05, 2010	

CCMGA Officers

Cecelia Terrell, President
 Kellie Sensintaffar, Vice president
 Anna Owen, Secretary
 Susanne Brookhart, Treasurer (interim)

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Greater Montgomery Home and Garden Show. We had a great turn out of volunteers and many visitors to our Conference table. We had fun and enjoyed the show, as well as distributed a good quantity of literature and soil tests. People are really getting ready for spring!

Eufaula Pilgrimage



Please enclose: Signed application and your check made payable to CCMGA for \$51.00 for Eufaula trip on Friday, April 9, 2010.

Must be received by March 1, 2010

Mail to: Lynne Kulhmann, 2312 Woodley Road, Montgomery, Al. 36111

NAME: _____

E-MAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ WORK: _____ CELL: _____

CANCELLATION POLICY:

TICKETS ARE NONREFUNDABLE, IF YOU PURCHASE A TICKET AND CANNOT GO PLEASE SELL YOUR TICKET TO SOMEONE ELSE!

General Release: The undersigned hereby and forever discharges the CCMGA organization and/or the CCMGA Trip Committee or its members from all manor of action, suits or demands whatsoever in law or equity from any loss or damage to the undersigned's person or property during this trip to the Eufaula Pilgrimage.

Signature _____ Date _____

In Recognition of the 2010 Intern Mentors

Dear Mentors,

I would like to express a huge **Thank You** to each one of you for giving of your time and talent to mentor an intern from the 2010 Master Gardner Class. You have already helped establish a bond between the two of you that will last a lifetime. They have expressed gratitude and I would like to add mine as well. You make a great team!

The refreshments you furnished for the Open House Meet and Greet were outstanding. Everyone enjoyed the day and the delicious food. Each one of you has individually and collectively made my job seem like a piece of cake.

For all of the help you have provided CCMGA and ACES through the Mentor Program I thank you.

Sincerely, Linda Carleton

Those serving as mentors are: Dianne Bush, Ellen Clute, Patsie DeMo, Lee Fuerst, Sandee Furgeson, Laurice Goorley, Mary Eleanor Hines, Elizabeth Littleton, Tom McLemore, Jane Martin, Richard Moore, Betsy Negron, Shelia Robertson, Kellie Sensintaffar, Chris Shoup, Jarome Thomas, Marie Tomlin, Alan Weil, Gay Winter, Anna Williams, Anthony Yarbrough



Do you know who your County Commissioner is?

District

1. Ham Wilson, Jr.
2. Elton N. Dean, Chair.
3. Dimitri Polizos
4. Jiles Williams, Jr.
5. Reed Ingram, Vice chair

Interns of 2009 received a citation for outstanding contributions to the community through volunteerism. They produced over 2000 hours of volunteer service. There was an outstanding turn-out for the Commissioners meeting by CCMGA members. Also, the Commissioners granted a sum of money to support the Annual Conference.

This newsletter is produced by Kellie Sensintaffar, MG2007 and other contributors. If you would like to contribute, please submit your information to kelliegardens@yahoo.com by the first Friday of each month. This newsletter will be emailed and US mailed on the second Friday of each month..