

THE PRAIRIE MUD

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

SOWING SEEDS

Trees

Joyce Kilmer

I think that I shall never see
A poem as lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately live with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

Did you have to memorize this poem in elementary school? Joyce Kilmer was born in New Jersey. He obtained a college education, married and was a father. He served his country in WWI in France where he died a hero and was buried.

Each time I catch my breath over the majestic beauty of trees, this poem come to my mind. I am reminded that trees are ever changing. They grow and mature only with time. They touch the soul and provide inspiration to all who take the time to look at them. Their variety leaves no room for boredom. The cool shade of a tree on a hot, humid day is a true blessing. The 21st of June is almost here! Summer in the south means heat and humidity. Remember to be thankful for each tree you have and follow the advise of this Chinese Proverb: " The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second best time is now."

Cecelia Terrell

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CCMGA will meet on June 22 at Vaughn Park Church of Christ. Meeting Time will be 10:00 - 12:00. Our speakers will be Judy Palfrey and John Trevor from the City of Montgomery, speaking about water quality and conservation.



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CCMGA MINUTES
MAY 24,2010

The meeting was called to order by President Cecelia Terrell and the devotion was given by Michelle Burns. Refreshments were provided by the following people: Brenda Jordan, Mary Jane McCracken, Emily Frye, Barbara Forsythe and Michelle Burns.

Ken Whitaker's daughter, Freddie Diplacido gave a great program and slide show on North Alabama Wild Flowers. Ken celebrated his 90th birthday at our meeting. April's minutes were approved and accepted as written. Suzanne Brookhart gave the treasurer's report. The beginning balance for April was \$3,999.13 and ending balance was \$4009.13. This balance does not include the plant sale.

Suzanne Brookhart gave a report on the plant sale and thanked everyone who helped work the sale . We had 18 people come and help. We made \$1,510.46.

Sunshine committee: Melinda Merijanian's mother is in the hospital and keep Judy Youngblood in your prayers.

A pat on the back to Dianne Bush. Dianne received the "Miss Betty Fitzgerald Award". We have a new member Martie Hicks. Sandee Ferguson is taking over the help line.

Cecelia received a notice from state stating the names of our members are not to be given out for lists to be used for any purpose other than our gardening.

We need someone to step up and be our new volunteer coordinator. A calendar will be posted on line so people will have time to decide what projects and events in the city they can do. Everything will be posted soon enough for you to look over and decide if you can work on that date. Someone with computer skills will be needed and a helper. Call Cecilia if interested.

Hours for the Eufaula bus trip are 12 plus your time to and from the bus.

Sat. June 19th is farmers market day from 9-2:00. We will have a booth and need 4 or 5 volunteers. A tent is also needed.

Attendance for May was 41.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Owen

Treasurer's Report

May 8, 2010

Beginning Balance \$4009.13

Deposits

Plant Sale \$1510.46

Raffle/Badges 49.00

Membership 20.00 **\$5588.59**
\$1579.46

Checks

#1306 Freddie DiPlacido \$41.22

(gas)

Ending Balance \$5547.37

June 7, 2010

Kudos for the Volunteer Help for Plant Sale 2010

Special thanks to the following who stayed ALL day to help sell plants; Dianne Bush, Jane Martin, Kellie Sensintaffar, Jane Shalhoop, Debbie Wakefield, Brenda Jordan and Chris Henderson. Many thanks to Richard Deneve who loaded and unloaded his truck with plants and Tom McLemore who hauled for the sale. Judy Crockett, Elaine Galt, Jan Gill, Marlyn Harper, Melinda and Randy Merijanian, Betsy Negron, Chris Shoup, Cecelia Terrell, Karen Weber, and anyone else we have forgotten or unintentionally left off. We so appreciate your effort to make the day a successful fundraiser for CCMGA.

Gail Cotney
Suzanne Brookhart

Getting to Know You: Maureen Emerson

by Jerry Belcher

Tell a little about yourself

I have lived in Montgomery for the past 17 years; however, I grew up in California. I also lived in Highlands Ranch, CO, near Denver. My work history includes positions with the Federal Government, private industry and non-profits. Until our move to Montgomery, my husband's job had us moving about every three-to-four years and often had him traveling. During that period, I took a 15 year hiatus to stay home with our three children. We are now empty nesters, with grown children spread around the world.

What other volunteer organizations do you participate in?

I have been the secretary/treasurer of the Montgomery Area Safe Kids Coalition since 2003. I participate in three main projects for my church - an Angel Tree project (which provides 50 families with gifts and meals), assembling floral arrangements and grant writing – as well as, other miscellaneous duties. I am a substitute volunteer at the Montgomery Cancer Center.

How did you get interested in gardening?

My father liked to putter around in the yard and though I resisted helping him as a child, his love of flowers must have rubbed off on me. My first true experience with gardening began when I was single and purchased a new home with zero landscaping. The developer's "landscaping" consisted of planting one tree in the middle of the front yard and throwing some grass seed on the packed dirt that was left after the heavy equipment moved out. I knew I wanted planting beds and figured it would be easier to do it right the first time, than undo what the developer did. So, I asked the developer not to landscape my yard. Unfortunately, my father had passed on shortly before I purchased the home and I could not seek his guidance. With "how to" books and advice from a gardening center, a big box store (e.g. Home Depot/Lowe's) and a neighbor, I proceeded to landscape. I hired someone to amend and till the soil, I then dug trenches and installed a sprinkler system and concrete mowing strips front and back. In those days lifting 60 lb. bags of concrete was doable, though I must admit the leaking manifold on the sprinkler system about blew my mind! I also built a wood fence enclosing the backyard. Once I finished building the gate for the fence, I realized that it was too heavy for me to lift, let alone hold it upright to hang it. I figured out that if I offered my neighbor a dinner and beer maybe he would help. It worked!! Though it took me a while to finish, the end result gave me a great deal of satisfaction. Just as I finished, I met my future husband. His idea of the perfect yard was a huge slab of concrete, so I helped him with his yard. Do you think he was watching my progress and figured out that with only a couple of feet of mowing strip left to pour, it was safe to ask me out?

Maureen Emerson con't.

What is your favorite type of gardening?

I love to cut flowers and bring them in the house, so I plant anything that has a long lasting flower. I try to use a lot of flowering shrubs and perennials, along with seasonal color.

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

I would love to see the areas along the main roads in Montgomery landscaped. A few crepe myrtles in the center strips of the Eastern Bypass, is not my idea of beautification. If Master Gardeners could collaborate with the city to landscape even a portion of a main roadway it would be great. Maybe the city could provide the plants, planting materials and equipment operators (for initial site preparation) and Master Gardeners could provide labor. If cost is a factor, I have seen cities partner with local businesses where the business provides some funding and a plaque acknowledges their contribution to the project. Hopefully, one beautified area would encourage further landscaping efforts. Whether consciously, or unconsciously, people are attracted to well landscaped areas.

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. Thanks for all your support. Kellie



From the garden of Sandra Thompson



More from Sandra's garden. This is Summer! Glorious Summer!

A Generous Surprise for CCMGA from Alabama Master Gardeners Association Board of Directors

At the AMGA BOD meeting on June 1, 2010, in Clanton, Cathy Maddox delivered the post conference report for the AMGA 2010 conference hosted by CCMGA in Montgomery in March. Following her report, Harold Phillips, AMGA Treasurer, proposed that the \$2000 contribution that was given by CCMGA to support the conference be refunded to CCMGA before a profit is calculated. Then he proposed that the portion of the profit that is due to the host organization be shared with CCMGA in addition to the \$2000. The Board approved of the proposal. So the total that CCMGA will receive will be approximately \$2900. This is considerably more than the approximate \$1600 that CCMGA would have received if the sharing formula had been applied without refunding the CCMGA contribution. Even though CCMGA members were happy to share our resources by supporting the conference financially, this generous surprise for CCMGA membership is greatly appreciated.

At that same meeting, our own Jane Shalhoop was appointed Assistant Treasurer for AMGA to help Harold Phillips with his Treasurer functions following his surgery. She will be a big help to Harold.

From Cathy Maddox



whats comin' up?

CCMGA Event Calendar for July and August

Tuesday, July 20, 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. Maybe we could organize some car pools???

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, turn west 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: _____