



# The Prairie Mud

A Publication of Capital City Master Gardener Association  
Montgomery, Alabama

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November 2008

**October 28, 2008**

**Carol Lovell-Saas**, owner of the **Biophilia Nursery** in Elberta, AL and an expert on butterflies will be our guest speaker for the October CCMGA meeting. Carol will help us identify the beginning-to-end stages of the butterfly. She should also have a variety of butterflies to show and tell us which plants attract them. This will be another informative and fun meeting, so plan to attend. I asked Carol to bring anything she might have on butterflies for us to purchase. Some of us like to start a project right away, before we forget what we learned.

If you have a caterpillar or what you might call a common worm on a plant, please bring it (preferably on the plant part) for identification. Carol will let you know which beautiful butterfly it is waiting to become. Hope to see you at the meeting!

Flutter, Flutter  
Maggie Stringer



Thai Butterfly (above)

Giant Swallowtail (left)

## Meeting Time and Place

October 28  
Vaughn Park Church of Christ  
**Attracting Butterflies to  
Your Garden**  
Carol Lovell-Sass



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## The Garden Scoop

Well, those deliciously cool and dry days that we enjoyed just a couple of weeks ago were a pleasant reminder that we can have a little taste of fall in this part of the South. I had this strong urge to bake apple pies with lots of cinnamon and nutmeg inside. Instead, I just put some spice-scented candles out around my house and called it a day.

Fall brings feelings of excitement with its crisp mornings, cool breezes and warm sunshine. There are thoughts of bonfires, pumpkin carving and hayrides. However, it also brings sadness to my heart to witness the last of the bright flowers fading away. I love to watch leaves flutter to the ground, but I dread the day that the trees will be completely bare of leaves. I know that plants need a period in which to rest and build up energy to produce the beauty of spring. Also, I would not appreciate the return of the brightly colored flowers nearly as much if there were not a part of the year in which they did not exist. With the Holidays rapidly approaching, there will be very little time to garden anyway.

The rain that we received last week was a welcome relief to the drought of September. We have really had a wonderful year, this year, with milder temperatures and more rainfall as compared to last year. I hope this trend continues into next year as I have many plants to move around and give away. I encourage you to take advantage of our **Plant Swap** column.

I hope you had a chance to view the beautiful entries in the **Federation of Garden Clubs Annual Flower Show** at the **Alabama National Fair**. We usually have several members who win ribbons and they will be presented by **Judy Youngblood** at our next meeting.

Our members are urged to participate in the **Make a Difference Day** on **October 25**. Our assignment is the **Exodus House** on Highland Avenue. Also, the **Governor's Mansion** is holding an **Open House** on **October 24 & 25, 1:00 to 4:00**. **Mary Eleanor Hines** and her committee have done a wonderful job with our garden there and will have it all spruced up for this event. I hope that you can visit both our garden and the Herb Garden planted by OATHS. They are located next to each other.

We have a wonderful program slated for the **October 28**, meeting. **Carol Saas** will present "Attracting Butterflies to Your Garden." Don't forget to have your picture taken for the **CCMGA 2009 Directory**. **IF YOU WON A DOORPRIZE IN AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER, PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING ONE TO THE OCTOBER MEETING**. I hope to see you at the next meeting.

Karin Carmichael

### CCMGA Officers

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

### Newsletter Staff

Editor Lisa Lenox  
Assistant Editor Kellie  
Sensintaffer

### ACES Office

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

## CAPITAL CITY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

September 23, 2008 Meeting Minutes

President Karin Carmichael called the September, 2008 meeting to order at 10:00 am at Vaughn Park Church of Christ. Refreshments were provided by Elaine Galt, Cecelia Terrell, Nancy Goins, & Carolyn Wright. Two of our guests were Joy Skelton and Betty Faulkner.

The devotion was given by Sara Brown. She read an Autumn Prayer titled *Thankful for each Season*, and written by Kaye Hoffman.

The program was our own flower show. Boots Diamond and Chris Shoop did our judging and Clinton Carter took 1<sup>st</sup> place.

The August minutes were presented and a motion was made that minutes be accepted. The motion was seconded and passed.

### Committees

**Sunshine/Cecelia Terrell** – Joy Drum has been sick.

**Membership/Anna Owen** – Forms and dues are coming in. The end of December is the last day to pay.

**AMGA Conference/Kathy Maddox** – The committee met @ the Renaissance to look at the rooms and discuss food. Rooms will cost around \$129.00 per night and it was suggested all members try to stay in the facility.

**Helpline/Marie Tomlin** – We are getting close to the end of the season. Thanks to everyone that has helped and, remember it is your responsibility to get a replacement, if you can't make your appointment. Interns may not get certified if they do not help work the helpline.

**Newsletter/Lisa Lenox** – Congratulations on the new look and welcome Kellie Sensintaffer as Assistant Editor. Please send articles or pictures.

**Circular Garden @ Museum/Mary Cochran** – On Monday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of October we are going to pull out old and put in new. Karen Weber will let us know when the flowers are in.

### Old Business

A motion was made to accept the changes presented at the August meeting and posted in the August & September newsletters. The motion was seconded and passed.

Volunteer Day is October 25, 9-12. We will be working at the Family Sunshine Center Exodus House. Bring tools, gloves, trowels, & edgers. We are going to trim, edge and plant some new flowers. A blanket email will go out.

October is the main month for replanting at Shakespeare garden. Wednesdays from 9-12.

Successful Living Center – Several people to give advise on landscape plants, Friday, 9/26 @ 1:00.

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Carol Gietl has CCMGA shirts and caps for sale.

## New Business

Bari Levin talked about restoration of King-Johns Garden for Reflection. It is behind the Martin Luther King parsonage. Funding is needed to revitalize the garden. Plans have already been drawn. Talk to Bari Levin if you want to volunteer for this project.

Dianne Bush is on the Montgomery tree committee and they help supply trees. If you have volunteer trees in your yard, please put them in pots and contribute to Russell Stringer. Volunteer signup will be held during the Christmas Luncheon, so be thinking about which projects you want to work on.

Shane Harris reminded us about the Fair and the Fire Ant booth. MG advisory board will reconvene soon. Issues coming up are the new intern class, which starts in February. Interns will be required to volunteer 50 hours and MG members 25 hours. There are changes with the Extension Agents. A new agent will be housed in Montgomery.

## Announcements

Scholarship Endowment fund is up to \$11, 500.00. We gave \$500.00.

Georgia Master Gardener Assoc will hold its 2008 Fall Conference, Flavors of Fall, on Sat., Oct. 18, at Southern Polytechnic State University in Marietta, GA. Speakers, vendors and door prizes will abound. Go to their website: [www.cobbmastergardeners.org](http://www.cobbmastergardeners.org)

The Garden Club of Alabama has a Landscape Design program which consists of four classes (all required to graduate). The first class is being held at Auburn, Oct. 15 & 16, 8:30 to 4:30. Dave Williams is conducting this class session and the cost is \$35. Virginia Hurst is the registrar: #256-883-8928, email is [vmhurst@hiwaay.net](mailto:vmhurst@hiwaay.net)

Heirlooms In Bloom – Oct 3-5, 10-5 on Fri. and Sat., 1-5 on Sun. A unique antiques show featuring 30 nationally and internationally recognized dealers exhibiting furniture, art, porcelain, jewelry, silver and rugs benefiting the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

The October program will be given by Carol Lovell on Butterflies in your garden.

The September meeting counts at 1 CEU and 1 volunteer hour.

The Christmas Luncheon and auction is December 9<sup>th</sup>, at the Wynlakes Country Club.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Gill, Secretary





## **MG Intern Mentoring Program**

An exciting new program, which will be implemented in January 2009, will pair a Master Gardener Intern with a “Seasoned” member of CCMGA. This will be a great opportunity for interns to better understand ACES expectations, new or existing project, or CCMGS membership benefits.

This one-on-one contact can help clear up a lot of misconceptions: being a member of CCMGA really isn’t as hard as it sounds, getting the required volunteer hours can be easily accomplished, working on the help-line has never seriously injured anyone, and last but not least, time spent on this program will earn volunteer hours for both master gardener and student.

Since this is a brand new program, specific job duties are still a little fuzzy, and your input will be welcomed as we work out the detail. I see communication (e.g., phone calls, e-mail) as essential to discuss day-to-day events or concerns, monthly reminder phone calls about upcoming meetings or field trips, as well as introductions to CCMGA members at meeting or other events.

A sign up list will be available at the November meeting. In the mean time, please call me at 224-2718 or e-mail me at [ReaConInc@Knology.Net](mailto:ReaConInc@Knology.Net) with your comments or suggestions.

Suzanne Reaves

## Plant Swap!

Mary Eleanor Hines has society garlic and curly willow branches to give away or swap. Please contact her via phone or email. 272-7927  
Mariaeleanor@cs.com

Karin Carmichael has Kwanso daylillies, hidden lillies, and crinum lillies to give away or trade. Please contact her either by phone or email.  
jkcarmi@bellsouth.net  
271-3084



## Earthworms Spread Weed Seed

Giant ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*) is one of the main contributors to the hay fever that causes distress to millions of gardeners this time of year. While giant ragweed is

quite capable of spreading through gardens and fields on its own, it's also getting help from one of a gardener's best friends: the earthworm.

Weed ecologists at Ohio State University have found that earthworms are moving seeds of giant ragweed around in the soil, effectively spreading this weed wherever they go. More than two-thirds of all giant ragweed seedlings studied emerged from earthworm burrows. Researchers began investigating this phenomenon because giant ragweed produces few seeds, yet it's readily spreading in gardens and agricultural fields.

While earthworms also collect seed from other plants, such as sunflowers, giant ragweed is a preferred plant. Earthworms forage for seeds and bring them into their burrows, often located only a few inches below the soil surface — a perfect place for weed seeds to germinate.

For more information on earthworms as weed farmers, go to: [Weed Science Society of America](#).

**CCMGA Treasurer's Report  
October 10, 2008**

Beginning Balance	September 10, 2008		\$4,100.41
Deposit		Raffle and Badges	\$30.00
		Membership	645.00
		Contribution	5.00
			680.00
Checks		Speaker Gifts	33.65
			(33.65)
Ending Balance	October 10, 2008		\$4,746.76

**Make a Difference Day**

Thank you for all those great Master Gardener volunteers who expressed an interest in helping to 'make a difference.' On Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, great things will be happening all around the city, as people volunteer their time and talent to help make a difference in the lives of others. The Capital City Master Gardeners have been asked to help with one of these projects. We will be performing general garden chores at the Exodus Community, a transitional housing complex for survivors of domestic abuse and administered as a program of the Family Sunshine Center. I have visited the community, and it is a very nice complex and in need of only minor garden chores. We will be planting only a few flowers in some pots and mostly weeding, edging and generally sprucing things up!

This community is a newer gated apartment complex located on Highland Avenue, behind Jackson Hospital and across from the Crump Community Center (Also across from O'Connor Tennis Center, for those among you who might be tennis players!) There is a sign out front identifying it as Exodus House (or 'Community', I'm not sure which) Please join us for a morning of garden cleanup and camaraderie, as we strive to make their playground and courtyard area prettier. **Bring gloves and an assortment of weeding and maintenance tools and drinking water and possibly some snacks will be provided.** We will work from 9:00 til 12:00 on Saturday morning but come by even if you can only stay for an hour. I have agreed to be the contact person on this job, so if you have any questions or concerns you can contact me by cell phone at 399-1876 or e-mail at [weber5al@gmail.com](mailto:weber5al@gmail.com). Thanks for giving a little of your time to help make a difference in the lives of others!

Karen Weber

P.S. October is a very busy time in the Shakespeare Garden. If you need some volunteer hours (or even if you don't) please consider joining us over the next few Wednesdays as we change out the summer flowers with winter annuals and vegetables. The weather is beautiful and nobody goes home empty handed! Thanks again!...

## CCMG EVENTS for OCTOBER / NOVEMBER

Sunday, October 12, 2008 2:00pm Enjoying Camelias in Central and North Alabama-  
Dr. Bill Dodson, at Petals From the Past, phone 205-646-0069

Wednesday, October 15 and Thursday, October 16, 8:30am to 4:30pm, Landscape  
Design program presented through the Garden Club of Alabama, presented by Dave  
Williams and associates. Cost \$35. Registrar is Virginia Hurst, phone 256-883-8928 or  
e-mail vmhurst@hiwaay.net.

Sunday, October 19, 2:00pm, Fall Container Workshop, Lacey Neely, Petals from the Past, fee \$10.00  
(limit 15). High Tea, 3:00pm, \$15.00, (limit 24).

Friday, October 24 and Saturday, October 25, Governor's Mansion Open House, 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

Saturday, October 25, Make a Difference Day, King-Johns Garden for Reflection, 8a.m. till  
noon.

Also, Exodus Community on Highland Avenue will be needing volunteers for Make a Differ-  
ence Day from 9a.m till 12 p.m.

Tuesday, October 28, CCMG monthly meeting, Attracting Butterflies to Your Garden,  
Carol Lovell-Saas, Biophillia Nursery, Elberta, AL

Sunday, November 2, 2008 2:00pm-4:00pm, Tree Identification by Color, Henry  
Hughes, Birmingham Botanical Garden Director of Education. \$5.00 member/\$10.00  
nonmember, register on line.

Sunday, November 2, 2008 2:00pm Walking Tour of the Satsumas, Lemons and Other  
Citrus-Dr. Arlie Powell at Petals from the Past, phone 205-646-0069

Thursday, November 13, 2008 10:00am Tony Avent, "I Like it, I Love it, I want some  
more of it..Favorite Perennials for the Southeast" Southeastern Horticultural Society,  
Atlanta History Center-McElreath Hall, 130 West Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta GA 30305,  
please call 404-351-1074 or e-mail infor@sehort.org

If you know of events that would be appropriate for the newsletter, please call or e-mail  
them to Kellie Sensintaffar, 334-277-6905/ [kelliegardens@yahoo.com](mailto:kelliegardens@yahoo.com). Feel free to  
leave the information on the answering machine. Thanks

## Christmas Luncheon

Our Christmas luncheon is on December 9 at the Wynlakes Country Club. Luncheon cost will be \$18. Your check is your reservation and can be given to Ernestine Lewis at the October or November meeting, or mailed to her at 113 Charleston Court N., Montgomery, Al. 36117.

We will be holding our Silent Auction again this year. It is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Please be thinking of any items you'd like to contribute and consider doing some of your Christmas shopping there. It's always a good time for everyone!



## Future Master Gardener

Future MG Virginia Ann Holmes assists her grandmother, Sheila Robertson with some pruning chores.

The **Confederate Rose** is a hardy hibiscus (*hibiscus mutabilis*) that blooms freely in the early to late fall.



I would like to give a special thanks to Jan Scott, who always answers my frantic emails for pictures with good humor and swift replies. The newsletter wouldn't be the same without you Jan. Lisa

