



The Prairie Mud

A Publication of Capital City Master Gardener Association

Montgomery, Alabama

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November 2008

November Meeting

If you have been cutting your beautiful flowers and “sticking” them in a vase, learn how to **arrange** them to get the most from their beauty. CCMGA members, Judy Youngblood, Anna Owen and Chris Shoupe will demonstrate how to make our gardens double their beauty, outside and inside, during their presentation on “*Floral Arranging for Dummies*”.

If you have some fall blooms and/or greenery to share, the “florists” could use them in their demonstrations. Our thanks to you for sharing! We are looking forward to another **fun and informative** meeting this month.

Maggie Stringer



Meeting Time and Place
November 25, 10am-12pm
Vaughn Park Church of Christ



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The Garden Scoop

Have you enjoyed the Indian Summer we have been experiencing lately as much as I have? The weather has been spectacular with warm days, clear blue skies and cool breezes. What a fall this has been! And now it is November and the season for giving thanks. I am thankful for many reasons. For one, the elections are over and I don't have to be witness to any more of those political ads. But moreover, I am thankful that we live in a country in which we have the right to vote for the candidates of OUR choice. I am thankful for the right to get together with friends and family to celebrate holidays; national, regional or religious. I am thankful for the opportunity to meet with friends who share the same interests and passions that I do and to be able to spread information about gardening to others in our community. I am thankful to be able to learn something new every day and not forget too much of what I learned yesterday.

I have reprinted an article, entitled "10 Things To Be Thankful For," that I found in the November issue of Montgomery Living magazine.

This list uses a different approach but contains some very poignant and appropriate examples of many everyday things for which we can be thankful. I hope you enjoy reading this as much as I did. It is amazing how fast this year has flown by. We have accomplished so much in the past few months thanks to all of the hard work and time that you have put into our various projects. We have experienced many wonderful programs, field trips and have had various educational opportunities. It has been a great year and I have been privileged and honored to have served as your president. I want to thank each of you for helping to make this year such a success. You are a wonderful group and I look forward to many years of gardening with my CCMGA friends.

Please look over the **CCMGA 2009 slate of officers**. We will **VOTE** at the November meeting and **INSTALL** at the **December** meeting. Also, if you haven't paid your **dues** for 2009, or had your **PICTURE** taken for the **CCMGA Directory**, please do so by **December 1**. Remember that no dues will be collected at the **CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AND SILENT AUCTION** on **December 9**, at **Wynlakes Country Club**. All reservations for the luncheon should be paid by **December 1**. **Ernestine Lewis** will collect the **\$18** for each attendee at the November 25 meeting or you can mail her your reservations. Also, our 2008 **Interns** will be certified by **Shane Harris** at this luncheon.

The **November meeting** will be at the VPCC (regular meeting place) on the **25th**. **Judy Youngblood** will be demonstrating the basics of floral designing with the help of some of our members. I hope to come away with some inspiration for the holidays. I know it is Thanksgiving week and everyone will be extra busy. I, for one, will be going straight home from the meeting to cook turkey and dressing to take to our family gathering in Nashville, Tennessee, the next day. I hope to see you at the meeting, but if not, have a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving!

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

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10 THINGS to be Thankful for
(reprinted from the November Montgomery Living Magazine)

1. A Fond Memory

If you've reflected on a special Thanksgiving gathering from the past, be thankful for everything. Our lives would be quite empty without the people we know, the places we've been, our faith, our freedoms

and all the little things that make up each day.

2. A Cool Breeze

If you're able to walk outside and have a cool breeze mess up your hair, be thankful for your health (and your hair!). It's only when you're sick that you appreciate how good being well feels.

3. A Family Feud

If your family argues a bit over dinner, be thankful you have a family. Treasure every ridiculous moment.

4. A Good Conversation

If you've recently been part of a rousing debate or just a good gab session, be thankful for your friends. Whether you've got one or 1,000, if they get you and you get them, you've got it made.

5. Autumn Leaves

If you can stop to savor the splendors of the seasonal color change, be thankful for your free time. There are those who don't have that luxury.

6. A Glass Of Cold Milk

If you end each day with your stomach satisfied, be thankful for your food. An estimated 923 million people go to bed hungry every night.

7. A Beautiful Hymn

If you liked the music at your place of worship last Sunday, be thankful for your freedom. As Americans, we enjoy freedoms that countless citizens of the world envy. Freedom of religion is just one of the many we're so fortunate to have.

8. A Good Pillow

If you get a good night's sleep, be thankful for your home. Sure, your bathroom could be bigger, and your kitchen cabinets need new paint, but you've got a roof over your head.

9. A Good Book

If you've been searching for your next great read, be thankful for your education. An alarming number of people in our country are functionally illiterate.

10. A Marmalade Cat

If you've had the chance to bury your face in the warmth of a beloved pet lately, be thankful for our furry friends and for their less docile brethren. All animals serve as simply one more representation of the amazing natural world we live in and the

beauty of all living things



CAPITAL CITY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
October 28, 2008 Meeting Minutes

President Karin Carmichael called the October, 2008 meeting to order at 10:00 am at Vaughn Park Church of Christ. Refreshments were provided by Gay Winter, Suzanne Brookhart & Kellie Sensintaffer. 33 members attended the meeting.

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

The program was on attracting butterflies to your garden given by Carol Lovell-Saas, Biophillia Nursery, Elberta, AL.

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

Committees

1. **Sunshine/Cecelia Terrell** – No cards were sent out this month
2. **Membership/Anna Owen** – Dues are due December 1st and must be submitted with the form. Dues will not be collected at the December luncheon. Jan Scott is still taking pictures for the directory. Make sure you get your picture taken.
3. **Newsletter/Lisa Lenox** – Notice the new features in the newsletter added with the help of Kellie Sensintaffer.
4. **Intern Class/Suzanne Reaves** – Suzanne is working to start a mentoring program. This will be like a buddy system and will pair each intern with a Master Gardener. There will be a sign up sheet next month to recruit a small committee to set up guidelines.
5. **Circular Garden @ Museum/Mary Cochran** – Met Monday and tilled and planted parsley.

Old Business

1. Christmas Luncheon and silent auction is 12/9/08 at the Wynlakes Country Club. The cost is \$18.00 and can be paid at the November meeting or mailed to Enestine by December 1. Interns will be certified at the luncheon.
2. Karen Weber and Bari Levin led a group at Exodus house for Make a difference day. They cleaned, planted pansies and some crepe myrtles.
3. Carol Gietle needs volunteers to help trim limbs at Forest Avenue.

New Business

- 1 Mary Cochran, Lynn Kulman and Jan Gill have been appointed to the audit committee to audit the treasurer's books.
- 2 AMGA Advisory Council Meeting was October 6 in Clanton.
 - A. Bonus Volunteer Hours – You get to count the time you spend earning CEU's in with your volunteer time just as you count travel time. Still report your CEU's as a separate item and then add them to volunteer hours.

- B. AMGA dues are due by December 31 and volunteer hours are due by December 31.
- C. If you report hours online, you need to print a copy for your own records and give the total number of hours to Sandra Thompson for Reach for the Stars rewards (hours only)
- D. Check the information given in the Garden Pathways publication concerning the 2009 AMGA Conference in Huntsville.
- E. Reporting volunteer hours is very important especially since there have been so many cuts in the Extension agents' budgets.
- F. Remember that starting in 2009, required volunteer hours have increased to 50 for Interns and 25 for Certified Master Gardeners

3 The nominating committee (Dianne Bush, Cathy Maddox and Suzanne Reaves) met and presented the slate of officers and are as follows:

- A President – Maggie Stringer**
- B Vice President – Cecelia Terrell**
- C. Secretary – Judy Crockett**
- D. Treasurer – Suzanne Reaves**

A motion was made to accept the slate of officers. Next month we will vote and make it official.

Announcements

1. Karen thanked Maggie Stringer, Kellie Sensintaffer and Judy Youngblood for helping with Home Grounds visits and programs during the past month. Volunteers are needed to work with two more groups in presenting programs, one in January and one in February. Be sure to sign up for the Speakers' Bureau at the December meeting.
2. I also need someone to conduct an interview with Angela Davidson at Max Federal Credit Union for their newsletter. The subject is "Starting a Garden n Your Backyard."
3. Judy Youngblood presented awards for flower entries in the Federation of Garden Clubs Flower Show at the Alabama National Fair. Ken Whitaker was presented 13 Blue Ribbons and Lisa Lenox was presented 11 Blue Ribbons.
4. Next months meeting will be at the church on November 25. The program will be presented by Judy Youngblood and other members and will involve floral designing basics and will in include some holiday ideas.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Gill, Secretary



Tobacco flowers

Trick or Treat: A Compost Surprise

I'm a great believer in the benefits of composting, for the garden and (in a greater sense) the planet. In the past I have composted in bins and also in a pile. A great deal of the material for my compost came from my vegetable garden, leaves from my yard (and my neighbors yards) and kitchen scraps. I always had a sense of satisfaction knowing that all of those celery ends, carrot peelings, salad scraps, remnants from canning, those leaves blowing down the drive and many other vegetable and fruit peelings were put to use.

When I first started the compost process I used a container for all the household scraps and sat it proudly on my kitchen counter. Of course, I had to have a well coordinated container to match my kitchen. There were many to chose from but I finally came up with a cobalt blue glazed jar. I never realized how much it looked like a cookie jar. Well, it did look exactly like one to my mother-in-law. She had a little 'snack attack' while she was visiting us. Not being very familiar with my kitchen she reached for the jar and pulled up the lid before I could warn her. I heard a little gasp and a very disgusted look crossed her face. I was a little embarrassed but I managed to say, "Aren't you glad you looked before you put your hand in?".....Not funny, I know. Needless to say, I kept the jar under the sink after that.

In the last year I have moved to a smaller house, and a much smaller gardening space. There are definitely some challenges to working in such a small space. I am learning new ways to compost in this small space. Right now I am layering organic material and topsoil, sometimes in a bed and sometimes in just a small trench or hole; wherever I can fit it in. This fall I am picking up leaves and shredding them with the lawn mower to use for mulch. My plan is to develop a service area that will accommodate a small composter. I still get a great sense of satisfaction from this process, even if it is scaled down a bit. Composting combined with other forms of recycling is my way of doing my small part to help keep our environment beautiful and safe.

Kellie Sensintaffar



November Calendar of Events

Thursday, December 4 and Friday December 5, 3:30-5:30pm, Holly Day Magic, for children ages 5-11 years, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Reservations may be purchased for \$20.00 for members and \$25.00 for non-members. Call 205-414- 3958 for information.

Saturday, December 6, 2008 9:00am to 5:00pm and Sunday, December 7, 2008, 1:00pm to 5:00pm Christmas Open House.

October 1- November 22, Fall Mum Festival (Mobile), for information call 251-973-2217 admission charged.

November 1-22, Chrysanthemum Extravaganza, 251-973-2217, www.bellingrath.org. Admission charged.

Saturday, December 6, Holiday Greenery Sale (Hoover). Aldridge Botanical Gardens, purchase or make it yourself holiday greenery. 9am to 1pm.
December 1-31, Winter at Bellingrath (Mobile), enjoy the holiday season ablaze with poinsettias, paper white narcissus, butterfly delphinium, cyclamen, kalanchoe and dusty miller 251-973-2217, admission charged.

Tuesday, December 9, Master Gardener Luncheon. Tickets will be available for purchase till December 1. Tickets are \$18.00.

Wednesday, January 7, Camellia Day (Montgomery) Alabama State Capitol—A historic marker commemorating Camellia Day in Alabama will be unveiled on the north side of the State Capitol to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Gov. John Patterson signing into law legislation changing Alabama's official state flower from the goldenrod to the camellia.

Tuesday, November 25, 10:00am to 12:00pm, Capital City Master Gardener monthly meeting.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

CCMGA Treasurer's Report

November 12, 2008

Beginning Balance	October 10, 2008		\$4,746.76
Deposits		Raffle and Badges	\$47.00
		Tee-Shirts	65.00
			112.00
Checks		Speaker Expenses	\$50.00
		Tee-Shirts	41.80
		Grant	68.10
			(159.90)
Ending Balance	November 12, 2008		\$4,698.86

Officers for 2009 are Nominated

The Nominating Committee for 2009 officers submitted the following names for consideration at the October 28, 2008 meeting:

- President Maggie Stringer
- Vice president Cecelia Terrell
- Secretary Judy Crockett
- Treasurer Suzanne Reaves

Nominating committee members are Dianne Bush, chair, Cathy Maddox and Suzanne Reaves.

The slate was accepted for nomination at the October meeting. These nominations will be submitted and voted on at the November meeting. Also, nominations may be made from the floor provided the nominees have agreed to serve if elected.

MUSEUM CIRCULAR GARDEN

The circular garden in front of the museum looks GREAT!!!

On Monday, Oct. 27, we pulled up all the petunias and Joseph's Coat, & dead-headed the Knock-out roses. Then Karen turned the dirt with a tiller and we planted 3 rows of parsley and 3-4 rows of pansies.

This is a great project for us and one we can be proud to claim.

Thanks to all. The hard workers on Mon. were:

Michelle Burns

Nell Copeland

Yvonne Evans

Emily Frye

Mary Eleanor Hines

Anna Owen

Peggy Weimorts

Gay Winter

Now we shall only have to dead-head until next spring.



Mary Cochran and Nell Copeland pose during a pause

Mary Cochran, Mary Eleanor Hines, Peggy Weimorts and Dianne Broadman get busy deadheading Knock-out roses.

Karen Weber gets serious with some dirt and a tiller.



Master Gardeners of North Alabama
819 Cook Ave
Huntsville, AL 35801
<http://www.AlabamaMG.org/conference2009>
"A Garden for All Seasons"
19th Annual AMGA State Conference

April 2-4, 2009

Dear Friends and Fellow Master Gardeners:

I would like to extend a personal invitation to you and your local association to attend the 2009 Alabama Master Gardener Association (AMGA) state conference in Huntsville, AL. The conference will be held at the Huntsville Botanical Garden and the Von Braun Center on April 2-4, 2009. Registration will begin in January, but go ahead and save the date on your calendars today. You don't want to miss this event! Activities. Our program is filling up with lots of exiting sessions led by national and regional gardening experts. Some names you may recognize include Joe Lamp'l, J. Paul Moore, Patricia Lanza, Harvey Cotten, George Bennett and Kerry Smith. The agenda and speaker bios will be posted on the conference webpage (listed above) as details are finalized – simply follow the "Program" link. Note that Thursday afternoon is full of tours and workshops at the Huntsville Botanical Garden, followed by a welcome reception at Bennett Nurseries and Across the Pond, so you will want to arrive early and dress for our early April weather, which averages in the 60s for a daytime high and lower 40s for the nighttime low. Hotels. We have two hotels reserved at discounted rates for conference attendees. The Embassy Suites is connected by covered walkway to the Von Braun Center, and the Holiday Inn is directly across the street and within easy walking distance. Additional details are provided on the conference website under the "Featured Accommodations" link. Note that rooms must be booked by March 1, 2009 to receive the special conference rates. Booths. If your association would like to reserve a vendor booth, we are offering a limited number of booths *to Master Gardener associations only* at a special rate of \$50. Please note that a number of regular vendor booths are still available as well. If your association, or anyone you know, would like to participate, please visit the website and follow the "Conference Partners" link to download the package for vendors and sponsors. Any questions regarding booths can be directed to our Facilities Chair, Kathie Bass, atdlkbasssr@knology.net. Silent Auction. We will be running a silent auction all day Friday, and we are requesting participation from all local associations. Of course, we would like your members to come to the conference with a competitive spirit and ready to bid, but we also ask that each association provide an item valued at a minimum of \$25.00 for auction. I sincerely thank you for your help in this effort. Publicity. For your convenience, I have attached a 200-word blurb for you to include in your next newsletter. Registration is open to the public, so please feel free to invite all gardening enthusiasts in your area!

Lastly, if you have any trouble locating the information that you need on our website, feel free to e-mail me at kcockrell@knology.net. I look forward to meeting you at the conference!

[Kimberly Cockrell](#)

Chairman, 2009 AMGA Conference
Master Gardener since 2005

Forest Avenue Garden gets a Facelift

Several Master Gardeners spent a couple of hours last week trimming lower limbs from the trees in Forest Avenue Garden. It looks very “open” again and light is allowed to reach the benches in the center as well as the beds. We also cut out the end of season cannas, trimmed the jasmine on the archway, and cut back the roses and lantanas. The Mexican Petunias have come back in full force and could be pulled out once again on a future visit. An unknown garden angel has planted some pansies in various spots in the garden to brighten the space. Overall, it is 100% improved. Thanks to all those who volunteered their time and knowledge toward this endeavor.



Master Gardeners Win Big at the SASF

At our meeting on October 28, Boots Diamond, our resident representative from the Montgomery Federation of Gardeners, distributed ribbons won at the South Alabama State Fair to those who won them. Included in this group were Ken Whitaker, who won 13 blue ribbons, Lisa Lenox, who won 11 blues, Judy Youngblood, who won the highest ribbons overall, and Chris Shoup and Nell Copeland, who both won many ribbons. In addition, Judy Youngblood was the co-chair for both shows. Congratulations to everyone who won! Great job!