



# The Prairie Mud

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Montgomery, Alabama

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## October CCMGA Meeting to be Field Trip to Oakview Farms Granary

The October 23, 2007, meeting of CCMGA will be a field trip to Oakview Farms Granary, located in Elmore County on Redland Road (driving directions follow). Joe and Patty Lambrecht own and operate the granary, using a stone burr grist mill. Joe will conduct a tour of the granary explaining the process of producing a bag of grits and other grain products.

There is also a working farm and greenhouse operation. They sell fresh stone ground cornmeal, grits, whole wheat and unbleached flours. In addition, they have assorted whole grains, local honey, and hydroponic leafy lettuces. Check out their website at [www.oakviewfarms.com](http://www.oakviewfarms.com).

The meeting starts at 10 a.m. There are no public restrooms at the granary, so plan ahead. In case of emergency, the Lambrecht's home will be available. There will be no door prizes at this meeting, since it is a field trip. Door prizes will resume in November.

### Driving Directions

Take US-231 North towards Wetumpka. After crossing the river bridge, turn right at the first traffic light at the Shell Gas Station, which is Redland Road (County Road 8). Go 5.3 miles up Redland Road. Look for the Oakview Farms Granary sign on the right at Dewberry Trail. Turn right onto Dewberry Trail. The granary is the first driveway on the right.

Car pooling is advised, but there will be no organized process for this.

## CCMGA Meeting Minutes September 18, 2007

### November CCMGA Meeting to be "Make and Take" Workshop

The November 27 meeting will be held at the usual meeting place, Vaughn Park Church of Christ. Maggie Stinger will present the program. She will instruct the members in making a holiday wreath, using a grapevine wreath base and adding live plant materials. Some suggested materials are rosemary, bay leaves, juniper, holly, or other plant materials that hold up well. If some members could bring enough to share with others, that would be appreciated. Please let Karin know if you can supply some herbs from your garden. Any members who did not sign up for a wreath at the September meeting can contact Karin Carmichael at the October meeting, or call or email her.

**Mary Eleanor Hines** called the September CCMGA meeting to order at 10 AM. Forty-seven members and guests were in attendance. **Marilyn Harper** opened the meeting with an inspirational poem and a devotional prayer. Guests, **Boots Diamond** and **Sandy Chen** were introduced. **Carolyn Wright, Emily Frye, Gail Cotney, Ernestine Lewis, Anita Ward,** and **Cathy Maddox** were thanked for providing the lavish refreshment table.

The August Minutes were approved as recorded in the *Prairie Mud*. **Jane Shalhoop** gave the Treasurer's report, which was accepted by the membership.

#### OLD BUSINESS

**Mary Eleanor** thanked **Martha Blackwell, Peggy Byrd, Joy Drum, Patricia Killough, Suzanne Reaves** and **Marie Tomlin** for serving as the Telephone Committee and notifying members of the change in the September meeting date.

**Mary Eleanor** announced that AMGA had accepted CCMGA's offer to host the 2010 Master Gardener Conference. **Cathy Maddox** accepted the position of **Chairperson of the 2010 MG Conference**. She received a round of applause. Cathy reported that she had made the first contact with the Marriott Conference Center in downtown Montgomery. She said that she would continue to work with the Center to evaluate the option of holding the conference there. She had tentatively discussed the possibility of a March 27 and 28, 2010 as the date for the event.

**Suzanne Reeves** reported **Helpline** news. She said that there was one more month to complete CCMGA Monday commitment to provide coverage. She thanked all members who had volunteered, and reported that overall, the system had worked well in Montgomery County. She asked the membership to fill out suggestion and comment forms to enable better management of the Helpline in 2008.

**Suzanne Reaves** also reported that the **2008 MG Class** would start on 24 January and run through 24 April – fourteen weeks. The class will meet at the ACES office on East Boulevard from 9:30 am – 3:00 PM each Thursday. The class will be limited to 15 to 20 students this year, due to space restrictions. CCMGA members will again provide lunches. Because there is no kitchen in the ACES office, lunches would be limited to sandwiches, chips, cookies, and fruit. The membership was asked to promote application to the MG class. **Shane Harris** said that he had TV and Newspaper access for publicity purposes. He also stated that there were new application forms at ACES. He announced that the selection process will take place in December or early January.

**Lisa Lenox** reported that workdays at the **Ordeman Shaw House in OAT** were being suspended until further notice.

**Suzanne Reaves** reported that the **Governor's Mansion Garden Committee** had met on 5 September and viewed and reviewed the Garden. Plans for the fall and winter garden were discussed. An Education Committee was formed to meet the education requirements of the grant. Two-person maintenance teams were scheduled for the upcoming months. A bench and birdbath  
[Minutes continued on page 3.]

## **Annual Christmas Luncheon and Silent Auction**

The December 11 meeting is the annual Christmas Luncheon and Silent Auction. This festive affair will be at the Wynlakes Country Club. Members may bring sale items at 10 a.m. so that the auction can begin as soon as possible to provide plenty of time for bidding before lunch at 12 noon. This event is one of the biggest fund-raisers for CCMGA, as well as a time to get to know many of the members.

Members must make reservations by December 4. Guests are welcome. Reservations will be accepted at the November meeting. Checks should be made to CCMGA and given or mailed to the treasurer, Jane Shalhoop, 8143 Wynlakes Boulevard, Montgomery, AL, 36117.

### **Gourd Show**

The Alabama Gourd Society is holding a Gourd Show on October 20 and 21, 2007. The event, at the Cullman Civic Center, will include crafted gourds, raw dry gourds, crafting classes, free demos, tools and supplies, ribbon competition, great food and door prizes.

For more information, visit [www.alabamagourdsociety.org](http://www.alabamagourdsociety.org) or contact Pam Montgomery at 256 / 355-4634 or [gourdzilla@aol.com](mailto:gourdzilla@aol.com).

*[Minutes, continued from page 2.]*

were placed in the Garden. These additions added another layer of appeal to the garden.

**Shane Harris** announced that he had formed a **Master Gardener Advisory Committee** and he asked members to stay after the meeting to decide upon a meeting date.

**New MG badges** can be ordered through **Lula Tyson** at ACES. Members who have lost their badges or want to update their badge should contact **Emily Frye** who volunteered to take charge of this committee. The cost will be \$6.50, payable to ACES.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Mary Eleanor** informed the membership that the **Montgomery Tree Committee** had written to CCMGA asking for a donation to the **Fallen Officer Memorial Park**, planned in the King Hill neighborhood on Upper Wetumpka Road. MTC plans to plant 22 Legacy Trees to honor the 22 policemen in the City and County who have given their lives in the line of duty since 1877. After discussion, a motion was made and carried to donate \$250.00 to this project.

**Mary Eleanor** announced that the **Nominating Committee** had been formed to present a slate of 2008 CCMGA Officers at the November meeting. Members include **Cookie Ruth, Chairperson, Lynne Kuhlmann, Cecilia Terrill** and **Karen Weber**.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Mary Eleanor** announced that new membership forms were being developed for 2008 membership

**Nell Copeland** announced that she would be setting up an exhibition table entitled "Green Immigrants" at the Alabama National Fair. She passed a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help her with this project. She also handed out fair exhibition tags.

**Cookie Ruth** announced that ACES and CCMGA would be having tables at the **BONDS Mayor's Neighborhood Conference** on September 21<sup>st</sup>. **Maggie Stringer, Paula Weiss** and **Nell Copeland** volunteered to take charge of the Mater Gardener table.

**Suzanne Brookhart** reminded the membership to take cuttings and gather seeds in preparation for the **CCMGA 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Plant Sale**. **Mary Eleanor** announced that Suzanne had again volunteered to chair the project. Suzanne received a round of applause and said that the goal in 2008 was to raise \$1,000.00.

**Mary Cochran** announced that she had the 2007 rosters. She said that 40 members had not picked up their copies.

**Mary Eleanor** read a letter from **Kerry Smith** about the Hurricane Katrina efforts in Mississippi. Called **Operation Rejuvenation Swarm**, Master Gardeners from across the country will gather on 24 and 25 October to support fall workdays and projects. For more information go to the State Mississippi Master Gardener website or contact Kerry directly.

**Karin Carmichael** reviewed the upcoming CCMGA monthly meetings:

**October 23 – Field trip to Oakview Farms Granary** (look for directions in this newsletter). NB: No bathrooms available.

*[Minutes continued on page 4.]*

## **From Seed to Flower**

Do you love to garden? Do you enjoy working with youth? Are you interested in learning something new? If you answered, "YES!" to any of these questions, here is an opportunity for you!

You are invited to attend a Train-the-Trainer Workshop for Junior Master Gardeners (JMG). This workshop will be held on Friday, November 30, 2007, from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm at the Chilton County Extension Office. Laurie Vines is our new Alabama State JMG Coordinator and is very excited to get some new programs started throughout the state of Alabama.

The JMG program in Alabama needs your help as we watch it grow...from seed to flower. We hope that you will help our youth learn the importance and the joy of gardening.

If you or somebody you know is interested in this wonderful opportunity, contact Candie Glover by Thursday, November 1, 2007. You may contact her via phone at 334-270-4133 (office) or 334-750-0532 (cell) or e-mail at [gloveca@auburn.edu](mailto:gloveca@auburn.edu). Mrs. Glover is your 4-H Regional Extension Agent for Montgomery and Macon Counties.

*[Minutes, continued from page 3.]*

**November 27 – Herbal Wreath-Making.** Instructor: **Maggie Stringer**. Maggie passed a signup sheet for members who wanted a grape leaf wreath for this workshop. Members were encouraged to bring materials: rosemary, bay leaf, juniper, cedar, dried flowers and berries.

**December 11 - Annual Christmas Lunch and Silent Auction** at Wynlakes Country Club (arranged by **Cathy Maddox**). NB: **Reservation required!**

**Mary Eleanor** reminded the membership that the **Sustainable Landscaping Seminar** is to be held at the Birmingham Botanical Garden Wednesday next. Information and registration on their website.

A **Gourd Show** will be held at the Cullman Civic Center in Cullman, Alabama on 20 – 21 October.

### **PROGRAM**

**Karen Weber** gave an overview of container gardening. She brought little pots of rosemary (representing love, fidelity, and remembrance) to share with the membership. Karen and MG volunteers had planted the cuttings in April to use at her daughter's wedding.

**Master Judge, Judy Youngblood**, assisted by **Karin Carmichael**, judged the CCMGA Flower Show. Congratulations to **Jan Scott** who won *Best of Show*. We learned what judges will be looking for, had some fun, and are now ready for the 2007 Alabama National Fair. Judy urged all Master Gardeners to enter, as there is a special award for the organization with the most entries.

**Suzanne Reaves** conducted the door prize drawings and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dianne Bush, Secretary, CCMGA

### **Help Recruit for Upcoming Master Gardener Class**

All CCMGA members are asked to help recruit qualified applicants for the 2008 Master Gardener class. The application can be found on the ACES web site, [www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu). Click on "Counties" at the top of the homepage, then "Montgomery" on the next screen, and then choose "Master Gardener Class" in the selection of topics on the next screen. The application can be downloaded from that point and printed out. It's only 3 pages long.

## **Garden Clippings**

*By Mary Eleanor Hines, CCMGA President*

### **Make Plans now for 2008 Plant Sale**

The co-chairmen of the Plant Sale, Suzanne Brookhart and Gail Cotney, remind members that as they tuck in their plants for the winter to take cuttings and root interesting plants for the 2008 Plant Sale in May.

Suzanne says, "I am putting coleus and Angel trumpet cuttings in pots to be over-wintered. I also have potted five hydrangea cuttings that I hope will be viable in May of next year if we have a mild winter and I pull them into the garage on very cold days. We had such a successful first sale. Would love to see everyone find the time to plan and propagate for the Second Annual CCMGA Plant Sale. It is never too early to think about it."

Fall, pumpkins and mums go together like ice cream, cake and birthdays, and with each shorter day we see more and more of the beautiful fall colors. I have a big patch of swamp sunflowers that **Sandra Thompson** gave me years ago to hide an electrical box in my front yard. These sunflowers are so bright yellow that they could almost glow in the dark. And you'd never know that there's that ugly green electrical box deep within these beautiful flowers.

I do believe **Karin Carmichael** has set the precedent for a yearly CCMGA flower show. Her September program was a huge success, filled with many colorful entries, and all of us learned a great deal along the way. We're proud that we have our own "Judge Judy" (Youngblood) who assisted substantially in that learning process. Now we know how to win blue ribbons at the Fair.

The Sustainable Garden workshop in Birmingham in September was another well-planned and executed activity. The CCMGA members who attended were quite pleased. The breakout sessions allowed us a choice of very interesting gardening subjects, one the best being the Facts and Fiction of Global Warming.

I very recently attended a State Advisory Council meeting in Clanton and learned of problems, solutions, and ideas from MGAs around the state. It was an interesting experience to hear from other associations and share in discussions on mutual problem-solving and successes. Any MG is encouraged to attend these meetings once every three months.

Many thanks to **Suzanne Reaves** for her tireless commitment to the 2007 Helpline. She did a great and thorough job. She worked very hard to keep it going smoothly, and her initiative paid off notably. Helpline is a six-month effort from April through September and is probably our biggest project. My sincere thanks to all who worked Mondays to achieve this success.

I look forward to seeing you on our field trip at the Granary on October 23. Remember that there will be NO door prizes until the November meeting, and I'll keep the business portion short.