



# The Prairie Mud

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Montgomery, Alabama

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## CCMGA Officers

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Editor

Betsy Coley

Assistant Editor

Lisa Lenox

## Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Montgomery County Office

Two East Office Center

400 Eastern Blvd, Suite 107

Montgomery AL 36117

334.270.4133



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## CCMGA Horticulture Show at September 18 Meeting

On Tuesday, September 18, at 10:00, during the monthly meeting, the CCMGA Horticulture Show will be held in the Fellowship Hall at Vaughn Road Church of Christ. This is the regular meeting space, but a different date. At the August meeting, the membership voted to move the September meeting to the third Tuesday in order not to conflict with a popular conference at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens on September 25.

All members are encouraged to bring at least one stem of live material from his or her garden in a clear, glass container appropriate for the size of the specimen. Specimens should not exceed 12 inches in length with one specimen per container. There will be entry tags and registration forms available before the meeting if for anyone who did not get tags at the last meeting. Also, there will be members on hand to advise and help people set up. The business meeting will start at 10:00, so all entries must be in place by that time. Participants should look up the botanical name of their plant material. Judy Youngblood, a Master Flower Judge, will be judging the show during the business meeting and will award "ribbons" to the outstanding specimens in each category. She will also explain what makes a winning entry and how to enter the Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs Flower Show at the Alabama National Fair, held October 6 - 15. Let's make this CCMGA Horticulture Show a great success!

Also during this program Karen Weber will demonstrate how to make and maintain a successful container garden.

## CCMGA Meeting Minutes August 28, 2007

September 18 is  
the next meeting  
date. Note the  
change!

### Future CCMGA Meetings

**October 23 meeting -**  
Field Trip to Oakview Farms  
Granary, located off Redland  
Road. Directions will be in  
the October newsletter.

**November 27 meeting -**  
"Make and Take" Herbal  
Wreaths for the Holidays,  
presented by Maggie  
Stringer.

**December 11 -**  
Christmas Luncheon and  
Silent Auction at Wynlakes  
Country Club.

President **Mary Eleanor Hines** called the August meeting to order at 10 am. Forty-seven members were in attendance. The sign-in sheet was passed. **Maggie Stringer** read a poem written by Sarah Elliott, an 11<sup>th</sup> grade student from Louisiana. The poem was aptly entitled, *Election Day! Election Day!* Following the reading Maggie led the group in prayer.

Guests, **Judge Lynn Bright** and her sister **Janice**, were introduced.

Vice President, **Karin Carmichael**, introduced **Judge Peggy Givhan**. Judge Givhan attributed her interest in gardening to her mentor and late husband, **Dr. Ed Givhan**. She described gardening as man's attempt to train nature to be what he wants it to be. She urged all gardeners to put a plan on paper, and to hire a professional to assist, as this was the most cost effective way to create a garden. Judge Givhan then presented a slide show, containing pictures of many of the gardens that she had visited and those that she and her husband had created. She shared her feeling that when she was working in the soil, she was able to gain a sense of peace and felt closer to God. The Judge made available to the membership five books that her late husband had authored.

**Mary Eleanor** began the business of the day by asking that the minutes be accepted as recorded in the *Prairie Mud*. They were accepted. **Jane Shalhoop** gave the Treasurer's report and it was accepted. She stated that there were now 96 paid members. **Emily Frye**, refreshments coordinator, was thanked and she acknowledged **Patsy Killough, Yvonne Evans, Nancy Goins, and Anne Waldo** for bringing the refreshments.

#### Old Business:

**CCMGA 2008 Trip:** Members who volunteered to plan the 2008 MG Trip were announced. Co-Chairwomen are **Judy Crockett and Nell Copeland**. The committee members are **Karin Carmichael, Suzanne Brookhart, Cathy Maddox, Sara Brown, Anna Owen, Dianne Bush and Mary Eleanor Hines**.

**CCMGA to host AMGA State Conference in 2010:**  
Discussion followed concerning CCMGA hosting the 2010 MGA conference in Montgomery. **Lisa Lenox** stated that members had received information about the subject in the August *Prairie Mud*. **EC Lewis** reported that hosting associations had successfully used the conference as a moneymaking event in the past. Additional comments supported the idea of hosting the conference in 2010. Following a motion and second, the membership overwhelmingly voted to accept this project. **Cathy Maddox** will convey the decision to the AMGA Board.

#### New Business:

**Change of September meeting date:** **Mary Eleanor** announced that a workshop on Sustainable Gardening has been planned at the Birmingham Botanical Garden on September 25 – the same date as our September CCMGA meeting. The discussion

[Minutes continued on page 3.]

*[Continued from page 2.]*

following indicated that members were agreeable to changing the CCMGA meeting date from September 25<sup>th</sup> to September 18<sup>th</sup>. A motion, second, and vote confirmed the change in meeting dates. Members were reminded that the cutoff date to register for the workshop was September 10, and that information about the event was in the August newsletter. Mary Eleanor mentioned that all members who were not in attendance would receive notification of the date change.

**Announcements:**

**Mary Cochran** had the 2007 rosters available for those who had not received them.

**Carol Gietle** announced that she was taking orders for hats. She had to order twelve hats at a time, and was waiting until at least six members indicated that they wanted to order hats. If there was no interest, she would not order them.

**Jan Scott** was recognized with a round of applause for her work on the scrapbook. She announced that **Ken Johnson**, a former staff member at the Shakespeare Garden, had started his own garden center in Wetumpka. The business is located on 231, and is called Natural Beauty Garden Center. Jan asked Master Gardeners to support his endeavor.

**Suzanne Reeves** reported that the Governor's Mansion Garden was an on-going project, and required teams of two MGs to go in every Wednesday morning and maintain the garden. Work required would be watering, weeding, etc. She passed a sign-up sheet for volunteers. Suzanne also announced that on Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM, Master Gardeners who work on the project would meet in the garden to review and formalize future plans for completing the project. The group plans to adjourn to the gift shop and covered picnic area. If you are planning to attend this gathering, please bring snacks.

**Karin Carmichael** reviewed the "mock" flower show that is scheduled as the program for the September 18<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting. She passed out copies of Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs accompanying forms and an information sheet for the CCMGA Flower Show. **Judy Youngblood**, Master Flower Judge, read portions of the judging criteria. She suggested that entrants cut their specimens the day before the show, so that they would be acclimated. She also suggested that each Master Gardener indicate that they are a MG on their entry form. Karin announced that **Karen Weber** would also give a demonstration on container entries in the Alabama National Fair. Judy passed out the Rules and Regulations handbook for entrants.

**Karin** announced the programs for the upcoming monthly meetings:

September 18	CCMGA Flower Show
October 23	Field trip to Oakview Farms Granary
November 27	Herbal Wreaths - instructor, Maggie Stringer
December 11	Christmas lunch and silent action at Wynlakes CC

*[Minutes continued on page 4.]*

**Cathy Maddox** announced that she was attempting to change the date of the Christmas luncheon from December 11 to December 12, as the Elmore County MG Association planned their Christmas meeting on the same date. After discussion of the issue, it was decided to keep the 11<sup>th</sup> of December as the function date. Members were reminded that they would have to make a reservation for this event.

**Audrey Shelnutt** announced that Wild Birds Unlimited had new decorative enhancements for the garden in stock and that CCMGA members received a 10% discount.

**Karin Carmichael** offered members corms from her Hidden Lily Ginger plant.

**Anita Ward** conducted the door prize drawing. **Gail Cotney, Audrey Shelnutt, Nancy Goins and Marilyn Harper** won prizes this month.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dianne Bush, Secretary

## **Garden Clippings**

*By Mary Eleanor Hines, CCMGA President*

When we voted to host the 2010 Alabama Master Gardener conference, I knew we had reached a new milestone in the history of the Capital City Master Gardener Association. We have received affirming and confident words from Patricia Patty, AMGA Vice President, and I, too, know that we will host a memorable and positive event to equal and perhaps surpass past conferences. We won't plan this conference with competition in mind, but we'll make it a great learning experience for all involved. In addition, we'll endeavor to keep fun and pleasure in our planning activities. All 96 members will be on at least one committee, so let us know in advance what your expertise and interests are. I have already received the Conference Planning Guidelines, and I know that we're loaded with ingenuity and a multitude of abilities among our members. We're very fortunate to have CATHY MADDOX, BETSY COLEY, YVONNE EVANS and many others in CCMGA to guide us through our planning process to a highly successful conclusion. I thank all of you in advance for your sincere support.

The beautiful purple wild flower, ironweed, is in full bloom in the countryside, and I noticed golden rod beginning to bloom. That's a sign that Fall is not far off. Early morning work in the garden is delightful, and mid-afternoon temperatures are becoming more tolerable. With the relief of some rain, you could almost watch the environment greening up. And with slightly lower temperatures, the remaining plants that have survived the oppressive August heat will become revived.

At September's meeting I'd like to suggest that we vote on being a part of Montgomery's Legacy Tree program, which is sponsored by the Montgomery Tree Committee, Inc. This program seeks to make Montgomery a nationally recognized "Tree City." As part of this program, 22 Legacy Trees will be planted in a public park in the King Hill neighborhood on Upper Wetumpka Road to honor the 22 Montgomery police officers who have fallen in the line of duty since 1886. Please be present to learn more about this opportunity.

I look forward to seeing all of you with a plant specimen on September 18. It will be another great learning opportunity, as JUDY YOUNGBLOOD will use our plants to demonstrate how the judging is done at the Alabama State Fair in October.

