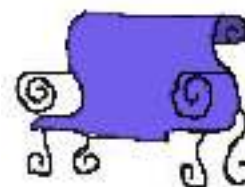




## FROM THE GARDEN



Hello Fellow Gardeners,

Spring and autumn equinoxes begin my two favorite seasons. This is the two times of the year when the center of the sun is directly over the equator and the days and night are about the same length. The autumnal equinox is approaching, none too soon! With Dog Days over, I am looking forward to doing my fall chores of planting, sprucing up, seeding, etc. in cooler weather. Oops! I better start counting the written lines of my talk. I am allowed only seventeen lines (limits set by the policewomen editors). That also includes spaces between paragraphs. Ha, ha.

As the seasons go by, so do the year and work we promised to do as MGs. I want to thank the various committees for their diligent commitment to their *chosen* projects. Each month we are highlighting the success of some of the hard work they are doing in our communities. I also want to thank our members who assisted in making an impressive CCMGA presentation to the new Maxwell AFB student officers' spouses during their orientation in August. Intern Lee Fuerst initiated this opportunity. I hope CCMGA can participate in this annual event in the future. Maxwell AFB is a good neighbor. The spouses seemed to enjoy my rosemary lemonade.

I am looking forward to seeing each of you at our September meeting at SHG. If you were not at the August meeting we missed you! Happy Gardening and cooler weather!

Maggie Stringer

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Meeting Time and Place  
 Sept. 22, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
 Southern Homes & Gardens  
 Vaughn Road



## **CCMGA Monthly Meeting to be at Southern Homes and Gardens**

Southern Homes and Gardens on Vaughn Road will host the next meeting of CCMGA. Please plan to attend. Mr. Kirk McKeen will speak on "Landscaping 101". Kirk is an employee of Southern Homes and Gardens, and has certifications in Landscaping. It will be a great meeting in very pleasant surroundings, a chance to look at fall planting possibilities and also fall decorations. Plan to arrive any time after 9:30am. There will be a short business meeting, followed by Kirk's presentation. Please call 387-0440 if you need directions to the store. Lunch will be available after the meeting at the Gardens Cafe located in the store.



## **Ready, Set, Grow! Harvest Festival 2009**

Saturday, September 19, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, September 20, 2009, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. You are invited to participate in the Annual Harvest Festival at the Montgomery State Farmers Market in Montgomery, AL. The festival celebrates the children's harvest of their pumpkins for the Ready Set Grow contest. Artisans and crafters from the Southeast will also be joining the festival this year along with food vendors and community outreach service representatives.

## **DOOR PRIZES NEEDED**

It is always a lot of fun to have door prizes AND it is an important source of income for CCMGA. Be sure and bring your donated 'prize'. It can be anything from a 're-gifted' present to plants you have divided from your yard. Jewelry, usable tools, picture frames, etc. Come on, we all have a lot

Notice: Dues for 2010

Beginning in October, dues can be submitted for 2010.

Please submit them to Jane Shallhoop.



### **CCMGA Officers**

President Maggie Stringer

Vice President Cecelia Terrell

Secretary Judy Crockett

Treasurer Suzanne Reaves

### **Newsletter Staff**

Editor Lisa Lenox

Assistant Editor Kellie

Sensintaffar

### **ACES Office**

Montgomery County Extension Office

Two East Office Center

400 Eastern Blvd, Suite 107

Montgomery, Al. 36117-2043

334/270-4133

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Hospitality Committee for the 2010 AMGA Conference that CCMGA is hosting needs your help to gather items to fill gift baskets to be given as door prizes. Members of the Hospitality Committee have been visiting local businesses using a special protocol to obtain merchandise for these baskets. While several merchants have been very generous, it is evident that we will need many items to fill thirty-plus baskets. Members of our committee have been taking money out of our own pockets to take advantage of some really good sale items to be used for these baskets. We are asking you to look around your home, your neighbors' homes and your relatives' homes to see if you might have an UNUSED item(s) that could be donated to our cause. We will take anything no matter how small as long as it is in relatively new condition. Everyone has a "Dirty Santa" or other gift that you don't know with what to do but don't want to throw away. This year don't give it away, give it to us! If you want to purchase something new, that would be wonderful and welcomed. We will have a table at the next meeting to receive your generous gifts. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Hospitality Committee

## 2010 State Convention: Vendor Committee

If you have any suggestions for vendors for the State Convention, or if you are attending any fall festivals in the future and could pick up information on perspective vendors, please contact Suzanne Brookhart (272-3424 or [sbrookhart2003@yahoo.com](mailto:sbrookhart2003@yahoo.com)) with that information.



### CCMGA Treasurer's Report - September

Beginning Balance August 10, 2009	\$6,289.04
Deposits	216.00
	\$6505.04
Checks Carol Gietl	57.20
Ending Balance September 8, 2009	\$6,447.84

## CAPITAL CITY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

August 25, 2009 Meeting Minutes

President Maggie Stringer called the August meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at Vaughn Park Church of Christ.

Refreshments were provided by Emily Frye, Elaine Galt, Gay Winter, Carolyn Wright, Cecelia Terrell, and Kellie Sensintaffar.

An inspirational devotional was given by Anita Ward.

Guests, Chris Henderson, Linda Franzo, and Dr. Amy Wright, were introduced.

The minutes for the last meeting were approved after one correction was made.

The banner **was discussed** at the last meeting. The membership is to **vote** on whether they will have a banner at the **August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting**.

**Treasurer's report/ Suzanne Reaves:** The report was approved as read in the newsletter.

### Committees

**Sunshine/Marilyn Harper:** Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers: Barbara

Samuels, who is preparing to have chemotherapy; Carol Gietl's husband, undergoing chemotherapy; Cathy Maddox's grandson; Cat O'Brien, who is having a heart cath this week, and Chris Brown, who is doing much better after finishing a round of chemo. **Great news Chris!**

**Newsletter/ Lisa Lenox /Kellie Sensintaffar:** President, Maggie Stringer, thanked our newsletter editors, Lisa Lenox and Kellie Sensintaffar, for their excellent work in getting out *The Prairie Mud*. Maggie encouraged members to contribute to the newsletter each month.

**AMGA 2010/Dianne Bush** gave a detailed report on the status of the 2010 conference. Many wonderful things are planned, and **we are on schedule**.

**Betsy Coley** announced that the committees are continuing to meet. **Cathy Maddox** has turned in the proposed budget to the State Board. **Dianne Bush** is working on securing cobbler's aprons to identify those working at the conference.

**AMGA Conference Hospitality/ Anita Ward and Emily Frye:** Samples of theme baskets for use at the upcoming conference were displayed for the membership to see. Members will be given the opportunity to make

some of these baskets.

Suzanne Brookhart said that we are working to secure "good" vendors. The price for a booth for the three days, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, will \$250 for one table. A booth with two tables will cost \$350. Members who want to rent booth space can do so for \$58 for the three days.

**Information about the 2010 conference will be on the AMG website sometime during September. Conference information will also be published in the January issue of *Pathways*.**

Members were asked to start saving plastic yogurt containers, styrofoam egg cartons, and large plastic containers, which can be used for washing brushes. These items will be used in an art project for the conference.

**Interns/Marie Tomlin and Linda Cox:** Marie has forms for members who would like to serve as a mentor for an intern for the upcoming Master Gardeners' Class.

**Old Business:**

**Purchase of a CCMGA banner:** Members voted unanimously to

purchase the banner which was discussed at the last meeting.

**Announcements:**

**Greater Montgomery Home and Garden Show** will be held in January 2010.

**Alabama State Fair** will be coming soon. Maggie Stringer wants the CCMGA members to be getting entries ready to be entered in the flower and plant competition.

**Dr. Amy Wright, from Auburn University,** presented an interesting and informative program on *Alabama Smart Yards*, which was a "how to" for sustainable landscapes.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Crockett, secretary





## CCMGA to Host 20<sup>th</sup> Annual AMGA Conference in 2010

by Cathy Maddox, Conference Chair

The 2010 Master Gardener Conference will not only provide outstanding and exciting learning opportunities for both the seasoned and the novice gardener, but will also offer options to welcome our friends to our beautiful capital city, Montgomery, Alabama. The magnificent Renaissance Hotel and Spa at the Convention Center in the heart of the downtown historic Riverfront Development area is headquarters for this conference scheduled for March 18-20, 2010.

**Dianne Bush** chairs the Facilities committee that arranged for this great venue.

**Suzanne Reaves**, Chair of the Program Committee, has scheduled exciting educational activities for us to choose from beginning on Thursday afternoon of the Conference. They will include Round Table Discussions on MG functions; a Painted Yard Art Hands-on Workshop; Tea in the Garden with Sister Schubert; Elizabethan Gardens presentation in the Shakespeare Garden at Blount Cultural Park followed by a Backstage Tour of the

Alabama Shakespeare Theatre; and Bog Garden Hands-on Workshop. **Karin Carmichael**, chair of the Hospitality Committee, not only arranged for great conference tote bags filled with useful and interesting items, but also helped coordinate tours such as a tour of the Governor's Mansion Garden (designed & maintained by CCMGA); a tour of our State Capitol and the Archives and History Museum; and others.

**Mary Eleanor Hines**, Chair of our Food Functions Committee, has arranged for us to welcome conference attendees to our city with a scrumptious dinner at our own Capital City Club, which is famous for its exceptional cuisine and its breathtaking, panoramic view of our twinkling city by night. Our guests will be able to see the lighted Capitol dome, the winding river and its environs, the historic Biscuits baseball stadium, and the newly renovated entertainment Alleyway. We will be able to relax, greet old friends, make new ones, enjoy a marvelous meal and experience your capital city from an eye-opening, new perspective.

The official opening of the 2010 AMGA Conference will take place on Friday morning, March 19. The theme of the conference, *Gardening: A Capital Idea!*, illustrates the contribution that public spaces and gardens make to the quality of life in our communities and the valuable contribution that Master Gardeners make to those public spaces. Speakers will inspire Master Gardener volunteers and emphasize our obligation to become integral players in our respective communities, contributing to the very existence

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of beautiful public spaces as our volunteer opportunities. The outstanding educational sessions will apply to home gardens and landscapes as well as public spaces. Our Keynote speaker for the opening session is Dr. Doug Phillips of Alabama Public Television's *Discovering Alabama*. Dr. Phillips will enthrall us with his vast knowledge of Alabama soils, history and stories in his magnetic, southern voice. The AMGA Business Meeting will be held immediately following the talk by Dr. Phillips. Then, while we enjoy your delicious boxed lunch, our speakers, Mary Ann Neely and Mary Walton Percy, will take you back in time with their presentation on the history of your Alabama Capitol, including the evolving gardens.

Friday afternoon's choices will offer a variety of breakout sessions, including Landscaping Natural Spaces; Gardening Trends; Attracting Birds and other Wildlife; Plant Selection for Success in Public Spaces; Pruning Flowering Shrubs; Landscaping with Herbs; Healing Gardens; Amending Alabama Soils to Grow Healthier Plants. After a break and a shopping visit to the outstanding Vendors and exhibits area, arranged by the Facilities Committee, these same sessions will be repeated to afford you the opportunity of more educational offerings. **Lynne Khulmann**, chair of the Book Signing Committee, will also provide opportunities during these breaks for you to purchase books signed by the authors/speakers.

The evening will begin with a networking

opportunity and Cash Bar prior to the banquet. Our speaker for the Awards Banquet will be Steve Bender, Senior Writer for *Southern Living Magazine* who will delight you with his garden wit and wisdom. The much anticipated awards ceremony will follow.

Saturday morning will begin with refreshments and more time with Vendors. Then the Central Alabama Master Gardeners will present a program on their project at the Elmore County ACES office. Their presentation is a Practical Application of Landscape Design and illustrates our conference theme beautifully. The remainder of our morning will include Alabama Rain Gardening with Kerry Smith, opportunities to shop with the Vendors, attend book signing and see the introduction to the 2011 conference to be held in Mobile. Throughout the conference there will be opportunities for you to shop with the Vendors, view chapter exhibits and bid on Silent Auction items. Also, **Peggy Wiemorts**, chair of the T-shirt Committee, will have shirts for sale with the conference logo on them.

The official conference hotel is the beautiful Montgomery Renaissance Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center and they have offered us a bargain rate. So treat yourself to a room at the hotel and make it convenient for you to participate in all the conference activities. Make your reservations early. **Betsy Coley**, chair of the Registration Committee and conference co-chair, will make our conference registration forms available in January. **Jane Shalhoop**, chair of the Finance Committee, has been working hard to

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manage the numerous transactions necessary to present a successful conference within budget. As you are aware, our membership has been working very hard for three years to host the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Alabama Master Gardeners State Conference. The active participation of all of our members is needed to make this conference a success. All CCMGA members who are assigned to duties during the conference will wear a special apron with the conference logo so that we can be easily identified by conference attendees. **If you are not actively involved in a conference committee, please contact me or a committee chair and get involved.** It is a fun and useful way to earn many volunteer hours.



## GOVERNOR'S MANSION GARDEN PROJECT

Members of the CCMGA Governors Mansion Garden Project Committee have been working very hard to get the

garden in top notch form for the Fall Garden Tours at the Mansion. These tours will be held October 16 & 17, from 1 - 4 p.m. both days. The Mansion, as well as the gardens will be open to the public. As in the past, special presentations will be scheduled. We continue to deadhead and weed each time we work in the garden and now we are installing plants for the fall. Also, we are getting our garden ready for the AMGA Conference being held next March. CCMGA will be hosting a tour of the Governors Mansion and Gardens as part of the events planned for the first day of the conference, March 18, 2010. Our next workday is scheduled for September 24, at 3:00 p.m. Any member of our committee, and anyone who would like to become a member of this committee, should contact Karin Carmichael at [jkcarmi@bellsouth.net](mailto:jkcarmi@bellsouth.net) or 271-3084. We need to know ahead of time who will be working so that we can give the list of names to the security people at the gate to the Mansion. We hope to see you there to work or to visit on the days of the tours.

Karin Carmichael  
Chair, Governors Mansion Garden Project





## PLANT OF THE MONTH

The legend of the Confederate Rose is this- Once, the rose was pure white. During the Civil War, a soldier was fatally wounded in battle. He fell upon the rose and lay dying. During the course of the two days he took to die, he bled more and more on the flower, till at last the bloom was covered with his red blood. When he died, the flower died with him. Thereafter, the Confederate Rose (or Cotton Rose), opens white, and over the course of the two days the blooms last, they turn gradually from white to pink to almost red, when the flower finally falls from the bush. The Confederate Rose, or hibiscus mutabilis, is actually a Chinese import. Brought into English gardens in the 1600s, it is said to have gained favor in the south due to its ease of cultivation during the hard financial times after the Civil War. The hibiscus mutabilis is a member of the hibiscus family which includes both the

tropical hibiscus and the hardier rose of Sharon. It is considered a large bush, or a small multi-stemmed tree. The plant roots easily from cuttings, has few pests, and grows vigorously during the summer. Once established it is drought resistant. The blooms appear in the fall.



## Welcome to Montgomery

August 19, 2009, officers' wives and spouses were welcomed to Maxwell AFB and Montgomery, AL. CCMGA was proud to be part of the hospitality and information sharing. Lee Fuerst, a military wife and Master Gardener 2009 organized a group to assist in representing CCMGA at the event. Maggie Stringer, Kellie Sensintaffar, and Jane Martin accompanied her. After the welcoming, the group went to the Maxwell AFB Plant Nursery. The facility is operated under the direction of Jane McCarthy. The goal of this nursery is reclaim plant material that may not be wanted in one area but can be reused in another. The plants are 'rehabilitated' in the nursery, then they will find new homes in other areas on the Maxwell facility.

# WHAT'S COMING UP?



## Home Grown Gardening Workshops - September 2009

The Home Grown Series of Workshops continues... The Alabama Cooperative Extension System will be offering its fall workshops coming up in September. Topics to be discussed for the fall workshops include: COOL SEASON VEGETABLES ● GARDENING WITH HERBS ● FALL GARDEN MAINTENANCE ● BACKYARD COMPOSTING DEMONSTRATION and FIRE ANT CONTROL PRODUCTS DEMONSTRATION

Locations for East Central Alabama are:

Friday, September 18, 2009 - Elmore County - Wetumpka

Wednesday, September 23, 2009 - Calhoun County - Anniston

A complete list of dates, times, locations, as well as registration information for the 2009 'Home Grown' Workshops can be found at [www.aces.ed/homegarden](http://www.aces.ed/homegarden) or by calling your local county Extension office.

**Are you ready for the Alabama National Fair?** If you would like to participate in the Fire Ant booth this year contact Mallory Kelley at 334-567-6301, or e-mail [jones57@auburn.edu](mailto:jones57@auburn.edu).

Tuesday, September 22, Southern

Homes and Gardens on Vaughn Road, Kirk McKeen, will speak on "Landscaping 101".

## Events at Petals from the Past:

Sunday, September 27, 2:00pm Fall is for Gardening - Jason Powell  
Why? What? And How? Jason will discuss the advantages of planting roses, fruit, perennials, and shrubs in the fall. Care and maintenance will also be addressed

Petals from the Past is now offering workshops and educational programs to clubs and groups of 10 or more who are looking for activities. These are not prescheduled events but will be conducted Tuesday-Friday upon request. Some lectures will be available seasonally. Reservations and information can be obtained by calling the retail shoppe at 205-646-0069. For a list of available topics go to Petals From the Past website.



## HELPLINE ROSTER

September 21 Christine Hornady 396-2130  
Anna Williams 244-6887  
Linda Hedderig 272-3803

Sept. 28 Anna Owen 301-0029  
Marie Tomlin - 271-2710  
Anthony Yarbrough - 365-7660