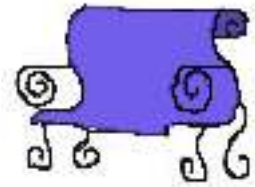




## FROM THE GARDEN



Fellow Gardeners,

It's fall and I continue to freeze, can, and dry some of summer's bounty. Recently I made herbal vinegars, using a variety of herbs from my garden, and some from friends. You can be as creative as you like when combining herbs for vinegars. I use mine for salads and marinading—lots of flavor with less calories and fat.

I also dried some herbs, and made basil pesto for freezing. See my recipe for Perfect Pesto in this NL. My abundance of hot peppers went into pepper sauce and stringing to dry. My mother used ball thread to string hers. I tripled spool thread for mine until I lost my big eye needle and resorted to fishing line which is much better. I'll use it from now on.

Fall is Alabama Fair time. I hope you entered something in the horticultural competition, and if you did, I am sure you won a ribbon. I am always amazed that the most unsuspecting, non-showy plant gets the blue ribbon. Judy Youngblood will give out the ribbon awards from the Fair at the November meeting.

Have you, as I have, made notes of what plants have done well or not in their spots, which ones need to be moved and what needs to be planted in bare places? I hope to be more prepared with an educated list and not buy what looks interesting but have no idea where to plant. You too? Suzanne Brookhart and her Plant Sale committee hope you are planting up some of those plants you need to divide or of which you have too many.

Are you keeping up with your volunteer hours? The time is nearing for reporting hours. Karin Carmichael will speak about online reporting at the October meeting. If you missed the last meeting we missed you! See you at this month's meeting—10/27/09. Happy fall gardening!

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**Meeting Time and Place**  
 October 27, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
 Vaughn Park Church of Christ

Maggie Stringer





## PLANT OF THE MONTH- SARRACENIA

There is an alien landscape in lower Alabama in the Geneva State Forest. Amid the moist pine barrens of that area are carnivorous plants, some as tall as your shoulder, marching in forces of hundreds, struggling on the brink of extinction, yet still awe-inspiring in their colonies. Bright lime green with throats of wine red, they stand as a meat-eating, evolutionary force of extermination for insects.

Seven of the eight species of Sarracenia (pitcher plant) native to North America are native to Alabama, and most are endangered. Habitat destruction has caused a steady decline in all populations. Like many other wild flowers, genus Sarracenia depends on forest fires to clear the lower vegetation under the tall pine trees and enable the plants to germinate. Where forest fires are controlled into nonexistence, the habitat for the plants becomes inhospitable. Urbanization and drainage further damages habitat, and over-collecting of specimens

deplete the population.

It's hard to blame anyone for wanting to collect and cultivate Sarracenia, which hybridize readily. And while there can be made an argument for cultivation as a means of protecting a species, the best means of sparing any species of plant or animal is surely just leaving them be in their natural environment.

Lisa Lenox



**CCMGA Officers**  
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The AMGA Annual Conference, March 18-20, 2010 will offer a pre-conference workshop, **Painted Metal Yard Art**, on Thursday, March 18 from 2 to 4 PM. To help us better prepare for this painting experience and to give our membership an opportunity to paint before the conference, the Program Planning Committee will schedule a “play date” for up to 20 of its members in early November. If you are interest in participating, please check your calendar and be prepared to vote at our next meeting for Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> OR Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM until noon. Location yet to be determined.

The frog is 17” wide (from big toe to big toe) and 15” long. As you can see in the picture, the frog sits wherever you put him. The dragonfly has a wing span of 24” x 17” body length and is welded to a metal rod to stand up in soil.

The “Yard Critters” are fabricated of heavy gauge metal, primed, and base painted flat black. The project begins when you choose your first color and progressed through the design and decorations stages. Cost of the project is \$30, which includes metal sculpture, brushes, large variety of paint colors, and pictures of similar critters to help get your creative juices flowing.

The only thing you need is to wear paintable clothing and a big smile.



### **Not too Early.....Plant Sale 2010**

It is not too early to begin thinking about Plant Sale 2010 as we tuck our plants and beds in for fall and winter. We are all going to be so busy in March with the State Convention, that *now* would be a great time to plan ahead for the Plant Sale.

Take a few cuttings to root in pots that can be kept in your sunroom or garage during the chill of winter.

I have already started some hydrangea, gardenia and Angel trumpet cuttings.

They will be fine until we have freezing temperatures. At that time, I bring them into my garage and carry them out into the sunshine as the weather permits. If every CCMGA member did four or five, we would have a nice start on donations for next April.

The Plant Sale is one of our main fundraisers and has begun to draw an annual crowd in May at Old Alabama Town. Talk to some of our members who came to help on “sale day”. Let them tell you how much fun, and how very rewarding, the event can be. Hope everyone will get involved for 2010.

Suzanne Brookhart

# HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE REQUESTS

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our cause of filling gift baskets to be used as door prizes at our conference in March. We will continue to take your generous donations throughout the fall and into next year. The sooner we complete this project, the sooner we can move on to other areas that our committee is responsible for such as filling gift bags and working on tours. We have several theme baskets started but need some specific items to round out these baskets. Some items that are needed are:

Garden Hand Tools (trowels, clippers, etc.)  
Garden Accessories (gloves, knee pads, hats, etc.)

Bird Items (feeders, birdseed, etc. - we already have three houses)  
Hardware Items (picture hanging gear, batteries, extension cords - anything considered hardware)

Yard Art (wind chimes, stakes, stepping stones, etc.)

Holiday Items (Christmas, Easter, etc.)

These are just a few ideas that we are working on right now. We continue to solicit businesses for donations and many have already come through for us with very generous contributions. We are also asking national restaurants for gift cards. If you know a business that we need to contact, please let us know.

Please remember to make sure that the tops of liquid items like soaps are tightly sealed so that leaks do not occur. New or like-new items are welcomed. Thanks again for all of your help. This is going to be the greatest conference in history!

Karin Carmichael



## Vendors for the 2010 MG State Convention

Let me again encourage members to pick up any vendor information you find as you attend Holiday markets, craft fairs, and art festivals this fall and winter. We are seeking vendors from all over Alabama and adjoining states. There will be a list of over eighty vendors who have been contacted at the October CCMGA meeting. The committee has set a goal of obtaining over one hundred contacts and requests your help. We have not had a response from any herb growers. I am still looking to procure a vendor in that area. If you have any suggestions, see me or any other member of the committee at the October meeting.

**Vendor Committee:** Suzanne Brookhart

Nancy Bowden

Ellen Clute

Cecelia Terrell

**Maria Pacheco-West**  
**Lanark Garden Grounds Specialists/**  
**Tour Director**  
**Alabama Wildlife Federation**  
**334-285-4550**

Maria's spray recipes (which are safe for most plants, all people and animals):

### **Garlic Spray**

Use one whole garlic bulb. Remove the papery skin and put cloves in a blender with mineral oil. Blend until liquid. Place in a glass jar, add one drop of green Palmolive dish soap and fill jar to the top with more mineral oil, store in a dark cupboard for 48 hours. You can keep in the refrigerator for up to one year. Use three tablespoons strained garlic solution for every one gallon of water. Spray all plants for fungal disease or insect invasion. Will not work for all pests such as scale, but deters most. It is great for killing fungus-type problems. After initial spraying you can cut back to one table spoon to every gallon of water when you spray.

### **Chamomile Spray**

Steep four teabags of Celestial Seasonings Sleepy time tea in a cup of hot water. After 20 minutes, squeeze the tea bags into the cup and pour the cup into a spray bottle. Fill the spray bottle the rest of the way with room temperature water and spray seedlings to control Damp-off, a fungal disease which causes seedlings and root cuttings to die.

### **Chive Spray**

Cut a handful of chives and put into a blender half full with water. Blend until liquid. Pour through a tea strainer into a regular

spray bottle. Fill spray bottle to the top with water and add one drop of Palmolive dish soap. This can be stored in the refrigerator up to a week. Solution needs to be at room temperature when you spray your plants.

This is a great remedy for White fly, Spider mite, and Mealy bug. Spray under and over leaves, up and down stems and around the base of the plant. This is very helpful with Gardenias, which are very susceptible to White fly but sensitive to most sprays.

## **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AND SILENT AUCTION**

Our annual Christmas luncheon and silent auction will be December 8, 2009 at the Wynlakes Country Club. Cost of the tickets are \$18.00.

Each member is asked to donate at least one item (preferably a gardening item) to the auction. Proceeds from the auction make up one of our two major fund raisers. Please be generous in your donations and purchases—you *always are* and we appreciate it! We will give you more reminders in coming months.

Thanks!!!!  
Maggie

### Easy Perfect Pesto

1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil

2 or more garlic cloves

2 cups fresh basil leaves, packed

1/4 cup lightly toasted pine nuts (I use pecans sometime)

1/2 cup Romano or Parmesan cheese

Place all ingredients in a blender or food processor and

puree. Use immediately or freeze in small containers or

ice trays. When frozen, the cubes can be put in a freezer

bag and used as needed in soups, over pasta, tomato

slices or other favorite dishes.



### CCMGA Treasurer's Report - October

Beginning Balance - September 9, 2009	\$ 6,447.84
Deposit (Badges) \$6.00	6,453.84
Check – Ready, Set, Grow Harvest	- 50.00
Ending Balance - October 06,	\$ 6,403.84

## MaSTER GaRDENER HELPLINE

One of the major priorities the County Extension has is the MG helpline. Each year devoted Master Gardeners give of their time to help out people in the community by answering the helpline. Because of their efforts over 130 calls to assist homeowners in answering questions concerning lawn care, trees, insects, etc. Last year, a new rewards program was implemented to reward those who took on the task. The following are the award qualifications for the 2009 helpline pins which will be given out in Oct. or Nov. depending on when they arrive.

Green – for those who worked at least twice in the same year

Silver – for those who worked 3 or more times and

Gold – for those who have worked 4 or more times in the same year, Oversaw the helpline or helped out in a big way

Come to our meeting and learn who the winners are this year.

For the last two years, Marie Tomlin has worked on the MG helpline to streamline it and wants to give someone else an opportunity to earn a Gold pin. If you would like to take this project on next year, please let Marie or Mallory Kelley know. Marie says it is easy and she will work with anyone wishing to go for the Gold.



Webworms: A Fall Menace

Outbreak populations of fall webworm can completely defoliate host trees. Healthy hardwoods usually survive and recover without permanent injury. However, several consecutive defoliations can cause dieback in the crown, and may contribute to the death of weak, declining trees. Controlling the infestations by cutting out webs is helpful. To learn what pesticide to use, contact your local Extension Service.

CCMGA hosting:  
AMGA 20th Annual Conference  
March 18-20, 2010  
Montgomery Renaissance Hotel and  
Spa at the Convention Center  
Montgomery, Alabama  
(See AMGA website for room reservation link)



# GOINGS ON IN THE SHAKESPEARE GARDEN...FROM KAREN WEBER

Ahhh...at last it's that refreshingly cool time of year again, and just in time for my busiest time in the garden. During the months of October and November there is much to be done! I will be pulling out all of the tired old summer annuals and replacing them with cheerful pansies and parsley. Then just when I think I'm caught up, those crazy leaves start falling and raking becomes a priority. All this, to let you know that I could really use your help! My volunteer day remains, as always, Wednesday mornings from 9:00 til 12:00 (But if that doesn't work for you, give me a call and maybe we can negotiate!) So if you need some end of the year volunteer hours or just want to



get out in the beautiful fall weather and dig, you are always welcome in the Shakespeare Garden. I even promise to provide cookies. Hope to see you soon in the Shakespeare Garden, and thank you all for all that you do!

Karen Weber



# WHAT'S COMING UP?



**CCMGA Monthly Meeting, October 27, 2009.** Vaughn Park Church of Christ. From 10:00am-12:00pm. The speaker will be Russle Stringer, arborist for Montgomery.

**Don't forget, Dues are Due.** Please pay your dues and fill out the membership form before December. See Jane Shalhoop at the meetings

## **Events at Petals from the Past:**

**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 shop at 205-646-0069. For a list of available topics go to **Petals From the Past** website.

## **CAPITAL CITY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION**

**September 22, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

**Vice President, Cecelia Terrell,** called the September meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at Southern Homes and Gardens on Vaughn Road.

An inspirational devotional was given by **Mary Cochran.**

Minutes from the August meeting were approved as read in the newsletter after the following correction was made: **Betsy Coley** gave the report on the **AMGA 2010 Conference,** not Dianne Bush, as stated in-

correctly in the last minutes.

**Treasurer's report/ Suzanne Reaves:** The report was approved as read in the newsletter and will be filed for audit.

**Program:** Our speaker for the September meeting was **Kirk McKeen,** a master Gardener who works at Southern Homes and Gardens. He gave all sorts of good tips for planting, pruning, and fertilizing. He also answered several questions from the members.

*Continued from page 9*

## **Committees**

### **AMGA Conference 2010:**

**Cathy Maddox, Karin Carmichael, and Kelly Sensintaffar** gave brief updates on the status of the upcoming conference. Things are looking good and we are right on schedule.

### **New Business:**

A nominating committee was selected to bring a slate of officers for next year to the October meeting. The following people were nominated to serve on the selection committee for officers for the 2010 year: **Mary Eleanor Hines, Jane Shalhoop, Reggie Gibson, and Elizabeth Littleton.**

**Jane Shalhoop** will begin collecting membership dues for 2010 at the October meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Judy Crockett

**Russell Stringer, arborist for the City of Montgomery, will be the speaker at the October 27 meeting. Please plan on being there to hear him!**

# **GOODWILL INDUSTRIES PROJECT**

The Montgomery Tree Committee has partnered with Goodwill Industries and Southern Homes and Gardens to landscape the Goodwill Building on Air Base Boulevard. Phase I of the project will start on Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 9AM.

Southern Homes will deliver 50 landscape plants that they have donated to the project. MTC invites CCMGA members to help with the planting. The ground will be tilled and amended before we start the project. Please bring your own gloves, shovels, rakes, etc.

The landscape plan is being developed by Stephanie Chance (Montgomery City employee) and fellow MG and MTC member, Wayne Henderson, is in charge of plant selection.

Phase II of the project will involve the planting of trees. Employees at Goodwill will be maintaining the plantings and we hope that MGs will be able to help with the instructions of this stage of the project. There is water available at the site. Please call Larry Grewelle at 834 4848 if you have questions.

# 2010 CAPITAL CITY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please mail this form and dues to the membership chairman; Jane Shalhoop @ 8143  
Wynlakes Blvd, Montgomery, AL 36117 email [jshalhoop@bellsouth.net](mailto:jshalhoop@bellsouth.net)

Checks should be made payable to CCMGA and submitted prior to November 30.

Dues are \$15.00 for full members

Dues are \$10.00 for interns, provisionals and any dual members that have their primary membership in another county.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELLPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

YEAR OF YOUR MASTER GARDENER CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK \_\_\_\_\_ CASH \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a dual member, where is your primary membership \_\_\_\_\_

Have you completed your required 25 annual volunteer hours? \_\_\_\_\_

These must be completed by December 31. "Reach for the Stars" hours should be reported separately.

To opt out of the electronic receipt of the CCMGA and AMGA newsletters, please contact the data base manager – Jan Gill

To help in planning future projects, please answer the following questions:

Please list the areas where you worked this year. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What special skills do you have that could be used to help our association?

\_\_\_\_\_

What topics would you like to see presented in a program? Do you know a person who could present a program on this topic (or another)? Use the back if needed

\_\_\_\_\_