



AUGUST 5, 2020

Dear Members and Friends

It has been several months since the Lee County Master Gardeners Association met in a “normal format” (sitting side by side, in one room). I know you miss the camaraderie as much as I do, but as for now we must carry on within the limits of safety and common sense.

Earlier the summer we had envisioned a reunion box supper social for our August meeting. But as cases of COVID19 spiked again in July, it was decided to cancel that event.

It is a challenge to stay connected and guard the health of our membership. As of now, we are planning to meet at Kreher Preserve for our September meeting and at Pioneer Park for our October meeting. Note that both of these venues are covered, outdoor areas. If circumstances warrant, we will meet by Zoom.

Our LCMGA Board of Directors met recently by Zoom. We discussed the short fall in projected income this year due to postponement of the Garden Tour and canceling of Native Azalea Sale and mulch sales. The budget committee will present the proposed 2020-21 budget to the Board in August for their approval. This budget will then be presented at the September meeting for a vote by the membership.

And now for some positive news:

- The ACES staff has provided wonderful opportunities at Alabama Smart Yards-Alabama Extension on FB for members to get gardening information and earn CEU's.
- The Master Gardener Intern Class has worked very hard and is nearing completion of their volunteer hours.
- The Intern Class has worked on a project in conjunction with Holy Trinity Episcopal Church to plant three plots of vegetables at Kings Mobile Home Estates. The residents there were given plots and a starter set of plants. Carolyn Plott designed and painted a checkerboard to go in the garden.
- The AU Campus Community Garden, one of our grants, is continuing to donate vegetables to the East Alabama Food Bank from the dedicated plots at that garden.
- Gene Galloway has worked extra hard answering the Master Garden helpline each Tuesday. Some of the other Help Lines in Alabama have not been available and he is picking up the slack.
- Will Shinn has worked to repair the irrigation system at the Caroline Dean Wildflower Trail.
- Members are using the Group Me App. to share pictures of flowers and vegetables and swap plants.
- Shelley Aistrup has organized a collection method for sharing extra produce for members in Auburn and members are also sharing with the Community Market in Opelika.
- Volunteers at the Butterfly Garden, Grandma's Garden, Kiesel Park and the Caroline Dean Wildflower Trail have continued working all summer to maintain their gardens.

Your officers are continuing to look for creative ways to “carry on” and serve you. We always welcome your suggestions. Check out New Weeds for important dates and volunteer opportunities.

Wishing you happy gardening,
Linda Nowlin