



President's Message

By Linda Griebel



May fooled us with not only a couple of dry weeks, but ended up with several rather wet days. It did allow additional plantings when we normally recommend holding off because of the heat (which might have intensified the rain). At least we didn't get the worst of it like some of the mid-west states. Now that our very successful plant sale is over, we can slow down a little. If you were at the May meeting, you heard from Rhona that our sales were the best ever! Many thanks to everyone who donated many healthy plants (including some from Capital City MGA and John Neighbor's Farm) – especially from many CAMGA members. My personal appreciation goes to Carol Rattan who took charge and kept everything organized and running smoothly and to the Fund Raising Committee who helped in every way. Members pitched in not only on pricing day, but really worked hard during the sale itself. And the weather cooperated with great temperatures and lots of sunshine! We met lots of nice customers and sold plants at good prices.

Please continue to recruit for our fall class. We need each member to bring one potential intern to one of our terrific functions, such as Lunch and Learn or a regular meeting. The upcoming June 9th Lunch & Learn features none other than Jason Powell presenting "Tough as Nails Plants for the South" – it should prove very informative. One way to recruit is to tell individuals that enjoy gardening what different horticultural topics we explore. Don't forget how much fun we have accomplishing a variety of projects.

Hope you took home a plant from the last meeting – there were enough house plants left over from the sale for everyone who wanted them. And another very special treat were the registered day lilies sent by April's speaker Suzanne Sikes. Since we had so many, there was no need to do door prizes, but I did find one that had been on the table and will bring it to next month's meeting.

There is a lot going on in the Learning Gardens – particularly the blooming of the butterfly gardens. Be sure to either come to help on a workday or just pause to enjoy all of the new developments, including vertical vegetables and summer additions. Don't forget to help at Lanark, Millbrook Farmers Market, on the Helpline, and the Governor's Mansion whenever you have time. They are always great locations to volunteer.

See you in the gardens.
Linda

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Message from Mallory

By Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests

Brown Patch in your Lawn

Brown patch is a serious disease on home lawns across Alabama and it seems to be very common right now, especially in our urban landscapes. If you are in an area getting the feast of afternoon showers you could be seeing brown patch starting in your lawn. The phone calls have been pouring in so I thought this information would be timely.

Brown patch outbreaks occur on St. Augustine grass, zoysia, centipede and tall fescue, but can also be found on Bermuda. This fungal disease is almost always tied to excessive or late use of nitrogen along with several days of cloudy wet weather (especially afternoon showers) and high humidity.

Any lawn can be subject to brown patch damaged when hot, wet summer weather is occurring. In the Gulf Coast counties, brown patch often appears during warm spells anytime from late fall to early spring. Further north, this disease is usually seen just before the first frosts in the fall and shortly after green-up in the spring.

Brown patch first appears as small brown areas a few inches in diameter. These patches quickly increase in size and merge together, forming large patches of damaged turf. On St. Augustine, these patches may reach 20 feet in diameter. Damage is often worse on shaded lawns. Good management often helps prevent outbreaks of brown patch. Never water your lawn in the late afternoon. This water remains on the blades of grass throughout the night giving the fungi lots of time to multiply and grow into a problem. Watering first thing in the morning is best so the sun is able to dry up the water on the blades very quickly. Also apply low rates of nitrogen fertilizers monthly through the growing season. Avoid fertilizing St. Augustine grass, zoysia grass and centipede grass with high rates of nitrogen shortly after spring green-up and do not apply high rates of nitrogen to tall fescue in the summer.

To speed evaporation of dew, prune trees and shrubs to increase sunlight penetration and increase air circulation. In addition, dethatch your lawn to prevent the buildup of thatch if needed, but if you are mowing your lawn on a regular basis there should never be a thatch problem. Preventative fungicide of home lawns is usually unnecessary. Routine applications should only be considered on lawns damaged by brown patch year after year. Otherwise, spot-treat damaged areas after symptoms are first seen. Make several fungicide applications with Immunox or Banner Maxx to those areas every 7 to 10 days to prevent further spread of the disease.

For more information on brown patch and its control, ask your county Extension agent for circular ANR-492, "Controlling Brown Patch on Warm-Season Turfgrasses."

Source: Dr. Austin Hagan, Extension Plant Pathologist with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System

If you have gardening related questions, call the Master Gardener Helpline!

March through August the Alabama Cooperative Extension System offers a Gardening Helpline for the general public each Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. This helpline is operated by Master Gardener Volunteers who use research based information to best answer all of your gardening questions.



If you've got home garden questions, we've got answers!
Call 1-877-252-GROW (4769)

Programs Update By Lee Borden



On May 19 (at left) Dr. Sue Webb shared with us her knowledge and passion about using native plants in our landscapes. She shared handouts and had a large collection of native plants to show off to us as she described the many

"services" native plants provide - removing carbon, providing oxygen, purifying the air, helping control water flow, purifying groundwater, and helping control the weather by cooling the earth, preventing droughts, and slowing down the wind.

Sue has allowed us to view her PowerPoint slides, which you can see at <http://bit.ly/camganativeplants>. If you would like her handouts, email me at lee@divorceinfo.com.



* * * * *

Here are your ratings for the May meeting:

- Interesting topic? 4.92 out of 5.
- Presentation Quality: 4.86 out of 5.
- Business meeting useful? 4.43 out of 5.

We had the most comments ever on the evaluations this month. Comments are always welcome, because they give program planners a sharper understanding of the sentiments behind your ratings.

On June 16 Candy Jones will convene a panel of Advanced Master Gardeners to talk about the many opportunities available within CAMGA for advanced certification.

And in July Mary McCroan will thrill us and chill us when she tells us all about the creepy crawlies in our garden and why most of them are good to have around.

Our tentative program schedule and each meeting's evaluation results are online and available for your review at <http://bit.ly/camgaprograms>.

The new projection screen has arrived and is available for you to use for your presentations. For a quick video primer on how to set it up and take it down, check out <http://bit.ly/camgascreen>. It will be stored at the extension office and can be checked out along with the projector and computer. Just email me at lee@divorceinfo.com and I'll fix you up.

At our May meeting you decided to purchase a camcorder for CAMGA members to use to make videos. You asked a small group of us - Bob Brown, Anida Wishnietsky, Charlotte Hall, and me - to research the available options. You gave us authority to spend up to \$500 to get the right camera for CAMGA. During the next few weeks this four-person team will be deliberating and collaborating, and we will report to you when we have finished the process.

June 2015

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i>	2	3  <i>Canning Workshop Lanark Work Day</i>	4 <i>Learning Garden Work Day</i>	5	6 <i>Daylily Festival</i> <i>Columbus, GA</i> 
7	8 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i>	9	10 <i>Lanark Work Day</i> 	11 <i>Learning Garden Work Day</i>	12	13 <i>Lanark Hydrangea Fest</i> 
14 <i>Flag Day</i> 	15 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i>	16 <i>CAMGA Meeting 10:00</i>	17 <i>Lanark Work Day</i> 	18 <i>Learning Garden Work Day</i>	19	20
21	22 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i>	23	24 <i>Lanark Work Day</i> 	25 <i>Learning Garden Work Day</i>	26	27
28	29 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i>	30				

MAY MINUTES

By Rosemary Mobley, Secretary



The May 2015, Central Alabama Master Gardener's Association (CAMGA) meeting was held May 19, 2015, at the Elmore County Extension Auditorium in Wetumpka, Alabama. Linda Griebel called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Next, she asked Lee Borden to introduce the speaker, Dr. Sue Webb, whose presentation was about the native trees and shrubs of Alabama. Dr Webb is a retired microbiologist and research scientist. She is a master gardener and participated in the Native Plant studies program at Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Currently, she works in the Petals from the Past nursery.

Dr. Webb explained that she grew up and currently resides "in the woods" of Jemison, Alabama. These woods of Jemison inspired her study of native plants. She stated that only recently she became aware of the declining health of Alabama's native woods, birds, and other wildlife. For this reason, she continues to research the issue, and readily shares potential solutions with interested audiences.

One solution is to plant more native plants. In that light, Dr. Webb's slide presentation began with reasons for planting native plants. These included: 1) beauty; 2) adaptability; 3) less effort (given planting the right plant in the right place); 4) services; and 5) maintenance of a healthy ecosystem. She defined native plant services as: removal of carbon; provision of oxygen; air purification; control of water flow; water purification; and, contribution to control of weather by cooling the earth, preventing drought, and slowing down wind. Next, she showed photographs of native trees and shrubs. Some of the shrubs included were: clethra, anise, sweetshrub, 'hearts-a-bustin', bottlebrush buckeye, beautyberry, oakleaf hydrangea, mountain laurel, and native azaleas. In addition, Dr. Webb brought along living native shrubs to spotlight the many positive features of native plants. The speaker responded to a number of questions throughout and after her presentation.

Prior to the break, Linda noted that Suzanne Sikes, the April speaker, sent registered daylilies as promised, for each CAMGA member. She explained the process for obtaining a daylily. Additionally, the plants located on the registration table were door prizes for everyone. After the break, Linda convened the business meeting at 11:19 a.m. She began by commending Carol Rattan, plant sale chairman, for a very successful event. Linda noted that there were more varieties and numbers of plants at this sale than at previous plant sales. The president thanked all those involved for their efforts.

Rhona Watson was recognized to give the Treasurer's Report for April, 2015. The balance as of March 31, 2015 was \$10,512.66. Income for April included: Dues- \$20.00, and Donation-\$40.00. Total April income was \$60.00. Expenditures for April included: Plant Sale - \$250.00; Office Supplies for Millbrook Farmers' Market-\$49.79; Learning Gardens-\$258.08; and Library-\$27.37. Total April expenditures=\$585.24. This resulted in a balance, as of April 30, 2015, of \$9,987.42. The Treasurer's Report was approved by acclamation. Rhona also reported that early figures from the Plant Sale show a net gain of approximately \$3500! The actual total will be reported in the May Treasurer's Report.

Next Linda asked attendees to consider the Minutes as published in the April Newsletter. She stated that the title should be "April Minutes" rather than "March Minutes". The Minutes were accepted by acclamation with the one correction to the title.

Linda attended the Alabama Master Gardener Association (AMGA) Advisory Committee meeting in Clanton on May 5, 2015, and reported the following:

Minutes and Treasurer's reports may be approved by general consent or acclamation as per Robert's Rules of Order, with the exceptions of controversy or changes. This streamlines the process and saves time.

Master Gardeners must be in good standing to be eligible for "Reach for the Stars" Program.



There is a category for lifetime membership with a cost of \$100.

Volunteers are being sought to serve on the AMGA Board of Directors. Interested CAMGA members should contact Gale Wheeler-Leonard or Linda Griebel.

The AMGA logo will be edited to include, "Community Partner With..."

The 2016 AMGA Conference will be held on May 13-14 in Dothan, and all speakers are booked.

Huntsville will host the 2017 AMGA Conference on May 1-3, with the theme of biodiversity.

The first day will be on site at the Huntsville Botanical Gardens; and remaining days will be at Jackson Center.

The Southern Regional Master Gardener Conference will be held 2018 in Birmingham, tentatively in the fall, and members may be asked to help.

AMGA organizations are sharing Speakers' Bureau information; as well as dates and locations of plant sales.

AMGA is looking for members to assist with the website and to serve as editor for Pathways.

Linda also asked if CAMGA members preferred that the 2018 or 2019 AMGA Conference be held in the fall instead of spring. The majority in attendance preferred keeping this conference in the spring.

Next, the President called on Lee Borden to report on his research about CAMGA purchasing a camcorder. He explained his recommendation that a committee further explore the pros and cons of brands, features, and prices. Anida Wishnietsky, Charlotte Hall, and Bob Brown agreed to work on this project with Lee. Nancy Tribble made a motion that after the research, up to \$500.00 may be spent for the camcorder, and necessary accessories. Katrina Mitchell made the second and it was carried by all present. Phil Easter noted that the committee might require more than \$500. Lee countered that if more funds are required, the committee will report back to CAMGA.

Lee also talked about the June and July programs for CAMGA meetings. On June 16, 2015, Candy Jones will lead a panel discussion about the process of becoming an Advanced Master Gardener; and the role of Advanced Master Gardeners in supporting the work of CAMGA's Extension Agent, Mallory Kelly. On July 21, 2015, the topic is "Creepy Crawlies in Your Garden." Mary McCroan will be the speaker. Lee encouraged everyone to fill out program evaluation forms at CAMGA meetings.

Linda mentioned the need for CAMGA to purchase tents and tables for future plant sales and other events. She will explore options and report back to membership.

John Barnes reported for the Projects Committee. He commended Jane Mobley for her leadership in planning and planting the butterfly garden. Linda noted that many of the native plants covered by the speaker, Dr Sue Webb, are in our butterfly garden. John shared that the Hydrangea Fest is scheduled from 8:00 a.m. until noon, on June 13th at Lanark. Also, this committee shared plan suggestions for the YMCA project in Wetumpka. Lois Pribulick will report the suggestions to the YMCA Board.

Mary McCroan shared that drip irrigation is being extended to the fruit plants in the Community Learning Gardens. Vertical gardening is progressing in the vegetable garden.

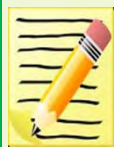
The Lunch and Learn (L&L) Committee report was given by Charlotte Hall. There were 18 attendees at the May 12th presentation on lawns by Chip East. Jason Powell is scheduled for the session on June 9, 2015. His topic is "Tough as Nails Plants for the South." Anthony Yarbrough will be the speaker for the July 14th session, and the title is: "What's Bugging You?"

Becky Brown encouraged everyone to continue to recruit interns. She recommended bringing prospective interns to the L&L sessions.

Mary Ann Hatcher reported that the Helpline is operating well. She expressed thanks to all those involved.

Gale Wheeler-Leonard shared that cards were sent to Sandy Rosamond regarding the loss of her brother and her sister. Butch McKinney and Sandy Rosamond have surgery scheduled soon. Prayers for a speedy recovery for both of them will be appreciated.

Rick Ohlson announced that beginning on May 26th, the Millbrook Farmers' Market will be up and running on Tuesdays, from 8:00 a.m. until noon. He requested interested volunteers to get in touch with him.



Mallory Kelly thanked members and interns for their response in working the Helpline. She shared that in advance of her maternity leave, she appreciates CAMGA members "holding down the fort" in her absence.

Katrina Mitchell urged members to receive the 4-H Newsletter by giving their e-mail address to Carol Pugh in the Extension Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m. Fifty-five participants were at the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Mobley, Secretary



SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS by Judy May

It has been a very busy month. The month began with Pricing Day for the Plant Sale, Friday, May 1st. Volunteers that day were Carol Rattan, John Barnes, Johan Beumer, Lee and Amanda Borden, Bob Brown, John Butler, Catese Chaffee, Terry Chambliss, Rod Douglas, Linda Griebel, Charlotte Hall, Jane Mobley, Nancy Tribble, Peggy Turnipseed, Marie

Updike, Rhona Watson, Gale Wheeler- Leonard, Joyce Vella and Jo Weitman.

Bringing food that day were Amanda Borden, Mary Long, Linda Armour-Scott, Candy Jones, Peggy Turnipseed, Joyce Vella, Bob Brown, Catese Chaffee, Gale Wheeler- Leonard, Penny Arceneaux, Jo Weitman and Judy May. Carol Rattan provided water and ice.

Saturday, working the Plant sale were: Carol Rattan, Lee and Amanda Borden, Angela Peltier, Bob and Becky Brown, Charlotte Hall, Cindy Beumer, Johan Beumer, Corky Butts, Janet Lewis, Joe and Sally L'Abbe, John Barnes, John Butler, Joyce Vella, Judy May, Linda Armour-Scott, Lois Pribulick, Marie Updike, Mary McCroan, Mary Long, Mike Berkman, Peggy Turnipseed, Rhona Watson, Rod Douglas, Sharon Potts, Terry Chambliss, Linda Griebel and Linda's husband helped too.

Bringing food that day were: Becky Brown, Linda Armour-Scott, Terry Chambliss, Lois Pribulick, Iva Haynie, and Judy May. Carol Rattan again provided water and ice.

April 27th Charlotte Hall and Iva Haynie worked with Amanda Borden at the Montgomery Botanical Gardens at Oak Park.

During the month of May, Jane McCarthy and Amanda Borden volunteered at the Governor's Mansion. On May 4 and 5, Betty Stricker, Carol Pugh and Amanda Borden attended the Garden Club of Alabama's Landscape and Design Study Course 1 at Auburn University.

The May 12th Lunch and Learn featured Chip East speaking on Luscious Lawns. There were 18 attendees; 10 of them were Master Gardeners.

The Projects Committee met Monday, May 18. Present were John Barnes, John Butler, Johan Beumer, Candy Jones, Jane Mobley, Linda Griebel and Janet Lewis. Projects committee members Lois Pribulick and Johan Beumer worked at the YMCA trimming hedges and cleaning the grounds.

May 18th Judy May did a presentation for the Emerald Mountain Garden Club on Orchid Basics. 26 members were in attendance.

Bringing food to the CAMGA meeting May 19th were Katrina Mitchell, Susan Jones, Cheryl Christian, Gale Wheeler-Leonard, Lois Pribulick and Linda Griebel and Peggy Turnipseed.

Helping Maria at Lanark this month were interns Don Hoover, Darla Tiesling, Terry Chambliss, and Peggy Gelpi. Master Gardeners Ann Hill, Norman Turnipseed, Carla McCune and Judy May helped keep Lanark gardens looking beautiful. Maria says she appreciates each one of us.

Working the Helpline this month were Cindy Beumer, Lavonne Hart, Sandy Rosamond, Sharon Cleary, Wanda Ivey, Cathy Whigham, Marie Updike, John Barnes, Mary Ann Klatt, Mary Ann Hatcher, and Sharon Potts.

Phil Easter did WSFA-TV Alabama Live for the May Lunch and Learn promotion. (Continued)





At Southern Homes and Gardens on April 11th, Linda Griebel and Rhonda Miles talked with 62 people about plants. On April 18th, Rhonda was there by herself and spoke with 34, and on April 25th she again was there by herself and spoke with 31. May 9th, the final day, Linda Griebel and Judy May spoke with 20 people.

Charlotte Hall, Iva Haynie and Amanda Borden assisted with plant instillation at the Montgomery Botanical Gardens at Oak Park on April 27th. Lavonne Hart helped apply mulch at the site on May 4th.

Working in the Learning Gardens during the month of May were Candy Jones, Amanda Borden, Linda Griebel, Terry Chambliss, John Barnes, Mary McCroan, Cindy Beumer, Rosemary Mobley, John Hoover, Linda Queen, Cheri Bedford, Katrina Mitchell and Jane Mobley.

Announcements

Interested in learning more about seasonal gardening topics?

Please join us for the FREE Master Gardener **Lunch and Learn Program** in your area. These are EVERY MONTH from 12:00-1:00, Bring a Sack Lunch, Drinks Provided:

This month's topics and locations:

Montgomery: The 1st Wednesday of EVERY month

Topic: Roses for the Faint of Heart

Armory Learning Arts Center on Madison Ave.

Wetumpka: The 2nd Tuesday of EVERY month

Topic: Tough as Nails Plants for the South

Elmore County Extension Office Auditorium

Prattville: The 1st Thursday of EVERY month

Topic: Tree Identification and Care

Christ Lutheran Church on Cobbs Ford Road

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MASTER GARDENER?

UPCOMING MASTER GARDENER CLASSES FOR AUTAUGA and ELMORE COUNTY

The deadline for registering for the Autauga and Elmore County Master Gardener Fall 2015 classes is August 20th.

Please call the county office for more information or to receive an application. Autauga County- 334-361-7273 and Elmore County- 334-567-6301.

Items for sale

I want to let our Master Gardeners know that I have a large Presto canner, large water bath canner, and huge number of canning jars for sale. Also, I have a "once used" large dehydrator for sale. I would rather have my friends get these items rather than sending them to the thrift store. If anyone is interested, please give me a call at 285-4071.



Thanks so much.

Sally L'Abbe

LUNCH AND LEARN BY CHARLOTTE HALL

CAMGA May Lunch and Learn “Luscious Lawns” – Dr. Chip East

At our May Lunch and Learn program, the ever entertaining and informative Dr. Chip East filled our hour with clues on how to have a luscious lawn. And it seems like it was perfect timing as Mallory indicated that a large majority of calls being received at this time are about lawns.

In order to have a gorgeous and healthy lawn, one has to give thought first to some important environmental factors such as shade, climate, type of soil in the yard and of course, type of turfgrass. In central and southern Alabama, warm-season grasses are the best choice. Of these warm-season grasses, four types are considered the best – Bermuda, zoysia, centipede, and St. Augustine.

As Chip pointed out, there are definite pros and cons about each type of grass. Some



need to be mowed frequently with Bermuda coming in first in that category – needs mowing every five days and should never have more than one third removed with each cut, and zoysia requires less frequent mowing. However, zoysia requires clippings to be removed with each mowing and will require aerating. Once pros and cons of each type of turfgrass are weighed, the following factors may assist in selecting the grass most suited for a particular situation. Acquiring grass for our area should be fairly easy as Alabama is third in the entire country for sod production.

The most important factors to consider when selecting a specific turfgrass are climate and shade. All turfgrasses grow best in sunny locations, with shade-tolerant species for locations with 50 to 80 percent sun. Grass does not grow well in full shade or areas that receive less than 50 percent sunlight. Other important factors are availability of water, cost, how much time and effort will be dedicated to maintaining the lawn and of course, personal preference.

Following is a short synopsis of the pros and cons for the four most common warm-season grasses for our area.

Bermudagrass – Medium green color and fine texture

Pros: fast growth rate, excellent drought tolerance, good wear tolerance

Cons: Needs mowing and edging frequently, has high fertility requirements, needs sun

Zoysiagrass – Dark green color, medium texture and very dense

Pros: Highly adaptable turf, good cold tolerance, tolerates moderate shade, dense growth, excellent wear resistance

Cons: Slow growing, heavy thatch, more difficult to mow

Centipedegrass – Light green color, coarse-textured

Pros: Adapts to low fertility soil, tolerates low pH, easier to control

Cons: Slow growing, expensive seed, susceptible to cold injury and centipede decline, requires regular mowing, not extremely drought resistant, sensitive to certain herbicides

St. Augustine – Dark green color, large, flat stems with broad and coarse leaves

Pros: Dense, fast-growing, most shade tolerant of warm-season grasses, spreads by above-ground runners only

Cons: Not herbicide tolerant, low wear tolerance, susceptible to chinch bugs and certain diseases

Along with the above information, Chip offered these tidbits: fertilize heavily if you want grass to grow, but

(Continued)

iron makes it green without growing. The most expensive grass grows the slowest and the cheapest grass grows the fastest. The narrower the blade, the more you can cut. Wider blade grasses can be mowed deeper than the standard take only one third of the grass with each cut. MOWING is the single most important thing for luscious looking lawns. Weeds are opportunistic plants that grown where they do not compete with healthy grass. To control weeds in grass use pre-emergence herbicides in the fall and post emergence herbicides in the spring after weeds appear. Pre-emergence works best as it keeps weeds from germinating as weeds can suppress growth of grass greatly.

Mark your calendars and plan on attending our next month's Lunch and Learn on June 9th as our featured guest speaker will be Jason Powell of Petals from the Past. Jason will speak on Tough as Nails Plants for the South. You sure don't want to miss this one!!



Millbrook Farmer's Market

By Rick Ohlson

By the time you guys read this the Millbrook Farmer's Market will be in full motion. We will be in the Millbrook Park on Main Street on Tuesdays from 8 AM till noon. If you are in the area stop by and get some fresh veggies - if you are not picking your own - and come by our table. If you would like to add a few hours to your Master Gardener time, come work our table. It is mainly a social time with the local folks to talk about gardening,

answer a few questions, or tell them how to find the answers at our web site or through the Help Line.

Give me a call and let's get you scheduled for a Tuesday! You don't have to dig any holes and there are no weeds to pull. Just some "Good'ol folks talkin' gardening".

Thanks for your support! Rick Ohlson 334-233-7425 (233-rick)



Cody Butts and Butch Kinney

Successful Plant Sale!! By Carol Rattan

Wow – what a great job all of you did at the plant sale! We grossed over \$3600, and took quite a few leftover plants to Linda's nursery. Some showed up at the May meeting to sell to members who were not able to attend the sale, and maybe we'll have some door prizes as well.

Thanks so much for all your help and support – it's been an amazing adventure and I couldn't ask for better folks to work alongside! [More photos on page 19.](#)





HELPLINE NEWS By Mary Ann Hatcher



This month has seen a steady increase in calls to the Helpline. Assisting with researched responses were the following Interns: Cindy Beumer, Lavonne Hart, Sandy Rosamond, and Sharon Cleary. Wanda Ivey, Cathy Whigham, and Marie Updike volunteered as Master Gardeners. Serving as Advisors were: John R. Barnes, Mary Ann Klatt, and Mary Ann Hatcher. Sharon Potts served as our Appointment Reminder. Your contributions were much appreciated!



NATIONAL ARBOR DAY CELEBRATED

CAMGA member Janet Lewis participated in National Arbor Day celebration the new Maxwell Roses Garden Club. The Oak, donated by Little Mountain Growers owner David Funderburk, is located near the entrance to the Air University Library in a grassy area which will allow plenty of room for growth over the next sixty years. Expected to be a lasting reminder for the many students who will study in its shade, the tree also is planted to represent Maxwell as a Tree City for the twenty first consecutive year. Pictured are (left to right) Janet Lewis, president, Camellia Garden Club, Marlie Sherer, president, Maxwell Roses Garden Club and Colonel Andrea Tullos, Wing Commander, Maxwell Air Force Base. This event represents a beautiful expression of cooperation between the city of Montgomery, AL and the U.S. military family.



Canning Workshop



Date: June 3, 2015

Location: Prattville Primary School 216 Wetumpka Street Prattville, AL

Time: 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Registration Fee: \$5.00

Registration includes Food Preservation Cookbook and more!

Please call the Autauga County Extension Office 334-361-7273 and reserve your seat.



Hydrangea Fest at Lanark By Maria Pacheco-West

Hydrangea Fest is June 13th at the Lanark Nature Center. Dr. Dan Jones will do a fabulous presentation on Hydrangeas at 9:30 A.M. He is Professor Emeritus at UAB and is extremely knowledgeable.



I will have a Lanark plant sale and there will be golf cart drivers to take folks down to the pond which will be in full bloom with mop-head Hydrangeas. If it's not too hot, when Dr. Jones finishes his presentation, I will walk folks down to the pond. We will open at 8 A.M. and close around noon. All activities will take place at the Pavilion. There is a small fee of \$4 for adults, \$2 for children 4 to 12 years old and children 3 and under are free. Please come join us, Dr. Jones

is traveling from Birmingham and does not charge us for his informative, entertaining presentations and we want him to feel like his time is well spent. Please mark your calendar for this fun event.



Linda Griebel, Judy May and Rhonda Miles hand out MG info at Southern Homes and Gardens.

Ongoing Article for Learning Garden By Mary McCroan

In May the learning garden got one more raised bed which we used to plant sweet potatoes. These are the more usual variety and we will have the opportunity to compare them to the "white" sweet potatoes that Mary planted last month. Both types are growing like gangbusters.

Some of our efforts this month were diverted to fetching plants for our annual plant sale from Phil Easters house and unloading donations left over from the Montgomery Master Gardener's plant sale. We also planted new veggies (tomatoes, basil, squash, etc) and munched on radishes, early peas, lettuce, French Sorrel, asparagus and other goodies as they emerge. The asparagus season is over now and we will let the plants grow into those tall frondy things that will feed the plant for next year's crop.

The Shade/Water garden got some new plants this month as we installed Lenten Rose salvaged from the old Four Season Garden and transplanted some Spiderwort that had self-seeded to a better location. This garden is looking pretty spiffy, particularly to those that remember when it was just a jungle of Asian Jasmine.

And of course we weeded beds, added mulch and did other routine maintenance. And a last note, the Butterfly Garden is looking awesome. Kudos to Jane for the design and to those that helped her with some of the planting. It is amazing how good this garden looks in its first year and it is only going to get better as the plants mature.

Our last workday in May will sadly focus on taking out the large Crape Myrtle in front of the Extension Center. It has never done well, had died back to the roots once before and even though there is new growth (again) we are going to cut it down. Our thoughts for replacement are revolving around what we learned about native plants during our last CAMGA meeting.



MG'S Enjoy Daylily Outing By Marie Updike

"They are not your grandmother's daylilies", commented a garden visitor at Paul Furr's daylily "open" garden last Saturday on May 23, 2015. Rhonda Miles and Marie Updike are seen in the photo admiring many of Paul's seedlings (he) hybridized the past fifteen years in his amazing backyard garden on Federal Drive, Montgomery. A lot has transpired in the daylily world since the days of our grandmother's common orange daylilies (members of the *Hemerocallis* genus). Rhonda and Marie saw huge 8" extremely heavy substance flowers that carried a .5" ruffled gold or green contrasting edge. They also saw blooms with colored blends, bands, teeth, ruffled petals and bi-colors. The modern daylily flower forms have changed – on display were blooms with re-curved petals and giant spider forms that add drama to contemporary palates. Mr. Furr provided an educational program when he demonstrated his techniques for his hybridizing program which produces evergreens, semi-evergreens and even a few dormants. His daylily plants are large and vigorous, non-stop bloomers which begin blooming in mid-May and can continue blooming into September. The daylily's modern diversity was displayed in Paul's garden as many plants reflected the latest color palette, height, and flower form and pattern, all much admired as the visitors strolled through the daylily garden.



Rhonda Miles, Paul Furr, and Marie Updike

Local garden club sells vegetable plants at Millbrook Farmer's Market

(L to R) Carol Thompson, Director of Economic Development-Millbrook, and CAMGA members Sue Robertson, Mary Long, and Marie Updike had a booth at the Millbrook Farmer's Market on May 26, opening day.



Photo by Rick Ohlson

Despite the blustery weather, a nice crowd turned out for the first market of the summer. The three MG's are also members of the Lonicera Garden Club, and they made many contacts for our Master Gardener Program as well as for their garden club. They sold lots of different varieties of tomato plants, some already having tomatoes on them. They also sold herbs, peppers and squash plants. They gave out MG registration forms for our fall class and information material about each plant they were selling to inform the public and encourage vegetable gardening.

Governor's Mansion Report by Amanda Borden



In May volunteers at the Governor's Mansion cleaned out the azalea beds behind the tennis court, pulling up weeds, cherry laurel and other volunteer trees.

They trimmed dead material from the hydrangeas and weeded in the front and side yards. Daylilies were in bloom during May making the Governor's Mansion a beautiful place to work.



Amanda Borden, Peggy Funk



On May 4 & 5 (L to R) Betty Stricker, Carol Pugh, and Amanda Borden picked up some CEU's by attending The Garden Club of Alabama Landscape Design Course I at Auburn University.

Featured Plant of the Month - June By Jane Mobley Butterfly Weed

One unusual plant that is beginning to bloom now is butterfly weed or milk-



weed , *Asclepias tuberosa*, favorite food of the Monarch butterfly. This herbaceous perennial grows to be a one and a half to two foot tall bush covered with large, flat-topped clusters of yellow to bright orange flowers suitable as perches for butterflies as they sip the nectar from the tubular flowers making up the clusters. Flowers appear on stalks as upright spikes. The dark green foliage is stiff and lance shaped with each leaf being from one to one and one half inches in length. Leaves are arranged in a spiral around an erect stem. Contrary to its name, the stems of this milkweed do not release a milky sap.



Butterfly weed is often grown from seed, but it should be sown in place if possible as its long tap root renders it difficult to transplant with much success. This plant is a hardy native wildflower that requires full sun, acid soil, and little moisture. It

can grow in clay and rocky soil. Although propagation may be somewhat difficult, once established little maintenance is required. Bloom time here is from late spring through fall. The plant dies to the ground in winter. Plants are drought tolerant, deer resistant, non-aggressive, and noninvasive. They can self-seed, but are easily managed by removing any pods formed after flowering. Butterfly weed is beneficial not only to butterflies, but also to bees, lady bugs, and occasionally hummingbirds. They are host plants not only for the monarch, but also for the queen butterfly and the grey hairstreak.

Seeds are best sown in the fall and will emerge in the spring. They can be started indoors in the winter after a period of cold stratification. Plants should be well watered during their first season but do not have to be watered after that. Butterfly weed does not require any fertilization, but a light dusting of compost at the base each spring is good.

Butterfly weed is also known as pleurisy root as it was chewed by Native Americans as a cure for pleurisy and other pulmonary problems. It has also been used as a tea to treat diarrhea and other GI problems.

Butterfly weed is a welcome addition to the cottage garden or the meadow garden.



Loaded and ready to go to the Plant Sale !



Pricing Day

CONGRATULATIONS TO ADULLAM'S 4-H JMG "TOP SEEDS"

By Marie Updike

Marie Updike, Leader of the Junior Master Gardeners at Adullam House Christian Academy on Georgia Road, Wetumpka, is seen congratulating (see photo) her enthusiastic gardeners. The "Top Seeds" are 3rd & 4th graders who received their JMG certificates on May 21, 2015, for successfully participating in the 4-H Youth Development Program. Adullam's JMG program receives continuing support and guidance from school personnel and inspiration from Elmore County's Cooperative Extension Service. The certificates awarded to the "Top Seeds" was for completing a 4-H nine-month horticulture and environmental science program which followed chapters in the JMG handbook. The program curriculum introduces young gardeners to the art and science of gardening, and helps them develop leadership and life skills. All subjects were presented with much fun and creative activities. The "photo" shows how pleased the kids are of their distinctive raised bed garden done by their own hands with: planting seeds, tending seedlings, planting seedlings in the garden, weekly watering and now picking from the garden. They take pride in their garden.....Marie enjoyed teaching them gardening basics and is so very proud of the kids. (To sign up for JMG training and become a JMG volunteer, contact Katrina or Laurie at the ACES office.)



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CAMGA Garden Buzzzz
Mary Long— Editor



NEXT MEETING

JUNE 16

**10 A.M.
CANDY JONES**

**ADVANCED
MASTER GARDENER**

