



President's Message

By Linda Griebel



Most of us will be glad to see warmer temperatures – really tired of all this cold stuff! While we did accomplish pruning Japanese maples with Dr. Shell and also did some of the winter pruning at the Learning Gardens in February, we left fruit pruning until mid-March – hoping that the weather will moderate some – and recent Extension information indicates that it is better for the fruit trees. It's sometimes hard to wait, but we've missed out on peaches for the past couple of years and are willing to try a different approach. If you didn't have time to tackle roses and some of the other winter pruning tasks last month, don't worry – you can still work on those plants well into March.

Planning for the May 2nd plant sale is underway and you'll see an article from Carol Rattan giving initial information. Everyone can participate by either getting plants ready or by signing up to help with some of the tasks necessary to pull off this annual event. Just can't pass up new plants and bargains as well. And we enjoy talking with customers at the sale – I know Becky will be there recruiting for our fall class. By the way, don't forget to keep one intern application with you, especially when you go to other organizations or meetings. The cover sheet or our flyer contains extensive information about the class, including dates, etc. Keep putting the word out there so we will have a new class this year.

I hope to see many members at the state conference in Cullman March 23-25. Looks like it'll be informative as well as it should contain good networking opportunities to learn what other mg's are doing in their areas.

Just in case you are marking your calendar into April, Floral Weekend at Lanark if April 11 and the public plant swap will be at the Earth Day Celebration on April 25 at the Wetumpka Recycle Center from 7:00-9:00. As usual, we'll need some volunteers to work both events. Look for a sign-up sheet at the March meeting.

Stay warm and dry until we can get out into the gardens.
Linda



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March 2015

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1	2 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i>	3 <i>Learning Garden Work Day</i>	4 <i>Lanark Work Day</i> 	5  <i>Bonsai Class</i>	6	7 <i>Wetumpka Crater Tour</i>
8	9 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i>	10 <i>Learning Garden Work Day</i>	11 <i>Lanark Work Day</i> 	12	13	14
15	16 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i>	17 <i>Learning Garden Work Day</i> <i>CAMGA Meeting</i>	18 <i>Lanark Work Day</i> 	19	20	21
22	23 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i> <i>AMGA Conference</i>	24 <i>Learning Garden Work Day</i> <i>AMGA Conference</i>	25 <i>Lanark Work Day</i> <i>AMGA Conference</i>	26	27	28
29	30 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i>	31 <i>Learning Garden Work Day</i>				

FEBRUARY MINUTES By Rosemary Mobley, Secretary



The February 2015, Central Alabama Master Gardener's Association (CAMGA) meeting was held February 17, 2015, at the Elmore County Extension Auditorium in Wetumpka, Alabama. Linda Griebel called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She welcomed guests and turned the floor over to the Vice-President, Lee Borden. Lee recognized Catese Chaffey, who introduced the speaker, Marilee Tankersley. Ms Tankersley, an Auburn graduate, retired from Elmore County Extension after thirty-six years of service. She remains active in community service, was the Director of Leadership Elmore County, and currently is the treasurer of the Wetumpka Impact Crater Commission. Before the presentation, Catese shared that she and Marilee attended high school together in Orlando, Florida.

Ms. Tankersley gave a captivating account, based on scientific rationale, of the many forces in the universe that came together to form the landscape in Wetumpka. She explained that approximately 85 million years ago, Wetumpka was ground zero for the impact of an asteroid or comet! This impact set off a chain of catastrophic events that included fires, earthquakes, tsunamis, and floods, just to name a few. During this time, known as the Crustaceous Period, dinosaurs roamed the earth, and the area that is now Wetumpka was submerged in about 100 feet of shallow water.

While geologic discrepancies were noted in the area as early as 1891, it was about a century later before evidence was obtained by geologists that verified a marine impact crater in Elmore County. In 1998, Dr. David T. King, Jr. and colleagues discovered shocked quartz in a core drilled near the center of the crater. Shocked minerals like the shocked quartz from Wetumpka are found only inside impact craters and the craters made by nuclear weapons tests. In 2002, Auburn University researchers published evidence and established the site as an internationally recognized impact crater. There are 59 recognized impact craters in North America, and 168 are recognized worldwide.

Ms Tankersley named some sites where the crater rim is visible, such as behind the CVS on Highway 231. She explained that the visible metamorphic bedrock is made up of mica schists, and that the layers of rocks point in a northerly direction due to the impact. The Wetumpka crater is well preserved, but exposures are limited due to plant and soil cover, and nearly all are on private land.

She shared that the Kelly Fitzpatrick Memorial Gallery and the Wetumpka Impact Crater Commission partnered on a project to offer a series of crater-related events to the public. These events will take place during February- April, 2015. Some of these include group tours, lectures, and art exhibitions. Additional information about the schedule of events is available by calling 334-567-5147 or e-mail: info@KFMG-Online.org. While research about the impact crater is ongoing, the agricultural, educational, and economic implications are being explored as well. A question and answer session followed the break.

After the break, Linda convened the business meeting at 11:17 a.m. She thanked all of those who donated door prizes for the January and February meetings.

Lee Borden reported on programs scheduled for the next two months. He announced that on March 17, 2015, Jim Davis will present, "Bees and Your Garden," that will focus on pollinators. The topic for the April meeting is, "Day Lilies," and the presenter is Suzanne Sykes. Lee also distributed evaluation forms for the February meeting, and explained that he plans to have evaluation forms available at future meetings. Members were asked to pick up an evaluation form when signing in at the registration table. On another topic, Lee has prepared a website for members to use when checking out audio-visual equipment. The web address is: <http://bit.ly/lvqlAeH>

The next order of business was to approve the January minutes. Jane Mobley made the first motion to accept the minutes, Mary Long made the second, and the minutes were accepted as written in the newsletter by



all present.

Rhona Watson gave the Treasurer's Report for January. The balance as of December 31, 2014 was \$12,055.44. Income for January included: Dues-\$573.00 and Bonsai Class-\$234.00 which totaled \$ 807.00. Expenditures for January were: Stars Program- \$24.00, Scrap Book-\$47.80, and Learning Gardens-\$390.17 which totaled \$ 461.97. This left a balance as of January 31, 2015 of \$12,406.47. Amanda Borden made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Becky Brown made the second, and it was carried by all present.

Next, Rhona Watson, who is also coordinator of the Reach for the Stars Program, gave awards to members for volunteer service hours. These members earned bronze stars: Deborah Kelso, Brenda Bernal, and present at the meeting to receive her star, Patricia Petro-Perryman. Those eligible for silver stars and in attendance were: Marie Updike, Janet Lewis, and Jim Davis. Members who received gold stars were: Rosemary Mobley and Andy Wallace. Virginia Pruitt also earned a gold star. Phil Easter and Maria Pacheco-West earned gold badges. Judy May and Jane Mobley earned platinum badges. Gold and platinum badges will be presented in March at the Alabama Master Gardeners' Conference (AMGA) in Cullman, Alabama.

R.J. Arceneaux completed the annual audit of CAMGA finances and verified the balance in the treasury account. He made some recommendations based on the finding that for the past four years, the average balance in the account was \$9,200. He recommended: 1) Open a savings account, and later consider a certificate of deposit; and 2) Establish a scholarship fund for a worthy junior-level student of horticulture. Linda Griebel reported that the Board reviewed the recommendations from the audit, and will form a committee to study these and other possibilities. R.J. will chair the committee and those interested in participating should contact him.

John Barnes reported for the Projects Committee that Jane Mobley completed the design for the butterfly garden. On January 30th, super soil was added to the butterfly garden. Also, rudbeckia, sedum, and other existing plants were added back to the former perennial bed. This committee also plans to tentatively add new plants to the butterfly garden on March 12th. Amanda Borden passed around a sign-up sheet for the work day at the Governor's Mansion on March 2, 2015. In case of rain, the work day is scheduled on March 9th. Some new dates were added to the calendar of events. Lanark is the site for the Flora and Fauna Festival on April 11th. Sign-up for volunteers to work at the CAMGA table will be available at the March meeting. Maria Pacheco-West will have several other needs for volunteers during this event. She requested that those interested call her at 334-657-9414. Another planned event is the Public Plant Swap on Earth Day at the Recycling Center in Wetumpka, on April 25th, from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a. m. -sign-up sheet also at March meeting.

Linda reported on the Learning Gardens for Mary McCroan. As soon as weather permits, Linda will plant some roses around the gazebo. Also, some super soil is available for plant sale use, and is located behind the shed. It stands to reason that this soil is not intended for personal use. For the purpose of potting plants, super soil will need some additions to lighten it up, such as pine bark.

Carol Rattan, chair of the Fund Raising Committee, distributed sign-up sheets for the Plant Sale scheduled on Saturday, May 2, 2015. She announced that a planning meeting will take place after the CAMGA meeting, and that those interested in the plant sale should attend. Linda noted that vegetables and fruit sold out quickly last year. Also, except for bare-root bulbs, corms, or rhizomes such as daylilies and iris, all plants must be well-established.

Jane Mobley shared the CAMGA Scrapbook for 2014, and members enjoyed seeing the pictorial review of last year. She reminded everyone to send her pictures and articles, as she is already at work on the scrapbook for 2015.

Hot off the press, Ann Hill shared the CAMGA Directory for 2015! Members were able to pick up their directories at the meeting. She will bring directories to the March meeting, too. The directory holds a wealth of information about CAMGA, and Ann continues to produce an excellent publication for members. Marjorie Hannah shared that her contact is by phone, at 334-361-7152. She had sign-up sheets available



for help with the Hospitality Committee. She thanked all of those who helped in January and February.

Becky Brown reminded everyone to recruit new interns. The cover sheet and application will be available at the Plant Sale and other community events.

Gale Wheeler-Leonard reported on the State Advisory Committee meeting held on February 3rd in Clanton, Alabama. She stated that the AMGA organization was searching for someone to handle their website. Also, the newsletter competition will involve two awards, one for small groups and another for large groups. The 2016 AMGA meeting will be held in Dothan, and the 2017 meeting will be in Huntsville.

Gale also mailed cards to Bob Brown, Roy Peltier, and Darlene Tiesling for illnesses. She asked those present to call her at 334-514-2968 when they are aware of members who are ill. Mallory Kelley presented Rhona Watson with an Advanced Master Gardener Certificate in Seed Starting and Harvesting. Rhona has presented workshops to several groups on this topic. Congratulations to Rhona on this accomplishment! Mallory also announced that the Kelley household is growing with the impending arrival of a new brother for Hudson. Congratulation to Mallory and family!

Linda reported for the Lunch and Learn Committee. There were 28 attendees at the February session. The topic for March is: "Fantastic Ferns" and Maria Pacheco-West will be the speaker.

Janet Lewis shared that Mallory Kelley and Maria Pacheco-West will be the speakers for Horticulture Day. She invited members to attend this session on February 18th, at Arrowhead Country Club in Montgomery, Alabama.

Phil Easter will present a seminar on Saturday, February 21st at Southern Homes and Gardens in Montgomery. The subject of his presentation is camellias.

Prior to closing the meeting Linda shared that Rod Douglas had some milkweed seeds to distribute, and that this plant attracts monarch butterflies, whose population is on the decline.

Door prizes were awarded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m. Fifty-seven people attended.

Respectfully submitted, Rosemary Mobley, Secretary



Millbrook Farmer's Market - 2015 by Rick Ohlson

Hey guys! It's getting close to spring and that means getting our gardens ready. It also means the Millbrook Farmer's Market is in the planning stages and the Master Gardener's table is being organized. The Market will be open each Tuesday beginning 26 May, from 8 AM to noon, until August 25. Each of the last five years the Elmore Master Gardeners have provided information about gardening to the

local community through conversation and handouts. We are a central location for what is going on in the area. We listen to local gardeners share information about current problems with water, soil, pests and whatever and we pass this on to others. I have said so many times that I feel like I learn more from the folks we talk to than I pass on. It is a good time, easy, enjoyable work, and you accumulate volunteer hours.

If you think you might be interested in joining us at our table, please give me a call or email. This is not a place where you need to know everything. We have a ton of handouts and we tell folks where they can find help - - on the internet and with our Help Line. We just do our best to address their situation and point them in the right direction. Give me a call and I'll fill you in. You'll enjoy this opportunity.

Rick Ohlson
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rohlson@yahoo.com



SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS by Judy May



January 29th was a great day to work in the Learning Garden. Participants were Linda Griebel, John Barnes, Cheri Bedford, Mike Harbor, Rosemary Mobley, Jane Mobley, and Mary McCroan.

There was an excellent turnout for the Japanese Maple Learn and Prune session led by Dr. William Shell on January 30. 15 members were present and helped prune approximately 70 Japanese Maple Trees: Lee Borden, Amanda Borden, Jane Mobley, Jim Davis, John Barnes, Rhona Watson, Cathy Whigham, Bonnie McCormick, Mike Harber, Terry Chambliss, Mary McCroan, Joyce Vella, Sharon Cleary, Lavonne Hart and Linda Griebel.

Volunteers for Lunch and Learn February 10th were Sandi Adkinson, Carla McCune, Deborah Kelso, and Charlotte Hall. The Presenter was Brian Coley of MPS and his subject was 'Seed Magic'. There were 28 attendees.

Rosemary Mobley did a presentation on Culinary Herbs February 11th for the Blue Ridge Garden Club. She also gave them several herb recipes.

Jane Mobley did a presentation on herbs for the Pike County Master Gardeners on February 18th.

Phil Easter did a program on Orchids for the Millbrook Garden Club in Millbrook on Wednesday, February 11th. Twelve to fifteen members were present. Phil also wrote 'The Allure of Orchids' for the March issue of River Region Living. He also did the promo on Alabama Live at WSFA-TV for this month's Lunch and Learn. He also did a press release on the awarding of the Stars at the meeting on the 17th.

The Projects Committee met February 16th. Attending were John Barnes, Linda Griebel, Johan Beumer and John Butler.

The Fund Raising Committee met February 17th. Attending were Carol Rattan, Rhona Watson, Gale Wheeler Leonard and Linda Griebel.

Jim Davis is teaching the CABA beginning Bee Keeping Class that began February 17th. 38 people have signed up so far.

On February 3, Marie Updike gave a presentation about "Starting Seeds Indoors" to the Lonicera Garden Club in Montgomery. Three CAMGA members, Rhonda Miles, Jesse Miles and Marie Updike attended the February 15 meeting of the Montgomery Area Daylily Club (they are members of MADS). They are also members of the American Hemerocallis Society, and enjoy growing registered daylilies.

Jane McCarthy and Amanda Borden worked at the Governors Mansion this month. Amanda gave a presentation on the Governors Mansion Garden Project to the Montgomery Garden Club on February 3rd.

Maria P.W. says this month Ann Hill and Carla McCune worked Wednesday mornings and interns: Darla Tiesling, Terry Chambliss, Don Hoover and Peggy Gelpi helped on Thursday afternoons. She says these folks worked really hard and things are shaping up. She is so grateful for all the help and can't possibly keep Lanark Gardens beautiful without help from Master Gardeners. Please call Maria if you want to work another time besides Wednesday mornings or if you want to join the interns on Thursday afternoons. Maria can be reached at 334-657-9414.

Members bringing food to the monthly meeting were: Mary Lou Mullins, Ann Hill, Sandy Rosamond, Mary McCroan and Jane McCarthy.

Doing winter pruning in the Learning Gardens Feb. 12th were Mary McCroan, Rod Douglas, Cheri Bedford, Rhona Watson, Terry Chambliss, Rosemary Mobley, Virginia Pruitt and Linda Griebel. Again in the Learning Gardens Feb 26th were Terry Chambliss, Amanda Borden, John Barnes, Don Hoover and Linda Griebel.

Featured Plant of the Month - March

By Jane Mobley

Philadelphus coronarius - Mock Orange, *Syringia*, Garland *Syringia*, English Dogwood - Jane Mobley



The mock orange is a plant with which others are often confused.

Around our neck of the woods the name, mock orange, is often applied to a plant better called the osage orange, *Maclura pomifera* - a plant that produces huge green bumpy things that kids tend to throw at each other or that fall on cars creating huge dents. That is not the mock orange of which we speak.

The mock orange is also confused with the dogwood as the flowers closely resemble those of the dogwood and the mock orange blooms directly after the dogwoods. The dogwood grows in the form of a small tree, while the mock orange has more of a cane like form even though both are similar in size and can grow in similar areas. It is the similarity of the mock orange to the dogwood that eventually may encourage you to add a *Philadelphus* to your own botanical zoo. It seems that many of our dogwoods are falling victim to the dreaded dogwood anthracnose fungus and are dying out in our state. My last one bit the dust in pieces over the last three years. The mock orange can help to fill in that loss.

I have had a mock orange for the past 40 years. I came upon it when I moved into a home just off Carter Hill Road in Montgomery where the soil is best classified as the worst excuse for dirt one can find. This plant was beautiful. When I moved, I dug up a small piece of it and have done so every time I have moved since. It has lived in all kinds of soils and conditions - even in the solid red clay of Georgia. It has done very well except for one thing. Several years ago a larva appeared on the plant as it was blooming and ate everything off the limbs. It took two years to find out that the culprit was the mock orange sawfly. After identifying the cause and an application of Bayer drench for trees and shrubs, all is well again. That is the only problem that I have ever experienced with this plant. Its care has been nonexistent but for this once.

The mock orange is a southern heirloom plant that was introduced in 1560. It is hardy in zones 4-8. It is a deciduous shrub growing to 10-12 feet tall and wide. In the spring it produces blooms that are fragrant, white, and of four petals. The fragrance is of citrus. It can be planted in sun to part shade and is best in loamy soil. After it is established, it is relatively drought hardy. Butterflies love its flowers. A mock orange is a great specimen plant but also can be mass planted to form a screen.

After the plant is three years old, it may be pruned. Mock oranges bloom on old wood, so prune just after its blooming. You can prune $\frac{1}{3}$ of the oldest branches to the ground at a time. The next year $\frac{1}{3}$ of the next oldest branches can be cut down. This can be repeated each year. If the plant has become totally overgrown, it can be drastically rejuvenated by cutting all the branches to the ground just before the new growth starts for the year, but the plant will not bloom that year.

Try adding a mock orange to your landscape, and you may have a new friend for at least the next 40 years!

Programs Update by Lee Borden

On February 17 we enjoyed a spellbinding presentation from Marilee Tankersley about the Wetumpka Impact Crater just east of the city. Marilee regaled us with tales



Marilee Tankersley

of flash fires, an explosion 30 times more powerful than the Hiroshima nuclear blast, hurricane force winds, and debris flung as far as 200 miles away. And then we talked about the white clay that was left behind in and around the 5-mile wide crater when a rock the size of Jordan Hare Stadium vaporized on impact.



March 17 - Bees and Your Garden. Our own Jim Davis, an accomplished natural beekeeper, will move beyond Beekeeping 101 to describe the role native and domestic bees play in pollinating our gardens - including a rundown of some of the plants honeybees do **not** pollinate - and he will explore the chemical composition and health benefits of honey.

April 21 - Daylilies. We welcome Suzanne Sikes who will usher us gently into the fascinating world of daylilies.

Our projection equipment - computer and projector - have their own Google calen-

dar, visible at <http://bit.ly/1vqlAeH>. The computer and projector sit idle most of the time, and we love for CAMGA members to use them to make their gardening presentations. Contact me at lee@divorceinfo.com if you would like to use them.

Plant Sale by Carol Rattan—Fundraising Chair

Our annual plant sale is on May 2nd, from 8 am – 12 pm. I passed around volunteer sign-up sheets during our February meeting, and had a great response – thank you! It looks like we are off to a good start with planning. I will have the sign-up list at the April meeting, or you can call (334-478-3221) or e-mail me (crattan@elmore.rr.com) if you want to be added to the list. If you haven't already, now is the time to plant seeds! Vegetable plants seem to go very quickly at our sales, so please grow a few extra. Also, we have a soil mix behind the shed you may use for potting plants. It is somewhat heavy, so you'll want to add some sawdust, peatmoss, or other material to lighten it up, about half of each. Please ensure plants are well established in their pots before the sale. I will be contacting those who signed up to be on the planning committee soon to have a meeting sometime in March. Thanks so much for your support for our main fundraiser of the year!



LUNCH AND LEARN BY CHARLOTTE HALL

At our February Lunch and Learn, Brian Cooley of Montgomery Public Schools gave us an animated, entertaining and informative presentation on the magic of the botanical wonder – seeds.

Brian gave us many reasons to be fascinated with seeds – lots of unique and different varieties, cost savings, sharing with other friends and gardeners, and preservation of sentimental plants. Also, the only way to start some plants is from seeds. There are many exotic and different plants that may be acquired from seeds that are not readily available to us on a local level or from local nurseries. Numerous seed catalogs are published that offer intriguing varieties of many types of plants. Some catalogs are devoted to one type of plant and offer specific varieties that may bring fascination and interest upon growing. Who hasn't wished to have some of the old tried and true varieties of certain plants that remind us of the ones grown by our ancestors?

Maybe the smell of an unusual rose, memories about certain places or the size of a cucumber intrigues you to try a different variety than those offered at the local nursery.

Cost savings is another reason for using seed, even though Brian warned us that with today's high technology, the process may also be quite costly if a lot of high tech equipment is used. Germinating seeds may range from the simple procedure of scattering seeds on top of the ground to an elaborate automatically timed light, heat and water system.

To start seeds indoors before spring, Brian covered the required elements: sterile seed starting mix, drainage, humidity, heat, and light. He suggests using a sterile seed starting mix. Most are made from a peat base and keep pathogens from seeds. If you would prefer to use your own compost material, he suggests that you first

sterilize it in an oven or microwave. Next you will need good drainage for your mixture. Do not overwater. Humidity shields are recommended for germination. It mimics a perfect environment and tends to lock in a good temperature for seed germination. Remove the shield after the first set of true leaves appear on the seedling. Seed starting flats or net peat moss pellets are ideal to use. The fourth element that is necessary is heat. Plants require heat for germination. Some plants react favorably to bottom heat but Brian warned to start with relative mild bottom heat. The last requirement is light. Once the seed germinates and has leaves, it requires light to grow. Fluorescent bulbs are very good as a light source while inside. If light is being provided from a window, remember to rotate your flats so that all sides are exposed to the light source. Moving air is also a plus as it helps to pull up nutrients from the soil to the plant. A fan may help to keep seedlings from becoming too leggy. A general rule for light is 18 hours on and 6 off. Brian also recommends that you read the specific needs for individual plants and follow those specific requirements.

Damping off - a condition caused by a number of pathogens that kill or weaken seedlings - was also discussed. Some seedlings come up and then the leaves may fall off. Wet and cool conditions encourage this. Antifungal spray may be used but it must be approved as favorable for seedlings. Seeds DO NOT require fertilization for germination as each seed has its own food supply saved within.

Seedlings need to be hardened off which means to expose the seedlings to a small amount of sunlight and partial shade before exposing them to full sunlight. A gradual process of increasing sunlight time is recommended. The timing for moving seedlings is very important.

It was also noted that the County Extension Service provides wonderful publications covering seeds and many other subjects of interest to gardeners at this website: ACES.EDU/PUBLICATIONS.

Please join us next month on March 10th when Maria Pacheco-West from Lanark (AWF) will make a presentation on Fantastic Ferns. Maria is an expert on the subject and the presentation will be like none other on this fascinating plant – from common ferns found in the woods to many varied and unusual varieties. Again, next month and every month this year, join us on the 2nd Tuesday for a delightful and informative gardening presentation!!



Brian
Cooley

Debbie
Kelso

Free One Hour Seminar

Provided by the Lee County Master Gardeners
March 4, 2015

"Water Conservation in the Home Landscape"

Location of Presentation: Auburn Univ., The
Harris Center, 425 Perry St., Auburn, AL
(Across from Auburn Post Office,
Next to Jan Dempsey Art Center)

Presentation given by: Eve Brantley, PhD,
Water Resource Specialist, ACES and Auburn
Univ. Professor

Public invited at 12:30 PM

Don't Miss Our Next MG Meeting



**On March 17, 2015
Jim Davis will presenting "Bees and
Your Garden,"
He will focus on pollinators.**



**Bonsai Class
March 5, 2015**



February CAMGA Meeting

We had an excellent crowd at our February MG meeting while Marilee Tankersley presented an equally excellent program on the Wetumpka Crater.

Annual Master Gardener Conference

**MARCH 23RD—25TH, 2015 CULLMAN CIVIC CENTER
510 5TH ST. SW, CULLMAN, AL HOSTED BY BLOUNT**

**AND
CULLMAN COUNTY
MASTER GARDENERS**



WOW! The Alabama Master Gardeners Conference is early this year! But that gives us plenty of time to celebrate the 25th Conference of our organization, not to mention time to implement all that we will learn from the outstanding slate of speakers and workshops we have lined up for this conference. We hope you will join us as we host "Gardening...WOW!" on March 23rd, 24th, and 25th, 2015 at the Cullman Civic Center

in Cullman, Alabama.

The conference will begin with a terrarium workshop on Monday afternoon given by internationally renowned Tovah Martin, followed by a smoked chicken and fish fry dinner. Monday night. In addition, Blount and Cullman Counties have some amazing sights to see. Some are well known, like the Ava Maria Grotto in Cullman and the Covered Bridges of Blount County, and some are local treasures just waiting for you to discover, like the Palisades Park in Oneonta and the CCMG Demonstration Garden in downtown Cullman. We have several more features within a two-mile radius of the Civic Center that you can easily explore if you come early or stay later.

Conference registration is open to the public, so invite your gardening buddies and come discover new ways to put the WOW! in gardening.

LODGING

Cullman County Civic Center and Suggested Hotels & Campgrounds

Cullman County Civic Center 510 5th St SW Cullman, AL 35055 (256) 734-9157

Hampton Inn Cullman 6100 Alabama 157, Cullman, AL (256) 739-4444; \$109 Dbl Queen/King

Holiday Inn Express Cullman 2052 Hayes Dr. NW, Cullman, AL (256) 736-1906; \$99 Dbl Queen/\$109 Suites

Comfort Suites Cullman 2048 St. Joseph Drive NW, Cullman, AL (256) 255-5999; \$89 Dbl Queen/King you will not receive the above rates if you call the 800 numbers for the above hotels!

Cullman Campground 220 County Road 1185, Cullman, AL (256) 734-9794 \$23.10 daily/\$99 weekly 30 amp; \$25.30 daily/\$110 weekly 50 amp. AAA available

Sportsman Lake Park 1544 Sportsman Lake Park Rd. NW 256-734-3052 \$24.70 Camper/\$15.72 tent (11)

See *Garden Pathways* for complete information.

Governor's Mansion Report

by Amanda Borden



The beastly weather of February led to the cancellation of several work days at the Governor's Mansion. Volunteers only made it to the gardens for one day, which turned out to be a productive one. They trimmed dead foliage from the Mexican heather and pruned

dwarf crepe myrtles in front of the Guest House. They also pruned the knockout roses on the front lawn. Jane McCarthy has designed a landscape drawing to orient Master Gardeners when they report for the March 2 work day (rain date March 9). Twelve CAMGA members signed up for the work day, so we hope to have much to report next month.



L-R: Jane McCarthy and Amanda Borden are pruning knockout roses.



Look in your *Garden Pathways* and check out the interesting things you will learn at this year's MG Conference!! There's something for everyone. You will see that the fees are less this year making it easier for all to attend and stay for all three days. Let' have a great showing of CAMGA at the conference this year!
March 23-24-25

Recent CAMGA Activities



Linda Griebel gives presentation to Autauga Lunch & Learn.



Japanese maple pruning with Dr. Shell



Winter pruning in the Learning Garden

WE'RE PROUD OF OUR STARS AND BADGE RECIPIENTS



Janet Lewis, Marie Updike and Jim Davis receive silver stars.



Andy Wallace and Rosemary Mobley earned gold badges.



Patricia Petro-Perryman received a bronze star as did Deborah Kelso and Brenda Bernal (not pictured).

CONGRATS to Phil Easter and Maria Pacheco-West who earned gold badges and to Judy May and Jane Mobley earned platinum badges. Gold and platinum badges will be presented in March at the Alabama Master Gardeners' Conference (AMGA) in Cullman, Alabama.



Mallory presents Rhona Watson the Advanced Master Gardener Certification for seed starting. A lot of dedication and hard work go into the earning of this certificate. Congratulations, Rhona.

PLANT SALE REMINDER

Be starting vegetable seedlings so they'll be ready for our plant sale on May 2. If started now they will be a good size and will be ready to set out. Also dig perennials and put them in pots so they will look fresh and vigorous. We hope to have the best sale ever this year!! (See details—page 8)

CAMGA *Garden Buzzzz*
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NEXT MEETING

MARCH 17

10 A.M.

**EXTENSION
JIM DAVIS
BEES IN THE GARDEN**

10:00 A.M.

**Mark your calendars for
the
Alabama Master
Gardener Conference
in Cullman, Alabama.**

March 23-24-25