



President's Message

By Linda Griebel

While we are really looking forward to some much needed rain, we can also look back at lots of activity. October was a busy month for some of us – especially those helping with the intern class. Several of us have assisted Mallory in teaching some of the classes while others are grading tests and helping out in the office while Carol attends the training. I hope most of you seasoned members have met some of the new interns at workdays or at meetings and lunch and learn sessions that they are attending. It is exciting to observe another group of studious and friendly master gardeners just starting out. We can all recall that learning curve and can relate to getting involved as often as possible.

The Projects Committee hosted a very successful master gardener plant swap early in the month from which participants went home with at least 6 new plants. At the October Projects meeting, we have already put next year's mg plant swap on the calendar for October 7, 2016. And we set a seminar planning session for the December committee meeting. Anyone interested in helping could bring ideas as well as concrete suggestions to that get together.

There was a terrific Lunch and Learn with the ever entertaining Jane McCarthy talking about color for every season. Then several members helped out at Pioneer Day in Loachapoka at the same time that two of our group staffed a CAMGA information table at SH&G. Of course, the regular meeting held at Lanark was enjoyable and featured Maria Pacheco-West talking about sensory gardens, including a walk about the heirloom section. Last but not least included a Garlic Culture Lesson from the Garden by our own R. J. Arceneaux. Thanks to everyone who pitched in to make all these events successful. Don't forget to look at the Volunteer Spotlight to see where members spent valuable time last month.

Of course, at the October meeting, we had election of officers for 2016. Congratulations go to Rhona Watson (President-Elect), Lee Borden (VP-Elect), Lois Pribulick (Secretary-elect), Joyce Vella (Treasurer-elect), and Gale Wheeler-Leonard (Advisory Council-elect). As things transition over after the December meeting, they will continue to need your support and participation.

Please remember to thank Charlotte Hall for her willingness to coordinate gathering shirts and payment to get CAMGA embroidered on shirts that we can wear when we represent our association. It is helpful to be recognized as a Central Alabama master gardener while doing presentations, working at information tables, and at various other events. We will soon also have some aprons made up for members who want to purchase those at cost for that same purpose ~ more details on this later.

See you in the gardens...

Linda

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Message from Mallory

By Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests

Controlling Fire Ants in the Fall

The temperatures are finally falling and with all the recent rainfall, the leaves are quickly falling too. After the hot and humid summer, everyone is anxious to get outside and enjoy the fall foliage, football and maybe even a bonfire. However, if you are not careful you may encounter fire ants. Is now a good time to treat for these awful pests?

Now is the perfect time to rid your lawn or landscape of these unwelcome invaders!

"Fall is a great time to treat fire ants," Dr. Kathy Flanders, an Alabama Cooperative Extension Entomologist said. "Fall temperatures are perfect for fire ant activity and foraging, making it an opportune time to put out fire ant bait."

While the warm weather is rolling out and cooler air moves in, fire ants are still actively foraging. Fire ants look for protein-rich foods all year, but especially in the late spring and early fall. Foragers will continue searching for food until temperatures drop below 75 degrees Fahrenheit. Using fire ant baits on a sunny day after the dew on the ground has dried can provide specific and continued control of fire ants, in a cost-effective way.

Not only are fire ants a nuisance outdoors, but they can wreak havoc indoors, as well. Fire ants will be looking for a warm place to overwinter and begin searching for warm places to spend the cold months. Often, this means mounds inside the house or built against the foundation.

Treating all areas in the landscape surrounding the home should eliminate a home invasion. Be sure to inspect your pile of leaves or compost area, stacked firewood, raised garden beds and potted plants as they all make great hiding places.

Flanders said it is important to check for fire ants before playing, working or carrying wood inside and remain proactive. This is a great time to consider a slow-acting bait for continued control going into the cold season. Treat the areas before piling up leaves to play in or for compost, treat your preferred firewood location and treat around the perimeter of your garden, but only specific products can be applied in a vegetable garden no matter what time of year it is.

For increased success, controlling fire ants should definitely be a team effort. Working with neighbors or surrounding landowners can greatly boost your success. Fire ant control is more effective when larger areas are treated. When an 80-90% control rate is acceptable, consider participating

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in a community- or neighborhood-wide treatment program. If the problem is widespread, a large treatment plan could be more effective than treating in small areas. Flanders said Extension professionals have developed a community-wide management program that is available for use and implementation.

For more information on controlling fire ants, please visit http://www.extension.org/fire_ants.

Interested in learning more about seasonal gardening topics? Please join us for the FREE Master Gardener Lunch and Learn Program in your area EVERY MONTH from 12:00-1:00, Bring a Sack Lunch, Drinks Provided:

November Topics and locations:

Montgomery: The 1st Wednesday of EVERY month, Armory Learning Arts Center on Madison Ave.
information: (334)270-4133

For more

Topic: Tree's Recommended for Montgomery Soil and Climate

Wetumpka: The 2nd Tuesday of EVERY month, Elmore Co. Extension Office, 340 Queen Ann Road
information: (334)567-6301

For more infor-

Topic: What Went Wrong? (Gardening Mistakes)

Prattville: The 1st Thursday of EVERY month, Christ Lutheran Church, 2175 Cobbs Ford Road
information: (334)361-7273

For more infor-

Topic: Holiday Decorating

**JOIN US
FOR LUNCH
& LEARN**
Central Alabama
Master Gardener
Association

**FREE
PROGRAM
BRING A SACK
LUNCH
DRINKS PROVIDED**
For more information
contact the
Elmore County Extension
Office
(334) 567-6301
<http://www.aces.edu/>

Topics for 2015 Lunch & Learn Series

January 13 ~ Monthly Gardening At a Glance
(Plan your garden year) Presented by Maria Pacheco-West
February 10 ~ Seed Magic Presented by Brian Cooley
March 10 ~ Fantastic Ferns by Maria Pacheco-West
April 14 ~ Wonders of Herbs by Debbie Boutelier
May 12 ~ Luscious Lawns
June 9 ~ Tough As Nails Plants for the South
Presented by Jason Powell
July 14 ~ What's Bugging You? by Capital City MG
August 11 ~ Zap 'Em with Organic Solutions
Presented by Mallory Kelley
September 8 ~ Energize with Ground Cover
Presented by Lee & Amanda Borden
October 13 ~ Color for Every Season
November 10 ~ What Went Wrong?
(Gardening Mistakes) Presented by Linda Griebel
December 8 ~ Last Minute Decorating
Presented by Phil Easter

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

ATTEND **LUNCH & LEARN** from 12:00-1:00 on the second Tuesday of each month at Elmore Co Extension Office 340 Queen Ann Rd, Wetumpka



Calendar of Events

November 2015

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1	2 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i>	3	4 <i>Lanark Work Day</i> 	5 <i>Learning Garden Work Day</i>	6	7
8	9 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i>	10 <i>Lunch & Learn</i>	11 <i>Lanark Work Day</i> 	12 <i>Learning Garden Work Day</i>	13	14
15	16 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i>	17 <i>CAMGA Meeting</i>	18 <i>Lanark Work Day</i> 	19 <i>Learning Garden Work Day</i>	20	21
22	23 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i>	24	25 <i>Lanark Work Day</i> 	26 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	27	28
29	30 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i>					

OCTOBER MINUTES

By Rosemary Mobley, Secretary

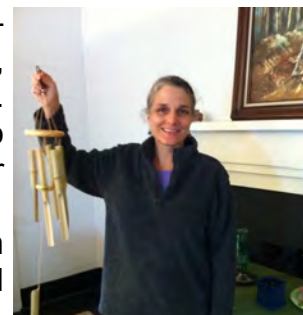


The October, 2015, Central Alabama Master Gardeners' Association (CAMGA) meeting was held October 20, 2015, at Historic Lanark, Millbrook, Alabama. Linda Griebel called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She noted that several interns were in attendance at the meeting and invited them to future CAMGA functions. Then she recognized Lee Borden who introduced the speaker, Maria Pacheco-West. Maria is the Lanark Grounds Specialist and Tour Director. She is also a member of CAMGA and holds Advanced Master Gardener Certification. The topic of her presentation was "Sensory Gardens."

Maria opened her presentation by explaining that she was responsible for forty acres of grounds at Lanark; and that CAMGA volunteers have donated many hours working along side her in the gardens and on other projects. She invited everyone present to tour the grounds and to continue the cycle of CAMGA volunteerism at Lanark.

A "sensory garden" is one that emphasizes the five senses. A sensory garden uses design elements such as, plant selection, color, pathways, seating, and garden art that focus on sight, touch, taste, hearing, and smell. While a sensory garden provides recreational enjoyment for all ages, it also provides therapeutic stimulation for the hearing and sight impaired and for those with other sensory impairments.

The speaker shared many items and plants to highlight the topic. In planning a sensory garden, Maria described the strategic placement of wind chimes in the southwestern and northeastern sections of the sensory garden. One wind chime is constructed of metal and the other is made of bamboo or wood to help distinguish sounds. She gave examples of ways to plan for seasonal color and scents in the garden. Maria suggested redhead coleus for the red color and pyracantha and nandina plants for the red berries. Heirloom roses provide wonderful scent and color to the sensory garden as well. Mexican sage offers lavender flowers in the fall and African blue basil leaves start out purple and retains purple veins as leaves turn green. The African blue basil also emits a clove-like fragrance. The magnolia tea olive has the scent of a sweet perfume, especially in springtime. In the summer, the banana shrub and magnolia give off a nice fragrance. Pineapple sage and butterfly ginger/ginger lily release a pleasing scent in the fall. The interesting textures of plants like rosemary and lamb's ear compliment the sense of touch. Hardscape items like rocks, pebbles, stone slabs, and crushed gravel bring a variety of textures to the garden as well. Pansies, nasturtiums, and violas are edible, provided they are grown without pesticides and free of insects and diseases. Allergies are also a consideration when ingesting plant materials. Maria suggested that when thinking about a sensory garden, "Bring the outside in and the inside out." A questions and answer session followed the presentation.

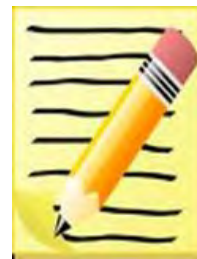


Prior to the break, Lee called attention to a program topic questionnaire for use during the business meeting. Also, Linda described the process for leaving shirts for embroidery with Charlotte Hall after the meeting.

After the break, the business meeting convened at 11:15 a.m. Linda Griebel asked for a volunteer to write quarterly articles about CAMGA activities for "Garden Pathways," the newsletter of the Alabama Master Gardener Association. This responsibility will begin with the December newsletter and anyone interested should contact her. Linda also expressed appreciation to Charlotte Hall for securing a seamstress to embroider a CAMGA design on clothing for members. Additionally, Linda mentioned that information about the design and cost of embroidered aprons will be made available soon.

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Next, Lee Borden was recognized to report on programs for the final two meetings of this year. On November 17th, Dave Borden will give a presentation on long-leaf pines. The November meeting will take place at the Elmore County Extension Auditorium. The annual Christmas luncheon will occur on December 15th at Mulder Memorial Methodist Church. Carol Rattan graciously agreed to coordinate the event. A sign-up sheet for the luncheon will be available at the November meeting. The cost for the lunch is \$12.00 per person. Checks should be made out to CAMGA.

Lee shared that the Board approved the purchase of a laser pointer. In order to make plans for future programs, Lee conducted a brainstorming session with attendees. He referenced a form for attendees to record choices of topics. After compiling the information, Lee will present findings at a future CAMGA meeting.

Mary McCroan reported on recent activities in the Community Learning Gardens. A peach tree was heavily pruned due to lack of productivity, size, and location. This tree will be observed for signs of growth for the next year. Currently, the Malabar spinach has purple berries that contain seeds for the next growing cycle. Interested members should harvest these berries soon. The two pineapple guava trees, located outside the vegetable garden fence, were very productive this year. The horseradish will be ready to harvest after the first freeze. Plans are to spread decorative mulch in beds at the front of the Extension Building. On October 29th, R.J. Arceneaux will conduct a garlic planting demonstration at 11:00 a.m. in the vegetable garden.

John Barnes gave the report for the Projects Committee. The recent plant swap was very successful. There were 18 participants and 6 rounds of plant selections. Another plant swap will take place in October, 2016. Johan Beumer, John Butler, Corky Butts, Rod Douglas, and Don Hoover replaced the roof overhangs, painted the entrance to the Extension Center entryway, and replaced hinges on cabinets in the auditorium. All of the efforts of this hard-working crew are greatly appreciated. A planning session for future public seminars is scheduled for the December Projects Committee meeting.

Amanda Borden was recognized to give details for the November 2nd CAMGA Work Day at the Governor's Mansion. A sign-up sheet was circulated for this activity. Plant relocations will be a priority. Volunteers with wheel barrows and leaf blowers were asked to bring them to the workday. Volunteers were told to use the Finley Avenue entrance. Contact Amanda for directions and any other questions. Those who volunteer will note the special work hours from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and should bring a sack lunch and drinks.

Charlotte Hall reported for the Lunch and Learn (L&L) committee. There were 32 attendees at the October session, "Color for Every Season," presented by Jane McCarthy. On November 10th, Linda Griebel will make a presentation on gardening mistakes titled, "What Went Wrong?" The L&L Committee plans to meet in November to finalize speakers and topics for 2016 L&L sessions.

Charlotte Hall, Chair of the Nominating Committee, announced the slate of nominees for CAMGA officers for 2016. These are: Rhona Watson-President; Lee Borden-Vice-President; Lois Pribulick-Secretary; Joyce Vella-Treasurer; and Gale Wheeler-Leonard-Advisory Council Representative. Next, she asked for any additional nominations from the floor and there were none. Cheri Bedford made the motion to accept all of the nominations for CAMGA officers, Amanda Borden made the second and the motion carried. The aforementioned members will be installed as officers at the December meeting and will begin their terms of office in January, 2016.

In her report on the Class for Interns Committee, Becky Brown shared that 6 classes were completed and expressed appreciation to the Autauga County master gardeners for providing lunches for three classes in October. Terry Chambliss circulated a sign-up sheet for CAMGA members to provide lunches on October 29th and November 5th. The CAMGA Board will provide lunch

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on November 12th. Tentative dates for intern classes in 2016 are September 1- November 5, 2016. It is important for CAMGA members to start recruiting interns for next year's class.

The next order of business was consideration of Secretary's Minutes. Linda asked attendees if there were any questions, corrections, or additions to the September Minutes published in the October Newsletter. Linda recognized Rosemary Mobley who read the section that was not included in the published September Minutes. She read: "...were awarded. Forty-six participants attended the meeting." *Respectfully submitted, Rosemary Mobley, Secretary.* With the noted addition, the Minutes were approved by acclamation.

Rhona Watson gave the Treasurer's Report for September, 2015. The balance as of August 31, 2015 was \$12,443.38. There was no income for September, 2015. Expenditures for September included \$23.40 for Intern Graduation expenses; \$14.75 for cards; and \$31.80 for the Learning Gardens. Total September expenditures were \$69.95. This resulted in a balance, as of September 30, 2015, of \$12,373.43. The Treasurer's Report was approved by acclamation.

Rhona asked everyone to record volunteer hours online by December 31, 2015. She reminded everyone that funding for Extension Services is based on numbers of volunteer hours. If help is needed with entering hours, contact Rhona Watson by e-mail or phone call with total volunteer hours for the year and she will assist.

Jane Mobley, Historian, requested photos and articles of gardening events for the annual scrapbook. Linda reported for Ann Hill, who developed a mini-directory for the interns. Plans are to distribute the mini-directory on October 22nd. She also noted that submissions to the November Garden Buzz Newsletter should be made to Anida Wishnietsky.

Phil Easter thanked Rhonda Miles and Suzanne Littleton for their efforts in responding to gardening questions at the CAMGA table at Southern Homes and Gardens on October 18th. Phil also noted that per Mallory Kelly's request, he submitted a statement to WSFA linking CAMGA and Extension Services.

Marie Updike was recognized to explain the process for submitting entries to the Flower Show at the Alabama National Fair. She shared that additional information is available at: <http://www.alnationalfair.org/competitions/flower-show>.

Charlotte Hall reminded those who brought shirts for embroidery of the CAMGA logo to attach the necessary information and leave with her at the close of the meeting. Also, November 1, 2015 is the deadline for submitting shirts.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. Door prizes were awarded. Fifty-six participants attended the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Mobley, Secretary

Election of Officers

Officers for 2016 are as follows:

President—Rhona Watson

Vice-president—Lee Borden

Treasurer—Joyce Vella

Secretary—Lois Pribulick

Advisory Council Rep—Gayle Wheeler-Leonard





SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS by Judy May



Starting the month off early, Janet Lewis and Judy May attended the Blount County Master Gardener Fall Conference on October 1st.

On October 1st Mary McCroan and Linda Griebel taught a pruning class to the intern class.

Participating in the Plant Swap Friday, October 9th were Johan Beumer, Janet Lewis, John Barnes, Jo Weitman, Judy May, Jane Mobley, Sherrie Schaefer, Deann Stone, Iva Haynie, Joyce Vella, Linda Griebel, Marie Updike, Susan Littleton, Tom Jawrowski and Betty Stricker.

At the October 13th Lunch and Learn, there were 31 attendees, 14 of them Master Gardeners. The speaker was Jane McCarthy speaking on Color for Every Season. Assisting were Charlotte Hall, Carla McCune and Deborah Kelso.

On September 30th, Rosemary and Jane Mobley did a herb presentation for the AUM Continuing Education group with 24 members in attendance.

Working October 17th at Pioneer Day at Loachapoka were Karen Bell, Betty Stricker, Lavonne hart, Carol Pugh and Linda Griebel.

On October 22nd, Maria Pacheco West and Jane Mobley did an Herb presentation for the intern class.

Becky Brown says people who helped the Master Gardener Class this month were Tom Jaworowski and Ann Hill, who took pictures of the Intern class. Ann then made a mini directory for each of the class members. Grading papers so far this month were Sharon Potts, Red Norman, Joyce Vella, and Cathy Whigham. Linda Griebel and Mary McCroan taught the MG Pruning and the Autauga Master Gardeners have provided great lunches for the MG class, because several of the interns are from Autauga County.

Bringing snacks for the Master Gardener meeting at Lanark were Maria Pacheco West, Joyce Vella, Brenda Bernal and Marjorie Hannah.

October volunteers at the Governor's Mansion were Amanda Borden, Jane McCarthy, Melanie Barry, as well as interns Jackie Patton and Lee Ann Marona.

Phil Easter did the WSFA-TV 'Alabama Live' promotion for the October Lunch and Learn and taught a class on Container Gardening for the AUM Olli Seniors.

Attending the Projects Committee meeting October 19th were John Barnes, Cheri Bedford, Johan Beumer, Corky Butts, John Butler, Jane Mobley, Lois Pribulick, Linda Griebel and Joyce Vella.

Amanda Borden and Betty Stricker attended Landscape Design Study Course 2 (sponsored by The

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SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS CONTINUED

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Garden Club of Alabama) on October 5 & 6 at Auburn University.

Amanda and Lee Borden taught a class on Vegetable Gardening for OLLI at AUM on October 7th.

Maria says working at Lanark this month were Carla McCune, Norman Turnipseed, Don Hoover, Peggy Gelpi, and Sandra Gilley. Thank you to all for your help. I can't do it without you. If you want to work with me at Lanark, please call me at 657-9414. I usually have a Wednesday group that you are welcome to join or you can schedule with me to come out another day, many do. Last year four interns came out every Thursday and we got a bunch of special work completed that I can never get done. If this year's interns want to do that, please call me and we will work something out.

Attending the Herbal Workshop with Darryl Patton on October 24th at Longleaf Breeze were Lee and Amanda Borden, Jane Mobley, Debbie Kelso, Rosemary Mobley, Mary McCroan, Linda Griebel, Candy Jones, Nancy Tribble, Catese Chaffee, Rhonda and Jesse Miles, Katrina Mitchell, Joyce Vella, Lavonne Hart, Terry Chambliss, and Mandy Griffin. Jane Mobley says the group had beautiful weather and a great time together in the woods.

For the 62nd Annual Flower Show at the Alabama National Fair, both Mary Long, Chair person of the Judges Committee, and Marie Updike, Publicity, have been spreading the word about the competition. In Oct., Marie spoke to: CAMGA, Autauga County MGA's, Chilton County MGA's, local daylily society. She also visited various curb markets on Saturdays to pass out flyers and answer questions about horticulture entries.

Rhonda Miles, Jessie Miles and Marie Updike attended a free "Rain Barrel Workshop" sponsored by the Montgomery Clean City Commission on Oct. 17, 2015 at the Fairview Curb Market.

Rhonda Miles and Marie Updike traveled to Childersburg, AL for a tour of the gardens of Glenda and Arthur Woods. A striking view of the garden beds as the pathways and low walls are built from pieces of polished marble, as well as 1,000 registered daylily plants.

Governor's Mansion Report by Amanda Borden

During the month of October volunteers at the Governor's Mansion weeded several areas: the beds bordering the side lawn, the azalea bed between the tennis court and the herb garden, the daylily bed at the back porch steps, the Secret Garden, and beds in the front yard. They trimmed plants in several areas where needed, notably the camellias near the back porch steps. Volunteers carefully cut back the tall branches without losing many buds; there should be ample blooms to offer a beautiful and colorful winter display. We look forward to a productive fall work day on November 2, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. We should get a lot done; 17 CAMGA members signed on for the day!



Learning Garden

By Mary McCroan



Our volunteers in the Learning Garden for October included Terri Chambliss, Rod Douglas, Cherri Bedford, Don Hoover, Joyce Vella, John Barnes, Linda Griebel, Rosemary Mobley, Amanda Borden, and Mary McCroan. Of course there was the usual weeding (much more fun in good company), harvesting of late tomatoes and peppers, and planting of fall veggies (lettuce, carrots, kale, radishes, collards and kale). And we've thrown out some mulch--thanks to those that have donated bags of leaves. One of the interesting things this month has been the Monarch Butterflies that Linda spotted flying around the gardens and surrounding fields.

The pineapple guava (*Acca sellowiana* or *Feijoa sellowiana*) produced a decent amount of fruit this year and we've been nibbling for the last several weeks. Pineapple guava is an attractive small tree, can be shaped to a tall evergreen hedge, will grow in full sun or light shade, has beautiful spring flowers and tasty fall fruit. This is one of our Learning Garden experiments that has to be rated a total success.

The perennial greens -- arugula (*Diplotaxis ericoides*), french sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), and chard (*Beta vulgaris*) -- are looking great. Feel free to stop and have a nibble of the sorrel (sour) and the arugula (hot). We've noticed that the bees really love the attractive yellow flowers on the perennial arugula this time of year. Another Learning Garden experiment, the Malabar Spinach (*Basella rubra*) continues to look attractive. It is a fast growing annual vine with eatable leaves and flowers that the bees love. It can grow to at least 12 feet and makes a thick screen on a fence or trellis. Although we've been irrigating ours, it is supposed to be fairly drought tolerant. It seems to love our summer heat and sun. Feel free to stop by and grab some dry seeds that have fallen on the ground, or take some still on the plant. We planted ours in early spring, but I've also read you can direct sow in late fall. A not so successful story has been our Peach Tree. Although it has grown gang busters, it's had very few fruit. So this month we heartlessly chopped it almost all the way down. We left some major branches cut to about mid thigh level just to see if it will sprout back out in the spring. After all, that's why we call it a learning garden! One of our last projects this month was to replace a broken rail on the fence with a trellis positioned just behind one of the raised beds. This was a figure-it-out-as-you-go project that evolved as we sawed and fastened, but the end result looks pretty decent. The trellis will allow this bed to optionally be used for vertical gardening. And our very last project (finished by time of publication) will be RJ planting garlic in the garden. This is always educational both when planted in October and when we harvest it in June.

Thanks again to all the great volunteers for their time, ideas, and enthusiasm. I'll keep being garden coordinator as long as it keeps being this much fun!



Rod Douglas
putting up the
trellis.

Two varieties
of sweet pota-
toes after
roasting.



Learning Garden Photos



CAMGA DUES & HOLIDAY PARTY

The CAMGA Holiday Party is on Tuesday, December 15th from 10 am until noon. If you want to attend but haven't paid, the price is \$12 per person attending because the lunch is catered. We need a check no later than Dec 10th so we'll know how much food to plan for and how many tables to set up.

The party will again be at Mulder Memorial United Methodist church which is located at 3454 Firetower Road, Wetumpka, about 9 miles away from the Extension Office. Just follow Hwy 14 East out of Wetumpka, turn right onto Firetower Road (also County Road 59), and the large white church is on the top of a hill on the right. You'll want to park in the first parking lot, nearest the Sonshine Playground side of the church. You are getting close when you see the water tower. Speed limit on Firetower is 45 mph and it is patrolled frequently, so please be safe.

While you are writing your \$12 check (\$24 if you are bringing a friend or spouse) to attend the holiday party, then you might want to add another \$20 (local & state) or \$12 (local only) for your 2016 dues. **Current CAMGA interns do not need to pay dues for 2016.**

Please make the check out to "CAMGA" and mail it to our treasurer at the address below. Please indicate on the check what you are paying for (i.e. number for membership, state and local dues, and number of people attending the Xmas party).

Mail check to: Rhona Watson
1160 Emerald Mt. Pkwy.
Wetumpka AL 36093

You're Invited!

62nd Annual Small-Standard Flower Show Competition

at the Alabama National Fair
Garrett Coliseum, 2nd Fl.
1555 Federal Drive
Montgomery, AL 36107

Second Show entries for specimens will be received on
Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2015, 7:30 to 9:30 am - Judging of show begins at 11:00 am.

Entries in the Horticulture Division are open to any amateur gardener (no entry fee). Exhibitors must follow the general rules and horticulture rules in the 2015 "Flower Show Schedule" available online at <http://www.alnationalfair.org/competitions/flower-show>

Exhibitors may pick up entry tags at the Fair office. A printable working copy of the tag is available online at <http://www.alnationalfair.org>

For information contact Marie Updike at 334-270-0884 or 334-328-0164
Flower Show sponsored by the Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Lunch and Learn by Charlotte Hall

October Lunch and Learn
"Color for all Seasons" – Jane McCarthy



With an abundance of gorgeous flower arrangements and potted plants, Jane McCarthy demonstrated how to have color for all seasons in your garden. As the major horticulturist for Maxwell AFB, Jane said she always needed to remind everyone that brown and green are colors, too, and can provide unique differentiations in your plantings. A deliberate effort needs to be made for incorporating these two colors in your landscape design.

Jane incorporates color in a unique way with the help of container planting. She recommends using very good potting soil and unique containers or pots with a variety of plants. Her tip for purchasing a good potting soil is to check for the lighter bags which will contain the better potting soil. Heavy bags indicate either a lot of water in the mixture or non-optimum materials being used. Her idea is to select some potted plants that you will be able to move to your garden for permanent planting after they have served their purpose for a particular growing season in the container. She mixes these shrubs or plants with annuals for color. By incorporating this simple container method, you can easily try new varieties of plants to see if they will do well or if you will like them. Then they may be moved to your garden for permanent planting.

For winter, Jane recommended red giant mustard, chard, Bloody doc, false cypress, ajuga, and lemon thread mixed with cold weather plants such as pansies or kale. Mix annual and perennials in these containers. Perennials can go back to your flower beds and some of the newly tested shrubs can be transferred into your garden.

For spring color, plant different bulbs at different layers in a large container. Different bulbs that bloom at different times need to be planted at different depths. So you can layer these bulbs in a container, lasagna style. Plant the deepest bulbs, spread soil, plant the next deepest, spread soil....you get the idea. In the spring, there will always be color. The bulbs will make their way through the dirt and around the other bulbs to the surface to bloom. These containers must be done in the winter for spring color.

Spring is an easy time for color in the garden as a variety of plants bloom in the spring. However, the containers of bulbs will provide early color and can be placed by entryways or other places

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Lunch and Learn Continued by Charlotte Hall

(Continued from page 13)

where color would be harder to have than in regular landscape flower beds.

Seeds provide an easy way to have color in your garden for spring, summer and fall. Some seeds are annuals and other are self-seeding and are almost of the perennial variety as they self seed and produce plants for the next year. Some different varieties that were contained in a flower arrangement that Jane made from her gardens are: red zinger hibiscus (*hibiscus sabdariffa*), gomphrena, Jewels of opar (*talinum*), celosia, variegated sage, Texas sage or Mexican sage. Common seeds are recommended, as well, such as zinnias, poppies, larkspurs and marigolds.

Many plants are easily propagated for adding color to your garden such as alternanthera, forsythia sage or yellow sage. Salvia is recommended as a member of the mint family and different varieties incorporate annual, biennial, perennial and woody subshrub plants. They provide different colors that usually produce a showy display of flower colors ranging from blue to red, white and some yellow.

Fall color recommendations are forsythia sage (yellow, of course), many varieties of salvia, chrysanthemums such as Ryan's pink which is sometimes sold as Clara Curtis, helianthus angustifolus or narrowleaf sunflower or swamp sunflower, leonotis – stunning orange spike flowers that is a member of the mint family and self seeds.

By incorporating a variety of seeds, herbs, annuals, perennials, bulbs and shrubs – and a few containers - color is available to your garden all year long.

As an added treat, each attendee was given a plant for their garden which came from some of the recommended varieties above. Thank you, Linda Griebel and Jane McCarthy for these treasures. Lots of Ryan's pink chrysanthemums should find loving homes and provide gorgeous pink color next fall for a lot of Lunch and Learn gardeners.

Did you have any difficulties in your garden this past year? Did some things just not work? If so, join us next month for "What Went Wrong – Gardening Mistakes" which will be presented by our own president, Linda Griebel. Don't forget – November 10th, second Tuesday in November at 12:00 noon and we will provide drinks!



Photos



Pioneer Day



Programs Update by Lee Borden

On October 20 we met at Lanark Nature Center and heard a wonderful presentation from Maria Pacheco-West on Sensory Gardens. We learned that a garden designed for sight impaired people can include two contrasting sets of wind chimes at opposite corners and near the entrance/exit to make it easier for people to navigate without using their eyes. We learned that Kiss-Me-at-the-Gate blooms all winter, and we learned not only to use fragrant plants but also to use texture as an exclamation point in our gardens. Did you know a bottle tree and upside-down flower pots can emit distinctive sounds in even a light rainstorm?



On November 17 my brother Dave Borden will share with us about the role longleaf pines have played in southern forests and his experience growing them. Hint: it's not all beer and skittles.

We have purchased a new remote slide advancer and laser pointer for the CAMGA LCD projector. You'll find it in the case with the equipment. At least for the time being, we will leave the (still quite functional) remote and dongle in the case so those who prefer it can use it without interruption.

Our tentative program schedule and each meeting's evaluation results are online and available for your review at <http://bit.ly/camgaprograms>. Thanks for your enthusiastic responses to the Program Topics Questionnaire. Amanda and I are still tabulating the results; we will post them at <http://bit.ly/camgaprograms> when they're complete and include them in next month's newsletter.



CAMGA Garden Buzzzz

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NEXT MEETING

NOVEMBER 17

10 A.M.

**DAVE BORDEN
SPEAKS ON THE
LONG LEAF PINE**