



## President's Message

By Linda Griebel



Everyone enjoyed a terrific graduation celebration with 17 individuals receiving master gardener certification! A big thank you goes to all of the board members who came early to set up and decorate. Also, kudos to everyone who brought such delicious dishes for sharing at lunch = job well done!

As always, our work is never over. Soon applicants will be getting their notices and the 2015 class of interns will form. We'll need mentors to help them understand what we do and how they can merge into our proactive organization. In addition, members will need to bring lunch items for classes. I'm looking forward to getting to know another capable set of interns.

Many other volunteer activities still need you. Don't forget to record your volunteer time – it's needed by Extension and helps bring funding into the master gardener program.

We are enjoying summer vegetables and, at the same time, are beginning to plant fall seeds, some of which are already sprouting. There are always many weeds with which to contend. As the weather cools (dare we say?), replenishing mulch is a very good idea. There's still time to deadhead many of your productive annuals and perennials to get one last flush (especially roses). Even though some of us have had much needed rain, we might need to keep an eye on moisture levels to prevent drying out. (I found a lilac with many partially brown leaves that had suffered heat stress before I realized it.) And be careful about stinging insects, especially yellow jackets, this time of year. Include cute fuzzy caterpillars on that list since several have either spines that sting or can cause a rash = saddleback caterpillar and also dagger moth caterpillar have been in my plants recently. Now that I know what they are, I just take a few photos and give them a wide berth whenever possible. Hope to see you in gardens...

Linda



Dagger moth caterpillar

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the

### *Table of Contents:*

President's Message. . . . .	1
Mallory/Programs . . . . .	2
Maple Article . . . . .	3
Help Line/Farmers Mkt . . . . .	4
Events Calendar . . . . .	5
Minutes . . . . .	6-7
Announcements . . . . .	8
Spotlight. . . . .	9
Chilton Co. Expo . . . . .	10
Graduate Photos . . . . .	11
Lunch & Learn. . . . .	12-13
Governor's Mansion . . . . .	14
Montgomery Arboretum . . . . .	15

## Message from Mallory

By Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests

### Home Grown Veggies this Fall

One benefit to our mild winters is our ability to grow vegetables almost year round. Not only do some vegetables do better when we are transitioning to cooler temps, but also the gardeners. Most of us are worn out by the hot summer sun, insects, diseases and probably most of all the weeds. As the temps get cooler, there will be less fungal diseases, insects and fewer weeds to battle. In addition, many cool-season vegetables, such as carrots, broc-coli, cauliflower, collards and brussels sprouts, produce their best flavor and quality when they are maturing during cool weather. In Alabama, the spring temperatures often heat up quickly causing vegetables such as lettuce and spinach to bolt (flower) or develop a bitter flavor. This is why planting these veggies late in the summer or early fall when we are transitioning to cooler temps is ideal.

Growing a productive fall vegetable garden requires thoughtful planning and good cultural practices. In Alabama, August and September are the ideal months for planting a fall garden. Some of the hardy and semi-hardy fall vegetables can stand a frost with little to no effect, but for those that are more tender, especially lettuce, using a light sheet, burlap, or a floating row cover supported by stakes to protect the plants from frost. Planting fall vegetables directly in the soil from seed can be a challenge as our fall weather is generally hot and dry and the soils can be hard and crusty. You must keep the soils moist for good germination. Applying a light layer of mulch over the seeds after planting will help retain moisture and increase your germination rate. Otherwise I would recommend starting your seeds indoors or purchasing transplants to increase the plants survival, but either way, MULCH is always a good idea! Lettuce and spinach seeds will not germinate if the soil temperature exceeds 85 degrees F so for these you may need to wait a bit longer before sowing outdoors or definitely plant transplants. Root crops such as carrots and radishes should be harvested or mulched heavily before a hard freeze. Mulched root crops can often be harvested as needed well into the winter, and during mild winters, harvest may continue until spring.

So if your summer garden was a flop or your wanting to continue your progress of home vegetables into this fall and winter, it's not too late. The fall veggies that fall into the semi-hardy category are: Leaf Lettuces, Beets, Rutabaga, and Cauliflower. Those that are HARDY for our area include: Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Collards, Kale, Kohlrabi, Onion, Radishes, Spinach and Turnips.



### Programs Update by Lee Borden

On September 15 I'm calling my own number so I can give you a Layman's Take on Photosynthesis. Simply put, it's the most important chemical reaction on the planet, and as gardeners we get to watch it every day.

In October, we will meet at Lanark Nature Center and hear a presentation from Maria Pacheco-West on Sensory Gardens.

Our tentative program schedule and each meeting's evaluation results are online and available for your review at

<http://bit.ly/camgaprograms>.





## Two Interesting Maples By Mary Long

A couple of weeks ago I attended a two-day flower show judges symposium at Birmingham Botanical Gardens. The horticulture instructor brought along some very interesting and beautiful specimens to talk



about. One was this lovely variegated Japanese Maple. (*Acer palmatum*)



Another wonderful maple (left) was the Paperbark Maple (*Acer griseum*). This maple has exfoliate bark with a cinnamon color. Both of these beauties are available at the Botanical Garden.

If you have not gotten into Japanese Maples you may need a few bits of information. Contrary to popular belief, Japanese maples are surprisingly easy to grow and maintain when properly situated and planted. They are generally winter hardy to about 20 degrees F, and grow from zones 5-9 in the United States.

Japanese Maples can be grown in the ground or in pots. Container culture can extend their useful range. They are extremely easy to grow in containers, a practice taken to it's most extreme form in the art of bonsai.

Aside from their aesthetically pleasing appearance and ease in growing, one well-placed Japanese maple can add hundreds of dollars in value to your property.

Most any garden soil will grow Japanese maples, but the soil must be well drained! Wet soggy soil around the roots is a killer.

Good thing is, they'll often let you know if their feet are too wet if and when the leaves brown on the tips, though this browning can also be a sign of leaf scorch. They grow in a wide range of soil pH preferring a slightly acidic soil. The main thing you want to do when planting a Japanese maple is pick a site that offers good drainage - or do what is necessary to provide for good drainage.

Japanese maples will grow in sun or shade. In our area they benefit from some afternoon shade. In their natural habitat, Japanese maples are understory trees, growing in dappled forest sunlight and at the edges of woodlands. Ideally they prefer to be grown in similar conditions. Bright sunlight and hot summers do not kill trees, but in hot summer areas, the newest leaves may burn and scald in these conditions.

Young Japanese maples should have a consistent supply of water during the first 2 or 3 years after planting. Do not over-water them though. Just make sure to check them during prolonged periods of dry weather and provide them with water as necessary to maintain proper health. Established trees can withstand considerable dry spells and periods of drought with no problems at all, but young trees may dry up and die under the same circumstances. Monitor them closely for the first two years and they will reward you greatly.



## Millbrook Farmer's Market

By Rick Ohlson

The Elmore County Master Gardeners (MG) have been answering questions at the Millbrook Farmer's Market for 4 years. We have had many volunteers and I appreciate everyone's efforts to support this program. There is one MG I would like to single out - - Butch Kinney.

Butch does not get around well because he has COPD and several other health issues. It has not affected his attitude or his willingness to help. Butch has been at that table every week for all this time, as I was told by one of our new MG, "he is so interesting to talk to." He has lived in Millbrook for many years and it seems he knows everyone who comes by our table. Butch is friendly to everyone, seems to know what the local gardening problems are, and he knows some sort of solution for most everything. He has been my main guy for all these years, and except for medical reasons, can be counted on to be there and look forward to helping people with their gardens.

Butch does not get to our meetings very often but he certainly does the Master Gardener's proud every week at the market. I wanted to single him out because he means a lot to me and is always willing to help others.

Thanks Butch!

Rick Ohlson

### Graduation Luncheon 'Thank You'

A special 'thank you' to all of you who came early, set up tables, and decorated, as well as helping clean up afterward. It really made things look attractive and welcoming to the graduating class and their guests.

KUDOS from Linda Griebel



## HELPLINE NEWS

By Mary Ann Hatcher

We have completed another successful Helpline season thanks to all of the Interns and MG volunteers. Sally L'Abbe, Joe L'Abbe, and Ricky Hatcher volunteered this month to assist clients with gardening concerns. Serving as Advisors were: Mary Ann Klatt, John R. Barnes, and Mary Ann Hatcher. Sharon Potts assisted as our Appointment Reminder. Thank you all and Happy Fall Gardening!



## Announcement of Interest to MG's

The AU Medicinal Plant Garden is located on the Auburn University campus. It is part of the "Old Agronomy Farm".

Do come visit while you can. Our area is scheduled to become an athletic field/parking lot. I don't know when. Uncertainty is a big part of gardening...and life.

With your support, we will continue in another place.

The garden is open all year, there is a document box with a plant list and the plants are labeled. Please do stay on the bark pathways, as we have a few plants that can burn your skin if you get off the bark pathways.

The gates are locked before home football games. You can still walk in.

We offer free guided tours every third Thursday of the month, April thru October.

Other tours, for groups of six people or more are available by appointment.

Getting there :

From South College Street, turn West onto Woodfield Drive. Opposite the Jules Collins Smith Museum.

About .4 mile, turn right thru the first gate, onto a gravel road.

Turn right thru the first gate. Across from the banana grove and beside the big white metal pyramids.

Drive to the end of the grassy track and park. The garden is on the right. You will see the sign and document box.

# September 2015

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1 <i>All Sept. Blue Morpho Butterflies Callaway Gardens</i>	2 <i>Lanark Workday</i> 	3 <i>Learning Garden Work Day</i>	4	5
6	7 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i>	8 <i>Lunch And Learn</i>	9 <i>Lanark Workday</i> 	10 <i>Learning Garden Work Day</i>	11	12
13	14 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i>	15 <i>CAMGA Meeting Photosynthesis</i>	16  <i>Lanark ..... Veggie Production Workshop Auburn Extension</i>	17 <i>Learning Garden Work Day Live, Laugh Love, Learn Call Ext. for details</i>	18 <i>Vegetable Production Tuskegee</i>	19
20	21 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i>	22	23  <i>Lanark Workday ..... Ladies Can Personal Safety</i>	24 <i>Learning Garden Work Day</i>	25	26
27	28 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i>	29	30  <i>Lanark ..... Ladies Can Handgun Safety</i>	<i>Oct.1 Blount County Fall Conference</i>		



## AUGUST MINUTES By Rosemary Mobley, Secretary



The August, 2015, Central Alabama Master Gardeners' Association (CAMGA) meeting was held August 18, 2015, at Mulder Memorial United Methodist Church in Wetumpka, Alabama. Linda Griebel called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. She recognized guests among the participants, many of whom were present to provide support to the graduating interns. Then, Linda asked interested members to volunteer to work with Lee Borden and brainstorm future field trip/bus trip destination ideas.

Lee Borden was recognized to report on programs for meetings in September and October. On September 15<sup>th</sup>, at the Elmore Extension Auditorium, Lee will be the speaker and his topic is, "A Layman's Take on Photosynthesis." Lee stated that the process of photosynthesis is awe-inspiring, and that he will reinforce this concept throughout his presentation. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, the meeting site moves to Lanark in Millbrook. Maria Pacheco-West will inspire participants to experience gardens in new and surprising ways. The title of her presentation is, "Sensory Gardens."

The next order of business was consideration of Secretary's Minutes. Linda asked attendees if there were any questions, corrections, or additions to the July Minutes published in the August Newsletter. There were none and the July Minutes were approved by acclamation.

Linda asked Rhona Watson to give the treasurer's report for July, 2015. The balance as of June 30, 2015 was \$12,597.28. The income for July was \$57.00 from the Plant Sale. Expenditures for July included \$71.76 for the CAMGA.net web site, and \$8.09 for the Library. Total July expenditures were \$79.85. This resulted in a balance, as of July 31, 2015, of \$12,574.43. The Treasurer's Report was approved by acclamation. Additionally, everyone wished Rhona a "Happy Birthday!"

Rhona shared some data collection results from the March Bonsai Class. Based on responses of 14 participants, 9 plants are living; 2 are in jeopardy; and 3 are no longer among the living. Linda asked if there was interest in holding another bonsai class.

Linda reported on the Alabama Master Gardener Association (AMGA) Advisory Council Meeting held on August 4, 2015, in Chilton County. Master Gardener associations were invited to send in educational opportunities to be listed on the AMGA webpage. Lee noted that the CAMGA web page is linked to AMGA. The results of a recent poll were that associations agreed to the 2018 AMGA major conference as a part of the South East Regional Master Gardener Conference. Also, in 2018, the annual business meeting will take place at a one-day seminar in the spring. There were two noteworthy suggestions from this meeting: 1) In order to offset liability issues, master gardener volunteers, while working directly with other community organizations, should be accompanied by a representative of the other organization. 2) The local weatherman is a recommended speaker for master gardeners.

John Barnes reported for the Projects Committee. The master gardener Plant Swap is scheduled for October 9, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. in the Extension Auditorium, and those interested should have 5 established plants to swap. Katrina Mitchell will speak with representatives of the Elmore County Food Pantry about showing clients how to construct a raised bed that will be maintained by Food Pantry clients.

Amanda Borden shared that sweet potatoes were recently harvested from the



vegetable beds in the Community Learning Gardens. These sweet potatoes will be curing for the next few weeks. She also noted that fall crops were planted in the vegetable garden. While the trellises are going to be redesigned, the vertical gardening technique will be continued for next year. Some of the plants in the butterfly garden were stressed by the heat. Volunteers deadheaded some of these plants.

Charlotte Hall reported for the Lunch and Learn (L&L) committee. The August session conducted by Mallory Kelley was attended by 38 participants. Amanda and Lee Borden are scheduled to present the session in September titled, "Energize with Ground Cover." The Board approved an expenditure of up to \$30.00 for cover crop seeds to be distributed to attendees during the September L&L. Charlotte stated that the committee already has ideas for 10 of the 12 months in 2016.

Jane Mobley requested that speakers who give gardening presentations to the public have their picture taken during the event, for inclusion in next year's scrapbook. She also announced that there is need for a volunteer to serve as a videographer at a workshop on October 24-25, 2015, at the Borden's farm. Please contact Jane if interested.

The final day of Helpline services for the year is Thursday, August 27, 2015. MaryAnn Hatcher thanked interns and everyone involved with Helpline assistance.

Anida Wishnietsky reported that she populated the CAMGA section of the Alabama Cooperative

Extension System website which is at <http://mg.aces.edu/elmore>. Linda announced that a future decision will be made regarding whether or not to keep the CAMGA.net website after the subscription ends.

Linda spoke for the Elmore County Extension Office Committee chaired by Joe and Sally L'Abbe. It seems that copying and other traditional tasks are no longer requested because of electronic communication and other reasons. Therefore, the chairpersons recommended that there is no longer a need for this particular committee. The board will review this recommendation and report the findings at a future meeting.

Becky Brown addressed the attendees and gave an update that 15 applicants were on file for the 2015 intern class. Mallory Kelley will send out acceptance letters soon. She also stated that a sign-up sheet for test graders was at the registration table. Sandy Rosamond announced that a sign-up sheet for provision of food for intern lunches was also at the registration table.

Finally, the time had come to recognize the graduates of the 2014 intern class. Katrina Mitchell read the names, and Becky Brown presented master gardener badges and certificates to CAMGA's new master gardeners. The graduates are: Melanie Barry, Cheri Bedford, Cindy Beumer, Corky Butts, Terry Chambliss, Sharon Cleary, Robin Culver, Rod Douglas, Peggy Gelpi, Mike Harber, Lavonne Hart, Don Hoover, James May, Linda Queen, Sandy Rosamond, Darla Teisling, and Joyce Vella. Terry Chambliss and Joyce Vella earned certificates for 200+ volunteer hours. Cheri Bedford, Rod Douglas, Don Hoover, and Sandy Rosamond were awarded certificates for 100+ volunteer hours. Congratulations to all of the graduates!

The President gifted each new graduate with a potted plant. Lunch was served. The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m. Fifty-seven participants attended the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Rosemary Mobley, Secretary



## Vegetable Production Meeting/Tour “Fruits of Your Labor”



Hosted by the  
Alabama Cooperative Extension System  
and Tuskegee Cooperative Extension Friday  
September 18, 2015 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
Hornsby Farms 1235 Bufford Road Auburn, AL

### Directions:

From Auburn campus travel south college street (15 south) for about 8.1 miles. Then turn left onto Bufford road for about 1.2 miles and the farm will be on the right. **Please pre-register by calling the Macon County Extension office at (334) 727-0340 by Wednesday, September 16th.**

### Speakers:

**Production Practices for Managing Vegetable Crops: Josh & Beth Hornsby**  
**Insect Pests: Dr. Ayanava Majumdar, Extension Vegetable Entomologist**

Mark your calendars for

Blount County Master Gardener's

Fall Conference Blount

**October 1, 2015 9:30 am – 3 pm**

*Palisades Park, D. S. Loyd Building, 225 Palisades Park, Oneonta, AL 35121*



**SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS** by Judy May



Working at the Chilton County Expo on August 8<sup>th</sup> were Katrina Mitchell, Joyce Vella, Virginia Pruitt, Rosemary Mobley and Linda Griebel.

Working at the Governor's mansion this month were Melanie Barry, Amanda Borden, Jane McCarthy and Sandy Rosamond.

There were 38 attendees at Lunch and Learn this month. Assisting were Carla McCune, Deborah Kelso and Charlotte Hall. The speaker was Mallo-ry Kelley speaking on "Zap Em With Organic Solutions". Twenty four of the attendees were Master Gardeners.

Attending the Projects Committee meeting August 17<sup>th</sup> were John Barnes, Rod Douglas, Janet Lewis and Linda Griebel.

Helping Rick Ohlson at the Farmers Market this month were Butch Kinney, Joe' Abbe, Joyce Vella and Wanda Ivy.

Phil Easter did WSFA-TV's Alabama Live with Joe L'Abbe to promote CAMGA'S participation in the Millbrook Farmers Market. He also wrote an article on Fall Planting of Perennial Herbs for River Region Living magazine.

Working in the Learning Gardens this month were John Barnes, Don Hoover, Amanda Edwards, Joyce Vella, Terry Chambliss, Rosemary Mobley and Linda Griebel.

Iva Haynie wrote an article for Pathways magazine this month.

Linda Griebel, Gale Wheeler – Leonard and Rosemary Mobley attended the AMGA Advisory Council meeting in Clanton on August 4<sup>th</sup>.

Working the Helpline this month were Sally L'Abbe and Joe L'Abbe, Sharon Potts, Ricky Hatcher, John Barnes, Mary Ann Klatt and Mary Ann Hatcher.

Helping Maria at Lanark this month were Ann Hill, Carla McCune, Judy May, Norman Turnipseed, Jimmy May, and Peggy Gelpi. Maria thanks everyone for the hard work in such awful heat and humidity.

Becky Brown says a huge "Thank You" to all CAMGA members. Everyone did a fantastic job in doing what needed to be done to create a beautiful room, provide a delicious lunch AND a great show of support for the new Master Gardeners by attending their graduation. What a great day in the life of CAMGA! Board members came early to set up and decorate and stayed to clean up the facility.

## CAMGA members volunteer at Chilton County Expo.

**Joyce Vella worked registration.**



**Charlotte Hall prepares food.**



**Katrina Mitchell cuts fruit.**



**Virginia Pruitt sells plants.**



## Interns receive their diplomas at August 18 graduation luncheon.



These are our proud graduates taken at the graduation luncheon. Nobody is more proud than Becky Brown who heads up our intern class who or many years has been planning, recruiting, mentoring, and directing the class. None of this would be possible without her dedicated service. Melanie Barry, Cheri Bedford, Cindy Beumer, Corky Butts, Terry Chambliss, Sharon Cleary, Robin Culver, Rod Douglas, Peggy Gelpi, Mike Harber, Lavonne Hart, Don Hoover, James May, Linda Queen, Sandy Rosamond, Darla Teisling, and Joyce Vella. . Terry Chambliss and Joyce Vella earned certificates for 200+ volunteer hours. Cheri Bedford, Rod Douglas, Don Hoover, and Sandy Rosamond were awarded certificates for 100+ volunteer hours. CONGRATS to all!!!!





## Lunch and Learn By Charlotte Hall

### “Zap “Em with Organic Solutions” – Mallory Kelley

As an informative follow-up for last month’s Lunch and Learn “What’s Bugging You?” with Anthony Yarbrough, Mallory Kelley told us how to deal with those pesky insects with her presentation on “Zap “Em with Organic Solutions.”

The first order of business was to define exactly what organic truly means. As it turns out, this is a more technical thing than one would imagine. The Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 authorized a National Organic Program (NOP) to be administered by USDA’s Agricultural marketing Service (AMS). This assures that everyone abides by the extremely strict and stringently defined federal regulations to sell products labeled as “organic.” Not doing so is illegal. Organic gardening is a system that promotes ecological balance and focuses on inter-relationships, according to legally defined guidelines from USDA. The guidelines for being an accredited organic grower are most rigorous and because of the detail involved with this process, Mallory concentrated her discussion on naturally occurring solutions.

Natural gardening differs from organic gardening and also from gardening using synthetic products or man-made products. It is done without synthetic fertilizer or chemical pesticides unless they are derived from a natural source. The object of natural gardening is to garden as sustainably as possible and only resorting to spraying when all other methods have been tried and unsuccessful. This includes the use of synthetic fertilizers and chemical pesticides.

The main focus in natural gardening is the building up of the soil. Having a fortified and good soil will produce healthier plants which in turn are less susceptible to pests. One should build and maintain the soil’s organic matter content. Use natural materials as a source of mineral nutrients. Select naturally pest resistance plants. Use cultural and biological pest control methods. And then, use organic pesticides as a last resort.

Remember that plant diversity above the ground stimulates diversity in the soil. FEED THE SOIL AND NOT THE CROP. As master gardeners know, vegetables perform best with a pH range of 6.0 – 6.5. If the acid pH is too high, plants cannot absorb nutrients in the soil. Then no amount of fertilizing will solve the problem. Remember that a soil sample is the best tool for identifying and solving a majority of plant growing problems.

Use natural fertilizers – both organic and inorganic amendments. Organic amendments come from something that was alive (carbon containing). Some examples are: Bone-meal, bloodmeal, worm castings, seaweed, alfalfa extracts, cotton seed meal, and fish emulsion. Most of these are readily available on a local level.

Inorganic amendments are those that are mined from natural sources such as rock phosphate, sulfate of potash, sulfur, potassium, magnesium, gypsum, lime, and greensand.

The organic matter of Alabama soil is only about two percent of its total makeup. It is mostly found in the upper six inches of the soil. It is very difficult to maintain in this area due to the naturally occurring heat and humidity. Organic matter is transient – here today and gone tomorrow. Again due to the heat, humidity and rainfall. Soil is always active because the microbes in the soil are always active.

Organic matter improves the physical condition of the soil, increases moisture holding capacity of sandy soils, increases pore-space of clay soil and improves drainage, increases soil fertility, increases the ability of soil to release nutrient chemicals, improves conditions for beneficial soil micro-organisms, enhances the pH buffering capacity, helps reduce soil crusting, increases spring soil warming, and enhances root development in the warm, porous soil.

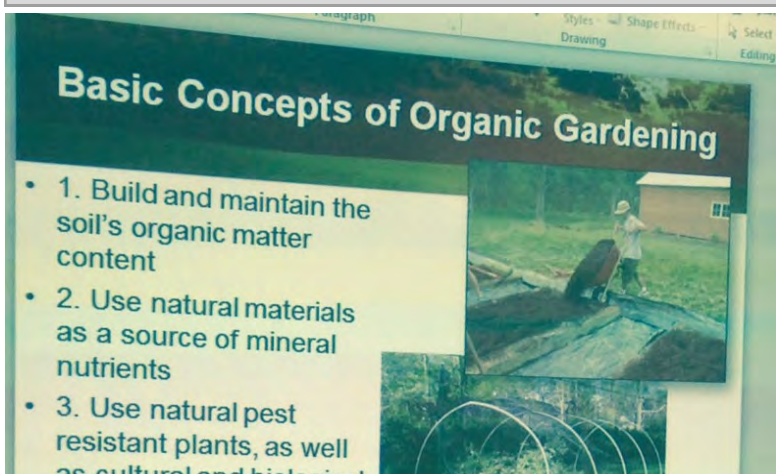
To preserve organic matter, practice reduced tillage, recycle crop residue, and mulch. Tilling disrupts the microorganisms in the soil and this breaks down the organic matter quicker. To increase organic matter, compost yard wastes and kitchen scraps, grow cover crops, inter-crop and use crop residue, add composted municipal yard wastes, add composted or animal manures and once again, mulch. Some cover crop examples are winter rye, hairy vetch, crimson clover, winter wheat and lupine.

IPM – Integrated or Intelligent Pest Management – is a common sense approach to dealing with pests that affect your plants. The extension has exceedingly helpful and appropriate publications that are available for this IPM approach to gardening, including a pest and natural enemies chart for use in the garden or for larger crops. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System is your best tool for correctly utilizing science-based organic practices for your garden. Call or check them out online.

Our next presentation by Amanda and Lee Borden on the second Tuesday in September will be a continuation of this mini-series of garden tips and solutions. Join us on September 8<sup>th</sup> for “Energize with (continued)

Continued...

Ground Cover.” Invite a friend. Take a short break from the heat -come inside for an hour of coolness and great garden information. And remember, drinks are provided. Another note of interest – if you would like to see Mallory’s slides for this “Zap “Em with Organic Solutions,” there is a link available at CAMGA.net.



Debbie introduces Mallory.



A large crowd attended.

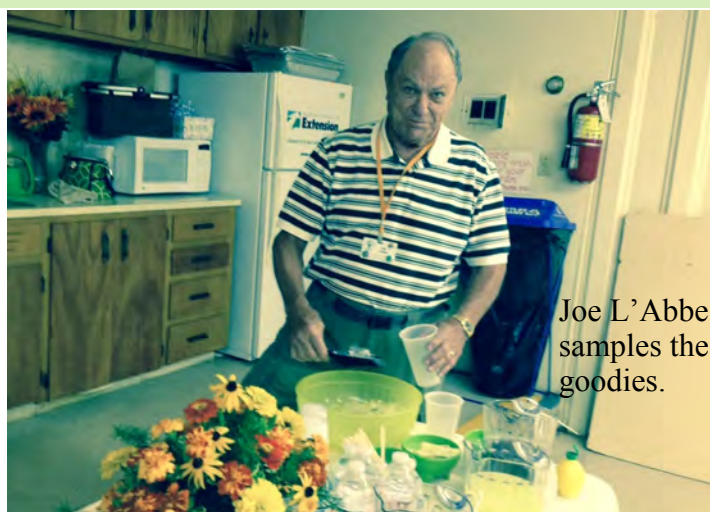


Carla's wonderful goodies

We want to extend a grateful 'thank you' to CAMGA L&L committee member, Carla McCune, who has furnished goodies, along with an array of delightful drinks, each month since January. Thanks for baking and bringing, Carla. Every month has been a surprise - cookies, cake - and a delicious treat! We've certainly enjoyed it.



Mallory and Linda



Joe L'Abbe samples the goodies.



## Governor's Mansion Report by Amanda Borden



Volunteers at the Governor's Mansion spent most of July weeding, trimming, and trying to stay in the shade as much as possible. They pulled vines off the fence around the tennis court and limbed up camellias near the driveway. One work day was spent pruning away dead stems from hydrangeas and pulling weeds in the Secret Garden .



(L-R) Jane McCarthy, Amanda Borden, Mirenda Tatum in the Serenity Garden



Melanie, Amanda, Sandy, Jane



Amanda eliminates *Smilax* better-known as cat briar.



**Montgomery Public Schools Arboretum Nature Center** Submitted by Marie Updike

This site of 32 beautiful acres, 7 miles south of Prattville, with a half acre pond is operated by the Montgomery Public Schools and managed by Principal Cindy McKenzie. New support staff will be in place in about three months, and in the meantime, Marie Updike (on left in photo) is assisting Mrs. McKenzie with outdoor chores. Mrs. McKenzie teaches outdoor education and conservation where children learn about insects, fishing, soil, gardening as well as guided tours of the wooded areas. The Arboretum is always happy to host Master Gardener volunteers to clear pathways in the woods, plant seeds in the greenhouse, weed and clear garden beds, plant perennials and annuals, maintain a vegetable garden, bird house maintenance, keep up the chicken pen (9 hens) and assist groups of visiting (4 days per week) students. Contact information: The Arboretum Nature Center at 1755 Hunter Loop Road, Montgomery, 36108. Phone 334-269-4815. Email: [cindy.mckenzie@mps.k12.al.us](mailto:cindy.mckenzie@mps.k12.al.us)  
**Website:** <http://arboretumnaturecenter.al.mpsc.schoolinsites.com/>



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**NEXT MEETING****SEPTEMBER 15****10 A.M.****LEE BORDEN****PHOTOSYNTHESIS  
WETUMPKA  
EXTENSION**