



President's Message

By Rhona Watson



Hope you all had a happy Christmas and New Year. It was wonderful to see so many of you at our annual Christmas Party. We had 80 people including members, and guests, and of course Santa. Thank you Carol Rattan for getting the Church, and arranging for the food. The decorating committee led by Karla and Charlotte, did an awesome job, to set the mood, enhanced by Mary Long's piano Playing

Linda Griebel was presented a thank you gift certificate, and a standing ovation for the impressive job she has done as President this year. A lot was accomplished, from "Lunch and Learn," projects, just for Master Gardeners, and the great job she and Mary McCroan have done in the Learning Garden.

There is a lot we can all be proud of, thanks to her leadership.

I am looking forward to working with all our members this year. Everyone has a talent they can contribute, so please get involved. At our January meeting you will have the opportunity to learn where you can help, and get hours, doing things you enjoy. Lee Borden, will lead a presentation, highlighting the different committees we have, and then there will be time for you to meet with committee chairs, to get more information, and sign up.

Our Lunch and Learn has been very successful. Don't miss the first one of the year. Blue Bird Happiness, presented by Rod Douglas. He will demonstrate how to build the house your blue birds have been waiting for.

I am busy all year round making my garden the best it can be. January is the month for seeds. This year I will plant about 100 seeds, about half that I saved from last year, that have been waiting in my refrigerator. I have saved seeds from Marigolds,

Gomphrena, and Ornamental Peppers, and the rest I will buy from catalogs. Catalogs are great for getting what is new and exciting

Finally, I want to share each month the jewel from my Garden. In December it is the Osakazuki Japanese Maple. As you can see from the picture it is bright red, and makes you pause and take a second or third look. Come to meetings, volunteer, and learn new things you can try in your garden. Your favorite garden should be your own.



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Message from Mallory

By Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests

THE WAR AGAINST LAWN WEEDS

Many of you have given up the battle to treat your lawn on your own and many of you are still waging war yourself and wondering what am I doing wrong? Hopefully this information will help you in the war against weeds this year and help you achieve the beautiful lawn you are hoping for.

The most popular product out there that seems to have it all, the “one stop shop” for all your lawn needs is the “Weed and Feed” products. I am often asked if this is the correct way to treat the lawn. In central Alabama, there is not a large window of time where this product would be beneficial, but it can be used in May or early June when an extra application of fertilizer would not hurt and the application of the pre-emergent chemical in the product will help prevent weeds through the summer and into the fall.

The best and most effect control of weeds in the lawn may take a little more effort than the “Weed & Feed”, “All in One” products, but you can save money and time in the long run applying them separately. Pre-emergent weed killers should be selected based on the type of grass you have. These weed control products are preventative so they should be applied before the weeds are visible in the lawn and can be applied any time of year except during “Green-up” or to newly seeded or sprigged lawns. Do not reseed a lawn for 4-6 months after a pre-emergent chemical is applied and remember to always read and follow all label instructions when making applications of any chemical. I have provided information below to access our website for a list of all Pre and Post-emergent chemicals on the market so you can correctly select the chemical that is best for your lawn situation.

Fertilization is generally applied twice throughout the year, first in early spring during green-up and then again in mid summer. Fertilizer type and amounts should be based on soil test results, not guess work and anytime is a good time to have a soil test. Soil tests will provide you with the correct type of fertilizer and amounts needed for your specific lawn and if lime is needed, lime can be added at anytime of year. A soil test will help you be more accurate in your fertilizer application, provide your grass with the exact nutrients it needs and save you money down the road.

For information on proper care of your turfgrass visit our publications online at www.aces.edu and search for the type of grass you have. Also for a list of pre and post-emergent chemicals that are available and the type of lawn they can be applied to, visit our website and search for: IPM Weed Control or access this link: http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0500-B/VOL2-2011/home_lawns_weed.pdf

In addition, in January we will be kicking off our lunch and learn gardening programs in Central Alabama. Please make plans to join us for any of these FREE programs!

EVERY MONTH from 12:00-1:00, Bring a Sack Lunch, Drinks Provided!

January's Topics and locations:

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

Topic: Creating a Beautiful Lawn

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

Topic: Bluebird Happiness with a House Building Demo

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

Topic: Seed Starting



January 2016

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1 New Year's Day	2
3	4 Governor's Mansion Work Day	5	6 Lanark Work Day	7 Learning Garden Work day	8	9
10	11 Governor's Mansion Work Day	12 Lunch and Learn	13 Lanark Work Day	14 Learning Garden Work day	15	16
17	18 Governor's Mansion Work Day	19 CAMGA Meeting	20 Lanark Work Day	21 Learning Garden Work day	22	23
24	25 Governor's Mansion Work Day	26	27 Lanark Work Day	28 Learning Garden Work day	29	30
31						

DECEMBER MINUTES

By Rosemary Mobley, Secretary



The December, 2015, Central Alabama Master Gardener's Association (CAMGA) meeting and Christmas party was held December 15, 2015, at Mulder Memorial Methodist Church, Wetumpka, Alabama. Linda Griebel called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and welcomed several guests of members. She also thanked Carol Rattan and the Christmas party committee for all of their behind-the-scenes work.

Linda called on Lee Borden to provide a report on programs. He shared that the first meeting of the year will be held at the Elmore County Extension Auditorium and is organized to acquaint interns, and new, as well as existing CAMGA members with volunteer opportunities. Dani Carroll will present a session on seed starting at the February 16, 2016 CAMGA meeting.

Next, Lee asked Joyce Vella to share information from the Field Trip committee consisting of Linda Griebel, Cindy Beumer, and Joyce Vella. Joyce asked those interested to let any of the committee members know about potential field trip destinations. This committee will meet January 6th to finalize several ideas. Field trips will not be scheduled on dates of monthly meetings. Lee added that a signal cord and adapter was purchased, and that it is compatible with the existing PA amplifier. He announced that we have the capability to show videos in the auditorium. The next order of business was consideration of the November Minutes as published in the Garden Buzz Newsletter. There were not any additions or revisions and the Minutes were accepted by acclamation.

Rhona Watson gave the Treasurer's Report for November, 2015. The balance as of October 31, 2015 was \$11,717.73. Income for the month of November included: Dues: \$952.00; Christmas party: \$804.00; and Shirts- \$128.00. Total November income was \$1,884.00. Expenditures for November were: Subsidy for Master Gardener Class- \$300.00; Returned Check- \$22.00; Shirts- \$128.00. Expenditures totaled \$450.00. This ended in a balance, as of November 30, 2015, of \$13,151.73. The Treasurer's Report was accepted by acclamation. Rhona reminded everyone that the deadline for paying local and state dues is December 31, 2015. The consequence for missing the deadline is exclusion from the CAMGA Directory. Current interns do not pay dues for next year.

Next, Rhona mentioned that December 31, 2015 is also the deadline for entering volunteer hours online at the Master Gardener Service Report site. If needed, members should contact Rhona Watson or Anida Wishnietsky for help with this process. Recording volunteer hours is a means for providing useful data to the Extension Service that assists with future services and programming. In addition, these hours are included in the Reach for the Stars Program, which recognizes member for their contributions through volunteerism.

Linda Griebel represented the Projects Committee. She shared that plans for a future public seminar were underway. Chairpersons were set and possible speakers and venues were discussed. Linda noted that the January Projects Committee meeting date is changed to January 11, 2015, as the Extension Office is closed on Monday, January 18, 2015, for the Martin Luther King state and federal holiday. This committee will sponsor a bluebird house building training session for master gardeners and interns on March 11, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. More information and sign-up sheets will be available at the February meeting.

Linda reported for the Community Learning Gardens. She stated that December 17th is the last workday scheduled for 2015. In the event of rain, the workday will be cancelled. Gardening activities will resume in January 2016. Amanda Borden shared that Monday, December 21st is a work day at the Governor's Mansion. This is the last workday of the month.

Charlotte Hall was recognized to report for the Lunch and Learn (L&L) committee. The December session on "Last Minute Decorating" by Phil Easter was attended by 39 participants. A flyer with the schedule for sessions in 2016 was available at the meeting. The topic for the January 12, 2016 L&L





is titled "Bluebird Happiness" and will be conducted by Rod Douglas. Rod will demonstrate how to make a birdhouse during the L&L.

Becky Brown reminded members to recruit for new interns. She stated that the new cover letter for the application will be available in January.

The President explained that Ann Hill is working on the 2016 CAMGA Membership Directory and Information Guide. Ann asked members to notify her by e-mail at annfitzhil@gmail.com of any address or e-mail changes by December 31, 2015. Members may also send updated photos to Ann by the December 31st deadline.

Carol Rattan shared that the annual Plant Sale is scheduled on Saturday, May 7, 2016. She explained that the Friday before the sale is set aside for pricing, labeling, sorting and packing plants.

It is not too early to plan on transplanting and growing plants for the sale.

Jane Mobley stated that the Scrapbook for 2015 will be completed soon. She will accept submissions of photos and articles until the end of the year.

Mary Ann Hatcher announced that a luncheon for Helpline volunteers is scheduled on January 14, 2016, from noon until 1:00 p.m., in the Extension Auditorium. She said that Mallory Kelly provides the lunch as a thank you for Helpline volunteers. Pins for service will also be awarded at the luncheon.

At the end of the Helpline report, Santa Claus arrived at the CAMGA meeting! Santa/Tom Jaworowski gave a touching message for the Christmas season and was available after the meeting for pictures

The business meeting continued with an announcement from Mary Long. She will retire from her post as editor of the *Garden Buzz Newsletter* after 18 years of service! Carol Pugh will begin serving as editor with the February edition. Submissions for the January newsletter should still be sent to Mary Long.

Linda recognized Gale Wheeler-Leonard to report on the Alabama Master Gardener Advisory (AMGA) Council meeting of November 4th. The next AMGA Conference will be held in Dothan on May 12-14, 2016. The 2017 conference will be held in Huntsville. Garden Pathways Newsletter will contain conference information. Representatives may bring silent auction items to the February 2, 2016 Advisory Council meeting. Advisory council representatives wanted to continue the practice of offering half-price registration for interns at the AMGA conferences. Requests were made for photographs of local association activities; and to update information on 2016 officers for the AMGA website.

Gale Wheeler-Leonard sent cards to Phil Easter, Iva Haynie, Mary Lou Mullins, and Tom Jaworowski. She reminded members to inform her of illnesses of CAMGA members so that she might send cards.

A sign-up sheet for 2016 refreshments at meetings was available at the front desk. Marjorie Hannah noted that the month of January is filled, but other months are open for volunteers.

Rhona Watson came forward and presented Linda Griebel with a gift card in recognition of her many contributions as President of CAMGA. Linda was very appreciative and thanked Board members for their support throughout her two terms.

The last order of business was the swearing-in ceremony of officers for 2016. The officers for 2016 are: President-Rhona Watson, Vice-President- Lee Borden, Secretary- Lois Pribulick, Treasurer-Joyce Vella, and Advisory Council Representative- Gale Wheeler-Leonard. Linda Griebel read the oath of office and the officers were installed.

Door prizes were awarded, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m. There were sixty-three [people](#) in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Mobley, Secretary

Governor's Mansion Report

By Amanda Borden



Work continued in the Governor's Mansion gardens despite the holidays and a rain-out. Apparently the weeds enjoyed the warmer-than-average December, so most of the time was spent dealing with those. Volunteers weeded the Guest House bed and the rose bed before turning their attention to analysis and planning for pruning early next year.

Master Gardeners were recognized for their service at a reception at the Governor's Mansion. In the photo (L-R):

Row One: Melanie Barry, Peggy Funk, Mirenda Tatum, Amanda Borden
Row Two: Jane McCarthy, Sandy Rosamond, Jean Smyth



SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS by Judy May



The Lunch and Learn program on December 8th was 'Last Minute Decorating' by Phil Easter. There were 39 attendees, 23 of them Master Gardeners. Assisting were Sandi Adkison, Carla McCune, Debbie Kelso and Charlotte Hall.

The Projects Committee met December 10. Attending were John Barnes, Linda Griebel, Joyce Vella, Rhona Watson, John Butler, Jane Mobley and Lois Pribulick.

Phil Easter also did the WSFA-TV promotion for Lunch and Learn.



Helping Maria P. West this month at Lanark this month were interns Leslie Bingham and Susan Littleton, Master Gardeners Carla McCune, Ann Hill, Peggy Gelpi, and Jimmy May. Maria says she can't do it without you! Thanks so much!

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

The Field Trip Planning Committee met December 11th. Attending were Joyce Vella, Cindy Beumer, Linda Griebel.

Many thanks to Sharon Potts, Carla McCune and Charlotte Hall for the lovely table decorations and door prizes at the Christmas Party. Thanks too to Mary Long for the Christmas music and to Tom Jaworowski for being Santa. Our prayers are with you Tom for a speedy recovery.

How can we begin to thank Mary Long? After 17 years of editing *Garden Buzzzz*, and making it the finest in the state, she will be passing the torch (garden tools?) to Carol Pugh. With Carol's guidance, *Garden Buzzzz* will continue, but not with Mary's special touch. Mary's CAMGA contributions over the years have not been limited to *Garden Buzzzz*. Her experience and knowledge found her speaking on a host of subjects in many places on many occasions. She has been a long-time flower show judge at the state fair, and has brought joy to our gatherings and parties with her skills at the piano. The next time you see Mary, be sure to thank her for all she has done and will continue to do for CAMGA.

Christmas Party Meeting



President Linda Griebel installs new 2016 officers: From right: Lee Borden, Vice-President; Rhona Watson, President; Joyce Vella, Treasurer; Lois Pribulick, Secretary; and Gayle Wheeler-Leonard, AC Representative.



Left: Santa Claus (Tom Jaworowski) came to our Christmas party and gave the invocation.
Right: New President, Rhona Watson presents outgoing President Linda Griebel a gift from CAMGA for her loyal service for the past two years. Great job, Linda!

Santa has a way with the ladies !!

Linda Griebel, Charlotte Hall, and Joyce Vella enjoy Tom Jaworowski, I mean Santa, at our 2015 Christmas luncheon !



Program Notes By Lee Borden

What a delightful party on December 15 at Mulder Memorial United Methodist Church! Here's a special thank you to Carol Rattan for organizing it and to Tom Jaworowski for blowing past his chemo to make a "special" appearance.

On January 19 we will be back at Extension to focus on the structure of CAMGA and the volunteer opportunities available to interns who need to bank hours of Master Gardener credit for their graduation this summer. You will have the chance to visit one-on-one with the leaders of the volunteer opportunities that are most intriguing to you.

On February 16 Dani Carroll will teach us about seed starting. Her program will move past basic knowledge about seed starting to deal with some of the thornier questions and challenges that vex us this time of year.

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



If you haven't paid 2016 dues, please pay ASAP and you may have a ghostly chance of getting in the directory!

CAMGA Lunch and Learn Programs for 2016

2nd Tuesday of Each Month 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Elmore County Extension Office

January 12 Bluebird Happiness (And House Building Demo) Rod Douglas – CAMGA –
(334) 514-8929
shamusdouglas@gmail.com

February 9 Fall in Love with Roses
Maria Pacheco-West (334) 285-4317
CAMGA and Lanark
MPW@alabamawildlife.org

March 8 How to Make Succulent Wreaths – Demo
Charlotte Hall/Deborah Kelso - CAMGA
cmhhall@bellsouth.net (334) 279-8746
deborah.kelso@maxwell.af.mil (334) 303-2207

April 12 Goats – From Start to Finish
Nicky Chanel (334) 303-8468

May 10 Japanese Maples with The Maple Man
Donny Tomlin (334) 277-2292

June 14 Organic Community Gardening
Bob Burgett – CAMGA – (334) 318-0633
Bburgett50@aol.com

July 12 Pain in the Garden and First Aid for It
Carl Bledsoe (334) 300-5687
pharmcarl@elmore.rr.com

August 9 Plant Pottery with Sharon Reeves
hennypennypottery.com (334) 540-6755
sreeves337@yahoo.com

September 13 Drip Irrigation – All the Parts and Pieces
Mary McCroan
mqm@mccroan.com (334) 312-0679

October 11 Papercrete – Mud Pies for Grown-ups
Carla McCune – CAMGA – (334) 244-8816
cemccune@yahoo.com

November 8 Hydroponics
Ken Barber (334) 549-4710
KenandAnida@barberberryfarm.com

December 13 Christmas with Phil
Phil Easter – CAMGA – peaster36@gmail.com
(334) 277-2701 (home) (334) 451-0366 (cell)



Lunch and Learn By Charlotte Hall

Can you believe that 2015 is just about over? And for some of us, Christmas 2015 really slipped up on us and all of us had not decorated our tree or house. Lunch and Learn with Phil Easter in December to the rescue. Phil Easter gave a most delightful, entertaining and informative demonstration on last minute decorating, and lots of things are available straight out of your yard or garden for these projects.

Whether you are using a “life like” Christmas tree or an aromatic, freshly cut tree, there are proper preparation rules that you should

follow. With life like Christmas trees, branches should be pulled down from the hinges close to the stem of the tree instead of the outer ends of the branches. This prevents the branches from being broken and possibly falling or sagging. Fresh trees should be given a newly trimmed edge of the trunk before being putting in a container that can hold water. Fresh trees need to be watered daily to prevent needles from shedding and to prolong the life of the tree.

Ribbons can be added to the tree in both a vertical and circular arrangement. Ribbons used vertically create the illusion of a taller tree. To create an even taller tree, additional items may be added as toppers in the top of the tree such as tinsel, spirally decorative items, artificial flowers, floral stems or anything that you like that is long and can stick out of the top of the tree.

Themed Christmas trees are popular such as a man’s tree decorated with hunting, fishing or outdoor ornaments. Burlap ribbon and items have been especially popular for the last few years. Other theme items include angel ornament trees, children’s trees with toys, miniatures, candy canes and elves, trees with special flowers such as magnolias, poinsettias or any favorite flower. Some Christmas trees have only one type of ornament such as Santa Clauses or snowmen. Lots of people seem to like a vacation Christmas tree decorated with ornaments gathered while on vacation. And then there is the “mish mash” tree which has a combination of anything and everything, including those sweet ornaments made by children in elementary school – special in its own memorable way.

In addition to the tree, Phil showed many ways to spruce up the home with arrangements of fresh greenery and blooms from your yard. Take a walk through your garden and see if there is anything blooming and use whatever you have. Beautiful greenery of different kinds looks especially attractive at this time of year. While gathering your items, take a bucket of lukewarm water with you and immerse the cut items immediately after you cut them into the bucket of water. You may add a floral preservative to the water which will extend the life of the cut flowers. Cut with bypass nippers as an anvil cut limits the uptake of water in the plant stems. English boxwood is an excellent choice as it grows slower than the Japanese boxwood and has a shiny green sheen to its leaves. Phil recommends using DesignMaster flossy wood tone spray for your plants when used inside for arrangements, as it will not harm the green plant. Work with an odd number of blooms as even numbers give a boxy look.

For containers, look around your house – in your china cabinet or kitchen cupboard or anywhere else you see an unusual type container that would be appealing. Another tip is to take floral tape and crisscross it over the top of a glass or vase, making a grid that will aid in holding flowers in place for an arrangement. Oasis or





floral foam – not styrofoam as it does not hold water – may be used for ease in arrangement. Do not force the oasis under the water but let it slowly and naturally absorb water. Forcing it under the water will create air pockets in the oasis and stems placed in these air pockets will not survive.

Some plants for use at this time of year that may still be in bloom are pineapple sage, Cuban oregano, hellibore, nandina, holly, firebush, encore azaleas, or Mexican sage. Greenery choices are all types of evergreens such as juniper or cedar, and Japanese yew, boxwood, acuba, magnolia, or papyrus. Want to use poinsettias in arrangements without it drooping? Phil gave us the trick on that one. After the poinsettia bloom is cut from the plant, sear the end of the stem with a flame and the poinsettia bloom can then be used in oasis or with a water pick. For table arrangements, the arrangement should not be more than 14" tall in order for guests to see over the arrangement and converse easily.



What a wonderful way to conclude our 2014 Lunch and Learn programs with Phil Easter - a true master of maximizing all plants in the garden. And to begin our 2015 sessions, Rod Douglas is going to talk about bluebirds and give a quick demo on how to construct a bluebird house – just in time for everyone to go home and get ready to attract bluebirds this spring. That will be on January 12th, the second Tuesday of the month. Please join us with your lunch and drinks will be provided.



A favorite among our Lunch and Learn programs is our talented Phil Easter who creates gorgeous holiday decorations from common things growing in fields, woods, or in our own yards.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Lunch and Learn Committee. Hope to see you in 2016!!



**Beautiful Lanark —
.....where our CAMGA
volunteers work each
Wednesday.**

CAMGA Garden Buzzzz
Mary Long— Editor
858 Jackson Street
Elmore, Alabama 36025



NEXT MEETING

JANUARY 19

**CAMGA
MEETING
10 A.M.
EXTENSION**

Dear CAMGA,

It is with some sadness that I step down from my position as newsletter editor. I have thoroughly enjoyed my years as editor because everyone has been so cooperative and so professional in their newsletter positions. An editor can do nothing until his/her contributors send in their input, and y'all have been outstanding in that effort. I have been traveling a lot this past year and I plan to do even more in 2016 and beyond. That is the main reason I must make the change. I want to thank everyone for their loyal participation in getting the news out on time making it interesting. Carol Pugh will do an excellent job as she takes over the editor role. Please give her your full cooperation, and she will see what a pleasure it is to work with all of you.

Sincerely,

Mary Long