



# GARDEN BUZZZZ



Volume 25 Issue 2 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

February 2016

**Message from: Rhona Watson**  
CAMGA President



Thank you all for your support at our first meeting. The attendance was impressive, great way to start the New Year.

Big thanks to Lee Borden, our vice president for the review of what we can do to earn hours, and an overview of the different committees and their responsibilities.

There are opportunities for everyone, whether you like to organize and present, or do physical work in the garden. No matter what you participate in you will be learning new things, making new friends, and helping the extension center with the community. Put all the incredible knowledge we have gained through the program to work, and keep adding to it. We welcome everyone and look forward to any new ideas.

Our next meeting will have a presentation by one of our favorite extension agents, Dani Carroll. She will be doing intermediate "Seed Starting." I have seen at least four different presentations, by four different people on the subject, and learn something new each time. I have even been known to give that presentation myself. There is not one correct way to do seeds, come and learn, and if it works for you, then it is right.

Now is not necessarily the time to plant your seeds, but it is the time to plan. If you are like me I have seeds in the refrigerator I saved from last year, and some I bought on line. Check the time the seeds need to be sowed before they are ready to plant. For example, pepper seeds need 6 to 8 weeks, so if you wanted them to be ready for the plant sale on May 7<sup>th</sup>, they should be planted about March 12<sup>th</sup>.

Do not plant too early unless you have a green house, or a place where the seedlings get enough light to grow. See my 2015 plan on page 15, it also helps keep track of germination, and success rates from previous years.

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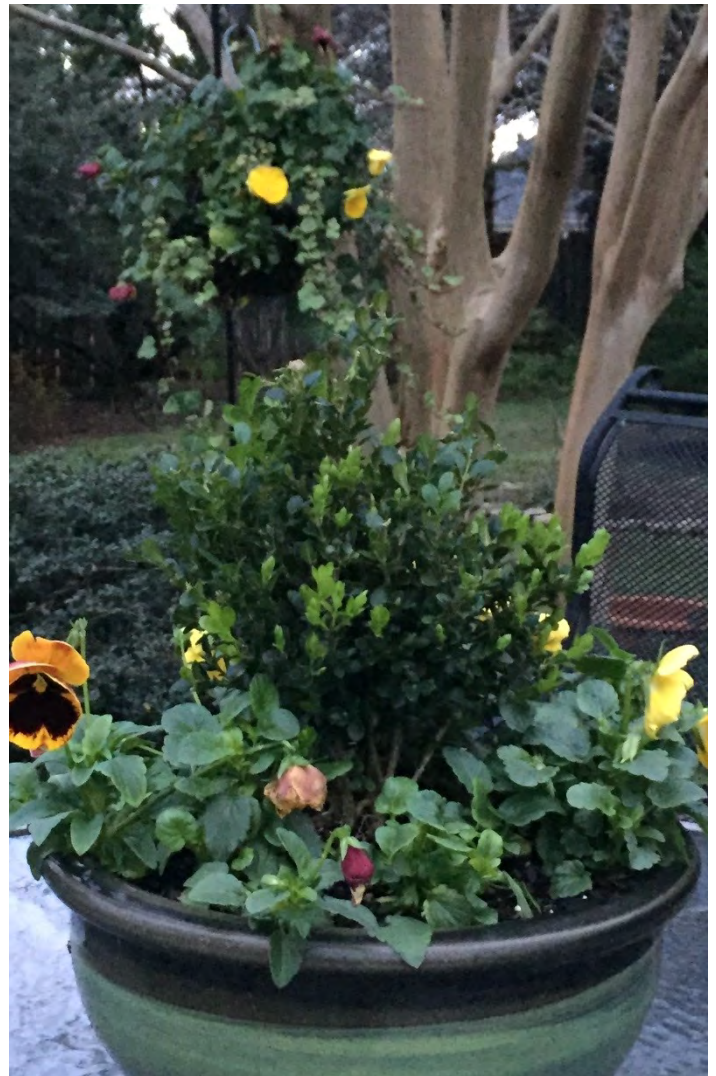
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The Jewel in the garden this month are my Pansies in containers. With the warm temperatures, and plentiful rain, they are thriving even in January.

The one on the table has a small boxwood in the center surrounded by pansies. The container in the background is an ivy planted in a round container with sphagnum moss and some soil inside.

In the fall it is planted with pansies, and in the spring, torenia. Try new things in your garden this year.

Your favorite garden should be your own.



*Rhona's Plant of the Month  
Pansies in Containers*



## Message from Mallory

Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests



### The Home Invasion of Ladybugs

Having the problem of ladybugs invading your home? You are not alone. Asian Ladybird Bugs are notorious of coming into homes in fall and winter seasons. On a warm winters day the ladybugs emerge and then when the temperature begins to drop they try to find an entry point into a protected space from the elements “your home.”



Ladybugs indoors will not bite you or your pets and will eventually die from the lack of food. Ladybugs eat only small "juicy" insects, so they will not cause damage to plants, paper, cloth or any other household items. They are actually beneficial insects outdoors as they are predators of those problem insects such as the aphids, mealy bugs and scale, but when these ladybugs come indoors they can be a big nuisance. Ladybugs release a yellowish and smelly liquid when they are disturbed or distressed, this will leave yellow markings on your wall and windows.

Even though they are beneficial insects, we do not want them inside our homes. I do not suggest applying pesticide to kill them indoors. The most popular way to get them out is vacuuming them up and releasing the unwelcome guests outside.

Is there other means to get rid of them? There is a trap called a Ladybug Black Light Trap, but there is no research data as to its effectiveness and sticky traps have little effect on ladybugs. You can spray an insecticide outdoors around the perimeter of your home and also pull back the mulch from around the foundation. Also pruning back shrubs where more light and air can circulate around the foundation will reduce ladybugs as well as roaches, lizards or skinks and many other home invading insects.

### UPCOMING LUNCH AND LEARN PROGRAMS IN MONTGOMERY AND AUTAUGA COUNTY

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

**February Topic: Home Landscape Design, Dr. Carolyn Robinson of Auburn University**  
**March Topic: Backyard Veggies, Mike Forster, Master Gardener (MG)**

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

**February Topic: Rose Selections for your Garden, Jason Powell of Petals from the Past**  
**March Topic: Backyard Tomatoes, Mallory Kelley, Alabama Cooperative Extension System**

## JANUARY 2016 MINUTES

By: Lois Pribulick



### CENTRAL Alabama Master Gardeners Association January 19, 2016 Regular Meeting

The CAMGA January meeting was called to order by President Rhona Watson at 10:06 a.m. at the Elmore County Extension Auditorium. There were 57 present consisting of members, interns and guests.

#### MINUTES:

The minutes from the December meeting as published in the Newsletter were approved by acclamation.

#### TREASURER:

Joyce Vella presented the Treasurer report for the month of December. Balance as of November 30, 2015 was \$13,151.73. Income for December was \$818.00. Expenditures were \$1,267.39. Balance as of December 31, 2015 is \$12,702.34. Johan Beumen made a motion to accept the Treasurer report as presented. Phil Easter seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

##### Projects Committee: John Barnes reporting

Bowling Ball: John reported that the committee is working on a class for a decorated bowling ball to be used in the yard and open to all members. February 26, 2016 will be the practice sessions for the instructors. The class will be held on June 17, 2016. Details and cost will be given at a later date.

Seminar: John stated that a Seminar was suggested for 2017 to be held in Wetumpka. Speakers, subjects, and all information is in the planning stage. The Seminar Committee needs money up front for speakers, hotel, a venue etc. The Committee has requested \$5,000.00. Candy Jones made a motion to allow the Committee \$5,000.00 for startup expenditures. Bonnie McCormack seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Blue Bird houses class on building the bird houses will be available to the membership on March 11, 2016. Details will be given at the February meeting.

##### Programs Committee: Lee Borden reporting

Today the subject is "How CAMGA Is Structured" and "Volunteer Opportunity for Hours". Lee presented a Power Point presentation that included each Committee. He stated that after the meeting is closed, the table and chairs will be available manned by Committee Chairmen for members to visit the committees. The committees to be included are: Governor's Manson, Lanark, Intern Class, Videos, Audio Visual, Projects, Plant Sale, and Learning Gardens.

Future programs were announced: February, Dani Carroll-seed starting. March, Suzanne Sikes, predators.

##### Historian: Rhona Watson reporting for Jane Mobley

The picture and history book for CAMGA is finished for 2015. It was passed around and will remain in the Library for all to see. Jane has requested \$75.00 for the book for 2016. Becky Brown made a motion to grant the \$75.00. Penny Arceneaux seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

##### Lunch and Learn: Sandra Adkins reporting

Sandra stated that the classes are going well and classes are scheduled through December 2016. Mallory Kelly gathered data from each county using the surveys completed after each Lunch and Learn presentation. For Elmore County the statistics were as follows: 416 participants, 190 completed the survey, 74.8% stated that they gained knowledge. Mallory is requesting that instructors stress more emphasis on completing the surveys.



## **JANUARY 2016 MINUTES CONTINUED**

### **Community Learning Gardens: Mary McCroan reporting**

Mary stated because of the weather the gardens are a little slow right now. She mentioned some of the vegetables in the gardens. She explained how Master Gardeners can claim a plot in the garden and plant it yourself and take care of it. That piece becomes your garden. Some of the plans for the vegetable gardens and flower gardens will be announced at a later date.

### **Plant Sale: Carol Rattan reporting**

The Annual Plant Sale will be held on May 7, 2016. Everyone is encouraged to start seeds and getting other plants ready for the sale. More details will be given at meetings to come.

### **Interns: Becky Brown reporting**

Becky announced that she is revising the applications and when ready they will be in the Extension Office for new interns for the September class. Everyone is encouraged to recruit new interns. The 2015 class will graduate in August. Sandy Rosamond will be in charge of the food for the graduates.

### **Advance Master Gardeners: Candy Jones reporting**

Candy explained the basics of becoming an Advanced Master Gardener. See Candy for details.

### **Help Line: Mary Ann Hatcher reporting**

Mary Ann stated that she is having a training session for all Master Gardeners at the Extension Office. The first training will be Tuesday, February 23, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon for names with letters A through K. (either first or last names can contain A through K) The next training session will be held on Wednesday, February 24, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon for letters L through Z. Call Mary Ann if you plan to attend.

### **Directory: Ann Hill reporting**

The Directory is in the final stages. Ann Hill stated that we can no longer get them printed at the Extension Office without costing money. Ann found a company Delta Quick Print that will print 200 in black and white for \$120.00. That is cheaper than the Extension Office. \$120.00 was approved by acclamation.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Volunteer hours are completed. No more hours will be accepted for 2015. Newsletter deadline is the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month to Carol Pugh. Email: [pughdia@aces.edu](mailto:pughdia@aces.edu).

Refreshments: Marjorie Hannah circulated a sign-up sheet for refreshments.

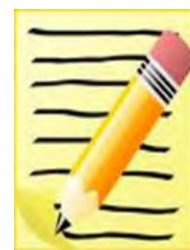
Joyce Vella offered for discussion trips in the future for the Master Gardeners. She had several ideas but nothing has been decided. Joyce is still gathering information and possible arrangements. As decisions are made, Joyce will inform CAMGA. Currently inquiring about a trip to Birmingham Botanical Gardens. She will report at the February meeting.

The 2016 State Conference will be held in Dothan on May 12<sup>th</sup> and May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016. More information will be coming in the near future. You can register on line.

CAMGA web site is <http://www.aces.edu/mg/Elmore/has> archived newsletters

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectively Submitted,  
Lois Pribulick, Secretary





## February Plant of the Month: Chinese Lantern

By: Jane Mobley

One of our members has asked that we look at Chinese Lantern as our plant of the month. If you have any suggestions for other months, please let me know.

Chinese lanterns, *Physalis alkekengi*, are tender perennials growing from zones 2-10 that are also known as Japanese lanterns, strawberry ground cherries, or winter cherries. They are native to southern Europe across Asia to Japan. They are noted for large bright orange to red papery coverings for their fruit. They are in the tomatillo family, and the RIPE fruits are eaten as delicacies in France and Latin America. (Do NOT eat any other part of this plant or the unripe fruit!)

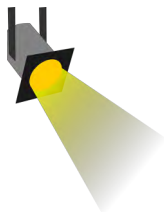


The Chinese lantern plant can grow to 16-24 inches in height and width and has spirally arranged leaves that are 2.5-5 inches long and 1.5-3 inches wide. Leaves are medium green and coarse in texture, and flowers are white appearing in midsummer. The basal calyx of the flower develops into the colorful papery covering of the fruit. The bright coverings appear in the autumn and put on quite a show just in time to be used in Halloween and Thanksgiving arrangements.

The seeds of the Chinese lantern are located in the fleshy fruit inside the papery covering. In order to propagate the seeds, they must be removed from the fruit and dried before planting in pots in February or March. The entire fruit cannot be planted if one hopes to get seedlings. Care must be taken in handling the plants because the only part of the plant that is not poisonous when ingested is the RIPE fruit. Also, it should be noted that, if they really like the area in which they are planted, they develop strong spreading rhizomes that could allow them to become extremely invasive if they are planted in the ground. For that reason many prefer to enjoy them in pots or in poor soil where they do not get lots of water. They may also spread from seeds. Seeds may be sown in late spring on top of the soil with just a sprinkling of compost to barely cover them. They can also be started from cuttings.



Chinese lanterns like full sun (for no more than 8 hours) to partial shade. They do well companion planted with Lily of the Valley or Bee Balm. Usually the only pest to which they fall prey is the flea beetle. They do well as part of fresh or dried arrangements. To dry them, the red part of the plant should be turned upside down after stripping the leaves from the stem and hung in a warm, dry, dark place for several weeks. This should be done as soon as the calyx turns red or orange.



## SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS by Judy May



Attending the Projects Committee meeting January 11<sup>th</sup> were John Barnes, Sally L'Abbe, John Butler, Johan Beumer, Rhona Watson, Cheri Bedford, Joyce Vella, Linda Griebel, Lois Pribulick, Candy Jones and Jane Mobley.

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, Terry Chambliss and Linda Griebel worked in the Learning Gardens and cleaned up winter debris, weeded raised beds, and planted cover crop seeds (experiment to determine germinate rates in cooler temperatures).

On January 12<sup>th</sup>, Linda did a presentation "Gardening Year At A Glance" to Canterbury Bells Garden Club. Approximately 20 attended.

The Lunch and Learn January 12<sup>th</sup> was "Bluebird Happiness (and House Building Demonstration) by Rod Douglas. There were 32 attendees, 24 of them Master Gardeners. Assisting were Sandi Adkison, Carla McCune and Debbie Kelso.

On January 5<sup>th</sup>, Marie Updike hosted the Lonicera Garden Club meeting and luncheon in her home. They look forward to attending the Garden Clubs of Alabama Annual Convention in Montgomery April 4-5, 2016.

Marie spoke to the Normandale Garden Club January 14 about fundraising projects, programs and volunteerism. Marie encouraged the club to attend the CAMGA Lunch and Learn sessions and gave them a partial list of other CAMGA sponsored events.

Catese Chaffee invited Marie to a plant exchange and guided tour of her spacious garden in Millbrook. Marie gave her a pot of registered daylilies from her garden. Catese shared two of her rooted Angel Trumpet stems and advised on the best method to root them.

Ann Hill and Cathy Whigham put in many, many hours updating our directory and getting it ready for us.

Phil Easter did the Alabama Live T.V. promotion for Lunch and Learn with Rod Douglas, and wrote a piece for the February River Region Living magazine on Planting Annual Herbs in Spring.

Maria says helping her this month were interns Leslie Bingham and Susan Littleton and Master Gardeners Ann Hill, Carla McCune, Peggy Gelpi, Jimmy May and Don Hoover. Thanks so much! Maria says she is working on some big projects this month in the gardens and needs all the help she can get. If you have questions, call Maria at 334-657-9414. She promises you will have fun!

Bringing refreshments to the monthly meeting this month were Barbara Wallace, Rod Douglas, Brenda Bernal, Gale Wheeler-Leonard, John Barnes and Bonnie McCormick.

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

## Lunch and Learn Program

By: Debbie Kelso



We welcomed 2016 in with the Bluebird of Happiness. Rod Douglas shared his passion for bird watching and gave advice on how to build and care for a bluebird house. He is a Citizen Science participant through Cornell University Lab of Ornithology. He monitors at least 65 bluebird boxes on golf courses.

*Sialia Sialis* is the Eastern Bluebird we are familiar with in Alabama. There is also the Mountain and Western Bluebird. They are members of the thrush family. The male of the Eastern Bluebird, especially during breeding time, will have the bright blue back, red-orange breast and white bottom. Some call him the “American Bird” for his red-white and blue colors. The female has a duller blue-brown almost grey back.

To bring these little feathered friends to your viewing area will require some knowledge of their preferences with an eye for their safety. They are ground feeders and like open grassy areas to feed. They eat mainly berries and insects and on a rare occasion only will be seen hawking for short periods. They prefer open woodlands (not in the woods), orchards, burned pine forest; train tracks, golf courses, baseball fields, farmlands and pastures. 2.15 acres is usually a minimal guide.

They are at risk to many predators and have an 80% mortality rate in the first year. Predators include: snakes, cats, dogs, other birds such as blue jays and crows, eastern chipmunk, grey squirrels, raccoons. Ferrell cats are estimated to eat 6 billion birds a year. Insects such as fire ants will eat the young and wasp will either sting the young or cause the mother to abandon her nest.

The Eastern Bluebird prefers to build their nest in cavities and prefer what is call second cavity nesting. The ideal home is an abandoned woodpecker nest in an old tree. It is the older bluebirds that are usually found in nest boxes.

The male displays himself at the nest cavity to attract the female by fluttering his wings and singing. Nesting time is usually around February or March but recently has been as early as January. The male will bring straw and she will throw it out choosing to build her own nest while he protects the area. She loosely weaves grass and pine straw. She will lay an egg a day up to five eggs before sitting on them to incubate. In this way, they will all hatch at the same time. All trash such as egg shells, insect shells and fecal sacs are flown out of the nest to prevent predators. They will use the same nest multiple times and may build one on top of the other. Typically they will have more than one brood a year.

The young from the early nests usually leave their parents in summer, but the young from the later nest frequently stays with the parents over winter even helping to feed the next hatchlings. When the fledgling is ready to leave the nest, it will fly to the first bush it sees. This is dangerous if that bush is below the pole making it easy for predators. Optimal distance is 20 yards away. When the fledglings leave the nest, you can remove the top nest. In summer you can completely clean the boxes. When checking the boxes, knock first to allow the mother to leave then open the side door.

He informed us that the Eastern Bluebird's numbers have been on the rise with the help of boxes like these.

*(Continued on page 9)*



## Lunch and Learn Program (Continued)

(Continued from page 8)

Now that we know a little bit more about our Bluebird of Happiness, we can start attracting them to our place. Rod Douglas provided a diagram and instructions on how to build a bluebird house. **(See next page for bird house plan).**

Consider the following when building a nesting box for bluebirds:

- Should be functional, not necessary to be pretty

- Wood Crete molds, cypress works well

- Need opening 1 1/2 inch diameter

- Place the door on the side and have some form of latch or nail to keep closed

- Roof should over hang

- Pole long enough to put house at least five feet off the ground

- It will need air vents

- Place 100 feet apart or separated by a building (females will fight to the death to protect young)

- Don't place near woods or an overhanging limb or close to underbrush

- Turn the opening NE never West due to the heat of the sun

- They require a fly zone ( they will close their wings and fly into the opening) No perch. That just helps the predator birds

- Place a bucket upside down directly under nesting box or a metal 8" radius, 16" diameter to baffle predators from climbing pole

- Spray insecticide weekly to base of pole (may have to move pole if ants a major problem)

- Dot Vaseline to inside roof of box to discourage wasp from building their own nest

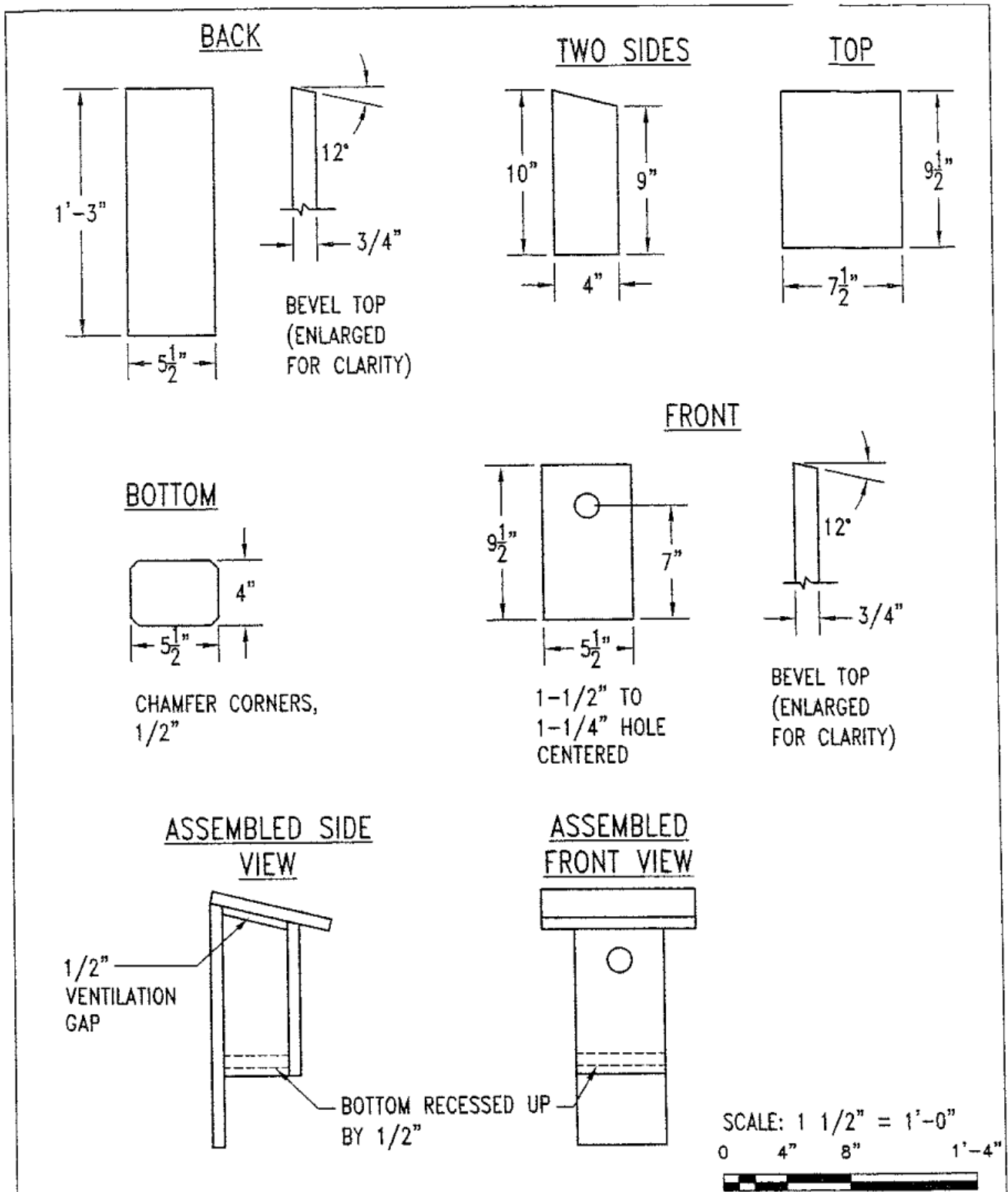


**Rod Douglas**  
Displaying nesting box for bluebirds

Even if built correctly, you may find anything in the nest from House Sparrows to Chickadees. They need a home too.

Rod Douglas' passion for bird watching was contagious. I expect a few more Bluebirds will find their Happiness in new nesting boxes this Spring.

Just in time for Valentines, Maria Pacheco-West will be our speaker for the February 9<sup>th</sup> Lunch and Learn. The topic is "Fall in Love with Roses". Please join us with your lunch. Drinks will be provided.



AUTAUGA  
COUNTY  
BLUEBIRD TRAIL



PROJECT:  
AUTAUGA COUNTY BLUEBIRD TRAIL

TITLE:  
EASTERN BLUEBIRD NEST BOX  
CONSTRUCTION DRAWING

BY	CHECK
DATE 06-07-12	SHEET
REV.	1.1



## Master Gardener Help Line News

By: Mary Ann Hatcher

The Helpline will officially open for us on Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016. To sign up, go to our Master Gardener Service Report sign in page.



When you have signed in and have the page with all of the tabs, select HELP-LINE. This will take you to the calendar.

We have 3 slots, one titled Intern, one titled Either, and one titled MG. The Either slot may be filled in by Interns or certified MG volunteers. The MG slot should be left open for our Advisors only.

A training for our Interns and other interested Master Gardener volunteers will be held on Tuesday, February 23 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon for those whose last name begins with the letters A- K; and on Wednesday, February 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon for those whose last name begins with the letters L-Z.

This will be a demonstration of the process from taking a call, researching, to ending with data entry.

I'm looking forward to meeting all of you and having a great Helpline Season!

## Governor's Mansion Report

By: Amanda Borden



During the month of January, work at the Governor's Mansion was curtailed by the weather. Volunteers managed to get out and weed (in the sunny spots!) on two Mondays, but the other work days had to be cancelled due to the extreme cold.

Thanks to Karen Benton and the Friends of the Alabama Governor's Mansion, three new trees were planted on the grounds: A redbud, a *Magnolia x soulangiana*, and an overcup oak.



## Programs Update

By: Lee Borden

On January 19, we focused 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. Interns (and others interested in earning hours) were able to visit one-on-one with the leaders of the volunteer opportunities that they found most intriguing.

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.

And on March 15, our friend Suzanne Sikes (you may remember her program on daylilies last year) will return to talk with us about attracting beneficial predators to our gardens.

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



***Thank You Christmas Party  
Committee Members!!  
By: Linda Griebel***

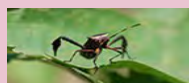
What a festive and fun Christmas luncheon we had at Mulder Methodist Church!!! We want to give a special shout out to Carol Rattan who secures this wonderful venue for our luncheon. And we are especially thankful that Mulder Methodist allows us to use their facility at Christmas time. Thanks to both. And while we are handing out kudos, Sharon Potts has shared her festive fun-loving snowmen for years. She and the other decorating committee members, Carla McCune and Charlotte Hall did an excellent job of preparing for our luncheon. Thanks for the festive atmosphere and orderly set up. Santa's elves could not have done better!!



## All Bugs Good and Bad

### 2016 Webinar Series

First Friday of the Month-- 1:00 pm (Central)



**February 5**

#### Don't Let the Insects Eat Your Vegetables

*Dr. Ayanava Majumdar*



**March 4**

#### Kill That Queen the First Time: Tips for Making Fire Ant Mound Treatments

*Dr. Jason Oliver*



**April 1**

#### Help Pollinators Cope with Pesticides

*Dr. Jim Tew, Sallie Lee, Dani Carroll and Jack Rowe*



**May 6**

#### Managing Pests of Backyard Pecans

*Bryan Wilkins*



**June 3**

#### Spotted Wing Drosophila

*Dr. Hannah Burrack*



**August 5**

#### Controlling Roaches Before They Control You

*Dr. Faith Oi and Janet Hurley*



**September 2**

#### Snake Identification

*Dr. Mike Wines*



**October 7**

#### Don't Use Too Much Pesticide or Fertilizer: Learn How to Calibrate your Lawn and Garden Sprayers and Spreaders

*Dr. Wayne Buhler*



**November 4**

#### Rodenticides

*City of New Orleans Mosquito, Termite and Rodent Control Board*

For more information on the series and how to connect to the webinars, visit: <http://articles.extension.org/pages/73368>

## Upcoming Events

## February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> Governor's Mansion Work Day 9–11 a.m.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Lanark Work Day 8–11 a.m. 	<b>4</b> Learning Garden Work Day 8:15–12:00 noon Extension Office Private Pesticide Applicator Training Class 8–12 noon, Extension Office	<b>5</b> “Don’t Let the Insects Eat Your Garden Webinar” 1 p.m. <a href="http://articles.extension.org/pages/73368">http://articles.extension.org/pages/73368</a>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Governor's Mansion Work Day 9–11 a.m.	<b>9</b> Lunch & Learn 12–1 p.m. Extension Office “Fall In Love with Roses” Maria Pacheco-West	<b>10</b> Lanark Work Day 8–11 a.m. 	<b>11</b> Learning Garden Work Day 8:15–12 noon, Extension Office	<b>12</b> Fruit Pruning Workshop 9–11 a.m. Rockford, AL. Call Coosa County Extension Office 256-377-4713 to register	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 	<b>15</b> Governor's Mansion Work Day 9–11 a.m. Projects Committee Meeting 10–11:30 a.m. Extension Office	<b>16</b> CAMGA Meeting 10 a.m. Extension Office Pecan Mgm. Workshop 9–11 a.m. Founders Station, Pike Road	<b>17</b> Lanark Work Day 8–11 a.m. 	<b>18</b> Learning Garden Work Day 8:15–12 noon, Extension Office	<b>19</b> <b>Deadline for Newsletter Submittals</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Governor's Mansion Work Day 9–11 a.m.	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Lanark Work Day 8–11 a.m. 	<b>25</b> Learning Garden Work Day 8:15–12 noon, Extension Office	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Governor's Mansion Work Day 9–11 a.m.					



## Garden Record

### Spring 2015

By: Rhona Watson

<i>6 to 8 Weeks</i>	<i># in Packet</i>	<i>Seeds Planted</i>	<i># Germinated Planted Feb. 15</i>	<i>Days to Germinate</i>
Bunny Grass	50	24	11	6
Parsley	100	12	8	12
Basil Pistou	100	12	10	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>48</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>7.3 avg.</b>
<i>6 to 8 Weeks</i>	<i># in Packet</i>	<i>Seeds Planted</i>	<i># Germinated Planted March 7</i>	
Gomphrena Purple	Saved	12	8	5
Gomphrena Red	Saved	12	3	5
Pepper Karma Hybrid	15	13	12	10
Cuphea Sriacha Rose	10	10	11	5
Ornamental Pepper	Saved	12	12	10
Pepper – Early alapeno	25	12	11	10
<b>Total</b>		<b>71</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>7.5 avg.</b>
<i>3 to 4 weeks</i>	<i># in Packet</i>	<i>Seeds Planted</i>	<i># Germinated March 17</i>	
Marigold – Vanilla Cream	30	25	21	5
Celosia China Town—Red	24	12	11	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>37</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>156</b>	<b>86</b>	

**extension**  
ALABAMA A&M & AUBURN UNIVERSITIES

# SOW Easy to Use

This new planting and gardening mobile app features optimum planting times, My Garden tracker, a farmers market locator, Ask an Expert feature, and more.

ANDROID APP ON Google play    Download on the App Store

A Product of  
**Alabama Extension**  
f t y u www.aces.edu

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Check out the new Extension Sow Planting mobile app!!  
For information on this *free* garden app, Ctrl + Click link to follow.

<https://store.aces.edu/ItemDetail.aspx?>



The Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
is proud to sponsor

## Tea and Crumpets

Proceeds support the Federation scholarship fund

**Tues., February 9, 2016**

**1:30 to 3:30 pm.**

Tickets \$12.00



**Hat Contest**

Location: Young Meadows Presbyterian Church  
5780 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, AL 36116

**TEA - FINGER SANDWICHES - SWEETS - FRUIT**

**DOOR PRIZES and RAFFLE**



**FUN, FELLOWSHIP and FASHION SHOW**

For Tickets Contact Linda Silverman **334-279-7670** [ilsilver2@yahoo.com](mailto:ilsilver2@yahoo.com)  
(Deadline to buy tickets: Feb. 2, 2016)

(Make checks payable to Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.)

TEA AND CRUMPETS is a fundraiser for scholarships sponsored by the Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. The Federation has awarded numerous scholarships to high school graduates.  
*Submitted by: Marie Updike, member of Lonicera Garden Club.*



## **Bt, It's NOT Just For Caterpillars Anymore**

**By Dawn Cermak**

*Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) has been approved by the National Organic Program for the control of specific worms and caterpillars for many seasons but now there is a new ADULT version. *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) *galleriae* is a newly approved strain of the bacteria that effectively controls adult beetles, larvae and caterpillars of specific insects. It is currently being recommended for the control of Japanese beetles, Asiatic garden beetle, root weevils, spotted oak borer and few more.

This strain is non-toxic to the honeybee, parasitic wasps, lady bug, aquatic species or birds according to research (Rutgers University). The target insects need to be actively feeding on the plant leaves for this control method to work. The Bt needs to be ingested by the beetle where it will then cause the insect to stop eating and die within a few days. This product is listed acceptable to be used on EDIBLES (veggies, fruits), trees and shrubs. It can be applied up to the day of harvest according to its label. This strain is available as "Beetle-Jus" from Manf. Gurney's in their current catalog. I have not found it in my local Home Depot, Lowes or Ace Hardware. I have not tried the local nurseries.

As a note, this product does not work on the same worms/caterpillars as the original Bt product does. So reminding our clients/public to read the label is very important for proper usage and control. Also Auburn Univ. still highly recommends using trap crops instead of insecticides. Trap crops for Jap. Beetles are sunflowers and sorghum. You can find more trap crop info on the 'IPM Training Modules' from Auburn Univ. posted at [www.aces.edu/vegetableipm](http://www.aces.edu/vegetableipm).

Bt works by forming crystal proteins which attach inside the insect intestines, causing a toxic buildup and the insect stops eating. Bt is found throughout the world's soils in thousands of different *Bt* strains, producing over 200 cry proteins that are active against an extensive range of insects and some other invertebrates but most are not approved in the United States as bio-pesticides and are not commercially available. For further information on the history or usage of Bt, try the University of California, San Diego easy to understand webpages: [http://www.bt.ucsd.edu/bt\\_history.html](http://www.bt.ucsd.edu/bt_history.html)



**GUIDELINES ON  
RECORDING YOUR MASTER GARDENER HOURS**  
Prepared by: Anida Wishnietsky

### Master Gardener Service Report Login

Go to website: <https://ssl.acesag.auburn.edu/mgmanager/login/>

If you can answer yes to these four questions, then the activity (hours) meets the mission of the Master Gardener program and you should count it in your annual service report:

- Will it benefit the community?
- Is it associated with (or benefiting) a non-commercial group?
- Is it related to gardening, the environment, or an Extension program?
- Are you helping people learn?

If in doubt, ask Mallory Kelley who is the final authority on countable hours.

Requirements for earning stars and badges are as follows:

- Bronze Star 100 – 299 hours
- Silver Star 300 – 499 hours
- Gold Star 500 – 999 hours
- Gold Name Badges 1,000 – 1,999 hours
- Platinum Badges 2,000 – 3,999 hours
- Silver Star Pin with ruby colored gemstone 4,000 – 5,999 hours
- Silver Star Pin with emerald colored gemstone 6,000 – 7,999 hours
- Silver Star Pin with diamond colored gemstone 8,000 – 9,999 hours
- New Badge with lifetime membership in AMGA – 10,000 + hours

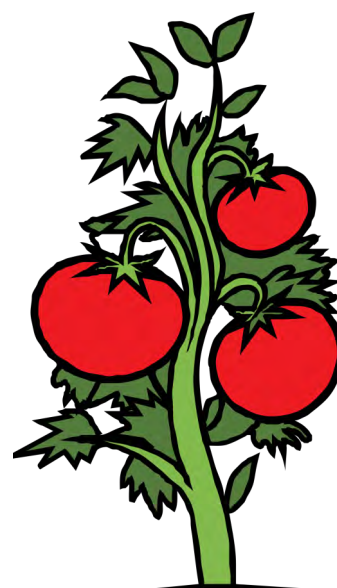




**Tomato Varieties**  
**Growth Habit and Disease Resistance**  
**Originally Prepared by Tony Glover**  
**Updated by Chip East**

**Variety Growth Habit Disease Resistance**

Amelia (7-8 oz) Determinate F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, F<sub>3</sub>, V, N, St, TSWV  
 Atkinson Indeterminate F, N  
 Beefmaster (12-16 oz) Indeterminate V, F, N, AS, St  
 Bella Rosa (10-12 oz) heat set Determinate F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, V<sub>1</sub>, AS, GLS, St, TSWV  
 Better Boy (12-16 oz) Indeterminate V, F, N, AS, St  
 BHN 602 Determinate F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, F<sub>3</sub>, V, TSWV  
 BHN 640 Determinate F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, F<sub>3</sub>, V, TSWV  
 Big Beef (10-12 oz) Indeterminate AS, F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, L, N, TMV, V, St  
 Big Boy (12-16 oz) Indeterminate -----  
 Carolina Gold (golden-yellow) 8 oz Determinate F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, F<sub>3</sub>,  
 Celebrity (7-8 oz) Determinate V, F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, N, TMV, AS, St  
 Crista Determinate V<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, F<sub>3</sub>, TSWV, N  
 Early Girl (4-6 oz) Indeterminate V, F  
 Estiva Indeterminate F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, TMV, V  
 Finishline (7 oz) Determinate F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, F<sub>3</sub>, V, GLS, TSWV  
 Fletcher Determinate F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, V, N, GLS, TSWV  
 Floralina Determinate F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, F<sub>3</sub>, V<sub>1</sub>, AS, St  
 Florida 91 (8 oz) heat set Determinate AS, St, V, F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>  
 Jubilee (golden) 8 oz Indeterminate AS  
 Lemon Boy (yellow) 7 oz Indeterminate V, F, N, AS, St  
 Mountain Crest (10-12 oz) Determinate V, F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>  
 Mountain Fresh Plus Determinate F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, F<sub>3</sub>, N, TMV, V<sub>1</sub>, V<sub>2</sub>, EB  
 Mountain Glory Determinate F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, F<sub>3</sub>, V, GLS, TMV, TSWV  
 Mountain Spring (9 oz) Determinate V, F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, St  
 Patio (4oz) containers Determinate F<sub>1</sub>, AS, St  
 Phoenix (heat set) Determinate F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, AS, GLS, TMV  
 Primo Red Determinate F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, F<sub>3</sub>, V, TSWV  
 Quick Pick (6-8 oz) Indeterminate V, F<sub>1</sub>, N, TMV  
 Quincy Determinate F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, V, TSWV  
 Red Defender Determinate F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, AS, GLS, TMV, TSWV  
 Redline (heat set) Determinate F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, F<sub>3</sub>, V  
 Red Morning Determinate F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, F<sub>3</sub>, V, TSWV  
 Red Mountain Determinate F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, F<sub>3</sub>, V, N, TSWV  
 Solar Fire (8-10 oz) heat set Determinate V, F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, F<sub>3</sub>, St  
 Sun Leaper (8-10 oz) heat set Determinate F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, St, V



**Paste Tomatoes (Roma Types)**

BHN 410 Determinate BKS, V, F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>  
 BHN 685 (4-5 oz) Determinate F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, F<sub>3</sub>, TSWV  
 Muriel (4 oz) Determinate V, F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, N, AS, BKS, TSWV  
 Picus Determinate F<sub>1</sub>, V, AS, GLS, TSWV  
 Plum Dandy Determinate EB, F  
 Plum Regal Determinate F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, V, EB, LB, TSWV  
 Roma Determinate V, F, N, AS  
 Viva Italia Determinate V, F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, N, BKS, St

**Cherry Type**

Cherry Grande Determinate F<sub>1</sub>, V, ASC, St  
 Mountain Belle Determinate F<sub>1</sub>, V  
 New Pearl Indeterminate F<sub>1</sub>  
 Sun Gold (orange) Indeterminate F, TMV  
 Super Sweet 100 (1 oz) Indeterminate F<sub>1</sub>, V  
 Summer Sweet Indeterminate TMV, F<sub>1</sub>

**Grape Type**

Cupid (1/2 to 1 oz) Indeterminate F<sub>1</sub>, AS, St, BKS  
 Elfin Determinate -----  
 Golden Sunshine (orange) Indeterminate -----  
 Jolly Elf (1/2 to 3/4 oz) Determinate V, F<sub>2</sub>  
 Juliet (1 oz) Indeterminate F<sub>1</sub>  
 Navidad Determinate F<sub>2</sub>  
 Smarty Indeterminate F<sub>1</sub>, V

**Disease and Pest Resistance/Tolerance Key**

F or F<sub>1</sub> = Fusarium Wilt Race 1      N = Nematodes  
 F<sub>2</sub> = Fusarium Wilt Race 2    TMV = Tobacco Mosaic Virus  
 F<sub>3</sub> = Fusarium Wilt Race 3    TSWV = Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus  
 V = Verticillium Wilt    AS = Alternaria Stem Canker  
 St = Stemphylium    BKS = Bacterial Speck  
 EB = Early Blight    TMV = Tobacco Mosaic Virus  
 LB = Late Blight    GLS = Gray Leaf Spot

**Growth Habit**

Indeterminate – climbing, fruit ripens over an extended period of time  
 Determinate – bush type, fruit ripens in a concentrated time period



## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

### Backyard Fruit Pruning Workshop

Hosted by the  
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Friday, February 12, 2016

The Grazing Garden Fruit Orchard  
97 Coosa County Rd. 75  
Rockford, Alabama 35136  
(Adjacent to the Coosa County 4H Club House in front of Coosa Central  
Middle School in Hanover)  
9:00 am to 11:00 am



LEARN HOW TO PRUNE MUSCADINES, BLUEBERRIES,  
PERSIMMONS, FIGS, PLUMS, PEARS, AND APPLES.



To sign-up or for more information, contact the Coosa County Extension  
office at 256-377-4713. Registration fee is \$5 per person.  
Pre-Registration and Payment is required by Wednesday, February 10th.

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM- Grazing Garden Fruit Pruning

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_  
# of Participants X \$5 = Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Return Pre-Registration Form and Payment by Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2016 to:  
Coosa County Extension Office  
P.O. Box 247  
Rockford, AL 35136  
Make check payable to: Alabama Cooperative Extension System

### Pecan Management Workshop

Hosted by the  
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Tuesday, February 16, 2016

Founders Station in Pike Road  
4902 Pike Road  
Pike Road, Alabama

9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

#### TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:

SITE SELECTION, VARIETIES FOR LOW INPUT PLANTINGS,  
PROPER PLANTING, FERTILIZATION, WEED CONTROL,  
IRRIGATION, GRAFTING, INSECTS, AND DISEASE.

There is no registration fee but seating is limited and pre-registration  
is required. Please pre-register by calling the Montgomery County  
Extension Office at 334-270-4133 by Friday, February 12.



Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work in agriculture and home economics, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, and other related acts, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Auburn University, and Alabama A&M University, offers educational programs, materials and equal opportunity employment to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability.

### Lunch and Learn

February 9th

Elmore County Extension Office  
"Fall in Love with Roses"

Presented by:  
Maria Pacheco-West  
12:00 — 1 p.m.

### NEXT CAMGA MEETING

FEBRUARY 16  
10:00 A.M.

ELMORE COUNTY  
EXTENSION OFFICE

DANI CARROLL  
"SEED STARTING"

### CAMGA Garden Buzzzz

Carol Pugh — Editor  
pughdia@aces.edu  
334-567-6301



Photos from January 2016 CAMGA Meeting

