



GARDEN BUZZZZ



Volume 25 Issue 3 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

March 2016

Message from: Rhona Watson
CAMGA President



February is one of the busiest months for my gardening tasks. There is so much to do to get ready for spring.

Now is the best time to prune your roses, and other summer blooming plants. The plants that bloom in early spring like azaleas, spiriea, and forsythia should be pruned after they bloom.

It is the best time to repot and prune bonsai trees, right before they start to bud. It is also the best time of year to graft Japanese Maples. I learned this 3 years ago, and always have the best success with the grafts I do in February. And then there are the seeds that need to be planted for my spring and summer garden.

Thanks to Dani for an inspiring presentation on starting seeds in doors. I have been fortunate to hear several presentations from several people on the subject, but always learn something new to try.

I reset my plant lights for 16 hours, unfortunately they are in my bedroom and came on at 4:15 in the morning. Some adjustment was necessary, but the seedlings seem to be standing a little taller.

Congratulations to all of you that received stars at the February meeting. Your participation in the varied opportunities in the community, and conferences to improve knowledge, is what makes CAMGA an association we can all be proud of.

Thanks to Debbie Hough, for taking on the position of Reach for the Stars Coordinator, and presenting them at the meeting.

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Everyone who was at the meeting received their new directory for 2016. If you were not there, you can pick yours up at the Extension Office, or at the next meeting. Take some time and look thru it, there is a lot more information besides the list of members.

Check out the speaker Bureau for other organizations you may be involved in such as garden clubs. Now is the time to review the different committees and see what interests you.

We wanted everyone to be able to have a paper copy, so the directory is in black and white this year, due to the prohibitive cost of doing it in color. It is also available on line on the Master Gardener Service Report page in color.

All members who paid state dues, should have received their Garden Pathways News Letter. Inside is the agenda, and registration form for the conference, in Dothan May 12th to the 14th. There is information on each speaker and hotels in the area. These conferences are always fun and informative, and you even get to count the hours.

Deadline for registration is **April 1st**, so get them in if you plan to go.

The picture I have attached this month is my Bougainvillea Bonsai. Yes it is blooming in February.

I started this bonsai from a cutting 23 years ago, and it is my oldest one. It stays outside all year round, except for a few days in the garage when the temperature goes below 30. It has been repotted and root pruned seven times which keeps it healthy and still blooming. It is fun to having a plant this old that blooms in February.

Make your favorite garden your own

Rhona



*Rhona's Bougainvillea Bonsai
This lovely plant is 23 years old!*

Message from Mallory

Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests

Azaleas, a Southern Staple in the Landscape



If the warm snaps we have experienced lately have not already caused your azaleas to put out a few blooms, I think it is only a matter of time. Azaleas are a true sign of spring and a staple plant for the southern landscape with many different varieties and types. The first southern hybrid azaleas were planted in Charleston, South Carolina in 1848. Today, azaleas can be found in every climatic region in the Eastern half of the United States and also in most of the Pacific Coast region. In Alabama, we have deciduous and evergreen varieties of azaleas. The native deciduous azaleas lose their leaves in the winter, but have very beautiful clusters of honeysuckle like flowers in early spring adding great flower color and texture to the landscape. More commonly seen in the landscapes are the evergreen azaleas that are available in many different varieties of size and flower color.

If you are thinking of adding azaleas to your landscape it is not too late to plant and both the native deciduous and evergreen are great choices for areas with filtered shade. Very heavy shade throughout the day may reduce flower production and result in weak growth.

Azaleas do require some special treatment when it comes to soil conditions. Azaleas require an acid soil pH (around 5.5) to grow properly. Check the soil pH of your site before you plant azaleas.

The reason azaleas do better in slightly acid soil is because iron is more available to be taken up by the plants, which azaleas need. If the leaves of your azaleas have a yellow tint to them and the area between the veins is lighter in color than the darker green veins then the plants are not getting enough iron. Other causes of chlorosis (yellowing symptoms) in azaleas may also be attributed to poorly aerated soil, a heavy application of fertilizer, or roots that are heavily infested with nematodes or infected with root-rot disease organisms.

A big problem in azalea culture is over-fertilizing, especially with phosphorus. Too much fertilizer injures the plants and may even cause them to die. Be particularly careful with small plants using no more than 1 teaspoon of fertilizer at a time on plants less than 12 inches tall. For larger plants, use 1 heaping tablespoon per foot of height, scattering the fertilizer under the plant. It is best to split the recommended amount into two applications making a light application after blooming and another in July than to apply the yearly recommendation all at once.

The best way to avoid over-fertilizing your azaleas is to have your soil tested every 2 or 3 years and follow the recommendations. If you don't have a soil test, use an all-purpose fertilizer, such as 8-8-8 or 12-6-6. Some special azalea-camellia formulations are available and cater to the acid soil requirements of these plants.

In Alabama many azaleas begin to set flower buds in July. Therefore, pruning after early July may reduce the next year's flower production. The best time to prune is right after the flowering period in the spring before the new buds are set. Cut out the limbs that have grown out of the main body of the plant. Do not shear unless your intention is to create a formal hedge.

Message from Mallory (Continued)

Mallory Kelley

Serious pests of azaleas are spider mites and lace bugs. Spider mites are serious pests of many ornamentals such as roses, boxwoods, and azaleas. Adult spider mites vary in size and may be green, orange, red, brown, black, or a combination of these, but red is the most common. Spider mites puncture the tissue of leaves and flowers with needle-like mouthparts and suck juices from the plant. This destroys the chlorophyll around the puncture, giving the leaves and flowers a speckled appearance. As mites multiply, entire leaves become discolored and distorted and may drop off. These pests are very small and feed mainly on the underside of leaves. They often go unnoticed until plant damage is obvious.



Azalea lace bugs are very small insects with black bodies and colored or variegated lace-like wings. They also feed on the underside of leaves. The upper leaf surface opposite the feeding areas becomes speckled and the leaf looks light or bleached and eventually turns brown. Lace bugs give off large amounts of a dark almost black, sticky substance that you will find on the underside of leaves. Black raised bumps on the lower surface of the leaves is an obvious symptom of this insect. Chemical control gives best results when used in the spring to control the spider mites and the first and second generations of Azalea lace bug. Products such as; insecticidal soap, horticultural oil, neem oil, and most synthetic insecticides labeled for use on azaleas will provide control and often times multiple applications are necessary.



For optimal coverage be sure to direct the spray to the undersides of the leaves. Using a recommended systemic insecticide drench in spring could prove to be a season long remedy. Always maintaining a healthy plant with sufficient water and nutrients and planting in a shady area would be a good cultural practice to deter these damaging pest infestations.

FEBRUARY 2016 MINUTES



CENTRAL Alabama Master Gardeners Association February 16, 2016 Regular Meeting

The CAMGA February meeting was called to order by President Rhona Watson at 10:01 a.m. at the Elmore County Extension Auditorium. There were 54 present consisting of members, interns and guests.

MINUTES:

The minutes from the January meeting as published in the News Letter were approved by acclamation with one correction. The amount for the Directory was \$185 plus tax.

TREASURER:

Joyce Vella presented the Treasurer report for the month of January. Balance as of December 31, 2015 was \$12,702.34. Income for January was \$203.00. Expenditures were \$118.05. Balance as of January 31, 2016 is \$12,787.29. The Treasurer's report was approved by acclamation.

CAMGA Field Trip: Joyce Vella reported the information for a field trip as follows:

The trip will be a tour of the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham on April 27, 2016. Transportation will be provided by Capital Trailways bus line. There will be two separate tours, one in the morning and one in the afternoon with a one and one half hour lunch. The cost will be \$15.00 per person. (CAMGA will pay some for members) Free water and snacks will be provided on the bus. The bus will leave the Extension Office at 8:00 a.m. and return at 5:00 p.m. The bus has 56 seats. CAMGA members will have first choice on a first come basis. If there are seats left over, they will be offered to guests of CAMGA members and other Master Gardeners in the area for a cost of \$20.00. March 15, 2016 is the deadline to make reservations for the trip. Joyce stated she needs \$1,000 for the tours. A \$200.00 deposit is required. Bonnie McCormick made a motion to allow Joyce \$1,000.00 for the Field Trip. Candy Jones seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Program: Rhona Watson announced that the program would be given first then a break and then the meeting. Lee Borden introduced the guest speaker. Dani Carroll gave a presentation on seed starting. She focused on tips, tricks and troubleshooting. The program was very informative. Many questions from the audience were answered and the program was enjoyed by all present. A break was provided, then Rhona opened the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PROGRAMS: Lee Borden reporting:

March 15---Suzanne Sikes---Attracting Beneficial Predators

April 19---Charles Mitchell---"Loving plants, A Little Science, and a Lot of Loving---Perspectives from 60 Years of Gardening in the South"

NOTE: Within an hour after the meeting was over, Lee called me and had major changes in the future programs. These of course, were not reported at the meeting but I am including them in the minutes for your information.

- **March 15---Jimmy May---All About Greenhouses**
- **April 19---Amanda Borden---Low Maintenance Landscape Design.**
- **May 17---Charles Mitchell---"Loving Plants, A Little Science, and a Lot of Living---Perspectives from 60 Years of Gardening in the South".**

VIDEO EQUIPMENT: Lee stated that a Video Committee consisting of Lee Borden, Charlotte Hall, Linda Griebel, Anida Wishnietsky, Bob Brown, and Corky Butts is doing research and evaluations on Time Lapse Photography for CAMGA. The committee will report back to CAMGA.

FEBRUARY 2016 MINUTES CONTINUED

PROJECTS COMMITTEE: John Barnes reporting

Bowling Ball: John reported that the committee for the Bowling Ball Practice session will meet on February 26th. The Bowling Ball Class will be held on June 17, 2016.

Birdhouse Project: Will be held on March 11th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Cost is \$9.00. Call John Barnes.

Lanark Fun and Flora will be held on April 9th at Lanark.

Earth Day: Earth Day at the Recycle Center in Wetumpka will be held April 23rd.

March Committee Meeting: John stated that the Project Committee will not meet at the regular time. For March the Committee will meet on March 7, 2016 at the Extension Office at 10:00 a.m.

HISTORIAN: Rhona Watson reporting for Jane Mobley

The picture and history book for CAMGA is finished for 2015. It will remain in the Library for all to see.

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE: Rhona Watson reporting for Gale Wheeler

Rhona reported that their annual report is on the Website. The Advisory Council is setting up an online store of bags and shirts with their logo. They have requested that their State Logo be put on our banners. Rhona stressed that in the future, our banners will display the State Logo. Rhona had a request from the Advisory Council for CAMGA to plant a tree this year to celebrate their 35 years of service. Rhona will get a committee together and report back to CAMGA.

LUNCH AND LEARN: Sandi Adkison reporting

Sandra stated that the classes are going well and classes are scheduled through December 2016.

COMMUNITY LEARNING GARDENS: Rhona Watson reporting for Mary McCroan

Rhona stated because of the weather the gardens are a little slow right now

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. Carol stated that she is having a Plant Sale Committee meeting after the March CAMGA meeting at the Extension Office. Anyone is welcome to stay. She will be making assignments for the day before on Friday for pricing, labels and sorting etc. for the sale the next day. As you get your plants ready at home, please label them and have them ready to sell. Jane McCarthy will donate plants from Maxwell.

INTERNS: Becky Brown and Mallory Kelley reporting

Becky announced that the applications will be ready within a week and they will be in the Extension Office for new interns for the September class. Everyone is encouraged to recruit new interns. The deadline for the new class registration is July 15, 2016. Registration will be \$125.00 per person. After July 15th Registration will be \$150.00 per person. Mallory stated that everyone should be recruiting all year and really starting recruiting for the fall class.

ADVANCE MASTER GARDNER PROGRAM: Candy Jones reporting

Candy encouraged everyone to work on becoming an Advance Master Gardner. See Candy for details.

HELP LINE: No Report

DIRECTORY: Ann Hill reporting

The Directory is finished and everyone can pick up their Directory and enrollment cards today at the meeting. Rhona thanked Ann for a job well done. The Directory is a lot of work and Ann is to be commended for the excellent finished copy for all Master Gardeners to keep.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE: Marjorie Hannah reporting

Marjorie stated there is a refreshment sign-up sheet circulating around the room for everyone to sign up for refreshments for future meetings and thanked everyone that has been furnishing refreshments.

FEBRUARY 2016 MINUTES CONTINUED

NETWORK COMMITTEE: Anida Wishnietsky reporting

Anida stated that all the volunteer hours for 2015 have been recorded and they cannot be changed. Volunteers cannot add any 2015 hours on to 2016 hours. Everyone now needs to be reporting your 2016 hours. If you need help with anything pertaining to recording, the web site or CAMGA network, contact Anida.

PUBLICITY: Phil Easter reporting

Phil stated that Southern Homes and Gardens needs Master Gardner volunteers to help on April 8th and April 9th and April 15th and 16th from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Your duties would consist of: sit at a table inside the store and answer questions any customers may have concerning gardening, certain plants etc. Those that worked in the past years said it was a lot of fun. To compensate you for you volunteering on those dates, Southern Homes is offering a 20% discount off on anything in the store to all workers on the day you work. Linda Griebel and Rhona Watson will set up the work area inside the store. If you can volunteer let Linda know.

OTHER BUSINESS:

CAMGA AUDIT: R. J. Arceneaux reporting.

R. J. conducted an Audit review of CAMGA Financial Records. Present for the audit were the committee members, R.J., Penny Arceneaux and Norman Turnipseed. Also present was Rhona Watson, CAMGA Treasurer. The end of the year 2015 balance was \$12,061.44. Expenditures were \$6,465.00 resulting in a net plus of \$541.00. End of year bank balance was \$12,702.34 verified by the bank statement. The end of the year balance for the past few years has been excessive for a non-profit organization. After discussion among the audit committee on expenditures, it was suggested by the audit committee to perhaps establish an ad-hoc committee to review the current by-laws as it pertains to the expenditure of funds and approval process. It was also suggested that CAMGA continue support for the AMGA endowment fund (graduate scholarship at Auburn) as was done in 2015.

2016 STATE CONFERENCE

The 2016 State Conference will be held in Dothan on May 12th and May 14th, 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.

BLUE BIRDS by Rod Douglas

Rod brought 21 Blue Bird Boxes for people to volunteer take. The stipulation was if you take a box you will keep watch of it and report to Rod on how the box is doing. Rod met with all takers after the meeting and explained the program.

GOVERNORS MANSION:

Amanda Borden has scheduled a work day at the Mansion on March 14th from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

REACH FOR THE STARS AWARDS: Presented by Debbie Hough

Debbie presented stars and badges for volunteer hours. Those receiving awards were:

BRONZE STARS: James Rod Douglas, Cheri Bedford

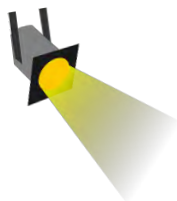
SILVER STARS: Joyce Vella, Katrina Mitchell, Mary Mullins, Sandi Adkison

GOLD STARS: Marie Updike, Charlotte Hall, Carla McCune, Carol Rattan, Rhonda Miles, Janet Lewis, Ken Moore, Annette Walker

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

*Respectively Submitted,
Lois Pribulick, Secretary*





SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS by Judy May



Thirty Five people attended the February Lunch and Learn. Twenty-nine of them were master gardeners and six were non members. Maria Pacheco West was the speaker and gave a wonderful presentation on Falling in Love with Roses. Assisting were Sandi Adkison, Carla McCune, Charlotte Hall and Debbie Kelso.

Phil Easter wrote an article for River Region Living Magazine on “Planting for Summer Blooms Now”.

On February 2nd, Jane Mobley did a presentation for Canterbury Bells Gardening Club on Butterfly Gardening. Sixteen members attended.

Linda Griebel presented “Gardening at A Glance” to AUM/OLLIE program on February 3rd. There were 18 participants.

The Projects Committee met February 15th. Attending were John Barnes, Johan Beumer, Rhona Watson, Cheri Bedford, John Butler, Linda Griebel, Lois Pribulick and Candy Jones.

Bringing refreshments to the monthly meeting were Bonnie McCormick, Sandy Rosamond, Becky Brown, Penny Arceneaux, Cathy Whigham, Corinne Lauridson and Judy May.

Maria Pacheco West says this month Ann Hill, Sandra Gilley, Don Hoover, Terri Chambliss, Peggy Gelpi, Jimmy May, Carla McCune and Interns: Leslie Bingham, Sheila Pearson helped in the gardens at Lanark. Thanks for all the help this month!

Maria needs lots of extra help this month getting daffodils and other bulbs transplanted to new locations, pruning on the grounds and preparing plants for the big plant sale at the Flora and Fauna Festival April 9th. Please call Maria at 657-9414 if you can help this month. We can schedule a different day than the regular Wednesday morning.

On February 17th, Judy May gave a Power Point presentation to the Pike County Master Gardeners on Orchid Basics. She also demonstrated how to repot an orchid. Nine members attended.

Volunteers working at the Governor’s Mansion this month were Amanda Borden, Jane McCarthy, and Lynda Edwards.

Lunch and Learn Program

By: Charlotte Hall

Well, everyone knows that the month of February is the time associated with falling in love and for our February Lunch and Learn, Maria Pacheco-West had all of us falling in love with roses. Maria presented a delightful program covering topics from rose hips to rose tips, along with much helpful information concerning growing and using roses in our specific area.



Roses are America's national flower and the most popular of all garden flowers. However, in our area, roses can be more difficult to grow as they are susceptible to our high humidity and the problems that the humidity can cause.

Roses prefer soil with a pH of 6.0 – 6.5 and sulfur may be added to soil to make it more acidic. Once again, soil sample tests prove most effective in determining the exact pH of your soil and what needs to be added for optimum growing conditions. Roses require a minimum of six hours of sun so careful selection of a planting site is recommended. Roses also need watering frequently – an inch each week. They do better when the water is from a drip type system as excessive watering from above contributes to blackspot and other fungus problems. In addition to the above requirements, roses also need pruning to produce more blooms and to keep the plants healthy. Heavy mulch is also recommended to conserve soil moisture and also to suppress weeds.

Maria provided everyone with specific rose pruning tips including how and when for specific rose plants – including hybrid teas, climbing roses, knockout roses and heirloom roses. Prune roses in February for blooms in April. In addition to pruning expertise, Maria instructed on the proper way to plant and fertilize roses. Roses are heavy eaters, and Maria discussed different types of fertilizers including some of her own favorites. Maria prefers the natural and more organic approach to fertilizing which includes the use of fish emulsion, seaweed, alfalfa meal and kelp. She also uses Epsom salt and noted that the magnesium is good for dark foliage and brings out the blue in plants.



*Maria Pacheco-West, Presenter of
"Fall in Love with Roses"
Lunch N Learn Program
February 2016*

Lunch and Learn Program Continued

For fungus problems, 100% neem oil can be used for both an insecticide and fungicide. Also, garlic is excellent for use with roses to control insects.

Maria versed everyone on rose history from the china roses to tea roses, telling us that David Austin hybrid teas have nice aromas and Propserity is a white rose that tolerates more shade than most roses. In conclusion, hints were given for taking rose cuttings and rooting them. And an extra bonus was a recipe for rose water and rose almond cookies.

Next month join us on March 8th for a demonstration on how to make a succulent wreath. Bring your lunch and drinks with be provided.





Governor's Mansion Report By: Amanda Borden



During the month of February, volunteers trimmed back lantana, pruned and later moved Knockout roses from under a large oak tree to the northeast corner of the front yard, and relocated a viburnum to that same area. They also weeded a rose bed in front of the tennis courts as well as beds in the front yard.



***Working Left to Right:
Jean Smyth, Lynda Edwards, and Jane McCarthy***

A CAMGA work day at the Mansion will be held on March 14 (rain date March 21), 9 a.m. — noon. Some members signed up at the February meeting, but we need lots more folks to join us.

Please contact Amanda Borden at amandawborden@gmail.com to add your name to the list, which will be forwarded to Jane McCarthy for clearance at the guard station.

LEARNING GARDEN

By: Mary McCroan



Our volunteers in the Learning Garden for February included Terri Chambliss, Linda Griebel, Candy Jones, Rosemary and Donald Mobley, Amanda and Lee Borden, Glen (Autauga Intern), Bill (our intern), and Mary McCroan. We weeded various garden areas--those pesky spring weeds are popping up already. Amanda and Lee took on construction project with building a new raised bed. Amanda promptly planted peas to climb on the existing trellis. Rosemary, Donald and Linda moved existing raised beds away from the banana plant that had been providing too much shade. This involved partially deconstructing the beds, moving them, screwing them back together and adding soil. We could have moved the banana plant, but we kind of like the lush look it provides in the summer. Of course giving the banana plant more room is probably just postponing the problem since it seems inclined to take over the world. Candy has planted potatoes in one of the newly moved raised beds. My experience so far is that there is a reason that people in the south grow sweet potatoes and people in the north grow regular potatoes. And that is because the regular potatoes just don't do that well here--but I'm hoping for Candy to prove me wrong.

Meanwhile some experiments are on-going. Linda trimmed the pineapple guava and, as is her habit, just stuck the twigs in some good soil in one of the raised beds. Past history suggests that we will soon be potting up small pineapple guava bushes. I will warn our readers--just because it works for Linda does not mean that it will work for anybody else. She just has a special touch. And Terri has planted three nitrogen fixing cover crops in a raised bed, each in its own section. Later she plans to plant tomato plants in each section and document which ones grow the best. Does one cover crop provide more nitrogen to support future plants in that space as compared to another cover crop. We will find out later! We already have one lesson learned--October is better timing for planting cover crops than January.

We harvested our horseradish this month--anytime after the first freeze is a good time. Although we dug the whole bed, in our climate you don't have to harvest it all at once--it's OK to go out and dig some all winter long. Everybody went home with horseradish roots to plant in their own garden and some to try grinding for fresh horseradish--on a roast beef sandwich--Yum!



Harvesting Horseradish



New Raised Bed



Moved Raised Beds

Master Gardener Help Line News

By: Mary Ann Hatcher



The Helpline for Central Alabama Master Gardeners will begin on March 3rd from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. continuing each Thursday through the month of August.

Volunteers, Interns, and Advisors attended training sessions during February in preparation for the upcoming Helpline Season.

Those individuals signed up for the month of March are: Carol Pugh, Joyce Vella, Cathy Whigham, William Quailles, John Barnes, Mary Ann Klatt, Sandra Rosamond, Leslie Bingham, Deann Stone, Sherri Schaefer, and Mary Ann Hatcher.



Thank you all for your interest and support of the Helpline.



FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

By: Carol Rattan, Chair

Our annual plant sale is on May 6th, from 8 am – 12 pm. I passed around volunteer sign-up sheets during our February meeting, and had a great response – thank you! I will have the sign-up list at the March and April meetings, or you can call (334-478-3221) or e-mail me (crattan@elmoresrr.com) if you want to be added to the list. If you haven't already, now is the time to plant seeds! Vegetable plants seem to go very quickly at our sales, so please grow a few extra. Also, we will have a soil mix behind the shed you may use for potting plants. Please ensure plants are well established in their pots before the sale. Our first planning committee meeting will be this month, right after our regularly scheduled CAMGA meeting. If you would like to be a part of the planning, or have any input on how to improve the plant sale, please fill free to attend. If you can't attend and have any suggestions, please feel free to give me a call at the number given above. Thanks so much for your support for our main fundraiser of the year!

Programs Update

By: Lee Borden

What a great program Dani Carroll presented on seed starting! We learned that lettuce is "phytodormant," meaning it will not germinate if any soil keeps light away from the seed. We learned that the perfect tomato transplant is 6 inches tall and 6 inches wide, a stocky little sucker. We learned that a Wendy's salad container is a great tray for seed starting. And we learned that a heating pad or electric blanket is too hot for seed starting, and it's also scary to expose an electric appliance to that much moisture.



*Danni Carroll, presented Seed Starting Program
February 2016 CAMGA Meeting*

I need to point out a couple of changes in our program schedule from what I told you at the February meeting. Our scheduled speaker for March 15, Suzanne Sikes, has asked to postpone so she can be with her father for his surgery that day.

So our own Jimmy May has graciously agreed to step up on March 15 and take Suzanne's place with a program about greenhouses. We CAMGA members have been wanting to learn more about greenhouses for 3-4 years, but we haven't been able to find a knowledgeable speaker. Until now. Jimmy learned all about passive solar principles as a contractor in Florida, and he grew up gardening, so it was a natural for him to put a greenhouse to work. He'll be talking with us about how to use greenhouses in central Alabama, how to design them to minimize the supplemental heat required, and perhaps most important, how to keep them well-ventilated.



On April 19, our own Amanda Borden will share what she's learned about low-maintenance landscape design.

And on May 17, Charles Mitchell will join us fresh from his retirement in March with a talk he's writing just for us, "Loving Plants, A Little Science, and a Lot of Living - Perspectives from 60 Years of Gardening in the South." I can't wait.

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

Upcoming Events

March 2016

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1	2 Lanark Work Day 8 -11 a.m. 	3 Learning Garden Workday 8:15-12 noon, Extension Office	4 "Kill That Queen the First Time" Webinar 1 p.m. http://articles.extension.org/pages/73368	5
6	7 Governor's Mansion Workday 9-11 a.m.	8 Lunch and Learn 12-1 p.m. Elmore Co. Extension Office	9 Lanark Work Day 8 -11 a.m. 	10 Learning Garden Workday 8:15-12 noon, Extension Office	11	12
13	14 Governor's Mansion Workday 9-11 a.m.	15 CAMGA Meeting 10-12 noon Extension Office Green House Program, Jimmy May, Presenter	16 Lanark Work Day 8 -11 a.m. 	17 Learning Garden Workday 8:15-12 noon, Extension Office	18	19
20	21 CAMGA WORKDAY at the Governor's Mansion 9-11 a.m. Email Amanda Border if you can attend	22	23 Lanark Work Day 8 -11 a.m. 	24 Learning Garden Workday 8:15-12 noon, Extension Office	25	26
27	28 Governor's Mansion Workday 9-11 a.m.	29	30 Lanark Work Day 8 -11 a.m. 	31 Learning Garden Workday 8:15-12 noon, Extension Office		

CAMGA FIELD TRIP

Submitted by: Linda Griebel

WHERE: *BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS* <http://www.bbgardens.org/>

WHAT: Guided tours by master gardeners and/or seasoned staff so that you can see lots of the Features. (Tour times are 10:30-11:30 & 1:00-2:00). We will be split into controllable groups. If you visited one section during the first tour, you can see another area during the second tour. *It will be a learning experience and there should be lots in bloom: wildflowers, herbs, irises, flowering cherry trees, azaleas, dogwoods, roses, etc!*

WHEN: WEDNESDAY APRIL 27, 2016

TIME: 8:00-5:00 (estimated)

COST: \$15 per member (current interns are members)

DEADLINE: March 15th CAMGA meeting



MEMBERS ONLY can make a reservation by sending your \$15 check (include your name) to Treasurer (and Field Trip Chair) Joyce Vella 304 Harris St, Tallassee, AL 36078, by **March 15** or you can pay in person at the March 15th meeting. Bus seats 56 people. We will not open up seats for guests until after March 15th (only if there are remaining seats, price for non-members will be \$20).

DETAILS: The bus will leave Extension parking lot promptly at 8:15 a.m. Members need to arrive by 8:00 in order to be ready to board on time. Water and snacks on the bus will be furnished, but lunch will be on your own. You can bring a sack lunch or perhaps eat at The Gardens Café which is on site. (The menu indicates \$8--\$10 salads or sandwiches) Should you bring your lunch, there are outside tables where you can eat. Since there is 1½ hour for lunch break, you might have time to explore some on your own as well. However, we must re-assemble at the designated point at 12:55 p.m. for the 1:00 p.m. tour. We will definitely be back before 5:00 p.m.

FYI: There is not only a gift shop on site, but they also have plants for sale, if you're interested. There will be some time to shop before the bus returns to Wetumpka. Re-boarding deadline will be 3:00 p.m.



Planting Blueberries

By: Glenn Huovinen
Master Gardener Intern

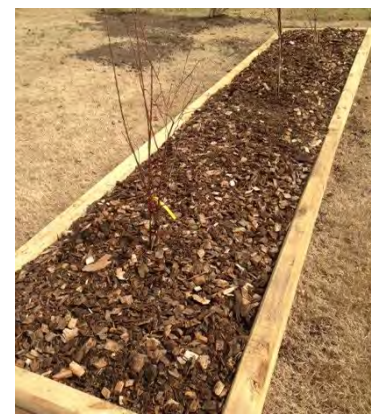
The Master Gardener Program has been a blessing to me. I have been a gardener for a long time and have always wanted to become a Master Gardener, but like most I had to wait until I retired.



In the program, I have been exposed to many new gardening techniques and practices. This has given me the knowledge to venture to new and exciting areas of gardening. One of them is growing Blueberries.

We moved to Prattville 2 1/2 years ago. Our property has a lot of room and sunlight that is just begging for a gardener. Here is what I have done so far on my Blueberry Garden.

1. I bought 3 different varieties of Blueberries from Petals From The Past: Early, Mid and Late Season bushes.
2. The site I selected receives sunlight all day and the bed runs east to west. The site is a little low, so I made the bed with 2 high landscape timbers. The bed is 4 feet by 20 feet.
3. The soil is slightly acidic, which should work well for Blueberries.
4. I filled in the raised bed with a mixture of Super Soil and top soil.
5. Spaced the bushes 7 feet apart.
6. Planted the bushes a little higher than the level that they were planted in the pot. I little settling of the plant will occur.
7. Added some balanced fertilizer, watered and mulched the complete bed.
8. Any blooms that appear after it leaves out will be removed to keep the energy going to growing the plants.
9. Looking forward to my first "crop" hopefully next season.



Should CAMGA Invest in Time Lapse Photography? by Lee Borden

At my request, the CAMGA Board has authorized our video equipment selection team - that's Bob Brown, Charlotte Hall, Linda Griebel, Corky Butts, Anida Wishnietsky, and I - to look at some options for time lapse photography. The case in favor is that time lapse is the best way we know to demonstrate to non-gardeners and new gardeners just how alive plants are and how responsive they are to their environment. The case against is the fear that we might spend several hundred dollars on what amounts to a sophisticated toy that we would use very little.

We are not rushing into any decision, but our covenant is that we will keep you thoroughly informed of our deliberations and discussions. We will weigh carefully our duty to be good stewards of CAMGA's resources against our shared mission and acknowledged duty to get the word out about the wonders of growing plants.

The board has authorized us to consider options, not to make a purchase. If we decide to recommend a purchase, any expenditure would need specific approval by the board and probably by the membership.

Watch this space!

College Scholarship Opportunity for High School Seniors Submitted by: Marie Updike

Once again the Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. is offering high school seniors an opportunity to apply for a college scholarship. This annual event requires eligible students to complete an application and submit the application accompanied by a transcript showing a GPA of 3.0 or higher, three letters of recommendation and a short (not more than two pages) essay to apply for one of the MFBC scholarships.

The deadline for applications is **April 15th, 2016**, and there will be no time extensions.

Following an evaluation of the applications, students will be notified of the results. Scholarship winners and their immediate families will be invited to attend a Scholarship Reception to receive their awards and recognition.

Applications may be requested to:

Mrs. Jan Heath, Scholarship Committee
Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
Email: : jan1396@att.net
Phone: 334-288-0662



Volunteers Needed for Alabama Flora and Fauna Art Festival April 9th!

By: Maria Pacheco-West

Call for volunteers! Have fun working while you stack up volunteer hours and Continuing Education Units!

Every year for the last 12 years, in April, we have held the Floral Weekend at Lanark, using the Pavilion, Heirloom garden area for our vendors and the historic Lanark Home. This year we will hold it April 9th but we will have it at the new Nature Plex.

The Nature Plex is open Monday through Saturday from 9 A.M. until 5 P.M. We expect a lot more people to visit us this year at our Flora and Fauna Festival so, I will need more help than ever! However, we may have an easier time of it as everything will be in one beautiful location.

As in the past, I need volunteers to help me with my part of the production. I can't do it without you! I am responsible for the speakers and certain vendors as well as having the opportunity to sell Lanark plants benefiting the gardens. This year there will be artisans selling their wares in main hall and community room of the Nature Plex and the speakers will be in our new theater and the vendors and plant sale will be in the back picnic area.

We'll have activities for children, Master Gardener information booths and one of our vendors already signed up is Eagles Roost Herb Farm. If you haven't met the Muenzmays from Eagle's Roost, you are in for a treat!

I will need volunteers to help with our over flow parking, direct people, hand out flyers about the speakers, folks to help me run the Lanark plant booth and drive golf carts for those unable to walk too far and just a lot of help here and there. I will also need help the day before (Friday) and the day of (Saturday) setting things up.

Please contact me at mpw@alabamawildlife.org or call me on my cell 334-657-9414 and let me know if you want to volunteer. It is a great way to get your hours, meet other interesting gardeners, see and hear high quality speakers, see beautiful art works for sale and have some fun! You can invite your families to come, too. I will make your shift as long as you want it. All day, so that you can get in extra volunteer hours and collect CEU hours listening to our speakers, or only a few hours so that you can hike the trails or go on to other weekend activities. Call or contact me soon, so that I can get you on the list!

Thanks so much, Maria Pacheco-West

2016 ALABAMA MASTER GARDENERS CONFERENCE DOTHAN, ALABAMA MAY 12, 13, 14



[\(Ctrl click to access links printed in green\)](#)

[On Line Registration](#)

Alabama Master Gardeners issue an invitation to Gardeners across the Southeast to join us for our 26th Annual Statewide Meeting and Conference.

Wiregrass Master Gardeners and the AMGA Board of Directors are working to provide an educational and entertaining experience for all attendees.

Mark May 12-14, 2016 in your calendar, and come back to our website often to check for updates on our speakers and agenda.

If you are interested in becoming a Sponsor, Vendor, Donor, or Advertiser please click the link below to access our conference package webpage.

[2016 Conference Packages](#)

[2016 Conference Welcome](#)

[2016 Conference Agenda](#)

[2016 Conference Speakers](#)

[2016 Conference Hotels & Attractions](#)

[2016 Conference Local Map](#)

[2016 Conference Mail In Registration](#)

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Native Pollinators

Hosted by the
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Friday, March 4, 2016
9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

First Baptist Church
178 Tallassee ST Dadeville AL 36853




Topics to be discussed:
Native Pollinators in our
Landscapes and Gardens, Nesting
Boxes and Natural Habitat,
Protecting Pollinators



To sign-up, contact the Tallapoosa County Extension office at 256-826-1050. Cost is \$5 per person. Payment is required by March 2, 2016

REGISTRATION FORM

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



Tallapoosa County Extension Office
125 N. Broadnax Street, Room 23
Dadeville, AL 36853


Return Registration Form and Payment by March 2, 2016 to:
Make check payable to: **Alabama Cooperative Extension System**

Grafting Workshop


"Grafting Fruits and Nuts and Anything in Between"

Hosted by the
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Friday, April 8th 2016
E.V. Smith Research Station
(See Back for Directions)
Tallassee, Alabama
9:00-11:00 a.m.



LEARN HOW TO GRAFT FRUIT TREES, PECANS, AND ANYTHING IN BETWEEN FROM THE EXPERTS
THIS WILL BE A HANDS-ON ACTIVITY!



To sign-up or for more information, contact the Macon County Extension office at 334-727-0340. There is NO Cost, but you must be on the list to attend. **PLEASE Call by Wednesday, April 6th.**

(Directions to the workshop)

E.V. Smith Research Center

From I-85 north or south in Macon county take exit 26 to Highway 229 North towards Tallassee. Go approximately one mile until you see a railroad crossing. Just before the railroad crossing you will see Macon County Road 40. Take a right on county road 40. The pecan orchard is on the right.

From Tallassee take Hwy 229 south to the railroad tracks just past the river bridge. Then take a left on county road 40. The pecan orchard is on the right.

Lunch and Learn

How to Make Succulent Wreaths
Presented by:
Charlotte Hall and Debbie Kelso

March 8 — 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.
Elmore County Extension Office

NEXT CAMGA MEETING

MARCH 15
10:00 A.M.

ELMORE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

GREENHOUSES BY: JIMMY MAY

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



Old Alabama Town
Herb Society's
19th Annual
Herb Day

Some Like it Hot

May 7, 2016
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



Herb Plant Vendors
Growing Tips
Cooking Demonstrations
Medicinal Herbs
Children's Activities
View Gardens
Music in the Gardens

Free Admission

Old Alabama Town
303 Columbus Street
Montgomery, AL 36104
oathsblog.com
oathsblog@gmail.com
On Facebook at
Old Alabama Town
Herb Society

*Congratulations Master Gardeners!
Reach for the Stars Awards Program
February 16, 2016*



Debbie Hough presented Rod Douglas and Cheri Bedford the Bronze Star Award.

Debbie Hough presented the Gold Star Award to Rhonda Miles, Carla McCune, Carol Rattan, and Janet Lewis.

Other recipients not present are: Marie Updike, Charlotte Hall, Ken Moore, and Annette Walker.



Debbie Hough presented Joyce Vella the Silver Star Award.

Others recipients not present are: Katrina Mitchell, Mary Mullins, and Sandi Adkison.

