



# GARDEN BUZZZZZ



Volume 25 Issue 4 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

April 2016

## **Message from: Rhona Watson** **CAMGA President**



Spring is definitely here! It is such a joy walking around my yard and seeing the azaleas, spirea, daffodils, and loropetalum all in bloom. Every day there is something new. My cherry tree I got from Maria as a little volunteer is now 11 years old and is gorgeous. I have been busy with my seeds and just transplanted them so they will be ready for the plant sale in May. I have Jalapeno peppers, ornamental peppers, cupheas, and angoleina.

There is so much to look forward to in April. Flora and Fauna Art Festival on April 9<sup>th</sup> at Lanark, Wetumpka Plant Swap on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, and our meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup> with Amanda Borden speaking to us about low maintenance gardening. Plenty of opportunity to get volunteer hours and spend time with our great group of master gardeners.

I am looking forward to our trip to the Birmingham Botanical Gardens on April 27<sup>th</sup>. There will be lots of plants to see and buy, a great way to get ideas for your garden. So far we have less than half the bus filled, so please participate if you would like to do more trips in the future. There is still time to get your money to Joyce and join us.

Thanks to Jimmy May for the presentation on green houses. He showed us the many different levels of greenhouses from small back yard do it yourself structures, to commercial set ups. I have a medium size green house, we built from a kit we bought online. There are so many uses from keeping cuttings, and tropical plants over the winter, to starting seeds. The presentation is available on our web site if you want to take a look for inspiration.



It was hard to decide which picture of the garden to show you this month. It was between the cherry tree and the azaleas in front of the loropetalum. I finally decided on the azalea, because of the color. Loropetalum common name is Chinese Witch hazel it is beautiful in the spring, but can get very large. It is best to put it in a place where it can grow as big as it wants. They can be pruned back but are much prettier if left to grow.

Add something new to your garden this year  
Your favorite garden should be your own

*Rhona*

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***Congratulations Master Gardeners!  
Reach for the Stars Awards Program  
By: Debbie Hough***

**Recipients Receiving Star Awards at the March 2016 Meeting were:**

Jesse Miles – Gold  
Sally L'Abbe – Gold  
Joe L'Abbe – Gold  
Penny Arcemeaux – Gold  
Cathy Whigham- Silver  
Cheryl Christian – Silver  
Peggy Turnipseed – Silver  
Terry Chambliss – Silver  
Donald Hoover – Bronze  
Wanda Ivey – Bronze  
Brenda Uhlig – Bronze  
Sandra Rosamond – Bronze

***Congratulations!***

**CAMGA FIELD TRIP TO  
BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS**

<http://www.bbgardens.org/>

**Submitted by: Linda Griebel**

There will be 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) and \$20 for non-members/guests

DEADLINE: April 20th

***Make your reservations by sending your check made out to CAMGA (include your name and guest names) to Treasurer Joyce Vella, 304 Harris St, Tallassee, AL 36078. Bus seats 56 people.***

DETAILS: The bus will leave Extension parking lot promptly at 8:15 am. 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 for the 1:00 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.

## Message from Mallory

**Mallory Kelley**  
**Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests**

### Native Pollinator Workshop



*We need a healthy insect population to pollinate our plants!* Some plants are wind pollinated (examples: grasses, conifers, and a few others), but most plants with showy flowers need helpers to visit them and move pollen from the male flower parts (anther) to the female parts (stigma). Lots of insects assist this process as they feed on the pollen and/or nectar in the flowers.

Several bees make Alabama their home. Bumblebees are found in larger flowers due to their bulky size and are often seen working squash flowers and ornamentals such as Indica azaleas. Mason bees like the early spring bloomers such as fruit trees, mustard, and clover. Other bees in Alabama include: squash bee, sweat bee, leaf-cutting bee, various digger bees, blueberry bee, numerous bumblebee species, and of course, the honeybee.

Have you ever wondered what you can do to help? You can support pollinators by attracting them to your yard, an Alabama Smart Yard. Plant a variety of plants together. Remember that insects need help finding flowers so a big floral pit-stop makes their hunt easy. The flowers of herbs such as thyme, basil, bee balm, and rosemary all produce nectar that bees love. Let your parsley, dill, and Cole crop veggies go to flower next spring as these are good bee pasture. Mix flowers like coneflower, coreopsis, or any other aster family flowers into other plantings – even your vegetable garden. Add some shrubs and trees like salvias, redbud, hollies, false indigo, and buckeye.

Consider extra caution when using insecticides. Yes, even organic sourced insecticides may kill our beneficial insects when used incorrectly. Think about the time of day bees are foraging. The daylight hours when temperatures are between 70° degrees F and 95° F is when most bees explore. So if you need to use insecticides, dusk and later as better times. Look for that lazy bumblebee who might sleep in a flower after a tiring day. As a general rule, avoid flowers when applying insecticides of any kind.

Help support all pollinators by learning more about them. The Montgomery County Extension System will host a Native Pollinator Workshop on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 from 9:00 am until 2:00 p.m.



Registration is \$20.00 and includes your lunch and a mason bee box you will take home to incorporate into your landscape.

The workshop will be held at Grace Episcopal Church, 906 Pike Road, Pike Road, AL.

## Message from Mallory (Continued)

Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests

### **TAKING ORDERS FOR MASTER GARDENER NAME BADGE REPLACEMENT**

If you need a replacement badge please  
e-mail Mallory Kelley at: [jones57@aces.edu](mailto:jones57@aces.edu)

Include: Name, County, Year of Certification

There is a \$7 fee for replacement badges

Checks need to be made payable to: ACES Home Grounds.

Mail check to:

Mallory Kelley,  
2226 Hwy 14 west, Suite E  
Autaugaville, AL 36003

**Below is the link to access the Spring 2016 Garden Pathways:**

<http://alabamamg.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/3-23-2016-spring-Final-1.pdf>

*Message from Kerry Smith  
Master Gardener Program Coordinator*

*Hello all,*

*I need to apologize that the date for the Fall Seminar didn't make it to the Pathways newsletter you recently received a link to – please save the date of September 29, 2016 for an exciting day of learning and fun – it will be in Birmingham ..... More details will be sent to you as they are finalized – thank you for your support – Kerry*

## **CAMGA MARCH 2016 MINUTES**

**By: Lois Pribulick**



### **CENTRAL Alabama Master Gardeners Association March 14, 2016 Regular Meeting**

The CAMGA March meeting was called to order by President Rhona Watson at 10:15 a.m. at the Elmore County Extension Auditorium. There were 51 present consisting of members, interns, and guests.

**MINUTES:** The minutes from the February meeting as published in the newsletter were approved by acclamation with two corrections. Rhonda Miles will be volunteering at Southern Homes and Gardens instead of Rhona Watson, and John Barnes cancelled the March 11th class on Birdhouses.

**TREASURER:** Joyce Vella presented the Treasurer report for the month of February. Balance as of January 31, 2016 was \$12,787.29. Income for February was \$132.00. Expenditures were \$1,192.68 Balance as of January 31, 2016 is \$11,726.61 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 with Alan Mitchell driving the bus. 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 person. 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. Tomorrow is the last day to pay for the trip. 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 will be at a table during the meeting to take reservations.

**Program:** Rhona Watson announced that the program would be given first, then a break, and then the meeting. Lee Borden introduced the guest speaker. Jimmy May gave a presentation on designing and using greenhouses with the emphasis on designing them using passive and solar principles to reduce the cost of keeping them warm in the winter. Mr. May used a slide presentation and many props. The program was very informative. Mr. May stated that anyone can get a free copy of the slide presentation just for the asking. Many questions from the audience were answered and the program was enjoyed by all present. Lee Borden stated that he will include put the slide presentation on the CAMGA web site.

A break was provided, then Rhona opened the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**PROGRAMS:** Lee Borden reporting: In April our own Amanda Borden will share what she has learned about low maintenance landscape design. One of the first things she has learned is that nearly everyone has a different definition of "low maintenance".

In May, Dr. Charles Mitchell will present, "Loving plants, A Little Science, and a Lot of Loving--- Perspectives from 60 Years of Gardening in the South. "

**VIDEO EQUIPMENT:** Lee stated that a Video Committee has begun, but has not completed its conversation about the time lapse video. He will share more as the committee gathers information. The tentative program schedule and each meeting's evaluation results are online and available for your review at <http://bit.ly/camgaprograms>



## **MARCH 2016 MINUTES CONTINUED**

By: Lois Pribulick



**PROJECTS COMMITTEE:** Linda Griebel reporting for John Barnes

**Bowling Ball:** Linda reported the Bowling Ball Class will be held on June 17, 2016. More bowling balls are needed.

Alabama Flora and Fauna Arts Festival will be held on April 9th at Lanark. CAMGA will have a table with information on CAMGA, the Intern Program and gardening.

Public Plant Swap will be held on April 23rd at the City Recycle Center from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Free compost will be available.

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

Stepping Stone Class will be held on September 9th from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon

Eclectic Senior Center work day will be held on May 27th from 9:00 to 12 noon to help the seniors.

**HISTORIAN:** Jane Mobley reporting. The picture and history book for CAMGA is finished for 2015. It will remain in the Library for all to see.

**ADVISORY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:** Gale Wheeler

Rhona reported that their annual report is on the website. Gale reported that get well cards have been mailed to Janet Lewis and one sympathy card to Mary Ann Klatt on the death of her husband.

**LUNCH AND LEARN:** Charlotte Hall reporting

Charlotte stated that the classes are going well. The succulent class went very well with 27 people attending. 19 were Master Gardeners. A representative from Elmore Country Living Magazine was present and will possibly publish an article in the magazine. Charlotte has received two invitations to speak at two garden clubs in the area. The next Lunch and Learn in April will be presented by Lisa Wright that will present a program using goat milk for various products.

**COMMUNITY LEARNING GARDENS:** Mary McCroan reporting

Mary stated they are harvesting collards and kale. Watering is back on Thursday. The butterfly garden is looking very well and blooming. Thanks to Jane Mobley for the work she has done in the garden.

**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 meeting today at the Extension Office. Anyone is welcome to stay. She will be making assignments for Friday, the day before the sale, for pricing, labeling 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. Rhona will assist people in instructions on making labels on the computer.

**CAMGA Meeting 3-14-16**

## MARCH 2016 MINUTES CONTINUED

By: Lois Pribulick



**INTERNS:** Becky Brown and Mallory Kelley reporting. Becky announced that the applications are ready and 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.

**ADVANCED MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM:** Candy Jones reporting. Candy encouraged everyone to work on becoming an Advanced Master Gardener. See Candy for details.

**HELP LINE:** No Report

**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. She also thanked everyone that has been furnishing refreshments.

**PUBLICITY:** Phil Easter reporting. Phil stated WSFA TV has spots available where we can promote the Master Gardeners. Phil said someone needs to go and talk to them. Sandi Adkison will work with Phil and Charlotte Hall with WSFA.

**MALLORY Kelly:** Mallory stated that she is ordering badges and if someone needs a replacement, let her know the cost is \$10.00 per badge. Upcoming workshops: Grafting Class on April 8th and a Mushroom Class on April 22nd. Contact Mallory for details.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Ann Hill stated members may pick up their 2016 CAMGA Directory at the Extension office.

**2016 STATE CONFERENCE:** The 2016 State Conference will be held in Dothan, May 12--14, 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> and has archived newsletters.

**GOVERNOR'S MANSION:** Amanda Borden stated that anyone is welcome to help at the Mansion. Contact Amanda for days and hours.

**REACH FOR THE STARS AWARDS:** Presented by Debbie Hough. Debbie presented stars and badges for volunteer hours.

Those receiving awards were:

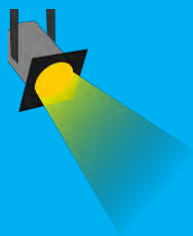
- **BRONZE STARS:** Don Hoover, Wanda Ivey, Brenda Uhlig, Sandy Rosamond
- **SILVER STARS:** Terry Chambliss, Cathy Whigham, Cheryl Christian, Peggy Turnipseed
- **GOLD STARS:** Jesse Miles, Sally L'Abbe, Joe L'Abbe, Penny Arceneaux

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 15:06 p.m.

*Respectively Submitted,*

*Lois Pribulick, Secretary*





## **SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS**

**For Month of March 2016**

**By Judy May**



Attending the Projects committee meeting March 7<sup>th</sup> were John Barnes, Joyce Vella, Janet Lewis and Linda Griebel.

On March 8<sup>th</sup> the Lunch and Learn Program was “How to Make Succulent Wreaths by Charlotte Hall and Debbie Kelso. There were 27 attendees; 17 of them were Master Gardeners.

On March 16, Jane Mobley did a presentation on Butterfly Gardening at the Techno Center. Twenty two people attended.

Working at the Governor’s Mansion this month were John Barnes, Melanie Barry, Leslie Bingham, Amanda and lee Borden, Linda Griebel, Jane McCarthy, Mary McCroan, Sandy Rosamond and Sherron Schaefer.

Phil Easter wrote an article for the April, “River Region Living” magazine on Raised Bed Gardening.

Members bringing refreshments to the meeting March 15<sup>th</sup> were Lois Pribulick, Amanda Borden, Rosemary Mobley, Candy Jones, Leslie Bingham and Ann Hill.

Working the Helpline this month were Deann Stone, Sherron Schaefer, Carol Pugh, Bill Quailes, Joyce Vella, Sandi Rosamond, Cathy Whigham, Leslie Bingham, John Barnes, Mary Ann Klatt and Mary Ann Hatcher.

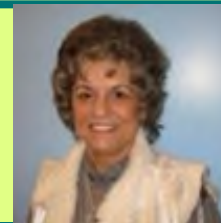
On March 17<sup>th</sup>, Linda Griebel and Mary McCroan presented “Pruning Pointers for Southern Gardens” to the Montgomery intern class.

On March 28<sup>th</sup> Linda did a presentation “What Went Wrong” to the Emerald Mountain Garden Club. Twenty four members attended.



## PLANT OF THE MONTH

By: Jane Mobley



### *April Plant of the Month* *Camellia sinensis*

If you are a true southerner, you are probably addicted to iced tea. Ever wanted to grow your own? It's quite easy. Who knew? All you need is to plant your own *Camellia sinensis* and step back and watch it grow.

The tea plant was the first camellia to be imported in our botanical history. It was thought that we could have great tea plantations in the south. For some reason that idea was abandoned, and it is the ornamental camellia that has become a favorite for southern landscapes. It is even our state flower. It is my understanding from a tea grower that the idea was abandoned due to some superstitious myth perpetrated by who knows who because tea camellias are very well suited to our climate.

In order to grown your own tea you must plant a *Camellia sinensis*. Your plant can be grown from a seed, a cutting from another plant, or bought at a nursery. Mine came from Petals from the Past. Seeds take about four weeks to sprout and the plant must be at least three years old before it can be used. Cuttings must be kept warm for at least a year before they can be transplanted out of doors. Soil for potting should be neutral, but, if planting outside, it must be slightly acidic and water for watering must be soft. Plants need a mix of sun and shade and need to be protected from strong winds. Spacing between plants should be at least three to four feet. Plants should be pruned back every four years to keep them from getting too large. In the fall plants will bloom with small yellowish white fragrant flowers. The flowers are not nearly as showy as those of ornamental shrubs.

Plants can also be grown in pots. If they are in pots, they must be fertilized a couple of times during the summer. Fertilizer can be all purpose like 7-7-7 or 10-7-7. Plants in the ground are even relatively drought tolerant.



***Camellia sinensis***



## *PLANT OF THE MONTH ( Continued)*

*By: Jane Mobley*

Plants go dormant in the winter and send up new shoots in the spring. It is from the new shoots that you should harvest the two smallest leaves and bud for making tea. The warmer the climate the longer the plant will send up new shoots, and the more often you can harvest. To harvest go down the stem to just before the first leaf you are not going to harvest and snap off the stem with your fingers. The new growth that you have harvested is the tea. The flavor that you get from it is dependent on how you process your harvest.

The process for green tea and white tea are the same. With green tea you use both the leaves and the bud, but for white tea you use only the bud.

For green and white tea you spread out your harvest in a shady spot for a couple of hours. Then you either steam it on the stove for a minute or roast them in a dry skillet for a couple of minutes. Then you dry it in an oven spread out on a baking sheet at 250 degrees for 20 minutes. Then you can store it or brew it.

In order to make oolong tea, the harvest must be wilted in the sun for an hour and a half. Then the harvest must be moved to the shade where it must remain for about ten hours during which time it is mixed occasionally. You can then dry it in the oven at 250 degrees for 20 minutes, or instead of doing that, you can just roll the leaves in strips or balls and use.

For black tea, just roll the leaves and buds in your fingers until they turn a dark color. Then spread them out in a cool place and dry them there for two or three days before using or storing.

To store the tea you need to place the dried tea in an opaque container, preferably glass, and place it in a cool dry place.

How hard is that!

# Lunch and Learn Program

By: Charlotte Hall



For the March 2016 Lunch and Learn program, two demonstrations were given on special gardening concepts – construction of a succulent wreath and a Japanese moss ball. Class of 2013 master gardeners Deborah Kelso and Charlotte Hall made presentations on these different and unique projects.



A succulent wreath is a living wreath made from cuttings of various kinds of succulents or any tender and moist slow-growing plants. The cuttings are placed in a sphagnum moss wreath form where they will actually form roots and continue to grow. These wreaths may be used in many different decorative ways from hanging on doors to table rings or a basis for flower arrangements. A variety of shapes and sizes for succulent wreath forms are available for purchase or can be made for special occasions and seasons. The appeal of a succulent wreath is that it offers a different venue for gardening fun while incorporating a decorative or artistic approach in its diverse usage.

Once made, it is usually a low maintenance project.

Basic steps for constructing a succulent wreath are: pick the right plants, take cuttings and allow them to sit to form a callus end, soak your form, insert the cuttings, secure the cuttings, and add your finishing touches.



Japanese moss ball, string garden, or kokedama is a Japanese variant of bonsai which allows one to be creative gardeners by transforming houseplants into dangling sculptural objects. Kokedama (translation “moss ball”) is the practice of removing a root system from its container, surrounding it in a mud cake, then wrapping the whole thing is moss before winding it with string. It is creating either a hanging or standalone plant without the need of a pot. This is ideal for small living areas or homes without a lot of sunlight. They require minimal care and provide a novel way to enjoy some green indoors or under a shady tree or railing.







## Lunch and Learn Program Continued By: Charlotte Hall



Supplies needed for a moss ball are: small shade loving plant with small root base such as a fern, begonia, orchid, parlor palm or other epiphyters, peat moss and bonsai mix or akedama mix made in a 7:3 ration, sphagnum pre-soaked in water, sheet moss – either fresh or dried, several basins or bowls, water, thread or twine that is 100% cotton or biodegradable, scissors and a place to hang or sit the completed project in an area with diffused sunlight.

Basic steps include: remove as much soil as possible from the root system of the plant, wrap roots with sphagnum moss, moisten peat moss mix until it can be worked into a ball, break the ball in half, sandwich the moss covered roots between the halves, cover the soil with sheet moss, wrap twine around moss ball and then find a place with diffused sunlight for your new work of art. Maintenance consists of soaking the ball once a week, draining the moss ball after soaking and re-hanging. If your moss ball is made with a fern, it will need soaking twice a week.

As with all gardening projects and lots of plans, a little rain must fall. And that has been the case for next month's Lunch and Learn.

The scheduled program has been altered due to uncontrollable circumstances. But the newly scheduled speaker should be entertaining and informative.

So, join us next month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, April 12<sup>th</sup> for a presentation with Lisa Wright from Heady Soaps concerning natural products made with goats' milk and other garden goodies.

Hope to see you then.



March 2016 Lunch & Learn Program  
"How to Make A Succulent Wreath and Japanese Moss Ball" presented by Charlotte Hall and Debbie Kelso



## **Governor's Mansion Report**

### **By: Amanda Borden**



March was a busy month for Master Gardeners at the Governor's Mansion. A small number of volunteers trimmed the dwarf crepes in front of the guest house, weeded the Secret Garden, and weeded, trimmed, and planted fennel in the herb garden.

A larger group--including nine CAMGA members—reported for the March 14 work day and accomplished an astonishing array of tasks:

- Pruning an overgrown pyracantha and a too-tall bay tree
- Renewal pruning of holly trees around the Frank Fleming Garden, to transform them into shrubs
- Pruning and removal of Japanese cleyera that was infected with cotton cushiony scale
- Cutting off several oak branches that were hanging over the driveway
- Pruning of two Japanese maples
- Relocation of randomly planted daylilies and bulbs to a bed along the fence

### **Master Gardeners Working Hard!**



*L-R: Jane McCarthy, Linda Griebel, John Barnes, Mary McCroan, Lee Borden, Amanda Borden*



*L-R: Sandy Rosamond, Peggy Funk, Sherron Schaefer, and Leslie Bingham*



*Lee Borden Pruning with a Pole Saw*



*L-R: Melanie Barry, Sandy Rosamond, Jean Smyth, Amanda Borden*



## Master Gardener Help Line News

### By: Mary Ann Hatcher



The Helpline has provided information to clients this month from our very capable interns and Master Gardeners.

Volunteering for March 2016 were: Joyce Vella, Sandi Rosamond, Cathy Whigham, Carol Pugh, Bill Quailes, Leslie Bingham, Sherron Schaefer, and Deann Stone.

John R. Barnes, Mary Ann Klatt, and Mary Ann Hatcher served as Advisors with Sharon Potts as Appointment Reminder.



## YOU'RE INVITED TO PLANT SWAP/EARTH DAY CELEBRATION On April 23, 2016

Location: Wetumpka Recycle Center — 205 East Charles Avenue, Wetumpka, AL

Time: 8:00 a.m. —11:00 a.m.

CAMGA hosts the swap, but it is open to the public. Be sure to tell your friends and relatives. There are no parameters on what kind of plants or status of plants. Individuals bring any plants, any number, which can be freshly dug bulbs, rhizomes, day lilies, cuttings in water, or potted plants. Everyone can select plants to take home. It's a very friendly and fun atmosphere. You always take home something new and interesting! There will also be free compost which they will load into your pickup truck or onto your trailer.

**SEE YOU THERE!**

*Submitted by: Linda Griebel*

## LEARNING GARDEN

By: Mary McCroan



Our volunteers in the Learning Garden for March included Terry Chambliss, Linda Griebel, Deanne Stone, Cheri Bedford, Amanda Borden, John Barnes, Jane Mobley, Don Hoover and Mary McCroan.

Spring veggie seeds were planted in late February and we now have early peas climbing the trellis. The asparagus is making its appearance and we will be able to pick it for about four weeks. Feel free to stop by and snap off a stalk to try the taste of raw asparagus fresh from the garden.

The Butterfly Garden was reinforced with flower seeds and Jane put out some potted annuals and perennials. The yellow iris and purple verbena are looking great right now.



Speaking of verbena, Linda Griebel did her usual magic and propagated some of the verbena from the butterfly garden to the ornamental beds in front of the ACES office. I don't know how she does it. Linda fixes the plant with a stern look, says "grow", and the plant says "Yes ma'am!" And speaking of the ornamental beds, that big purple bush with the pink flowers is Lorepetalum. It has grown bigger than we planned and we will prune it back soon, but it sure looks spectacular right now.



**Roses Before Pruning**

We are doing a little experimentation with our winter pruning of the Knock Out roses. The roses on the right were hard pruned down to 12-18 inches. They will be pruned again around Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day. The roses on the left were more gently shaped and pruned back by about 1/3 to a little more than waist high. We will monitor the blooms over the summer and see which technique leads to a more colorful display. So far the gently pruned roses look the best since they already have some blooms. We also pruned some of the other plants and cut the grasses back.



**Regular Pruned Rose**



**Hard Pruned Rose**



**LEARNING GARDEN Continued****By: Mary McCroan**

John hard pruned the giant sage in the herb garden and didn't quite make Linda cry, but it will look wonderful again in no time flat.

The three different cover crops that Terry planted in February have done well. It will be very interesting to see if the nitrogen fixing characteristic of these crops does a good job of fertilizing the follow on veggies, and if so, which one does it best.



**Mary McCroan Working On the Water Feature**

We got the waterfall up and running. Terry and Mary spent the best part of a morning weeding out the water celery that had taken over. Our advice--don't plant water celery in a small water feature. The reason the water feature doesn't run all winter is that we turn off the irrigation to prevent freeze damage to our irrigation system and there is no easy way to keep the water levels up in the water feature.

Our last Thursday of the month was short (because of the rain) but productive. Terry brought over 2 yards of compost for members to use to pot plants up for the plants sale. Terry, Mary and Linda just barely got it unloaded before the rain arrived.

Future plans include constructing some more raised beds, planting a three sisters garden, and experimenting with any wild idea that we can think of!



**Terry Chambliss Unloading Mulch**

**John Barnes and Terry Chambliss at Work in the Butterfly Garden**



**Collards and Kale in the Vegetable Garden**



## FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

By: Carol Rattan, Chair



### Spring Plant Sale – everything you need to know!

#### Dates and Times:

**May 5<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, 5-7pm** – We are **receiving plants** at the barn near the vegetable garden only from those who can't bring them Friday or have more than one truck/car load of plants. **Please call me** to let me know you are coming so we know how many people need to work that evening.

**May 6<sup>th</sup>, Friday, 8-4 pm** – **Receiving plants, pricing, and loading** onto two enclosed trailers. Bring plants to the barn near the vegetable garden.

**May 7<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, 8-12 pm - Plant Sale!** Set up of tables, tents, and signs is 6:30 -7:15 am, unloading of plants and other sale items is 7:15 - 8am. Clean up begins at 12 pm.

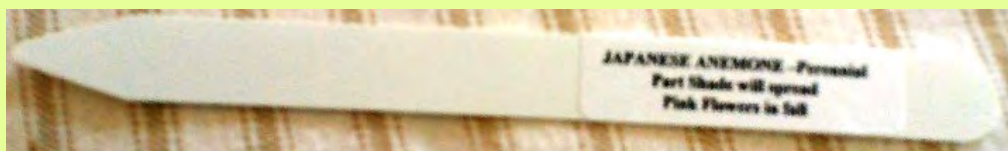
#### Other Information:

**Volunteering** – If you have not signed up to volunteer and want to help, please call me. If you can bring wagons or tables; provide food for pricing day— and/or sale day, or work during price day (2 shifts – 8-12 and 12-4) — please contact me to sign up.

Sale day there are 4 shifts: **6-8 setup, 8-10 sale, 10-12 sale, 12 pm sale is over and clean-up.** If you can provide a trailer or tent, please contact me if you haven't already.

If you have a specific area you'd like to work, i.e., pricing, trees, shrubs, perennials, info table, wagon monitor, plant expert, let me know if you haven't already. I will be making phone calls the first week of April to verify all volunteer duties, then will be communicating with all volunteers through e-mail. I will need an e-mail address if you have one. If not, I will continue to communicate by phone.

**Labels** - Plants you bring **must be labeled** – **name (common – Latin name is optional), color, shade/sun, and mature size.** See below for example! “Mini blind” labels are in a box in the MG room at the Extension office, and will be available at the next meeting. If you have extra “mini blind” labels, please ensure they are clean and bring them to share. Also, Rhona Watson has created some plant labels which you can modify and use for your plants, which is especially helpful if you have lots of similar plants to donate. The label files are available on our Yahoo site, or Rhona can send them to you if you can't access Yahoo.



**Pre-purchase** - Members who donate plants and/or work during pricing day may purchase plants on that day.

**No Half-Price Plants** – we will not reduce plant prices towards end of sale. Prices are already good! Left over plants will either be taken home by the person who brought them, or be donated to a worthy project/organization to be determined.

**Aprons** – Eight bright colored aprons will be worn by members working at the sale who have extensive knowledge on plants to provide information to customers.

## Programs Update

By: Lee Borden



Were you able to be there for Jimmy May's program on greenhouses? We learned that greenhouses come in virtually unlimited shapes and sizes, from a 12-inch wide improvised terrarium to a massive growing facility covering many acres. And we learned that, here in central Alabama, keeping a greenhouse ventilated may be more important than storing up heat.

On April 19, our own Amanda Borden will share what she's learned about low-maintenance landscape design. One of the principles she'll share with us is that one person's concept of "low-maintenance" may be "high-maintenance" to someone else. And if you're looking for a NO-maintenance landscape; you can have it; it's called a forest!

On May 17, Charles Mitchell will join us fresh from his retirement in March with a talk he's putting together 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.

And on June 21, Mallory Kelley will teach us about GMO's, "organic," and Integrated Pest Management.

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



Jimmy May presented program on Greenhouses  
at the March 2016 CAMGA Meeting





**GRANDULATE  
AMBROSIA BEETLES  
BAD BUG...GOOD BUG**

Glenn Huovinen  
Autauga County Master Gardener  
Intern



**BAD**



**BUG**

Ambrosia Beetles attack certain thin barked trees and shrubs in the early spring such as Ornamental Cherries, Maple, Red Bud, Dog Woods and Japanese Maples. I noticed the white thin sticks protruding from the trunk of an Ornamental Cherry in my yard. I contacted Mallory Kelly and she identified it as Ambrosia Beetles. The female beetle bores in, hallows out a cavity and lays eggs. The female beetle inoculates the area with a fungus which interferes with the transport of water and food through the tree and is usually fatal.



**GOOD BUG**



Even though the Grandulate Ambrosia Beetle kills the tree, the wood that results from the tree is valuable to wood workers. Here is a bowl that I made from a piece of Maple that was infested by the Ambrosia Beetle. This wood is called Ambrosia Maple due to the infestation, and it makes for an attractive contrast for wood working.

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

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(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](#)

# Calendar of Events

## April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Governor's Mansion Workday 8-11 a.m.	5	6 Lanark Workday 8:00-12:00 noon	7 Learning Garden Workday 8-11 a.m. Elmore Co. Ext. Office	8 Grafting Workshop E.V. Smith 9-11 a.m.	9 Alabama Flora and Fauna Art Festival at Lanark Nature Plex, Millbrook
10	11 Governor's Mansion Workday 8-11 a.m.	12 Lunch & Learn 12 noon--1 p.m. "Heady Soaps: Natural Products made with Goat's Milk & Other Garden Goodies"—Elmore Co. Extension Office	13 Lanark Workday 8:00-12:00 noon Native Pollinators Grace Episcopal Church 9 am — 2 p.m.	14 Learning Garden Workday 8-11 a.m. Elmore Co. Ext. Office	15	16
17	18 Governor's Mansion Workday 8-11 a.m.	19 CAMGA Meeting Elmore Co. Ext. Office 10:00 a.m.	20 Lanark Workday 8:00-12:00 noon	21 Learning Garden Workday 8-11 a.m. Elmore Co. Ext. Office	22 Shitake Mushroom Gardening Workshop Autauga Co. Extension Office 9-11 a.m.	23 Plant Swap/Earth Day at Wetumpka Recycle Center 8-11 a.m.
24	25 Governor's Mansion Workday 8-11 a.m.	26	27 Birmingham Botanical Gardens Field Trip  Lanark Workday 8:00-12:00 noon	28 Learning Garden Workday 8-11 a.m. Elmore Co. Ext. Office	29	30

# UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

## Grafting Workshop

*"Grafting Fruits and Nuts and Anything in Between"*

Hosted by the  
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

**Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> 2016**  
E.V. Smith Research Station  
(See Back for Directions)  
Tallapoosa, 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 6<sup>th</sup>.**

(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 Tallapoosa. 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 Tallapoosa 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.

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  
302 Columbus Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104  
oathtbldg.com  
oathtbldg@gmail.com  
On Facebook at:  
Old Alabama Town  
Herb Society

## Native Pollinators

Hosted by the  
Alabama Cooperative Extension System  
And the  
Capital City Master Gardeners Association

**Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> 2016**

Graeco Episcopal Church  
808 Pike Road  
Pike Road, Alabama  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



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

*"This workshop will include a mason bee box to take home and incorporate into your landscape."*

To sign-up or for more information, contact the Montgomery County Extension office at 334-270-4153. Cost is \$20 per person and includes lunch.

Pre-Registration and Payment is required by **Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**PRE-REGISTRATION FORM- Native Pollinators Workshop**

Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Participants: X \$20 = Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: Alabama Cooperative Extension  
Return Pre-Registration Form & Payment by Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> to:  
Montgomery County Extension- Eastmont Shopping Plaza  
6340 Atlanta Highway  
Montgomery, AL 36108  
Phone: 334-270-4153



## Elmore County Lunch and Learn Program

"Heady Soaps: Natural Products made with Goat's Milk & Other Garden Goodies" presented by Lisa Wright, April 12, Elmore Co. Extension Office, 12-1 p.m.

## SHIITAKE MUSHROOM GARDENING



Would you like to learn how to grow Shiitake Mushrooms in your own backyard? Inoculate your own log to take home with you.

The Autauga County Master Gardeners are hosting a Shiitake Mushroom Gardening Class  
Mallory Kelley - Instructor

**FRIDAY, 22 APRIL 2016**  
**9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**

EXTENSION CLASSROOM  
2226 Highway 14 West  
Autaugaville, Alabama 36003-2540

**COST - \$20.00 Per Person**

**REGISTRATION IS LIMITED TO 40 ATTENDEES**

Make your check payable to Autauga County Extension Office and Mail to:  
Tana Shealey, 2226 Highway 14 West, Suite E, Autaugaville, Alabama 36003-2540  
For additional information, Contact Tana Shealey to make your reservation:  
Call (334) 361-7273 Email [tshealey@auburn.edu](mailto:tshealey@auburn.edu)



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

## PLANT SALE



CENTRAL ALABAMA MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION



*Great prices and plant selections*

Annuals, perennials  
Trees, shrubs, fruit trees  
Vegetables, herbs  
House plants, garden items

Gardening questions answered by  
on-site master gardeners

Soil test kits available / free

**MAY 7, 2016 8:00 AM-12:00 NOON**

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH PARKING LOT  
5375 U.S. HWY 231, WETUMPKA, AL



CAMGA Garden Buzzzz

Carol Pugh — Editor  
[pughdia@aces.edu](mailto:pughdia@aces.edu)  
334-567-6301



## PLANT SWAP/EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

**April 23, 2016**

**Wetumpka Recycle Center**  
**8:00-11:00 a.m.**





**SPRING HAS SPRUNG!**  
**PICTURES FROM LINDA'S GARDEN**  
SUBMITTED BY: LINDA GRIEBEL

