



GARDEN BUZZZZZZ



Volume 25 Issue 7 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

July 2016

Message from: Rhona Watson
CAMGA President



June was a fun month in my garden. There is a lot blooming, hydrangeas, day lilies, and all the annuals I did from seeds. It is also the month I do a lot of propagation of cuttings and air layering of hydrangeas, honey suckle, and clematis. Since patience is one of my virtues, I now check them every day to see if they are wilting or look like roots are growing. So far so good. July is not a fun month— just heat, weeding, and watering. I go out about 7 and give up about 11, nice to have meetings to go to.

I enjoyed Jeremy Pickens presentation on GMO's and learned a lot. I did not realize how much was already being done, and that there is such a controversy on the subject. The presentation next month by Suzanne Sikes, is something we can all learn from, and will benefit our own gardens. Let's please show her the attention and respect, she deserves.

We are getting closer to the time of our seminar, with Toby Hemenway, and Jason Powell. Permaculture, is the subject if you would like to learn more about the speaker and his specialty he has written two books, "Permaculture City: Design for Urban, Suburban, and Town Resilience" and "Galas Garden". There will be opportunities for everyone to volunteer, and be a part of our Educational Event. There will be signup sheets at our July meeting, or you can email or call the person heading the committees. We will need people for helping the Speakers, Giving out lunch, Decorations, Distributing information, Door Prizes and Registration.

We did such an outstanding job with our plant sale, that our treasury is now over 13,000. The purpose of our fund raising is to have everything we need for our organization, such as supporting the learning garden, and to do outside projects to help educate the public. We do many presentations to Garden Clubs, and other organizations, but they frequently want to pay us, which adds to our treasury. Not a bad problem to have, but if you have an outside project that fits with our goals, please bring it to the projects Committee.

I was gone for two weeks in June, seeing gardens in southern England. It was a wonderful experience, due to the hard work and organization of Lee and Amanda Borden.

Table of Contents:

- Message from Rhona.....1-2
- Message from Mallory.....3-4
- Minutes.....5-6
- Spotlight on Volunteers.....7
- Plant of the Month.....8
- Lunch & Learn.....9-10
- Mansion Report.....11
- Help Line News.....12
- Programs Update.....13
- Enjoy Your Vegetable
Flowers.....14
- Plant Sale Photos.....15
- July Calendar.....16
- Master Gardener Intern Class
Graduation.....17

Message from: Rhona Watson
CAMGA President — (Continued)

There were seven of us on the trip, so we have many wonderful pictures of gardens, and each other we plan to share, at a future meeting.

This month's picture from my garden are two of my favorite hydrangeas. The one in the front comes from my mother in-law's garden in Virginia. I don't know the name so I call it "Mom's Hydrangea". The other one is "Fiji Waterfall" that I got on a trip to Aldridge Gardens. It is a double lace cap, and blooms twice, June and November. Got some great ideas from all the gardens we saw but it is good to be home

Your favorite Garden should be your own

Rhona



Message from Mallory

Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests

No Silver Bullet for Mosquitoes



Recently, I have noticed mosquitos buzzing me when I was outdoors early mornings and late in the evening. There is no simple solution for combating this perennial summer pest.

Where do they come from? Even though we are still in drought conditions, we have had enough afternoon showers to favor mosquito development. Mosquitoes need quiet, non-flowing water for their development. Mosquitoes can lay their eggs on the surface of water in rain barrels, bird baths, tin cans, old tires, cisterns, roof gutters and any other container that holds water. Other types of mosquitoes can lay their eggs at the base of vegetation bordering streams or in low-lying areas subject to flooding. Mosquitoes can also deposit their eggs above the water line in old tires and other water-holding containers. These eggs hatch when inundated with rain water.

Mosquitoes develop rapidly, transforming into biting adults in as little as one week. A neglected bird bath or boat bottom allowed to accumulate water can produce hundreds of new mosquitoes each day.

What can be done about them? Eliminate Breeding Sites. The best way to control mosquitoes is to find and eliminate their breeding sites. Eliminating large areas of standing water such as swamps or ditches may require community wide effort. Nonetheless, homeowners can take steps to prevent mosquitoes from breeding on their property.

Dispose of old tires, buckets, plastic sheeting or other containers that collect and hold water. Do not allow water to accumulate at the base of flower pots or in pet dishes for more than a few days. Clean debris from rain gutters and remove any standing water on patios or flat roofs.

Change water in bird baths and wading pools at least once a week. Consider stocking ornamental ponds with predacious minnows. Known as mosquito fish, these minnows are about 1-1 ½ inches in length and can be purchased or seined from streams and creeks. Another approach with ornamental ponds is to apply a “biorational” insecticide which prevents mosquitoes from developing in the water. Products containing methoprene or *Bacillus thuringiensis varisraeliensis* (Mosquito dunks, Bactimos) are essentially harmless to other aquatic organisms.

Check around faucets and air conditioner units and repair leaks or puddles that remain for several days. Eliminate seepage from cisterns, cesspools, and septic tanks, and animal watering troughs. Fill or drain puddles, ditches and swampy areas. Remove, drain or fill tree holes and stumps with a suitable sealant.

Irrigate lawns and gardens carefully to prevent water from standing for several days. Controlling adults: Some mosquitoes fly long distances. It may be necessary to supplement elimination of breeding sites with control tactics directed against migrating adults.

Message from Mallory (Continued)

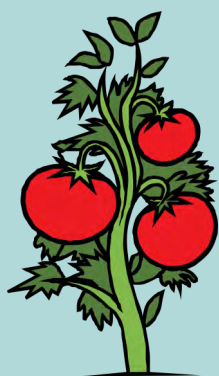
Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests

Exclusion: Mosquitoes can be kept out of homes by securely screening windows, doors and porches. The occasional mosquito found indoors can be eliminated with a fly swatter or aerosol-type insecticide labeled for flying insects.

Topically-Applied Repellents: Repellents will help prevent bites when spending time outdoors. Use mosquito repellents containing ingredients such as diethyl toluamide (DEET). In general, the higher the percentage of DEET in the ingredients, the longer the protection. Low-percentage formulations are available for use with young children. Non-DEET containing repellents (e.g Avon Skin-so-soft, citronella) may provide some relief, but to a lesser degree and for a shorter duration. It is often desirable to apply insect repellent on outer clothing as well as the skin. Always read and follow directions on the container. Mosquito repellent should not be applied to the hands of young children, and treated skin should be washed with soap and water.

Source: Chuck Brown, Retired Extension Agent and <http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-1116/ANR-1116.pdf>



Upcoming Home Grown Tomato Workshops

Tomatoes are the most popular vegetable for homeowners to grow, but they are also the most problematic. Due to the popularity of tomatoes and the issues that can arise, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System will conduct an advanced tomato workshop - **More 'Home Grown' Tomatoes**. This hands-on workshop will be held in two locations the week of July 26th – 27th so plan to attend whichever is more convenient for you. Mark your calendars now and plan for this great opportunity to learn more about tomatoes and summertime problems.

The More 'Home Grown' Tomatoes Workshops will begin promptly at 10 a.m. and conclude at 3:00 p.m. with lunch provided. This workshop will feature tips on growing healthy tomatoes, a taste testing of tomato varieties, information to help you select the right varieties for their uses, and a hands-on disease/insect diagnosis/problem solving session. Participants will gain tons of knowledge to help you become more successful in growing your own tomatoes.

Those attending are encouraged to bring fresh samples of an insect, disease or other problem found on your tomatoes and 3 to 6 tomatoes of a named variety for entry in the tomato tasting. There is a \$10 fee to attend; lunch is included. Registration is required so make arrangements to attend today as space is limited.

Workshop Tuesday, July 26
Clay County Extension Office
Dani Carroll

Regional Extension Agent- Home Horticulture
Alabama Cooperative Extension System
(256) 547-7936 Office

Workshop Wednesday, July 27th
Lee County Extension Office
Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent- Home Horticulture
Alabama Cooperative Extension System
(334) 749-3353 Office

CAMGA Minutes for June 2016

Lois Pribulick — Secretary

(Submitted by: Anida Wishnietsky for Lois Pribulick)



CENTRAL Alabama Master Gardeners Association June 21, 2016 Regular Meeting

Prior to the program, Becky Brown reminded everyone that the August meeting will be at Mulder Memorial Church on August 16th at 10 a.m. for the intern graduation. All members should sign up to bring food, except the interns.

PROGRAM: Lee Borden introduced the guest speaker. Dr. Jeremy Pickens gave a presentation called "Genetically Modified Crops." For more information on this subject, read *The Frankenfood Myth: How Protest and Politics Threaten the Biotech Revolution* written by Henry I. Miller and Gregory Conko. Lee Borden stated that the slide presentation, without some photos, will be posted to the CAMGA.net web site. After the program Rhona Watson asked that folks be quiet during presentation Q&As.

After the break the CAMGA June meeting was called to order by President Rhona Watson at 11 a.m. at the Elmore County Extension Auditorium. There were 38 present. Rhona opened the meeting by asking folks, who haven't yet, to pick up their directory.

MINUTES: The minutes from the May meeting, as published in the newsletter, were approved by acclamation.

TREASURER: Rhona Watson presented the treasurer report for the month of May. Balance as of April 30, 2016 was \$10,161. Income for May was \$4003. Expenditures were \$840. Balance as of May 31, 2016 was \$13,324. The Treasurer's report was approved by acclamation. Plant sale provided \$3,843 in income. CAMGA aprons are still available for purchase at \$13 each.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PROGRAMS: Lee Borden reported that CAMGA members rated Charlie Mitchell's program "Perspective on 60 Years" 4.77 for relevance and 4.88 for quality. The score for the business meeting was 4.75.

In July, Suzanne Sikes - you'll remember her from her program last year on daylilies - will help us understand how we can encourage and take advantage of beneficial predators in our gardens.

August will be the graduation ceremony as described earlier.

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

June 2016 Minutes Continued
Lois Pribulick — Secretary
(Submitted by: Anida Wishnietsky for Lois Pribulick)



PROJECTS: Linda Griebel reporting

Public Seminar: Rhona Watson reported that Toby Hemenway, expert on permaculture, will speak at the Wetumpka Civic Center on Wednesday, February 15, 2017. Jason Powell will speak in the afternoon. **Price** is \$25 which includes a catered lunch from Chappys. Exact times are to be determined. Cost to CAMGA will be about \$1,000. Subcommittees for this project are as follows: Speaker (Jane Mobley), venue (Linda Griebel), food (Joyce Vella), decorations (Sharon Potts), public relations (Phil Easter), door prizes (John Butler), and registration (Janet Lewis). Jason Powell will bring plants for his presentation which will be given away as door prizes, in addition to the center pieces from the tables.

Eclectic Senior Center: Worked two mornings and got everything done

Bowling Ball: The Bowling Ball Class held on June 17, 2016 went very well. Linda thanked Marie Updike for donating bowling balls. There will be a stepping stone class in September. Linda Griebel asked that new projects be brought the Project Committee meeting first.

PLANT SALE: Carol Rattan reporting. The plant sale books will be used as door prizes unless those donating the books come to take them back.

REACH FOR THE STARS AWARDS: Presented by Rhona Watson.

- **GOLD BADGE** (over 1000 hours): Sharon Potts
Please be aware that members cannot win badges unless they pay state dues.

OTHER BUSINESS:

It was requested that the cover sheet for the intern registration be posted to the website. Lee Borden agreed to do that. Becky Brown said that only four people have signed up the take the fall class so far.

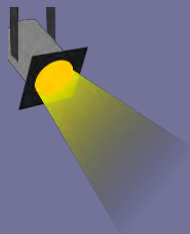
Rhona asked that folks sign up to bring food to meetings.

See Mary McCroan if you are interested in being in a semiprivate exercise class in Montgomery.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m. Door prizes from plant sale garden books were given out.

Respectively Submittedby Anida Wishnietsky for Lois Pribulick, Secretary





SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

For Month of June 2016
By Judy May



Working in the sweltering heat at Eclectic Senior Center weeding, pruning and moving and spreading mulch on May 27 were Iva Haynie, Don Hoover, Johan Beumer, John Barnes, Linda Griebel and Joyce Vella and her Granddaughter Anouk.

Again working at the Eclectic Senior Center June 3 were Iva Haynie, Barbara and Andy Wallace, Terry Chambliss, John Barnes, Linda Griebel and Joyce Vella and her granddaughter Anouk.

Helpline volunteers for the month were Susan Littleton, Robin Snyder, Linda Edwards, Earnest Edwards, Linda miller, Pat Petro-Perryman, Joyce Vella, Ricky Hatcher, Mary Ann Klatt, Sharon Potts, and Mary Ann Hatcher.

The Lunch and Learn speaker this month was Bob Burgett speaking on Community Gardens. Assisting were Charlotte Hall and Carla McCune.

Refreshments at the CAMGA meeting this month were thanks to Becky Ashurst, Iva Haynie, Linda Griebel, Marie Updike and Judy May.

During the month of June, volunteers at the Governor's Mansion were Melanie Barry, Amanda Borden, Jane McCarthy and Sandy Rosamond.

Attendees at the Projects Committee meeting June 20 were Rhona Watson, Janet Lewis, Jane Mobley, Linda Griebel, Johan Beumer and John Butler.

For the Bowling Ball Yard Art class, Johan Beumer was the instructor and the class was facilitated by Linda Griebel and Jane Mobly.

Working at the Millbrook farmers market this month were Butch Kinney, Joe L'Abbe and Rick Ohlsen.

July PLANT OF THE MONTH

By: Jane Mobley



Saponaria sp. - Soapwort, Bouncing Betty, Bouncing Bet



Saponaria sp. - Soapwort

This month's feature plant is a southern heirloom tender perennial herb that was used by our ancestors for making soap and is today a wonderful addition for the early summer garden especially at the woodland edge or in a rock garden. It is not a plant that you are likely to find in any garden center, but is one that you will probably have to obtain as a pass-along plant. Fortunately, several of our members do have this little gem. It was used in one of our school garden projects where it bloomed profusely.

Soapwort was commonly grown by our early settlers to be used for detergent and soap. (The name Bouncing Bet refers to the term used for washerwoman.) Different species can be from one to three feet tall and are covered with fluffy pink blooms in early summer to midsummer here. It self-sows readily and is often grown as a groundcover typically growing in clumps covered in pale pink to white flower clusters. While the plant may spread some by rhizomes, it is only occasionally considered to be invasive.

These plants are happy in full sun to light shade and are tolerant of almost any well draining soil while doing best in well composted soil. Plants do need to be well watered in a dry summer. Spacing for planting is one foot. Deadheading may result in a longer bloom season. Plants may be cut back after blooming although some flowers should be allowed to remain for seed production. Seeds may be started indoors with seedlings placed out after the last frost, or seeds may be direct sowed. These plants also may be propagated through cuttings. Soapwort can withstand the cold to zone three if well mulched. It is a butterfly attractant and is deer resistant. Flowers have a light, fruity scent and some add them to salads or fruity drinks.

The constituent in soapwort responsible for its soap making ability is saponin. In order to make soap from the plant one must add 12 leafy stems to one pint of water. This mixture is then boiled for about 30 minutes, cooled and strained. Another method is to use one cup of loosely packed leaves in three cups of water and cooked for 15 to 20 minutes on low heat before cooling and straining. Soap must be used in about a week as it does not last longer. Care should be taken because it may cause skin irritation in some people. It is a very gentle soap and can be used for washing delicate items. Some people also use it as shampoo. Leaves and stems can be dried for use when the plant is not available in the winter or roots can be dug in the fall for use in soap making.

Lunch and Learn Program CAMGA June 2016 Lunch and Learn By: Charlotte Hall



“Community Gardens” Presented by: Bob Burgett

At our June Lunch and Learn program, Bob Burgett, a CAMGA master gardener graduate in the Class of 2013, made a very informative presentation on Community Gardens. Bob has helped establish local community gardens in Robinson Springs and Millbrook.

At Robinson Springs, Bob had a community garden, 18 raised beds, a prayer garden, jasmine walls and fruit trees. At the Millbrook First United Methodist Church, his community garden was for assisted living facilities with fruit trees, flower and vegetable beds and strawberries.

Bob presented the 10 steps to starting a community garden which are:

1. Organize a meeting of interested people.
2. Form a planning committee
3. Identify all your resources
4. Approach a sponsor
5. Choose a site
6. Prepare and develop the site
7. Organize the garden
8. Plan for children
9. Determine rules and put them in writing
10. Help members keep in touch with each other

After presenting these ten organizational steps, Bob led a very lively and detailed discussion with the attendees concerning some of the concerns with starting a community garden. A handout was provided with detailed information for each of the basic ten steps.

Among some of the interesting points concerning community gardens are discussion of the premise of 1/10th acre farms where people use a 66' X 66' plot of land (1/10th of an acre) to grow profitable crops, CSA – community supported agriculture, shared gardens where groups of gardeners plant one extra crop that is shared with others, food bank plots, and community gardens for churches and community groups.



Lunch and Learn Program (Continued)

By: Charlotte Hall



Bob maintains a non-chemical garden and incorporates bagged grass clippings that he collects from his community. When asked about the concern of a possibility of pesticides or seeds sprouting from the randomly gathered clippings. Bob assured everyone that if the clippings reach a temperature of 140 degrees, seeds will not germinate. And we all know how very hot black bagged clippings left in the Alabama sun can get!

As an extra feature, Bob brought his unique garden tool called a broadfork. Bob is a proponent of no till gardening. He uses the broadfork gardening tool for all his gardening needs. Where tilling destroys soil, the broadfork simply separates or loosens the soil. It is an almost indestructible tool that is made of high-strength alloy steel welded with four curved tines that turns soil easily.



At the end of the Lunch and Learn, Bob gave a demonstration of how easy the broadfork is to use. R. J. Arceneaux gathered garlic and Bob demonstrated using the broadfork for gathering underground crops.

Bob also shared the formula for an inexpensive home fertilizer which he has posted on a Pinterest board. It consists of adding one tablespoon of Epsom salt, one teaspoon of baking soda and 1 teaspoon of liquid ammonia to one gallon of water. This averages out to 4.6 cents per gallon cost. To control weeds, Bob sprays a three inch (3") area of pure vinegar around his raised flower beds.



Due to lack of time, the short films that Bob brought to be shown to the class will be made available at the CAMGA.net website. These were excerpts from the PBS show Growing a Greener garden.

Have you ever had a sting or an injury of an accident while working in your garden? If so, join us in July for a program on "Pain in the Garden and First Aid for it." It should be a most interesting and very applicable program presented by pharmacist Carl Bledsoe. Remember cool beverages will be provided!



Governor's Mansion Report By: Amanda Borden



June has been the month for azalea pruning at the Governor's Mansion. Volunteers renewal pruned two large banks of azaleas bordering the parking lot and the Frank Fleming Garden. The azaleas now have better air flow and are expected to leaf out again soon, ready to bloom next spring.



Jane McCarthy pruning overgrown azaleas



The crew after final pruning, with debris in the background. L-R: Amanda Borden, Alyson Ludington, Bradley Ludington, Jane McCarthy, Melanie Barry, Jean Smyth, Sandy Rosamond, Elliot Ludington, Oliver Ludington.



Sandy Rosamond and Jane McCarthy admiring azaleas following renewal pruning

Master Gardener Help Line News For June 2016 By: Mary Ann Hatcher



Susan Littleton talks to a client

The Helpline has had an increase in calls this month.

Interns: Susan Littleton, Robin Snyder, Linda Edwards, Earnest Edwards, and Linda Miller along with Master Gardeners Pat Petro-Perryman, Joyce Vella, and Ricky Hatcher assisted clients with their concerns.

Advisors were: Mary Ann Klatt and Mary Ann Hatcher. Serving as our Appointment Reminder was Sharon Potts.



Pat Petro-Perryman researches a response



Programs Update By: Lee Borden



Jeremy Pickens did a great job in June covering the illusive subject of Genetically Modified Crops.

In July, Suzanne Sikes - you may remember her from her presentation on daylilies - will return to help us think through how to attract beneficial predators to our gardens.

And we'll all gather at Mulder Memorial United Methodist Church in August to welcome our newest members, last fall's interns!

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



Jeremy Pickens presented a program on Genetically Modified Crops at the June 2016 CAMGA Meeting

DO YOU EVER TAKE TIME TO ENJOY YOUR VEGETABLE FLOWERS ?

Glenn Huovinen Autauga MG Intern



We all cannot wait to savor the first tomato or summer squash of the season. But have you ever taken time to enjoy and study the flower that produced that fruit or herb? Can you identify these vegetable flowers? Here is a little test. Answers are at the bottom. So don't peek.

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



1. Potatoes 2. Thyme 3. Bell Peppers 4. Tomatoes

5. Romaine Lettuce 6. Honeydew Melons 7. Summer Squash

CAMGA Plant Sale May 7, 2016

Photos from the Annual CAMGA Plant Sale



CAMGA Plant Sale
Wetumpka
May 7, 2016

- 1. Frances Wilson
- 2. Darren Bergquist
- 3. Sherri Schafer
- 4. Carol Ralton and Emma Hamby
- 5. Rachel and Brenda Henson and Katrina Mitchell
- 6. Jo Weitman, Becky and Bob Brown, Bill Quailles and Judy May
- 7. Julia and Clara Scott
- 8. Lee Borden, Rhona Watson and John Butler
- 9. Lydia Hamby

Calendar of Events

July 2016



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3	4 	5	6 Lanark Workday 8:00-12:00 noon	7 Learning Garden Workday 8-12 noon. Elmore Co. Ext. Office	8	9
10	11 Governor's Mansion Workday 8-11 a.m.	12 Lunch & Learn Elmore Co. Extension Auditorium 12-1 p.m. "Pain in the Garden & First Aid for It"	13 Lanark Workday 8:00-12:00 noon	14 Learning Garden Workday 8-12 noon. Elmore Co. Ext. Office	15	16
17	18 Governor's Mansion Workday 8-11 a.m.	19 CAMGA MEETING 10:00 a.m. Elmore Co. Extension Auditorium	20 Lanark Workday 8:00-12:00 noon	21 Learning Garden Workday 8-12 noon. Elmore Co. Ext. Office	22	23
24	25 Governor's Mansion Workday 8-11 a.m.	26 Tomato Workshop Clay Co. Ext. Office 10 a.m. -3 p.m.	27 Lanark Workday 8:00-12:00 noon Tomato Workshop Lee Co. Ext. Office 10 a.m. -3 p.m.	28 Learning Garden Workday 8-12 noon. Elmore Co. Ext. Office	29	30
31						

Upcoming CAMGA Intern Graduation

By: **Becky Brown**

The 2015 Fall Master Gardener Intern Class will graduate Tuesday, August 16, 2016 at Mulder United Methodist Church located at 3454 Firetower Road, Wetumpka.

The program will begin at 10:00 a.m. with the regular August CAMGA meeting. Lunch will be served after the meeting.

Master Gardener graduates may bring guests and must add them to the sign-up list for the attendance number. A sign-up sheet will be available at the July 19th CAMGA meeting or you may contact Marjorie Hanna at 334-361-7152 (**no later than August 10, 2016**). Graduates are the guests of the day and not expected to contribute food for the festivities.

CAMGA members please sign the food sign-up sheet at the July 19th meeting or call Marjorie at 334-361-7152 before **August 10th**. Foods need to compliment the chicken fingers that Mallory will provide.

There will be an opportunity at graduation to sign up to provide food for lunches for the 2016 Fall Master Gardener intern class and to grade intern tests.

Please sign up no more than two times, to give others an opportunity to meet the interns. Thanks!

Upcoming in August:

Farm, Home and Wildlife Expo
Saturday, August 6th
12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.
Chilton County Research Center
120 County Road 756
Clanton, AL



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