



GARDEN BUZZZZZ



Volume 25 Issue 6 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

June 2016

Message from: Rhona Watson **CAMGA President**



The May flowers are fading, and here comes June. My hydrangeas and roses are impressive after the poor showing of last year with the cold. It is such a joy to walk around the garden every day and see what is new. All the perennials are coming back even the fire bush I got from Phil is growing some red leaves. Have you tried keeping your hostas in a pot? I leave them outside all winter, and the ones in the pots come back weeks before the ones in the ground, and always look healthier.

June is my month to take cuttings. I already have some going with cuttings I got at the Master Gardener Conference in Dothan. No I did not steal them from the Botanical Gardens, although I was tempted when we saw a rex begonia called "Escargot". I have two Japanese maples that Rodney Clemons, the Bonsai presenter gave Mary and me, and some from the plants Mary and I bought. Hard to go to a Master Gardener Conference and not buy at least one plant.

The Conference was both fun and informative. The presentations I enjoyed the most were the Bonsai presentation, and a presentation by Mark Weathington, about cool new plants that are becoming available. I have my list ready. We also went to Landmark Park and joined the Tree identification workshop that was interesting. You should consider going next year if you have a chance. It will be in Huntsville May 1--3, 2017.



Photo from 2016 State MG Conference

Again thanks to everyone who brought plants and worked at the plant sale, especially Carol Rattan who did an awesome job keeping us organized and calm, even when unpriced plants showed up the day of the sale. At the end of Saturday we had made exactly the same as last year, \$3580. Linda Griebel came to the rescue with a great idea to bring some of the unsold plants to our meeting and took in an additional \$90. We discussed some things we could do to keep improving on our total. Some the suggestions were to have a signup sheet so we have an idea which plants people will bring, have more flowering plants and baskets, and hostas.

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Message from: Rhona Watson
CAMGA President — (Continued)

June is also a busy month for volunteering. Our Learning Gardens, Lanark, the Helpline, Governor's Mansion, and the Millbrook Farmers market, are all places you will learn new things, have fun doing it *and get* some hours. We will be recruiting at all of these places for our next master Gardener class that begins in September.

Now for my picture of the month. In the foreground are Japanese Maples that I grafted. Then hanging from the tree is the zig zag cactus, with very cool red flowers. If you look hard you can see the Chenille plant with the long red flowers, and under that Sara my dog sneaked into the picture. The people I bought the Chenille plant said it could be planted outside, and would come back. Information I looked up said it was hardy in zones 10 and 11, and to bring it inside when below 50 degrees. My cuttings look good so I will plant one outside, bring one in the house, and put one in the greenhouse to see which one is happiest. Ever the scientist.

Make your favorite garden your own

Rhona



Message from Mallory

Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests

Avoiding Poisonous Plants

Beware of those poisonous vines while working in the yard this summer. Each year many Alabamians come in contact with poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac while in the outdoors, but it is not only summer when you have to be careful so always be on the lookout. Even in the winter when the vines look brown and dead they still contain oils that will cause allergic reactions. These plants can cause a great deal of discomfort, itching and pain from contact on the skin and even greater if the oils get in your lungs or eyes so never burn these vines as the oils can get in the air and be inhaled.



All three of these poisonous plants are easily found throughout the Southeast, but they look very similar in appearance and are often confused with each other and other plants such as virginia creeper, box elder or fragrant sumac, all of which are nonpoisonous.

Poison ivy is often found climbing high on trees, walls or fences or trailing on the ground. This woody vine has hairy looking aerial roots and can grow to more than 10 feet tall, says John Everest, Extension Weed Scientist of Auburn University. All parts of the plant are poisonous and poison ivy always has three leaflets.

Flowers and fruit form in clusters on slender stems attached to the leaf limbs. Poison ivy has toxic oil in the stems and leaves that many people are highly allergic to and develop a rash. The rash usually starts with itchiness and swelling, followed by a reddish inflammation of tiny pimples. The rash can vary in severity from person to person and can begin as early as an hour after contact or up to five days after contact. The oil can even be transmitted from a pet's fur or from smoke of burning poison ivy.

Poison oak is very similar to poison ivy, but it does not climb. Its leaves are thicker, are a dull green and are hairy on both sides of the leaves. Poison oak is found in dry, sunny sites in woodlands, thickets and old fields.

Poison sumac is a shrub and can grow to 25 feet tall. Leaves are 7 to 15 inches long and have 7 to 15 leaflets to a central stem, with one leaflet at the end of the stem. It is found mostly in swamps or moist bottomlands. Poison sumac also has ivory or white berries that form in clusters. Same as the poison ivy, never burn these plants and poison oak and poison sumac also have toxic oils that can cause an allergic rash on the skin.

All of these irritating plants range in appearance as leaf shapes will vary even on the same plant and they will also vary in form from rough, woody vines to erect woody shrubs or trailing shrubs that run on the ground. Never base your identification on one or two leaves, but look at the overall plant and many leaves and compare size and shapes to determine the plants identify and if ever in doubt, leave it alone.

Message from Mallory (Continued)

Mallory Kelley

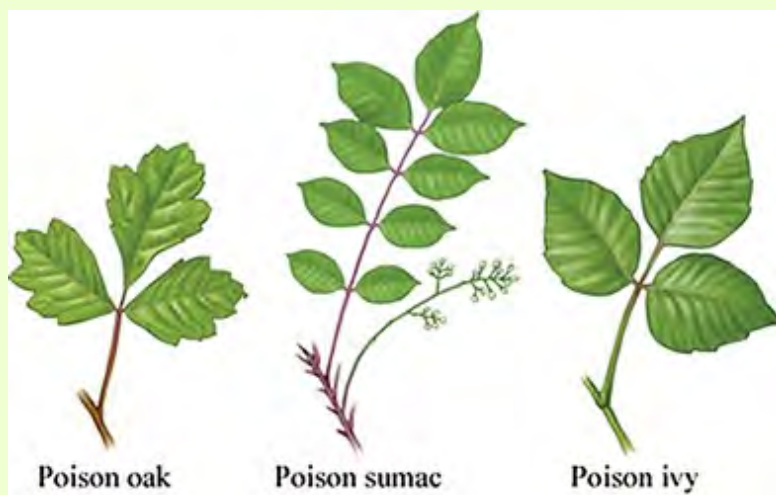
Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests

May and June are the best times to apply control measures to these poison plants, but it can be done any time of the year. Spraying the foliage with products that are listed with the active ingredient: glyphosate sold under trade names such as Roundup or Kleenup and others) is recommended.

To kill poison ivy on trees, cut the vine right above the ground, then treat any leaves coming from the vine on the ground with Roundup. More than one application may be necessary, but eventually this herbicide will kill the roots and prevent sprouting. Always follow directions on the label when using this herbicide. Glyphosate will kill almost any plant when it comes in contact with the green plant tissue and does not remain active in the soil.

To prevent these plants from poisoning your summer, become familiar with how the plants look and avoid them. If you come in contact with one of the plants, wash your skin with strong soap and hot water immediately, and remove and wash all clothes, including shoes and socks in a strong detergent and warm or hot water. Also, keep your hands away from your eyes, mouth and face. If you develop a rash, don't scratch it. You can apply calamine lotion, zinc oxide ointment or a paste made with baking soda and water to the rash. If these measures don't work, call your doctor. Some people have severe allergic reactions to these plants and can have swelling in the throat, breathing problems, weakness, dizziness and bluish lips. Some people even fall into unconsciousness. If any of these reactions occur, seek emergency medical care.

SOURCE: Dr. John Everest, Extension Weed Scientist, Alabama Cooperative Extension System



CAMGA Minutes for May 2016

Lois Pribulick — Secretary

(Submitted by: Anida Wishnietsky for Lois Pribulick)



CENTRAL Alabama Master Gardeners Association May 17, 2016 Regular Meeting

PROGRAM: Lee Borden introduced the guest speaker. Dr. Charles Mitchell gave a presentation called "The Perfect Fall Garden" but most of the talk was on testing, managing and improving garden soils. Lee Borden stated that the slide presentation will be posted to the CAMGA.net web site.

After the break the CAMGA May meeting was called to order by President Rhona Watson at 11:22 a.m. at the Elmore County Extension Auditorium. There were 53 present. Rhona opened the meeting by thanking everyone who helped with the plant sale. Last year CAMGA made \$3581 at the plant sale and this year we made \$3678.

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

TREASURER: Joyce Vella presented the treasurer report for the month of April. Balance as of March 31, 2016 was \$11,451.89. Income for April was \$728.00. Expenditures were \$2,018.57. Balance as of April 30, 2016 is \$10,161.32. The Treasurer's report was approved by acclamation. The trip to the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham on April 27, 2016 cost CAMGA \$300 because the bus was not full. CAMGA aprons are now available for purchase.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MILLBROOK FARMERS MARKET: Rick Ohlson reported that the Millbrook Farmers Market was now open every Tuesday from 8 a.m. until noon. He could use some extra folks manning the CAMGA table there. Anyone interested should call or email him.

PROGRAMS: Lee Borden reported that CAMGA members rated Amanda Borden's program on low maintenance landscape design 4.80 for relevance and 4.88 for quality. The score for the business meeting was 4.48.

On June 21 Mallory Kelley will talk about GMOs, the use of the term "organic," and Integrated Pest Management.

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

PROJECTS COMMITTEE: John Barnes reporting.

Eclectic Senior Center work day will be held on May 27th from 9:00 a.m. until noon to help the seniors. Bring tools.

Bowling Ball: The Bowling Ball Class will be held on June 17, 2016 from 9 a.m. until noon. Please pay \$12 when you sign up.

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



Children's Harbor: Jane Mobley designed a butterfly garden for Children's Harbor and answered their questions about how to put it in. All work will be done by Children's Harbor staff/volunteers.

Public Seminar: Jane Mobley reported that Toby Hemenway, expert on permaculture, has agreed to 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. We will need lots of help putting this on.

PLANT SALE: Carol Rattan reporting. The plant sale went very smoothly. Everyone did a great job. Next year we should focus on plants that customers continue to ask for such as flowering plants, hanging baskets, asters, trumpet flowers, amaryllis, blue angels and blueberries. Carol will assist next year but will not head it up. Folks will be asked to sign up for what they plan to bring so we don't get too much of one kind of plant.

MALLORY Kelly: Mallory stated that she is ordering the new style badges and if someone wants one, let her know. The cost is \$10.00 per badge.

OTHER BUSINESS: Marie Updike told of the Daylily Society bus trip (May 24-26) and plant sale Saturday, June 4 at 10 a.m. at the Eastdale Mall.

REACH FOR THE STARS AWARDS: Presented by Rhona Watson.

Those receiving awards were:

GOLD BADGES (over 1000 hours): Rosemary Mobley, John Barnes, Gale Wheeler-Leonard, Sharon Potts and Sandra Gilley

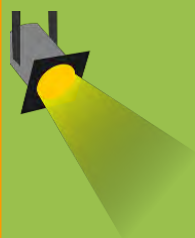
PLATINUM BADGES (over 2000 hours): Becky Ashurst, Lee Borden, Candy Jones

RUBY STAR (over 4000 hours): Linda Griebel

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Respectively Submitted, Anida Wishnietsky for Lois Pribulick, *Secretary*





SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

For Month of April 2016

By Judy May



CAMGA members bringing food for volunteers on Pricing Day were Candy Jones, Amanda Borden, Gale Wheeler- Leonard, Brenda Bernal, and Judy May. Terry Chambliss brought tea. Gale's chicken salad sandwiches were a big hit and a real treat! Some sweet anonymous person brought peanut butter cookies, and they were a hit too.

Working Pricing day were John Barnes, Brenda Bernal, Leslie Bingham, Amanda and Lee Borden, John Butler, Catese Chaffee, Rod Douglas, Linda Griebel, Charlotte Hall, Marjorie Hannah, Candy Jones, Mary McCroan, Mary Long, Jane Mobley, Lois Pribulick, Sherri Schaefer, Nancy Tribble, Marie Updike, Joyce Vella, Gale Wheeler-Leonard, Terry Chambliss, Debbie Kelso, Sandy Rosamond, Rhona Watson, Judy May and Carol Rattan.

Working Saturday at the Plant Sale were Lee and Amanda Borden, John Butler, Corky Butts, Linda Griebel, Mike Berkman, Don Hoover, Mary McCroan, Lois Pribulick, Carol and Fred Rattan, Sandy Rosamond, Joyce Vella, Sherri Schaefer, Marie Updike, Joyce Vella, Rhona Watson, Leslie Bingham, Bob and Becky Brown, Terry Chambliss, Rod Douglas, Charlotte Hall, Judy May, Mary McCroan, Sharon Potts, Lois Pribulick, Joe and Sally L'Abbe, Janet Lewis, Nancy Tribble and Joyce Vella. We owe a big thank you to Carol Rattan for organizing such a successful and fun plant sale again this year.

The Spotlight column last month detailed the Shitake Mushroom class in Autauga County. Omitted from the attendance list that day were Lynda and Ernie Edwards.

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

Amanda Borden, Janet Lewis and Deann Stone attended Landscape Design Study Course 3 sponsored by The Garden Club of Alabama on May 2 and 3 at Auburn University.

May 16th Judy May did a presentation on Orchid Basics for the Scattered Seeds Garden Club. Fifteen members attended.

Phil Easter and Donny Tomlin, the Maple Man, did the WSFA-TV Live spot to promote Lunch and Learn for May. Phil also wrote an article for the June River Region Living magazine on "Gardening in the River Region Shade".

Lunch and Learn this month was on Japanese Maples with the Maple Man Donny Tomlin. 41 people attended, 21 of them Master Gardeners. Assisting that day were Sandi Adkison, Charlotte Hall, Carla McCune, Debbie Kelso and Brenda Bernal.

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS (Continued)

For Month of April 2016

By Judy May

Volunteering at Lanark this month were Ann Hill, Judy May, Norman Turnipseed, Carla McCune, Peggy Gelpi, Jimmy May, Terry Chambliss, and interns: Sheila Pearson and Leslie Bingham helped clean up after Flora and Fauna Festival, prepare for two weddings and keep things weeded, pruned, washed and neat. Maria says Thanks to all of you! Lanark looks better than ever! Please call if you want to help at Lanark – 334-657-9414. Our regular workdays are Wednesday, but call and I can arrange to work with you another day.

Members who brought food to our monthly meeting were Katrina Mitchell, Sherri Schaefer, Mary Lou Mullins, Gale Wheeler-Leonard, Marie Updike, Marjorie Hannah and Bonnie McCormick. Working the Helpline this month were Robin Snyder, Ann Hill, Joyce Vella, Carol Pugh, Freda Frye, William Frye, Sharon Potts, Cathy Whigham, and Mary Ann Hatcher.

Attending the State Conference this month were Rhonda and Jesse Miles, Mary McCroan, Becky Ashurst, Connie Willis, Terry Chambliss, Rhona Watson, Anthony Yarbrough and Rose McCauley.

Projects Committee members who attended the meeting May 16 were John Barnes, Rhona Watson, John Butler, Janet Lewis, Johan Beumer and Linda Griebel.

Betty Sticker says you may not see her much at CAMGA meetings, but she has been a “Busy Bee” transforming Harmony Farm landscape to gardens of contentment and relaxation; all the while focusing on bringing about an “edible landscape”. Last July, Betty held a 4-H camp, enjoying the eats and sweets of the orchard. We baked apple cobbler cake and made peach and fig preserves. We also built raised beds and planted and propagated plants. Each day the children had lessons and then dug “dug into hands on” activities. The children enjoyed making plant I.D tags and made posters to use for sharing lessons learned with others. We assembled rain barrels and then had fun painting them and learning where to place them to catch water and relocating them to be used to water the container gardens. Being on a farm, during breaks, we visited the farm family members- 3 pigmy goats, (Duke, Daisy and Sundance), 2 horses: Tennessee Walker, (HEF) and Registered Miniature Horse, (Molly), and Jersey steer (Hugh). We talked most importantly about the safety of being around animals and ensuring safety is considered when putting plants in our landscape. Also important is identifying plants that are poisonous or to be avoided and kept away from, as well as keeping them away from animal areas. I’ve learned some valuable lessons!

Gardening and animals are a true connection and cornerstone of Mother Nature’s gifts to us and we need to learn to care for them in unity. She says happy trails and peaceful surroundings from Harmony Farm.



Amanda Borden, Deann Stone, and Janet Lewis attended the Landscape Design Study Course 3, (sponsored by The Garden Club of Alabama) on May 2 & 3 at Auburn University.

JUNE PLANT OF THE MONTH

Pineapple Guava

By: Jane Mobley



Lately visitors to the Extension Office have been noticing one of the most interesting additions to our Learning Gardens - the pineapple guava, *Feijoa sellowiana*. (It is not a true guava.) Two of them are planted just in back of the veggie garden for a reason. It has both edible fruits and flowers. If the flowers taste as good as they look, they must be heavenly. It is a good thing that the deer do not think so and stay away from this eye-catching shrub. It is attractive to birds, bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.

This tropical looking evergreen sports two to three inch flowers that have fleshy white petals with showy red accents (the stamens) that contrast nicely with its gray green foliage. Blooms appear in early summer with guava-like fruit ripening in the fall. Flowers make an appealing addition to salads or dropped into iced tea. Fruits are egg-shaped like the leaves and start out gray green ripening to a reddish brown. Fruits will fall off the shrub when they are ripe, or they may be picked just before ripening and left to finish the job on the kitchen counter. Fruits should be eaten fresh by halving them and scooping out the pulp, or they may turned into jelly. The taste is like a minty pineapple. Some varieties are self fertile while others need a partner in order to fruit.



This sun lover requires only moderate watering once it becomes established. A moderate grower, it reaches ten feet to fifteen feet in both height and width. It is relatively maintenance free and is suitable as a specimen or privacy screen in zones 8-10. It may also be espaliered or several of them pruned into a dense hedge if planted on six foot centers. A general purpose fertilizer should be applied in the early spring just before new growth appears. If one desires a neat appearance, plants may be minimally sheared into shape in the early spring. Pineapple guava will do well in a variety of soils but prefers soil that is slightly acidic.

The plant is native to the highlands of Central and South America but is oddly resistant to salt spray making it suitable for a beach landscape. (Rosemary Mobley, noticed this attribute.) The fruit does need some cool weather in order to set and will drop early in extreme heat. The plant is susceptible to no known diseases or pests.

If you have not noticed these gorgeous specimens, please stop by the Learning Gardens and look at them while they are blooming. This species is a much underused plant in our gardens. I know that I am looking for one or two to add to my botanical zoo.

LEARNING GARDEN

By: Mary McCroan



Our volunteers in the Learning Garden for May included Terry Chambliss, Linda Griebel, Amanda Borden, Cheri Bedford, Candy Jones, John Barnes, Jane Mobley, Don Hoover and Mary McCroan. We planted a new Crape Myrtle in front of the Extension Office to shade some of the windows. Mary had this tree several places in her landscape and hopefully now it has a forever home.

We also pruned the Lorepetalum and Indian Hawthorne (aka Deer Candy) fairly hard. See before/after picture. The Indian Hawthorne was bushing too much into the front entry way for the Extension Center and the Lorepetalum was blocking the view from some of the windows. They will recover probably faster than we want them to.

We took an excursion the Thursday before the plant sale down to Phil Easters house to pick up the orphans from SH&G he'd been fostering all year in preparation for the plant sale. Two trucks and a van full. Thanks Phil! Thanks SH&G!

A little minor construction added a temporary trellis to Terry's tomato experiment. That's the one where we are looking at fertility increases from three different cover crops. Also on the vegetable husbandry list was to harvest the early peas, add irrigation to one of the beds that had been lacking, an amazing harvest of potatoes from a 4x4 bed (look at the pictures--wow!), etc. Schedule conflicts have prevented construction of the key-hole bed, but that is coming up soon. Plans for this summer also include HEAVY mulching of the beds this year in accordance with the approach suggested by Ruth Stout to see if that really works for weed suppression. The general idea, is every time you see a weed, throw mulch on it. She would put 10 inches of hay at a time on a bed and suggests that wood chips and sawdust would also work. We have at least 10 yards of free, partially composted sawdust available. I've heard, and you have too probably, that this approach can rob nitrogen from the soil. But according to her book, this is not a problem when used on top of the soil as opposed to tilling it in.

One fun (for me) event was the capture of a rat snake that had been sheltering under the ground fabric we'd laid over the compost to keep the weeds from growing. I'm hoping this is not the same snake that had an unfortunate encounter in the new bird building that resulted in his untimely demise. Remember, rat snakes are the good guys! They eat the voles and other pests that eat our veggies. We also encountered a cat chasing a young rabbit. I'm not sure what the result of that race was, but it wasn't looking good for Peter. Maybe the local cat population is why we haven't had a lot of problem with our veggies getting nibbled.



Joyce Vella and Candy Jones harvesting potatoes from 4x4 bed



Lorepetalum after pruning



Before pruning



Amanda Borden tending beet greens growing under the early peas

April Lunch and Learn Program

By: Charlotte Hall



CAMGA May Lunch and Learn “Japanese Maples” – Donny Tomlin

At our May Lunch and Learn program, the very entertaining and informative Donny Tomlin – The Maple Man - presented a program on the beautiful Japanese maple tree. Donny informed everyone about many different Japanese maples – the ones you know and the ones you don’t. Donny is a local landscaper and prolific grower of Japanese maple trees. He sells his plants at the Eastchase farmers market on Saturday mornings during the summer. His nursery is located on Wares Ferry Road in Montgomery, but is difficult to find. So if you want to visit his nursery, (it is advisable to call first and get more detailed directions from Donny).



The Japanese maple is an elegant and colorful deciduous shrub or tree which can reach heights of 20 to 30 feet, although most are grown for their beautiful leaf color. Leaf color varies from a beautiful green to a vibrant purple or red. Japanese maples are very popular landscape trees but each cultivar has many varying characteristics. Red-leafed are the most popular. Japanese maples vary in size, color, and growing conditions needs. Consideration needs to be given for individual conditions and desires.

Many varieties of Japanese maples are dwarf enough to be grown in containers or used for bonsai growth. Few plants can equal the beauty of a Japanese maple in the autumn. It may be used as an accent plant or as a solitary specimen. Its color is breathtaking in the autumn when its fall foliage with bright colors of crimson, orange or gold remains for weeks. From eye popping canopy color to a gorgeous carpet of color on the garden floor, the Japanese maple is a superb season-extender color plant.

Japanese maples need well-drained, consistently moist soil, neither wet nor dry, dappled or afternoon shade, protection from strong wind and protection from late spring frosts when they are young and first planted. A mature tree can thrive in full sun, but is also happy with a bit more shade. It needs some sun for best foliage color. If you see scorched leaves during the summer, it may be overexposed to the sun. It may also be wind damage.

Acer Palmatum (Japanese maple) includes hundreds of named cultivars with a variety of tree forms, from cascading shrubs to upright tall trees, with various colors, leaf types, sizes and preferred growing conditions. Japanese maples also have a wide variety of genetic variation with seedlings from the same parent tree resulting in a multitude of different plants. The best method for securing a tree that is the exact desired plant is with grafting. Donny explained and demonstrated the proper way to graft a Japanese maple tree. He uses locally grown understock for all his Japanese maple grafting.

Lunch and Learn Program (Continued)

By: Charlotte Hall



Donny brought many samples of Japanese maples and the following are some of the highlighted and discussed ones.

Sango Kaku – Plamatum – green, small tree that matures at 20 feet with bright coral colored bark that turns gold in the fall.

Emerald lace – Dissectum, deep green, lacy foliage, fast grower, medium sized leaves, height and spread width of 2 m in 10 years. Its foliage is yellow green in the spring, darkening by mid summer and unexpectedly turning a bright burgundy red in the fall.

Sekimori – Dissectum, green, delightful green bark, strong, hardy plant, forms a nicely shaped bush in a short time, height of 3-4 m and width of 4-5 m at maturity. Leaf shape and color set this cultivar apart. Planting on a slope enhances its beauty.

Orangeola – Dissectum, red, bright orange-red foliage in spring, smaller with 3 m beings its height when fully grown.

Full Moon fern leaf – Japonicum, green, leaves are rich green with a touch of white at the end of downy leaf stalk, changes to rich yellow and crimson in the fall – great for fall color – and reaches height of 20-30 feet at maturity.



Donny also mentioned Bloodgood which is one of the most popular large-leaved upright-growing tree forms of red palmatum. It is a very good deep red or black red and holds its color into late summer. Fall colors are usually bright crimson. Mature tree is around 10 meters.

Donny provided handouts for over 40 different Japanese maples with descriptions and specifications for each one, along with instructions on how to plant and care for a 4" Japanese maple. As you can see, there are many, many Japanese maples of all types and descriptions. Our Lunch and Learn committee wants to thank The Maple Man for bringing so many of these different ones to our program for everyone to observe up close the beauty of these elegant tree specimens.

Join us next month – June 14th – for a presentation on Organic Community Gardening with Bob Burgett. And remember that drinks will be provided.



Governor's Mansion Report May 2016 By: Amanda Borden



During the month of May, volunteers at the Governor's Mansion planted French hydrangeas, relocated holly ferns, and planted ajuga in the Serenity Garden. They weeded in the Herb Garden, in the adjacent azalea/Easter lily bed, and in the front yard, and they trimmed azaleas and weeded and pruned in the area outside the gate. There is still much more to be done, so please join us on Monday mornings!

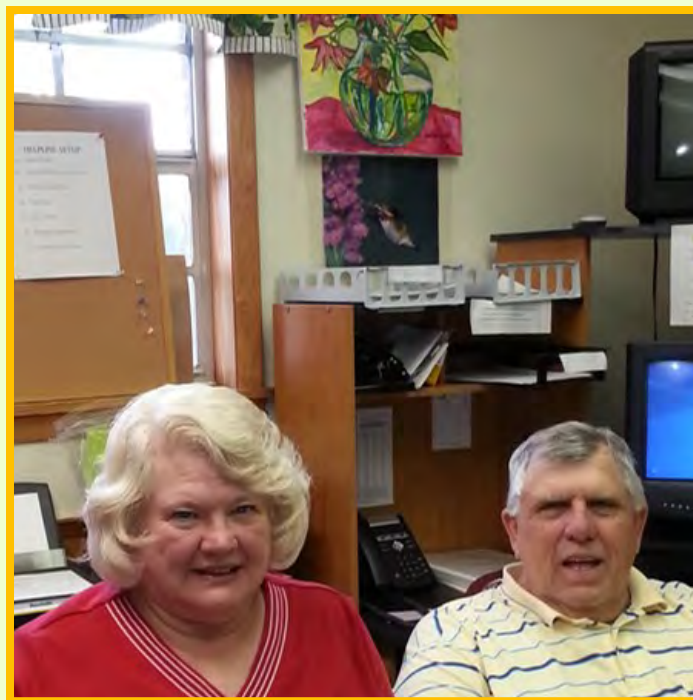
In the photo (L-R): Sandy Rosamond, Amanda Borden, Jane McCarthy, Melanie Barry, and Allison Luddington



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



Interesting questions from clients have kept the Helpline busy with research. Assisting clients this month were Freda Frye, William Frye, Carol Pugh, Joyce Vella, Ann Hill and Robin Snyder. Cathy Whigham and Mary Ann Hatcher served as Advisors. Sharon Potts served as the Appointment Reminder.



Working on the Helpline were Freda and William Frye



May 2016 Reach for the Stars Awards Presented by Rhona Watson



Gold Star Badge Recipients (over 1000 Volunteer Hours): Rosemary Mobley, John Barnes, Gale Wheeler-Leonard, Sharon Potts and Sandra Gilley.



Platinum Badge Recipients (over 2,000 volunteer hours): Becky Ashurst, Candy Jones, and Lee Borden.



Ruby Star Award for over 4,000 volunteer hours, was presented to Linda Griebel.

Congratulations Master Gardeners!

Programs Update

By: Lee Borden



Did you hear Charlie Mitchell's program? It was great to hear from him about what he's learned during his career, and we are all the better for it.

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

And 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.

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



*Dr. Charles Mitchell
Presented "The Perfect Fall Garden" Program
May 2016 CAMGA Meeting*

YARD ART CLASS

Submitted by: Linda Griebel

There are still a few slots for the yard art class which will teach you how to recycle old bowling balls.

This class is scheduled for June 17 from 9-12. Participants will create either a lady bug or a bee. All supplies will be furnished.

Cost for the class is \$12 to cover materials and will be limited to 25 individuals.

Please mail your check made out to CAMGA to Joyce Vella (Treasurer) by June 14th to save your spot.

Joyce Vella
304 Harris Street
Tallassee, AL 36078






Submitted by: Marie Updike




The Beautiful Butterfly Garden at the Elmore County Extension Office

Photos submitted by: Mary McCroan

Central Alabama Beekeepers
Association
&
Elmore County 4-H
Present



2016 Beekeeping Camp



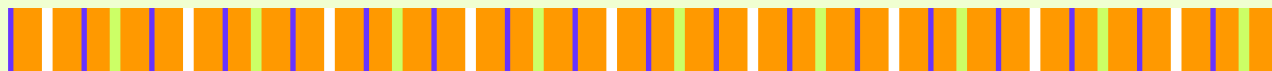
Wetumpka Elementary School
June 23rd & 24th
Ages 9-14
8:00 AM to 3:30 PM
www.beekeepingcamp.yolasite.com

This summer, elementary and middle school students (ages 9-14) have the opportunity to participate in hands-on learning experience designed to train your young person in beekeeping. Instructors with expertise in a range of fields (biology, chemistry, hive management, and even art) will be leading classes related to honey bees and the skills needed to care for them. Registration is \$30 and includes t-shirt and snack. Participants must bring a sack lunch. Take a look into the fascinating world of honey bees and see for yourself the vital role they play in our everyday lives. Limited partial scholarships available.

Registration Information, please contact Allyson Andrews
Email: allyson.andrews@icloud.com
Phone: (334) 799-2254

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator and employer. Everyone is welcome!

Submitted by: Linda Griebel



Managing Fire Ants with Baits

By: Dr. Chip East

Regional Extension Agent — Commercial Horticulture

Fire ants can be a major problem for anyone in the southeast and even in other parts of the country as well. Any outside area where someone may be walking, standing, sitting, or playing for any amount of time such as city parks where children play, athletic turf, camp sites, outdoor concerts, lawns, etc. are areas that probably need to be treated for fire ants. Even areas around vegetable gardens/fields and fruit orchards/plantings may need to be managed for fire ant control. Many growers who have “pick your own” farms, such as strawberry, blueberry, muscadine, blackberry, and some vegetables, may treat to keep their customers or employees picking.

Many products for broadcast and mound treatment can be used on some sites such as lawn areas, but only a few products are labeled for fruit and vegetable production areas. I like using broadcast baits because we can treat a large site without searching for individual mounds, and it is cheaper as well. Read the label of bait products to find out the different sites the products can be applied.

Extinguish Professional Fire Ant Bait (S-methoprene) is labeled for fruits and vegetables; Ferti-lome Come and Get It, Payback Fire Ant Bait, and various other trade names (Spinosad) is labeled for fruits and vegetables; Esteem Ant Bait (Pyriproxyfen) is labeled for select vegetables, and tree or vine fruits, refer to the label for specifics; Altrevin Fire Ant Bait Insecticide (metaflumizone) can be used on grape vineyards, citrus and nut trees, and non-bearing stone and pome fruit trees. Clinch (abamectin) is labeled for vegetables, citrus, nuts, apples, grapes, stone fruit, strawberry, and pear. Some of these products are only sold in 25 pound containers and would not be needed unless treating large acreage.

Contact your local Extension office, and we can help you decide on the treatment that is best for your site. Fire ants travel as far as they need to travel for food. It is possible to treat the lawn that is around but not in the garden or orchard site with a product labeled for lawns and still kill manage the ants in the adjacent site.

Extension Entomologist Dr. Kathy Flanders visited many retail stores, farm supply stores, and nurseries across the state and noted the fire ant management products available on the shelf. The list of the products available can be found in our Extension publication ANR0175A and is titled “2016 Fire Ant Control Materials for Alabama Homeowners”. It can be found by typing “fire ant control materials” into the search box on our web site at www.aces.edu or by typing in <http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0175-A/ANR-0175-A.pdf> in any search engine. This publication also lists the approximate cost per acre of the different baits, cost per acre of residual insecticides designed to be spread, and the cost per ten mounds for individual mound treatments.

When using a fire ant bait or any other pesticide follow the directions on the label. These baits need to be kept in a cool dry place, and when they are opened, they need to be used quickly. Only purchase the amount needed, and do not try to keep the bait for use months later. The baits use an oil to attract the ants, and the oil goes bad if kept too long or not stored properly. The baits need to be applied when the ants are actively foraging. This means the baits need to be applied when temperatures are between 60 and 80°F. Do not apply the bait just before or after a rain or before or after disturbing the mound such as mowing grass. The baits are only good for a short period of time after the application, so conditions need to be right. All of this is explained on the label.

A trick to help you know when to apply the bait would be to put out some greasy potato chips around the site. Wait a few minutes and check the chips, if ants have covered them up then that would be a good time to apply the bait. If not, the application may need to be postponed to a later time. My favorite time to apply fire ant bait is spring and fall, but it depends on the site. Many of the baits should be applied at one pound to one and a half pounds per acre. On a small scale such as two acres or less, you can use a hand held spreader to apply the bait. On a larger scale, we have fire ant bait spreaders in many Extension offices around the state that hook up to ATV's, tractors, and trucks that the client can borrow to spread bait. As always, if you have any questions, give us a call at the Extension Office.

Submitted by: Linda Griebel

Calendar of Events



June 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Learning Garden Workday 8-12 noon. Elmore Co. Ext. Office	3	4
5	6 Governor's Mansion Workday 8-11 a.m.	7	8	9 Learning Garden Workday 8-12 noon. Elmore Co. Ext. Office	10	11
12	13 Governor's Mansion Workday 8-11 a.m.	14 Lunch & Learn: 12-1 p.m. — Organic Community Gardening Elmore Co. Extension Office	15	16 Learning Garden Workday 8-12 noon. Elmore Co. Ext. Office	17 Yard Art 9-12 p.m. Elmore County Extension Office (Registration required)	18
19	20 Governor's Mansion Workday 8-11 a.m.	21 CAMGA MEETING 10:00 a.m. Elmore County Ext. Auditorium	22	23 Learning Garden Workday 8-12 noon. Elmore Co. Ext. Office	24	25
26	27 Governor's Mansion Workday 8-11 a.m.	28	29	30 Learning Garden Workday 8-12 noon. Elmore Co. Ext. Office		