



GARDEN BUZZZZZ



Volume 26 Issue 7 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

July 2017

Message from: Rhona Watson
CAMGA President



The garden is beautiful with all the rain we have had. Usually July is weed and water month. No matter how much I water, the plants are never as lush as when it rains. The daylilies are still blooming and all the containers are full and blooming with little help from me.

Late June and or early July is the time to trim leaves on the Japanese Maples and Bonsai's. It is tedious but new leaves will come out in about 2 weeks that are smaller and prettier.

The presentation on permaculture from Dr. McWhorter at our June meeting was very informative. He gave us a lot of information about what foods we can eat to improve our health, and answered lots of questions.

The lunch and learn presentations by the director of Aldridge Gardens, Rip Weaver was very well attended. He gave an interesting review of his background and how he became the director of the Gardens. I bought my favorite hydrangea, Fiji Waterfall, from there and was surprised to learn they do no propagation. He gave us information on different kinds of hydrangeas, and how best to care for them including when to prune the different kinds.

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CAMGA Garden Buzzzzz

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Message from: Rhona Watson
CAMGA President — (Continued)

Staying on the permaculture theme the picture this month is of my keyhole garden.

All the prep I did over the winter to improve the soil with a cover crop really paid off. We have already been eating the peppers, and tomatoes and they are delicious. There is also basil and sunflowers planted in the bed. So far I have had no weeds and haven't seen any insects, so planting using permaculture principals is working great for me.

RHONA'S KEYHOLD GARDEN



YOUR FAVORITE GARDEN SHOULD BE YOUR OWN
Rhona

Message from Mallory

Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests



Ambrosia Beetles Attacking Small Trees



The Granulate Ambrosia beetles have been causing quite a stir in home landscapes over the past few weeks. This beetle was introduced into the United States in the early 1970's in South Carolina and has since spread throughout the southeast and as far north as Maryland. This tiny beetle is a pest of woody ornamentals, fruit, and nut trees and can cause significant damage in nursery, landscape, and orchard settings.

Granulate ambrosia beetles emerge in early spring and attack thin barked, deciduous trees. Tree species most commonly reported with damage are dogwood, redbud, maple, ornamental cherry, Japanese maple, and crepe myrtle. Other reported hosts include pecan, peach, plum, persimmon, golden rain tree, sweet gum, Shumard oak, Chinese elm, magnolia, fig, hydrangea and azalea.

Ambrosia Beetle Damage To Tree

Young trees and small branches of mature trees are where these beetles attack. Female beetles bore into the trunks and branches (1-4 inches in diameter) and excavate galleries in the wood. In addition to boring damage, female beetles inoculate trees with ambrosia fungus, which can block xylem vessels and interfere with vascular transport. Infested plants often die from boring damage, ambrosia fungus, or infection by a secondary pathogen.

These beetles attack seemingly healthy trees as well as stressed or unhealthy trees. Visible symptoms include wilted foliage and strands of boring dust protruding from small holes. Serious attacks that result in tree death usually occur during leafing-out stage.

Infestations can be easily be identified by toothpick-like strands protruding up to 1.5 inches from the bark of the host plant. The strands of boring dust are produced by the female beetle as she excavates her gallery. The strands are fragile and are easily broken off by wind or rain leaving only pencil-lead sized holes. This being the case, your tree may be infected and you would not even know it until you start seeing the dieback of the foliage.

Preventative applications of pyrethroid insecticides can protect trees by preventing Granulate Ambrosia Beetles from excavating galleries. However, once beetles are inside trees they cannot be killed with insecticides and fungicides are ineffective against the ambrosia fungus. Thus, the timing of preventative insecticide applications is crucial to protect trees from damage by this pest. Dr. Charles Ray, Auburn University Extension Entomologist says "recent research of the first flight of granulate ambrosia beetle in spring has found it occurs at almost exactly the same time as bradford pears beginning to bloom. This gives a clear sign to a homeowner of when they should apply the preventative sprays."

If you notice the white strands protruding from the branches or main trunk of your trees or shrubs the plant parts should be removed and destroyed.

CAMGA Minutes

June 2017

Iva Haynie, Secretary



The Central Alabama Master Gardeners Association met June 20, 2017 at the Extension Office with thirty-nine in attendance.

The president called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. and started the business portion of the meeting, while the equipment was being readied for the program.

The minutes of the May 2017 meeting were approved by acclamation.

Bill Quailes gave the Treasurers report. On April 30, the balance was \$8262.94. Income in May was \$2,355.120 and expenditures totaled \$151.45 leaving a balance at the end of May of \$10,466.69. The report was approved by acclamation.

Sandy Rosamond stated the program for July will be "Year Round Color" by Terese Goodson, August will be "Growing Milkweed", September "Native Plants for Fall and Winter" and in October we will meet at Lanark and Maria will give a program to be determined.

Lee Ann Marona has recommended books from the library that relate to recent presentations and has made a flyer depicting those.

Rhonda gave a report on the Advisory Council meeting.

Highlights were:

1. Who to help
2. Ways to fund projects
3. Recruiting for classes with possible alternative meeting times.
4. Volunteers
5. Communications

With the equipment set up, Dr. Ryan McWhorter gave an interesting program on Permaculture. After a break, the business meeting continued.

Lunch and Learn was successful with at least fifty attendees. The program was on Hydrangeas by Rip Weaver of Aldridge Gardens in Birmingham. The July program will be "Name That Tree" by Patrick Cook.

Mallory stated that there are currently seven applications for the intern class and indicated that we may combine with Autauga County. She is ordering badges and if anyone needs a new one, let her know.

One door prize was awarded and books were available for the taking.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted
Iva Haynie, Secretary

Master Gardener Helpline

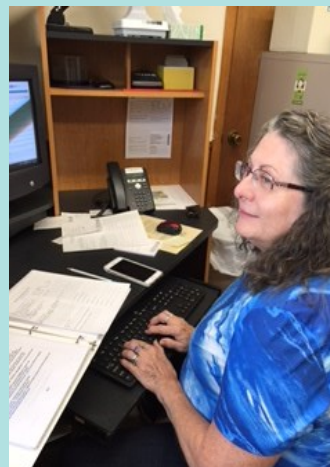
By: Mary Ann Hatcher



HELPLINE NEWS June 2017

The Helpline calls this month were focused on plant diseases that were affecting vegetables.

Working the Helpline this month were these Master Gardeners: Sandi Rosamond, Sherri Schaeffer, Cheri Bedford, Sheila Pearson, Candi Jones, Ricky Hatcher, Lynda Edwards, and Ernest Edwards. Serving as Advisors were: Cindy Beumer, Mary Ann Klatt, and Mary Ann Hatcher. Serving as Appointment Reminder was Sharon Potts.



Shown above:

Lynda Edwards, Ernie Edwards, Sheila Pearson, and Sherri Schaeffer were researching information for clients.



Lunch and Learn Program June 2017 By: Charlotte Hall

“Hydrangeas and Aldridge Gardens” Program Presented by: Rip Weaver, Executive Director Aldridge Gardens

If you purchased one of the AMGA 2017 calendars and turn it over to June, you will see the featured photo of the beautiful ‘Snowflake’ oakleaf hydrangea and a small blurb about Aldridge Gardens located in Hoover, Alabama. And if you had been at the June Lunch and Learn, you could have seen one of the Snowflake hydrangea blooms up close and personal when Rip Weaver, executive director of Aldridge Gardens, made a presentation on both to a standing room only crowd of folks interested in different and unusual hydrangeas.

Aldridge Gardens is a 30-acre public garden with an acre lake that was the home of well-known horticulturist Eddie Aldridge, who is credited with making popular and exposing this unusual oakleaf hydrangea.

When Mr. Aldridge saw the first ever snowflake in the Alabama woods in 1969, he knew he was seeing an outstanding plant. He and his father, internationally noted for their work with hydrangeas, patented and propagated the Snowflake and brought the flower to prominence.

It is the signature flower of Aldridge Gardens and is the official flower for the city of Hoover. It is so named for the intricate flowers that look like snowflakes. There are over 500 different varieties of hydrangeas in Aldridge Gardens, featuring different varieties together with mixed species in order to contrast and compare varieties with each other. It also contains a native azalea area, a botanical type garden.

Rip demonstrated the outstanding feature of the Snowflake hydrangea that separates it from all other types of oakleaf hydrangeas. The patented Snowflake has a cruciform arrangement, like a rose, in which the petals stack on top of each other. It has multi-sequence stackings of these florets, where other oakleaf hydrangeas have no stacking and the bloom is comprised of lots of single florets.



Mr. Rip Weaver, Executive Director of Aldridge Gardens, presented the program at June Lunch & Learn meeting on the beautiful hydrangeas at Aldridge Gardeners in

Lunch and Learn Program (Continued)

June 2017

By: Charlotte Hall



During Rip's presentation, he discussed the major 4 groups of hydrangeas – *Hydrangea quercifolia* (Oakleaf – wild or native hydrangea), *Hydrangea arborescens* (Wild/Smooth/Sevenbark), *Hydrangea paniculata* (Panicked), and *Hydrangea macrophylla* (French, Bigleaf, Mophead, Lacecap, Hortensia or Florist's Hydrangea). He also mentioned the climbing hydrangea and the *Hydrangea serrata* or Mountain hydrangeas which are not as common or well-known as the four types mentioned above. Rip brought many cut blooms of the different types of hydrangeas for everyone to observe. He covered and gave specific cultivar names so everyone could locate plants later on to include in their gardens. In addition to having blooms for different cultivars, Rip gave out detailed handouts for specific cultivars with their needs and characteristics, pruning guidelines for specific branches of the *Hydrangea* family, *Hydrangeas demystified*, article on why isn't my hydrangea blooming, and an encapsulated *Hydrangea* summary from Dr. Michael Dirr's website. Rip recommended one book by Dr. Michael Dirr, horticulture expert on woody plants and hydrangeas, entitled *Hydrangeas for American Gardens*.

Some of the cultivars for oakleaf hydrangeas are: Snowflake, Harmony, Snow Queen, PeeWee, Gatsby's Star, Munchkin, Ruby Slippers, Little Honey, Ellen Huff and Sikes Dwarf. Cultivars of the hydrangea *arborescens* are: Annabelle, Incrediball, Invincible Spirit, White Dome, Hayes Starburst, and Grandiflora. Cultivars of *Hydrangea paniculata* are: Limelight, Bobo, Little Lime, Little Lamb, Phantom, Pinky Winky, Strawberries and Cream, Summer Snow, PeeGee, Quickfire, Fire Light and Tardiva. Cultivars of the *Hydrangea macrophylla* are: Nikko Blue, All Summer Beauty, Fuji Waterfall, Dooley, Blushing Bride, Penny Mac, Endless Summer, Mme. Emile Mouillere, Ayesha, Taube, Lemon Wave, Twist and Shout and Merritt's Supreme.

Rip also covered the role of aluminum and the pH of the soil in determining hydrangea bloom color, pink to blue color in mopheads. Basically and without deep chemical clarification, the pH of the soil (medium) affects the color of certain mopheads. For true blue flowers, the hydrangeas need to be grown in acidic soil (pH 5.5 and lower). For pink flowers, the plants need neutral to alkaline soils (pH 6.5 and higher). For purple blooms (or a mix of blue and pink blooms on the same plant), the pH of the soil must be 5.6 – 6.4 range. Adding lime to the soil can increase the alkalinity resulting in pink blooms. Soil sulfur or aluminum sulfate will make the soil more acidic for blue blooms.



There has been a recent rebirth in hydrangea interest. Much of this is due to the new cultivars and also the exposure and promotion of the new types by personalities such as Martha Stewart and the Hydrangea Society. Many new cultivars are re-bloomers. There are more choices, more varieties and lots of cultivars are easier to grow than the old-fashioned French hydrangeas or mophead varieties. Some new varieties do well in and require lots of sun. All in all, hydrangeas have become an increasingly more popular shrub for gardeners and can be planted in both shady and sunshiny areas. For every gardener, there is a hydrangea plant just for you and your garden area.

One of the things that I have observed during my time as a master gardener is that people are especially interested in knowing the name of a particular plant and different cultivar or variety names of plants. The June program was an excellent exposure to this knowledge specifically for hydrangeas. Next month Brigetta Giles from Alabama Forestry will help us in this area concerning trees when she makes a presentation on Name That Tree. So join us next July 11th and take a break inside from the summer heat and learn the names of different types of trees and how to identify them. Remember, the drinks are on us.



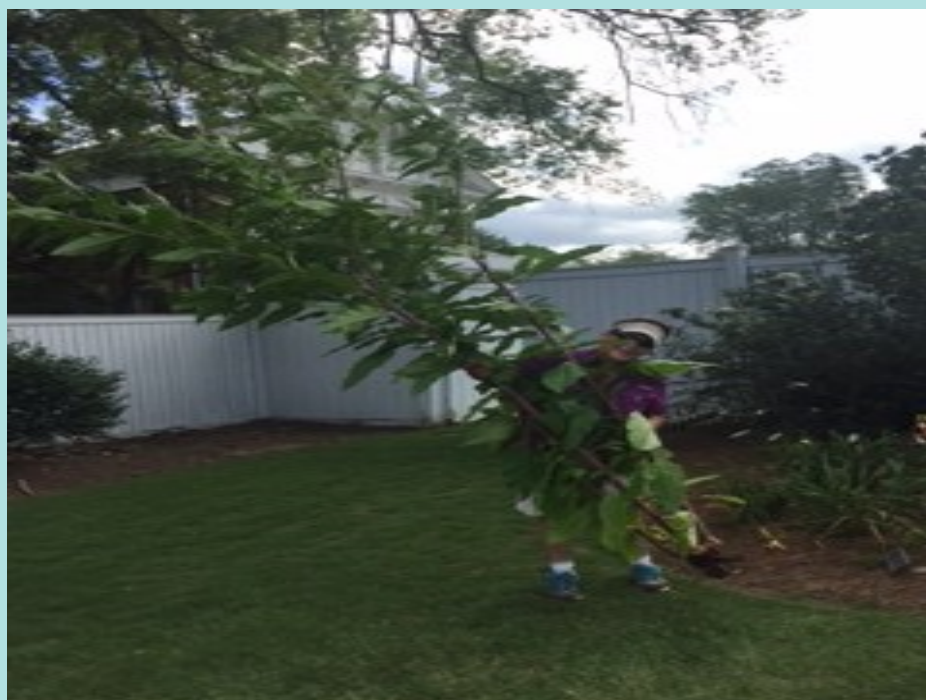
Governor's Mansion Report June 2017 By: Amanda Borden



During the rainy month of June, volunteers at the Governor's Mansion did lots of weeding.

They weeded the herb garden, the rolling gate bed on the Finley Street side, and the bungalow bed at the corner of Perry and Finley. They also had the pleasure of doing some planting.

They planted three salvias in the guest house garden, six plants donated by Petals from the Past, and some zinnia seeds.



"The poke weed that almost ate Jane...and then the mansion.
How did we miss this?"



SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

June 2017

By Judy May



The Lunch and Learn speaker this month was Rip Weaver, Director of Aldridge Gardens. His Program was on Hydrangeas, and there were 50 attendees, 33 of them Master Gardeners. Assisting were Sandi Adkison, Charlotte Hall, Cathy Whigham and Bill Quailes.

Judy May did another Orchid video this month, this one on Watering and Fertilizing orchids, with Janet Lewis as Stage Director and Lee Borden in charge of directing, photography and editing.

Volunteering with the Helpline this month were Candy Jones, Lynda Edwards, Ernie Edwards, Sandi Rosamond, Ricky Hatcher, John Barnes, Sherri Schaefer, Cheri Bedford, Cindy Beumer, Mary Ann Klatt and Mary Ann Hatcher.

Jane McCarthy was the only volunteer at the Mansion this month.

Refreshments at our meeting this month were thanks to Katrina Mitchell, Mary Long, Barbara Wallace, Leslie Bingham, Bonnie McCormick and Robin Snyder.

Members who attended the Projects Committee meeting this month were John Barnes, John Butler, Johan Beumer, Terry Chambliss, and Sandy Rosamond.

Maria sends thanks to all who helped at Lanark this past month. It was a busy month preparing for Hydrangea Fest June 3rd, keeping the gardens in shape, rooting all the plants we trim, potting up all the plants we divide, and planting baby plants we've collected. Busy! Busy! Busy! Those volunteers are Carla McCune, Leslie Bingham, Sandra Gilley, Sheila Pearson, Cheri Cook, Peggy Gelpi, Judy May, Don Hoover, and Paul Richardson.

Volunteers for Hydrangea Fest were Don Hoover, Leslie Bingham, Carla McCune, Sheila Pearson, Cheri Cook, Sandra Gilley, and Paul Richardson. They helped set up, sold plants, drove folks around, picked up sandwiches for lunch, and put everything away at the end of the fun.

It was a wonderful relaxed day of selling plants, learning about Hydrangeas, walking down to the Heirloom Garden and to the pond to see the 1,000 Hydrangeas blooming and picking everything up.

A special shout out to Peggy Gelpi who made sure most of the labels were clearly made and stuck into appropriate plants before we opened for the sale. We made a lot of money at the plant sale which will benefit the Lanark Gardens.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Terrific Tomatoes



Hosted by the
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Friday July 7th, 2017

Dadeville Rec Center at 670 East Columbus Street

- across from the Elementary School

9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Topics to be discussed:

- Grafting Tomato Demonstration
- Tomato Varieties and Culinary Uses
- Tomato Growing Tips
- Identifying Tomato Diseases & Disorders
- Tomato Taste Testing
- Drip Irrigation Demonstration

Please Bring a Fresh Sample of any Insect, Disease or Problem and any Named Variety of Tomato you have grown for the Taste Testing.

Lunch will be served.



To sign-up or for more information, contact the Tallapoosa County Extension office at (256) 825-1050. Cost is \$15 per person and includes lunch. Pre-Registration and Payment is required by July 7th.

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Zip Code: _____ County: _____
Phone #: _____ E-mail address: _____
of Participants X \$15 = Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Return Pre-Registration Form and Payment by July 6th, 2017 to:
(Make check payable to: Alabama Cooperative Extension System) Tallapoosa County Extension Office
125 N. Broadnax Street
Dadeville, AL 36853



Critter Management

Workshop

"Wildlife and Insect Control in and out of the Home"

Hosted by the
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Monday, July 17th 2017

Macon County Extension Office
207 N Main Street
Tuskegee, AL

9:00-12:00 p.m.



CHRIS JAWOROWSKI & MALLORY KELLEY WILL TEACH

BEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR:

**FLEAS, TICKS, MOSQUITOES, FIRE ANTS, DEER, SQUIRREL, BATS,
SNAKES, VOLES, MOLES AND MORE!**

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, July 12th**



Upcoming Events

Backyard Berries

Fruit Growing Workshop

Hosted by the
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Thursday, July 20, 2017

Coosa County Extension Office

13999 AL Highway 22
Rockford, Alabama 35136

11:00 am - 1:00 pm



**LEARN HOW TO GROW AND PROPERLY MAINTAIN BERRIES
IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD!**

**BLACKBERRIES, BLUEBERRIES, STRAWBERRIES,
MUSCADINES AND FIGS**



To sign-up or for more information, contact the Coosa County Extension office at
256-377-4713. Registration is FREE, but required!
Pre-Registration required by Wednesday, July 18th.

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM- Backyard Berries

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____ County: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail address: _____

Return Pre-Registration Form by Wednesday, July 18, 2017 to:
Coosa County Extension Office
P.O. Box 24
Rockford, AL 35136



Controlling Fire Ants

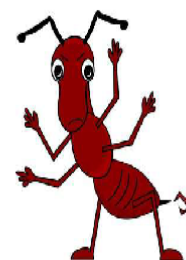
Hosted by the
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Tuesday, August 1, 2017

Coosa County Extension Office

13999 AL Highway 22
Rockford, Alabama 35136

11:00 am - 1:00 pm



**LEARN ABOUT THE FIRE ANT COLONY AND
THE BEST STRATEGIES TO MANAGE THEM!**



To sign-up or for more information, contact the Coosa County
Extension office at 256-377-4713. Registration is FREE, but required!
Pre-Registration required by Friday, July 28th.

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM- Fire Ants

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____ County: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail address: _____

Return Pre-Registration Form by Friday, July 28, 2017 to:
Coosa County Extension Office
P.O. Box 24
Rockford, AL 35136



The next workday at the Montgomery Botanical Garden will be Thursday, July 20th at 8 a.m.

Bring your tools to weed, and your drinking water.

The plan is to have our workdays every 3rd Thursday of the month.

Calendar of Events

July 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Governor's Mansion Work Day 8 to 11 a.m.	4 	5 Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon	6 Elmore County Extension Office Learning Gardens Workday 8 to 12 Noon MG Helpline Elmore Co. Office	7	8
9	10 Governor's Mansion Work Day 8 to 11 a.m.	11 Lunch & Learn 12 noon to 1 p.m. — Elmore Co. Ext. Office	12 Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon	13 Elmore County Extension Office Learning Gardens Workday 8 to 12 Noon	14	15
16	17 Governor's Mansion Work Day 8 to 11 a.m.	18 CAMGA Meet- ing Elmore Co. Extension Of- fice 10-12 noon	19 Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon	20 Workday at Mont- gomery Botanical Garden at 8:00 a.m. Bring tools to weed with and water to drink! Elmore County Extension Office Learning Gardens Workday 8 to 12 Noon	21	22
23	24 Governor's Mansion Work Day 8 to 11 a.m.	25	26 Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon	27 Elmore County Extension Office Learning Gardens Workday 8 to 12 Noon MG Helpline	28	29
30	31 Governor's Mansion Work Day 8 to 11 a.m.					