



GARDEN BUZZZZZ



Volume 26 Issue 6 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

June 2017

Message from: Rhona Watson
CAMGA President



My garden gets more impressive every spring. The hydrangeas, and day lilies are putting on a beautiful show. The keyhole garden is doing great, and there are already tomatoes and peppers.

June is the month I do layering of the bay laurel, clematis, hydrangeas, and camellias. The hydrangeas and clematis are easy, just take a low branch, take off the leaves, cover with good soil, and fasten down with a brick or landscape staple. Next fall you will have new plants for your yard or the plant sale.

The plant sale was a big success, thanks to Carol Rattan for keeping us organized, and everyone who brought plants, and participated on pricing, and sale day.

Sandy Rosamond and Jane McCarthy made planters, and bird houses from gourds that were sold for over \$800. The total this year was \$2171, which is about average. Our biggest year was 2016 with \$3580, and the lowest was 2014 with \$1863.

The state conference in Huntsville, was fun and informative. The first day was at the Huntsville Botanical Gardens with presentations on ferns, orchids, hummingbirds, and roses. My favorite one the second day was Miniature Landscapes. I got some great ideas for more ways to show off my Japanese Maples. There were some very interesting vendors, I did buy some ferns, and a Japanese maple. Thank you to Rhonda Miles, for getting us a cute wheel barrel for the silent auction, dressed up with a few plants, it was one of the best things there.

Did you know Montgomery is working on a Botanical Garden at Oak Park? I went to their workday, and the plans are posted around the park, so you can see what is coming. Jane McCarthy is organizing the work days, so I encourage you to go and help. You will always learn

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CAMGA Garden Buzzzzz

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Message from: Rhona Watson
CAMGA President — (Continued)

something when you spend time with Jane. We really enjoyed her presentation at the meeting on the different scents that plants have, and the purpose of those scents.

There are two great presentations in June. Lunch and Learn has the director of Aldridge Gardens speaking about Hydrangeas. The speaker at our monthly meeting will be Dr. Ryan McWhorter on permaculture. He has been growing fruits and vegetables, using those principals, and will tell us about his results, and answer any questions.

It was hard to pick the picture for this month, so much is blooming. I finally decided on this hydrangea, called Sara. It is one of my favorites because it stays pink. All the rest are blue, except the Fiji Waterfall that is white.

Plant labels do not work in my back yard, the dogs thinks they are toys for them. Eleanor Craig, who gave the presentation on ferns at the conference gave me the idea of writing the name of plants on rocks. I have labeled Japanese Maples, Hostas, ferns, and hydrangeas this way, and I love the way it looks, and it helps me remember the names. It is written on the rock with a paint pen, available at any hobby store. I hope your garden is as rewarding to you as mine is to me.

YOUR FAVORITE GARDEN SHOULD BE YOUR OWN

Rhona

“Sara” hydrangea

Rhona’s Featured Plant



Message from Mallory

Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests



Mulch for your Landscape

Mulch is a natural process that occurs regularly in nature with fallen leaves, twigs, and spent flowers. There are so many benefits to using mulch and they provide a protective covering for the soil and keep your garden and landscape healthy.

Mulches can be in the form of organic or inorganic. Organic mulches are made up of plant material and will decompose and become part of the soil. Organic mulches must be replenished periodically due to their rate of decomposition. Inorganic mulches are not composed of plant material and are often seen in the form of plastics or rock type formations.

Mulching helps the soil hold moisture and helps prevent weed seed germination. Mulches also help keep the soil cooler and when mulch decomposes it increases organic matter which helps with soil aeration and water absorption.

Organic mulches are less expensive and can be created through leaves and grass clippings that are already present in your landscape. Bark mulches or wood chips are made from different types of trees and are very attractive in the landscape. These mulches have a slow decomposition rate, but should not be used next to foundations as they can attract termites. Other types of organic mulches include, leaves from your trees, grass clipping, pine straw, and even old newspapers.

This year there has been lots of interest in using newspaper as a mulch in the landscape and in the vegetable garden as a weed barrier. This is a great idea as it also helps enrich the soil as the newspaper breaks down over time, but it also helps retain moisture. When using the newspaper use multiple sheets or even a whole section of the paper at a time (6-10 pages thick) for the best weed control especially throughout the summer months when weeds are most prevalent.

Inorganic mulches such as gravel, crushed stone, and plastics are more expensive, but are permanent additions to the landscape. They come in a variety of different colors, textures and materials. These inorganic mulches can add a great element to the landscape, but keep in mind that these types of mulches will be much warmer in the summer months removing more water from the soil and can scorch nearby plants. Plastics are good inorganic mulches, but can cause the soil to remain too wet resulting in root disease problems. Black plastic is not very durable and tends to break down quickly. It is often a good idea to cover plastic mulches with a thin layer of pine needles or wood chips to help slow down the decomposition of some plastics and also to help keep the plastic cooler in summer months.

Tips to most efficiently use mulch in your landscape:

Always remove existing weeds before applying mulch. If applying mulch in the fall, wait until the soil has cooled before applying as this can encourage weed seed germination. Keep mulch depth uniform throughout your planting beds and around trees (2-4 inches for organic and 1-2 inches for inorganic mulches).

Never let mulch build up around the trunk of trees or shrubs. After a few years of mulch application if you see this buildup occurring rake away old mulch and apply a new layer. If the mulch starts to smell like vinegar, ammonia, sulfur, or silage the mulch has gone bad. The smell is unpleasant in the landscape and can damage your plants. To cure this problem in your landscape turn the mulch once or twice a month- Good aeration should eliminate the problem quickly.

For more information on mulches for your landscape or garden please visit one of the following sites:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/MG251>

<http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0385/>

CAMGA Minutes

May 2017

Iva Haynie, Secretary



CAMGA MINUTES

May 16, 2017

By: Iva Haynie, Secretary

The Central Alabama Master Gardeners Association met on May 16, 2017 at the Extension Center. Thirty-two members were present. The president called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Jane McCarthy presented a program entitled "Tickle Your Nose" which included the chemistry and physics of plant scents.

Rhona thanked everyone who participated in the plant sale. It was successful, though not the best year we have had. After a break, a thank you was given to those who brought refreshments.

The president mentioned the conference will be in Birmingham next year and encouraged members to attend. Badges were presented. One gold badge went to Mary Ann Hatcher and three platinum badges were distributed to Mary McCroan, Amanda Borden and Gail, who was not present.

The minutes were approved by acclamation.

Bill Quales gave the treasurers report. The balance March 31 was \$8,322.04. Income for April was \$86 and expenditures were \$145.10, leaving a balance of \$8,262.94. After the plant sale total of \$2,171 was added, making the total \$10,433.94. The report was approved by acclamation.

Katrina Mitchell noted that there was an extra camera bought for Farm Bot and asked if CAMGA might pay for it. Bonnie McCormick moved to purchase it for \$105 and Candy Jones seconded. The motion carried.

It was pointed out that our banners are not in good shape and new ones are needed. Mary McCroan moved to approve up to \$300 for those and Nancy Tribble 2nd. The motion carried.

Carol Ratan said there were sun glasses and carts left at the plant sale if the owners will claim them.

COMMITTEES:

Learning Gardens - Mary McCroan said the plants in the straw bales are still alive, but might need some fertilizer to help them grow. She mentioned there is kale and rhubarb if anyone wants to take some. She has covered the rhubarb in an effort to keep it over the summer in our climate.

Program - Sandy Rosamond reported that Dr. McWhorter will speak on Permaculture in June.

Farm Bot and Videos - Lee Borden said Farm Bot is slowly coming together. He charted the views and minutes for the Videos. The greatest number of views and minutes watched were of Judy May's repotting orchids. He encouraged everyone to consider making a video.



CAMGA
May 2017 Minutes (Continued)
Iva Haynie, Secretary

Lunch and Learn - There were 24 attendees at the May program on propagation by Rhona Watson. Next month Aldridge Gardens will present on Hydrangeas.

Help Line - Mary Ann Hatcher reported that all the slots have been filled. The greatest number of calls have been about mature trees dying because of the draught. The recommendation to try to save them is to water and lightly fertilize.

Intern Class - Robin Snyder noted that we have received five or six applications and eight others who have shown interest. Around 300 fliers have been given out.

Monday, May 22 is the trip to Jim Scott's gardens. Those who wish to car pool should meet at the extension center at 8:45 to leave at 9:00. Wear comfortable shoes for walking, and bring a sack lunch.

Sandy mentioned doing presentations at the Wetumpka Farmers Market.

There will be a workday next Thursday beginning at 8:00 at the Botanical Gardens. There were a few door prizes.

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

Respectfully submitted

Iva Haynie, Secretary

Master Gardener Helpline

By: Mary Ann Hatcher



HELPLINE NEWS MAY 2017

Calls to the Helpline this month included client concerns about an increase in lawn weeds due to stressed turf and the death of mature trees relating indirectly to our lengthy drought last year. Interns Debra Corn and Amy Richardson volunteered this month.

MGs volunteering this month were: Pat Petro-Perryman, Candy Jones, Mary Long, and Linda Queen. Cathy Whigham, Mary Ann Klatt and Mary Ann Hatcher served as Advisors with

Sharon Potts as Appointment Reminder. Thank you all for your support.



Mary Long assisting with a helpline client phone call.



Lunch and Learn Program May 2017 By: Charlotte Hall

“Propagation” Program Presented by: – Rhona Watson

Have lots of plants that you love in your garden? Want to have more? Or to share with a friend?

Then May's Lunch and Learn program was just for you as Rhona Watson gave us direction on just how to do that with her program on Propagation.

There are many reasons for learning how to propagate. It has economic value since you will have more plants from seeds you've gathered or plants that you already have. You may also have plants that are not commonly found in the area and wind up with a wow!! factor in your garden. You will know the exact type of plant you are getting because you know the parent plant and know what the offspring is going to look like. And it is just fun.



Rhona covered several different types of propagation from the most common one of seed starting to a demonstration of a layering method of propagation. Other methods referenced were division, stem cuttings (with another demonstration), layering and grafting.

For seed starting, discussion included the tips for germination, when to start seeds inside and outside, how to damp off the seedlings before putting them outside, types of medium to use, light and heat requirements and types of plants that are easily started from seed. One of the most important tips for successfully transferring seeds from the inside to the outside is to harden off the tender plants. Rhona's example was a comparison to a human being who has been inside all winter without exposure to the sun going outside on a bright, hot and sunny day for the entire day. Naturally this person would probably get blistered. And so will the young seedling. It needs to get acclimated to the sun a little at a time.

Examples of plants that are easily grown from seed include any type of pepper, gomphrenia, black eyed susan vine, zinnias, marigolds and salvia.

A very simple way of propagating is the division of plants. This involves the process of digging up the plant, dividing it into several plants and re-planting the newly divided plants. Day lilies, irises, hostas, ornamental grasses, and asters are just a few examples of plants that can be easily divided.

Lunch and Learn Program (Continued)

May 2017

By: Charlotte Hall



Stem cutting involves taking a section of a current plant stem and prodding it to produce roots and re-planting the rooted plant. The four main types of stem cuttings are from herbaceous, softwood, semi-hardwood and hardwood plants.

Herbaceous plants are ones that have softer stems – the opposite of woody stemmed. They can be annuals, biennials or perennials. Examples are begonias and impatiens. Softwood has pliable growth or stems from which the cutting can be taken. Softwood cuttings are prepared from the soft, new growth of woody plants and usually root very quickly. Semi-hardwood cuttings are prepared from partially mature wood of the current season's growth. Hardwood cuttings are taken when the plant is dormant usually in late fall, winter or early spring.

The propagation medium needs to be a sterile medium which will provide support, have a good water holding capacity, be well drained, weed free and low in fertility.

Your cuttings should be taken early in the morning, late evenings or on cloudy days. Make sure they are at the proper stage of growth. Remember to label your cuttings so you can be assured of what you are propagating. If you can't use your cuttings for an extended time after taking them, wet them, put in a plastic bag and refrigerate them for later use.

To increase your chances for success, keep the cuttings out of direct sunlight with a lot of humidity. Rhona showed us how to make a mini greenhouse from a 2-liter plastic bottle to provide humidity for the planted cutting. If you are propagating an inside plant, start the propagation inside. For an outside plant, start propagation outside. It usually takes four or more weeks for successful propagation.

Rhona also demonstrated how to propagate hydrangeas, camellias and other wood stemmed plants with air layering, mound layering and tip layering. Simple layering or mound layering can be as easy as securing lower limbs of the plant into the ground with some type of anchor such as a brick or landscape fabric picks.

Air layering allows you to propagate a woody plant which it is still attached to the parent plant. This is useful for plants that are hard to propagate by cuttings or if you want to create a larger size plant than one created with a cutting. For this method, select a branch and take pliers to twist the bark away at a node on the plant. Apply root tone. Then place some soaked sphagnum moss over this node forming a large ball around the limb. Make sure the moss is soaked and contains a good bit of water. Once you've wrapped the moss around the limb, cover the moss with plastic wrap – Press 'n Seal is excellent for this - and some aluminum foil. Tighten it around the moss. Then the most important part - DON'T LOOK. Don't disturb the aluminum ball on the plant by undoing it and looking at it. The roots grow in the sphagnum moss. After the new plant has roots, which usually happens in one growing season, cut the plant away from the parent plant and it is ready to become a new plant on its own.

Grafting is the process of joining two parts of plants together with the ultimate intention to make them unite and continue to grow as one plant. Usually grafting uses plants that have desired characteristics for the root stock portion and can adapt to certain conditions or proves hardy in certain conditions. Some rootstocks are used in dwarfing of the grafted plant.



Governor's Mansion Report May 2017 By: Amanda Borden



During the month of May, volunteers at the Governor's Mansion worked in the herb garden, renewal pruned the azaleas and wax myrtles in the side lawn and bungalow, and renewal pruned the Lady Banks rose on the fence around the generator.

They weeded the front of the mansion and the bungalow's front bed and fence bed along Finley and Perry Streets. They deadheaded the knockout roses in front and under the dining room window.



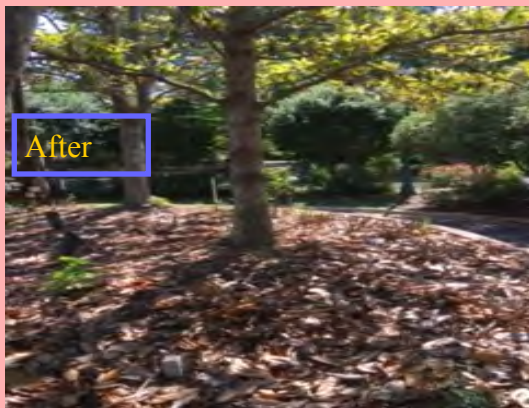
Carolyn McNeese

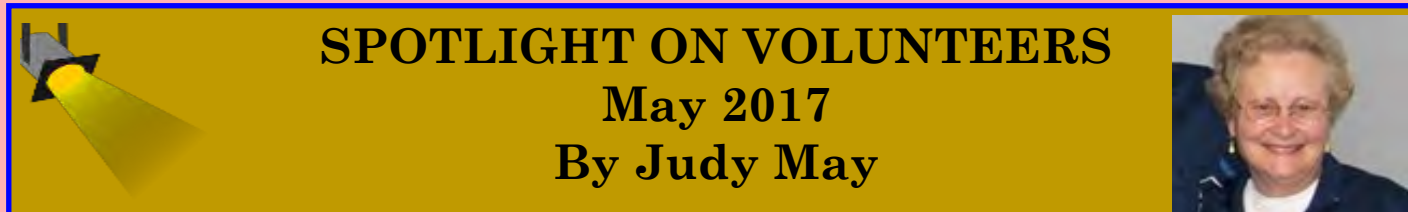


Carolyn Placeway



Jane McCarthy





The Lunch and Learn speaker this month was Rhona Watson speaking on Propagation. There were 24 attendees, 18 of them Master Gardeners. Assisting were Charlotte Hall, Sandi Adkison, Bill Quailes and Cathy Whigham.

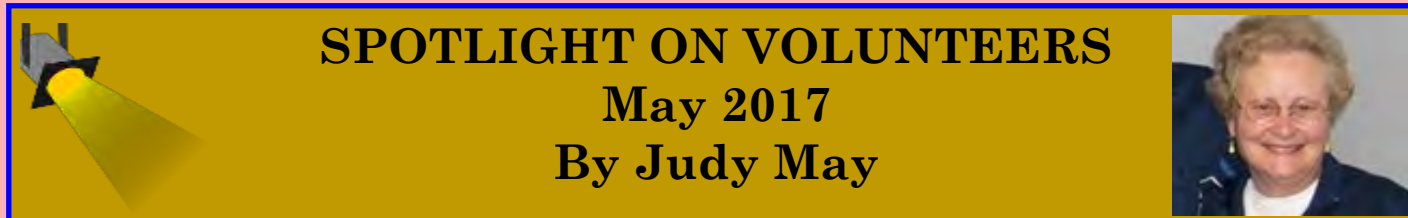
The wonderful refreshments May 5th for Pricing Day were thanks to Katrina Mitchell, Marie Updyke, Robin Snyder and Judy May. Thanks Robin for coordinating this. The refreshments during the sale were left over from Pricing Day as well as more from Robin Snyder.

Jane Mobley did a wonderful "Stubborn Old Gardeners" video on Tool Sharpening with Terry Chambliss serving as Stage Director and Lee Borden doing photography and editing. When Mary McCroan did her video on French Sorrel, John Barnes was Stage Director and again Lee Borden did photography and editing. Doesn't Lee do a fantastic job!

Helping Maria this month were Carla McCune, Peggy Gelpi, Don Hoover, Norman Turnipseed, as well as interns Paul Richardson, Cheri Cook and Lanell Tatum who all helped get the gardens at Lanark ready for summer. Judy May picked up Lanark's plant donations and got them to Pricing Day. Maria says thanks for all your help! Lanark is looking better and better because of your hard work. Please call if you want to volunteer, 334-657-9414. Wednesday is a regular work day from 8 until about 11, or you can call and arrange another day during the work week.

Refreshments for the CAMGA meeting were from Becky Ashurst, Penny Arceneaux, Lynda Edwards, Carla McCune and Robin Snyder. Robin thinks a few others who had not signed up also brought food.

Helpline volunteers this month were Pat Petro-Perryman, Debra Corn, Amy Richardson, Mary Long, Candy Jones, Linda Queen, Sharon Potts, Cathy Whigham, Mary Ann Klatt and Mary Ann Hatcher.



Present for the Projects Committee meeting this month were John Butler, Johan Beumer, Jane Mobley, Terry Chambliss, Sharon Potts and John Barnes.

Working Pricing Day were Carol Rattan, Mary McCroan, Allison Drew, Katrina Mitchell, Peggy Gelpi, Lois Pribulick, Sandra Gilley, Candy Jones, John Butler, Cheri Bedford, Gale Leonard Wheeler, Rhona Watson, Sherri Schaefer, Marie Updyke, Catese Chaffee, Sharon Potts, Jane Mobley, Bill Quailes, Gail Leonard-Wheeler, Nancy Tribble, Sheila Pierson and Cheryl Christian.

Working the Plant sale were Carol Rattan and her spouse Fred, Jane Mobley, Sandy Rosamond, Katrina Mitchell, Lois Pribulick, Don Hoover, Sherri Schaefer, and her spouse, Jane McCarthy, John Butler, Bill Quailes, Johan Beumer, Judy May, Mary Long, Sharon Potts, John Butler, Charlotte Hall and Nancy Tribble.

A special thanks to those volunteering their truck, trailer, tents and wagons Fred and Carol Rattan, Lee Borden, John Butler, Bill Quailes, Sherri Schaefer, Sandy Rosamond, Katrina Mitchell, Janet Lewis, Sandra Gilley, and Cindy Beumer. A special thanks to Betty Stricker for bringing her pony and donating the money people paid for children's pictures with the pony.

Thanks to all who donated plants and a special thanks to Robin Easter for donating many of her dad's plants and a special thanks to the ladies who painted the gourds to sell.

My apologies to anyone who helped in any way, but whose names are not mentioned.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL DAYLILY SALE

MONTGOMERY AREA DAYLILY SOCIETY

"BRINGING COLOR TO THE RIVER REGION"

ANNUAL DAYLILY SALE

JUNE 3, 2017 10:00 A.M. UNTIL GONE...

EASTDALE MALL

1000 EASTDALE MALL

MONTGOMERY, AL 36117

PHONE: 334-288-6024

Hydrangea Fest — June 3, 2017

Plan to attend the annual Hydrangea Fest, Saturday, June 3rd beginning at 8:00 a.m. to noon to discover more about the unique, natural history of hydrangeas.

Maria Pacheco-West, Lanark Grounds Specialist, will do a Hydrangea talk, beginning at 10:00 am, and afterwards a tour of the Heirloom garden and Hydrangeas around the pond.

Bring your hydrangea gardening questions for expert advice! Lanark Gardens will also have a plant sale with proceeds benefiting the gardens at the Alabama Wildlife Federation. The Alabama Nature Center & NaturePlex will remain open for you to enjoy the trails until 5:00 pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Fourth Annual Daylily Festival to Be Held at Columbus Botanical Garden

The fourth annual Chattahoochee Valley Daylily Festival will be held on Saturday, June 3, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Columbus Botanical Garden, located at 3603 Weems Road in Columbus, Ga.

The Daylily Festival will feature an accredited daylily show, a marketplace with daylilies and arts and crafts for sale, and the opportunity to learn growing tips and see demonstrations. Food will be available for purchase. Admission is free. The daylily show is scheduled to begin at 1:15 p.m.

For additional information about the event, visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/daylilysociety> or call Columbus Botanical Garden at 706-327-8400.

Photos from 2017 CAMGA Plant Sale Day



Standing left to right: John Butler and Bill Quailes,
Front row: Betty Stricker, and John Barnes



Nancy Tribble and Sharon Potts



Sandy Rosamond

Calendar of Events

June 2017

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 Elmore County Extension Office Learning Gardens Workday 8 to 12 Noon MG Helpline Elmore Co. Office	2	3
4	5 Governor's Mansion Work Day 8 to 11 a.m.	6	7 Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon	8 Elmore County Extension Office Learning Gardens Workday 8 to 12 Noon MG Helpline Elmore Co. Office	9	10
11	12 Governor's Mansion Work Day 8 to 11 a.m.	13 Lunch & Learn 12 noon to 1 p.m. — Elmore Co. Ext. Office	14 Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon	15 Elmore County Extension Office Learning Gardens Workday 8 to 12 Noon MG Helpline Elmore Co. Office	16	17
18	19 Governor's Mansion Work Day 8 to 11 a.m.	20 CAMGA Meeting Elmore Co. Extension Office 10-12 noon	21 Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon	22 Elmore County Extension Office Learning Gardens Workday 8 to 12 Noon MG Helpline Elmore Co. Office	23	24
25	26 Governor's Mansion Work Day 8 to 11 a.m.	27	28 Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon	29 Elmore County Extension Office Learning Gardens Workday 8 to 12 Noon MG Helpline Elmore Co. Office	30	