



# GARDEN BUZZZZZ



Volume 26 Issue 7 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

August 2017

**Message from: Rhona Watson**  
CAMGA President



Summer is here, and it is hot. I do some cleaning up in the garden early in the morning, and then it is time to find some shade. It is a great time to have bonsai and containers, that can be worked on out of the sun. I was inspired at the conference by the “Small Landscape” presentation, and made several with Hostas, ferns and small decorations for interest and scale.

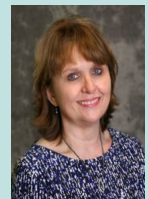
I was glad to hear we have 15 applications for our upcoming intern class that begins on September 7. Our best source of interns come from friends of current members. If you know anyone who is interested, the deadline of August 11 is fast approaching to get their applications in.

We had a good discussion about our group’s use of social media, both at the board meeting and regular business meeting. The purpose is to keep our members informed, but also to reach out to the public about what we are doing. I get asked frequently, what is a Master Gardener, and what do they do? Having a web page, and face book page will help us reach more people with information, which is part of our charter.

Thank you to Jane Mobley for heading up the nominating committee for 2018 officers. The nominations will be announced at the September meeting, and voted on in November. Please let her know if you are interested in one of the positions. The terms usually last 2 years. We now have 4 new Advanced Master Gardeners. They are the first ones to go thru the updated program that Candy Jones, and the current certified Advanced Master Gardeners have worked to simplify, giving more responsibility to a committee, of people already certified instead of just the extension agents. We were proud that our version of the program was presented at the State Conference, by Mallory as an

## Table of Contents:

- Message from Rhona.....1-2
- Message from Mallory..... 3
- Minutes .....4
- Help Line Update..... 5
- Lunch & Learn..... 6-7
- Mansion Report ..... 8
- Spotlight on  
Volunteers ..... 9-10
- Upcoming Events.....11
- August Calendar .....12



CAMGA *Garden*  
*Buzzzzz*  
Carol Pugh — Editor  
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**Message from: Rhona Watson**  
**CAMGA President — (Continued)**

example for the state. Expanding your knowledge and the sharing it with others is what the program is about, so if you are interested, contact Candy and she will give you more details.

I couldn't decide which picture to use for my article, so if you want to see a beautiful hanging basket, check out our face book page. Since I am talking about what you can do in the heat, the picture is a pot in the shade with a maiden hair fern, and a hosta, with a happy frog peeking out from under is fern umbrella. Stay cool, and

***YOUR FAVORITE GARDEN SHOULD BE YOUR OWN***  
***Rhona***



***Rhona's hanging basket with a maiden hair fern and hosta plant.  
Don't forget to check out the frog enjoying the fern umbrella plant.***

## Message from Mallory

Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests



### Planting a Fall Vegetable Garden

If your summer vegetable garden was a bust, you're not alone. The cool late spring weather was wonderful and all this rain after the drought in the fall was much needed, but the problems they caused on our summer vegetables has been severe. If your tomatoes, peppers, beans and squash didn't survive, don't give up. You must try again and why not with a fall garden? Fall vegetables are really my favorite to grow and I have just about decided I will leave the peppers and tomatoes to my grandfather and avoid the summer heat, afternoon rain showers and weeding all together and take my turn providing for the family in the fall. We are blessed by our warm Alabama climate that we can grow vegetables year round.

Many cool-season vegetables, such as carrots, broccoli, cauliflower, collards, lettuce and brussels sprouts, produce their best flavor and quality when they are maturing during cool weather. In Alabama, the spring temperatures often heat up quickly causing vegetables such as lettuce and spinach to bolt (flower) or develop a bitter flavor. This is why planting these veggies late in the summer or early fall when we are transitioning to cooler temps is more ideal than in the spring.

Growing a productive fall vegetable garden requires thoughtful planning and good cultural practices. In Alabama, August and September are the ideal months for planting a fall garden. For a more accurate planting schedule, determine the average date of the first killing frost in the fall, and then count backward from the frost date, using the number of days to maturity to determine the best time to plant in your area.

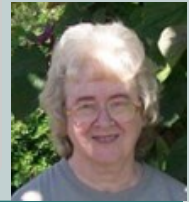
Alabama in August and September is usually hot and dry. If you choose to plant your fall veggies from seed during these months you must be careful to keep the soil moist. Incorporating organic matter into the soil will help add nutrients and increase water holding capacity. Lettuce and spinach seeds will not germinate if the soil temperature exceeds 85 degrees F. so for these you may need to wait a bit longer before sowing or plant from transplants. Also remember to mulch the garden to moderate moisture levels as September and October are our driest months with very little rainfall.

You can extend your summer vegetable crop and your semi-hardy vegetables on into the fall and winter easily by protecting them from frost. In Alabama, we often enjoy several weeks of good growing conditions after the first frost. Cover growing beds, rows or individual plants with burlap or a floating row cover supported by stakes or wire to keep the material from directly touching the plants.

Most hardy vegetables require little or no frost protection, but semi-hardy vegetables should be protected or harvested before a heavy freeze. Root crops such as carrots and radishes should be harvested or mulched heavily before a hard freeze. Mulched root crops can often be harvested well into the winter, and during mild winters, harvest may continue until spring.

So, if your summer garden was a flop or you're wanting to continue your progress of home vegetables into this fall and winter, it's not too late. There is still time to plant, especially the **HARDY** vegetables that can withstand a light frost such as: Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Collards, Kale, Kohlrabi, Onions, Radishes, Spinach and Turnips.

## CAMGA Minutes July 2017



### CENTRAL ALABAMA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION By Iva Haynie

The Central Alabama Master Gardeners Association met July 18, 2017 at the extension center. There were 39 in attendance. The President called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

An excellent program entitled "Year 'Round Color for Your Garden" was presented by Terese Goodson, complete with a colorful chart depicting bloom times for a number of flowers. After a break, the business portion of the meeting was conducted.

Jane Mobley will head the nominating committee for selecting officers for the next year.

Upcoming programs: There was a cancellation for the August program, so there may be some swapping around. The September program will be "Native Plants for Fall and Winter" by Dr. Sue Webb, In October, we will meet at Lanark with Maria P. West presenting the program, and November will be "For the Birds."

The minutes, as published in the newsletter, were approved by acclamation. Bill Quails gave the treasurers report. The Balance as of May 31 was \$10,466.69. There was income of \$21 and expenditures totaling \$427, leaving a balance at the end of June of \$10,060.67. The report was approved by acclamation.

John Barnes stated the only project scheduled at this time is a papercrete workshop for master gardeners at 9 a.m., September 22. The cost will be \$10 and participants should bring their own forms. A signup sheet was passed.

Mary McCroan said the hay bale garden is doing better. She had picked cucumbers today. She said the Rhubarb is still growing.

Charlotte Hall noted that there were 32 attendees for the July Lunch and Learn program on Tree Identification presented by Patrick Cook. The August 8th program will be "Preserving Your Garden Bounty" by Janet Johnson.

Robin Snyder stated Mallory has 14 applications for the fall intern class and there were 2 more received today. We will have a class. Robin will be recruiting people to provide food later. Also, she needs people to sign up to bring snacks for the meetings for the next 4 months.

Candy Jones reported that 5 people presented projects for Advanced Master Gardener status. Areas of expertise included Sustainable Landscape, Horticulture Videography and composting.

Lee Borden spoke to Farm Bot. Though it is moving slower than anticipated, plans are to work on it this afternoon. Grumpy Old Gardeners has slowed down some. We need more videos. Lee said we have 3 Face Book pages and there is some confusion as to how to use them. Plans are in the works to eliminate the confusion.

Rhona asked if anyone has a problem with their picture or name appearing on Face Book to see her. A suggestion was made to demonstrate how to use the program at a later meeting.

Amanda Borden reported a work day will be held Thursday at the Montgomery Botanical Gardens.

Rhonda Miles, the Advisory Council Chairman, will not be able to attend the next meeting and asked for more than 1 person to attend and take notes.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

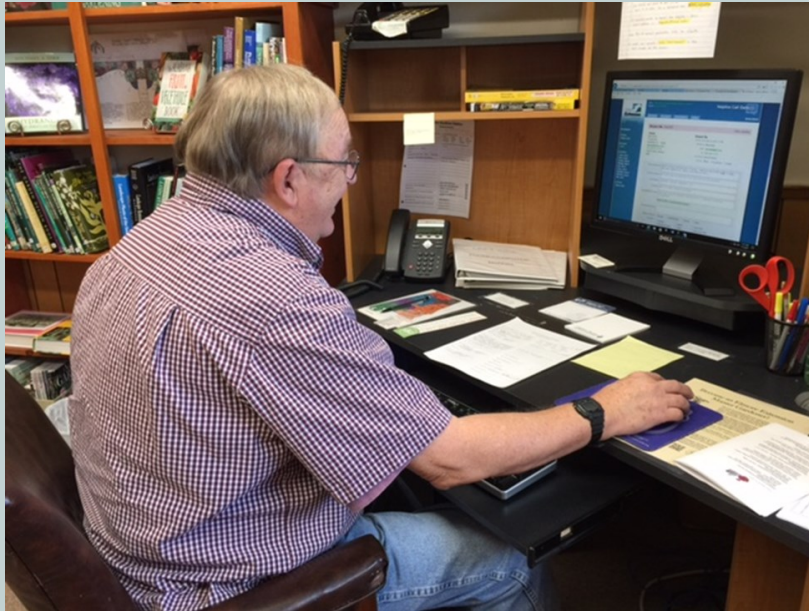
*Respectfully submitted,  
Iva Haynie, Secretary*

## Master Gardener Helpline By: Mary Ann Hatcher



### HELPLINE NEWS July 2017

The calls to the Helpline this month were fewer and represented an assortment of concerns. Working the Helpline this month were these Master Gardeners: Cindi Beumer, Gale Wheeler-Leonard, John Barnes, Sandy Rosamond, Katrina Mitchell, and Ricky Hatcher. Serving as Advisors were Mary Ann Klatt and Mary Ann Hatcher. Sharon Potts served as Appointment Reminder



**John Barnes pictured above entering information in the Helpline data system.**



## Lunch and Learn Program July 2017 By: Charlotte Hall

### “ Tree Identification” – Patrick Cook and Brigetta Giles

One of the best parts of being a Master Gardener is the abundance of helpful information that is available from both presenters and publications. Last month, the Lunch and Learn program speakers utilized both as Patrick Cook and Brigetta Giles gave an informative talk on the steps involved in identifying trees.

Not only did the attendees get to hear from two extremely knowledgeable foresters and see examples of different type tree leaves, everyone had wonderful reference materials provided through ACES and the Forestry Commission. Handouts included the publication “A Key to Common Trees of Alabama” which is publication ANR-0509 from ACES.edu, along with handouts from the Alabama Forestry Commission on “The Southern Pine – Alabama’s State Tree”, “Oaks of Alabama”, and leaf types of different oaks.

Identifying a particular tree can be a tricky task. However, if you follow the key in the handout publication ANR-0509, it provides a step by step process for easier identification. The publication was designed to be used during the growing season of the tree and uses leaf and bark characteristics as the primary features for identification. It provides a listing of the common and scientific names of 66 native trees found in Alabama. That is the first step. Familiarize yourself with the local trees. Knowing which trees that appear in the geographic area you are in helps to narrow the options and eliminate a lot of extra work. Instructions for using ANR-0509 are provided at the beginning of the publication.



**July Master Gardener Lunch & Learn  
Tree Identification Program**

Look at the leaves. Look at the shape, the color, the size, and the vein pattern. This helps to narrow the selection. Needles are thin, bluntly-pointed leaves that usually appears in bunches. Scales are broader than needles, but also have pointed tips which overlap each other. They also appear in clusters. You can have broad, flat leaves along with simple leaves, lobed leaves, and palmate leaves. Once you have classified the leaves, you are well on your way to tree identification. The different types of leaves are grouped into the type trees on which they are found – conifers, yellow pines, hardwoods, oaks, hickories, maples, tupelos, elms, ashes and magnolias. Pictures of leaf types and examples are also shown in the publication.

## Lunch and Learn Program (Continued)

June 2017

By: Charlotte Hall



At the meeting, Patrick and Brigetta, brought samples of different leaf types and demonstrated how to know the different types with their examples.

Examine the bark. It may be ridged or grooved, scaly or smooth. Ridged or grooved bark tends to be the most common. Some trees have bark that has deep grooves running up and down in no apparent pattern. Scaly bark trees have crevices but seem to form small blocks of overlapping bark along the tree. Smooth bark has very few, if any, ridges and if there are any indentations, they are fairly shallow.

Pay attention to the branches and their patterns. It may be sharply ascending and rising at a sharp angle or spaced apart in a similar way but less angled. Some trees have open and spreading branches, and others have re-curved, weeping or crowded branches.

Note any fruit or flowers. There are several categories of fruit. If the fruit is not ripe, pay attention to the bud arrangement or the flowers. Cone fruit consists of a cluster of woody, scale-like pieces formed into a conical or cylindrical mass. Apples and pears are example of soft or flesh fruit. Acorns and nuts are examples of hard or woody fruit which has a tough or hard exterior. Pod fruits have several seeds or hard masses inside a singular protective pod. Winged fruit has a hard seed at the center of the fruit and has lightweight paper-like skin surrounding the seed. Study the overall shape and size or height of the tree. This also is a large help in identifying the tree as it can be conical shaped, upright, weeping or spreading. Conical trees are narrow and usually have pointed tops – conical or triangular in shape. Upright trees are just that – trees that have a narrow look and branches that do not spread out very far. Spreading trees have branches that extend out far from the trunk - broad, wide shapes. Weeping trees appear to be weeping with branches and leaves that curve downward and hang low.

Tips are offered for more success in identify trees found in Alabama. Always look at multiple samples as key characteristics can vary even on the same tree – especially leaves. Be specific with measurements – do not guess, use a ruler – especially with leaves.

If you still can not identify your tree, assistance can be provided from expert help or publications with photos of trees and their leaf or bark type.



Next month Janet Johnson, food preservationist, is going to give instructions of how to preserve your garden's bounty. This should be especially helpful to all of you who have tons of garden produce or lots of blueberries, blackberries, tomatoes, whatever. Join us on August 8<sup>th</sup> at noon and remember the drinks are always provided.



## Governor's Mansion Report July 2017 By: Amanda Borden



During the month of July, volunteers at the Governor's Mansion worked in the herb garden and weeded the Frank Fleming garden area as well as the beds along the path from the rolling gate to the parking lot.

They weeded and trimmed the bed in back of the sunroom, limbing up a viburnum and lowering the camellias. They removed the Carolina Jasmine by the back door air conditioning unit and pruned all the shrubs by the Hill House fence. They renewal pruned the spirea closest to the Secret Garden gate and weeded within that garden.

Midway through the month, Jane McCarthy decided to beat the heat by beginning the work day at 7:00 a.m. and ending around 10:00 or so. This schedule will continue throughout the hot season.



Amanda and Jane take a break in the shade.



Miranda and Kathy helped fill can with debris from their weeding and trimming.



The Wax Myrtle by the Hill House fence received a good pruning.





## SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

### July 2017

### By Judy May



The Lunch and Learn Program was Tree Identification . The presenters were Patrick Cook and Brigetta Giles of the Alabama Forestry Commission – Autauga County. There were 32 attendees, 22 of them Master Gardeners. Assisting were Sandi Adkison, Cathy Whigham and Bill Quales.

Attending the Projects Committee meeting this month were John Barnes, John Butler, Johan Beumer, Jane Mobley and Sandy Rosamond.

Working at the Governor's Mansion this month were Jane McCarthy and Amanda Borden.

Members attending the Advanced Master Gardeners Committee meetings in June and July were Amanda Borden, Lee Borden, Candy Jones and Maria Pacheco West.

Members approved for Advanced Master Gardener Certification are Amanda Borden, Sustainable Landscape Design; Lee Borden, Horticultural Videography; Rose McCauley, Composting and Vermicomposting, Maria Pacheco West, Herbs; Paula Seamon, Composting and Vermicomposting.

Rick Ohlson says Butch Kinney and Joe L'Abbe have been the mainstay of the CAMGA table at the Millbrook Farmers Market again this year. They are there from 8 to noon on Tuesdays talking to the local folks and discussing gardens and their issues. They are friendly and have helped countless people with their gardening problems. Their efforts reflect favorably on the Master Gardener program.

Members who brought refreshments to the monthly meeting were Iva Haynie, Freda Frye, Bonnie McCormick, Johan Beumer, Robin Snyder and Judy May.

On July 11, Lee and Amanda Borden presented a program on Fall and Winter Vegetable Gardening for the Chilton County Master Gardeners in Jemison, Alabama.

On June 19 and 20 Lee Borden and Mallory Kelley made four short videos dealing with fire ants.

On July 18, 19 and 24, Andy Wallace and Lee Borden worked to wire up the FarmBot at the Extension office.

## SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS (Continued) July 2017

Helping Maria at Lanark this month were Carla McCune, Cheri Cook, Leslie Bingham, Judy May, Don Hoover, Sheila Pearson. They all helped clean up the gardens and prune where needed. Maria thanks everyone for the help.

Working the Helpline this month were: Cindy Beumer, John Barnes, Katrina Mitchell, Sandy Rosamond, Gale Wheeler-Leonard, Ricky Hatcher, Mary Ann Klatt and Mary Ann Hatcher.



***Master Gardeners Lee and Amanda Border gave a presentation to the Chilton County Master Gardeners on Fall and Winter Vegetable Gardening July 11th.***

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Calling all Gardeners and Photographers

Yes it's early--the Alabama National Fair and Flower Show in Montgomery, Alabama aren't until October 27-November 5, 2017. **However**, this is the time to be thinking and planning what plants and flowers to have ready to enter. Spring and summer are the perfect time to take pictures for the Photography Division. This year the Photography Division will have a special Section for youth ages 12-18. Remember--- it's free to enter any Division.

Contact Rose Winkler, General Flower Show Chairman, for information and forms at 334-270-0884 or [rmwinkler45@yahoo.com](mailto:rmwinkler45@yahoo.com)

**64th**  
**Annual Fall Flower Show**



**at the Alabama National Fair**  
Garrett Coliseum - 2nd floor  
**October 27-November 5, 2017**  
Presented by  
**Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs**  
**PHOTOGRAPHY DIVISION**

<p><b>SECTION A Adult Photographers</b></p> <p><b>Class 1 Gardens</b></p> <p>a. Public Gardens b. Private Gardens/Yards</p> <p><b>Class 2 Flora with Fauna</b></p> <p>a. Plants with Bees b. Plants with Butterflies c. Plants with Frogs d. Plants with Lizards e. Plants with Turtles f. Plants with Birds</p> <p><b>Class 3 Garden Flora</b></p> <p>a. Individual portrait—individual flower or leaf b. Single plant, shrub or tree c. Multiple blooms or leaves d. Multiple plants, shrubs or trees</p>	<p><b>SECTION B Youth Photographers</b> Ages 12- 18</p> <p><b>Class 4 Gardens</b></p> <p>a. Public Gardens b. Private Gardens/Yards</p> <p><b>Class 5 Flowers</b></p> <p>a. Individual portrait—individual flower or leaf b. Single plant, shrub or tree c. Multiple blooms or leaves d. Multiple plants , shrubs, or trees</p> <p><b>Class 6 Plants with Animals and Insects</b></p> <p>a. Plants with Bees b. Plants with Butterflies, moths c. Plants with Frogs d. Plants with Lizards e. Plants with Turtles f. Plants with Birds</p>
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**For Information:**  
June Cyrus 334-313-0068 or Rose Winkler 334-270-0884  
See [www.alnationalfair.org](http://www.alnationalfair.org) for rules under Competitions tab  
[www.gardenclubofalabama/districtVI](http://www.gardenclubofalabama/districtVI)

**64th**  
**Annual Fall Flower Show**



**at the Alabama National Fair**  
Garrett Coliseum - 2nd floor  
**October 27-November 5, 2017**  
Presented by  
**Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs**

- Large variety of plants
- Creative floral designs
- Education Exhibits
- Photography Division

**For Information:**  
Rose Winkler 334-270-0884  
[rmwinkler45@yahoo.com](mailto:rmwinkler45@yahoo.com)  
See [www.alnationalfair.org](http://www.alnationalfair.org) for rules under Competitions tab  
[www.gardenclubofalabama/districtVI](http://www.gardenclubofalabama/districtVI)

**Entry times:**  
Photography: Pre-register by Oct. 16  
1st Show Containers 2:00 pm-5:30 pm  
Thurs. Oct. 26  
1st Show Horticulture & Designs  
7:30am-9:30 am Friday Oct. 27  
2nd Show Containers & Horticulture  
7:30 am-9:30 am Wed. Nov. 1

# Calendar of Events

## August 2017

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



		1	2 <i>Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon</i>	3 <i>Elmore County Extension Office Learning Gardens Workday 8 to 12 Noon  MG Helpline Elmore Co. Office</i>	4	5
6	7 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day 7 to 10 a.m.</i>	8 <i>Lunch &amp; Learn 12 noon to 1 p.m. — Elmore Co. Ext. Office</i>	9 <i>Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon</i>	10 <i>Elmore County Extension Office Learning Gardens Workday 8 to 12 Noon  MG Helpline Elmore Co. Office</i>	11	12
13	14 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day 7 to 10 a.m.</i>	15 <i>CAMGA Meeting Elmore Co. Extension Office 10-12 noon</i>	16 <i>Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon</i>	17 <i>Elmore County Extension Office Learning Gardens Workday 8 to 12 Noon  MG Helpline Elmore Co. Office</i>	18	19
20	21 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day 7 to 10 a.m.</i>	22	23 <i>Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon</i>	24 <i>Elmore County Extension Office Learning Gardens Workday 8 to 12 Noon  MG Helpline Elmore Co. Office</i>	25	26
27	28 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day 7 to 10 a.m.</i>	29	30 <i>Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon</i>	31 <i>Elmore County Extension Office Learning Gardens Workday 8 to 12 Noon  MG Helpline Elmore Co. Office</i>		