

GARDEN BUZZZZ

Volume 26 Issue 9 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

September 2017

### Message from: Rhona Watson CAMGA President



I am looking forward to September, and starting to work on the things in the garden that I don't do in the heat of the summer. This year I am going to do a lot of separating plants, so I should have some interesting things for the plant sale. My hostas have thrived in their pots and need to be separated and repotted. I have also been waiting to move and pot up ferns. I have already started doing cuttings of my favorite plants to use in containers next spring.

Thanks to Maria Pacheco-West for her informative presentation on getting ready for fall. It is amazing how many beautiful plants we have that will bloom until frost in our area. I learned more about when to fertilize, and prune back annuals and shrubs to keep them blooming longer.

The State Advisory Council meeting was help at Petals from the Past on August 1. It is always interesting to hear what other Master Gardener groups are doing around the state. There was a good discussion about volunteering for officer positions both for the state and local organizations. The Tallapoosa Extension and Master Gardeners are presenting "Fall Extravaganza in September, and the State Fall Conference is in October. If you are interested, registration forms have been sent to you on email.

We will have an intern class starting September 7<sup>th</sup>. Lee Ann Marona, and Robin Snyder, and Mallory are working hard to organize the class. We need everyone's help with food for the class and the mentor program. The purpose of the mentor program is to help introduce the interns to the group and expose them to all the volunteer opportunities, so the will be more likely to become active in Master Gardeners after the class.

#### **Table of Contents:**

Message from Rhona1-2
Message from Mallory 3
Minutes4 –5
Help Line Update 6 Deepest Sympathy
Learning Gardeners
MG Awards Presented9
Lunch & Learn10
Mansion Report 11
Spotlight on Volunteers12
Fall MG Class Update13
Upcoming Events14
September Calendar 15



### Message from: Rhona Watson CAMGA President — (Continued)

We will start collecting dues at the September meeting. The cost is \$20 for local and state, and \$12 for just local. To help with the directory there will be a form you fill out when paying your dues, to confirm that your information is correct. Any dues paid after December 5<sup>th</sup>, which is the date of our Christmas Party, you will be a member, but not in the directory.

Anida Wishniesky, and Amanda Borden will be doing a demonstration at our September meeting on how to keep your hours and personal information up to date on the Master Gardener Service Report, and how to access our web page and face book page

Fall color in the garden is our theme for the month, so here is a picture of my perennial garden. There also a few annuals I use to add extra color.

The bottom of the picture is a pink Penta, it is one of my favorite annuals because it blooms from

spring to frost, a gets about 3 feet tall. The other annual are the yellow sunflowers that I did from seed last spring.

The greenery is a perennial Turks cap, you have to look hard in the picture, but it gets bright red bell shaped flowers in late summer and grows to about 7 feet tall. The blue flowers are black and blue salvia, the humming birds and butterflies love it and it is one of the first things to bloom in the spring and lasts until fall.



**Rhona's Perennial Garden** 

Fall is my favorite time to work in the garden, everything has grown in and is blooming and I start planning the improvements for next year.

### MAKE YOUR FAVORITE GARDEN YOUR OWN Rhona

### Message from Mallory Mallory Kelley Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests

Tree Disease after the 2016 Drought

As most are aware, Alabama suffered a D4- Extreme drought late summer and fall of 2016. While cattle, row crop and timber farmers are very familiar with the short and long term effects of drought, many homeowners are over-looking the effects of drought on landscapes.

Recently, there has been a flood of phone calls across the state reporting dead trees. Commonly reported hardwood species include water oak, *Quercus nigra*, Southern Red Oak, *Quercus falcata*, and Northern Red Oak, *Quesrcus rubra*.

The most common disease that is being seen at this time is fungal canker disease called Hypoxylon Canker, *Hypoxylon atropunctatum*. Hypoxylon canker is a common disease that infects hardwood species across the South Eastern United States. In normal conditions, the disease is inconsequential to healthy trees. However, trees that are impacted by environmental factors, including soil compaction, soil grade changes, root trenching, and in this case drought, can become susceptible to this secondary disease.

Symptoms may vary from across species, but tree death is common. Upon the initial infection and spread of the disease, die back of the tips is often seen. As the canker spreads and develops, pieces of bark will slough off, exposing smooth, brown-gray areas, with black spots commonly visible. The disease, if not removed (which may not be possible) will quickly kill the infected tree. If infection is detected in branches early enough, those branches can be removed and disposed of, possibly eliminating the disease from the tree. Remove branches below last signs of infection or at a naturally occurring fork in healthy portions of branches. If total branch removal is needed, remove branch at branch collar to aid in rapid wound sealing.

Reducing stress is key to reducing susceptibility of trees to this and other pests and disease. Watering in times of drought can be helpful, but large trees require a minimum of 1" of water per week, often becoming prohibitively expensive and time consuming. Mulching trees with a 3" layer of pine bark mulch across the area between the trunk and drip line can conserve and maintain soil moisture. Avoid piling bark against the trunk of trees; this can result in the "mulch volcano" which leads to build up of moisture and heat with the result being the ideal growing conditions for disease. Avoid using soil active herbicides under the dripline of the tree to avoid undue root damage.

Dead trees should be removed. If tree death occurs, white rot will quickly consume dead wood causing the tree to be potentially unsafe in high traffic areas. In events of large tree kills, those that are closest to homes, property or in high traffic areas should be removed quickly to prevent potential property damage or bodily harm. Replacement trees can be planted this fall at or near the location of lost trees. Re-infection of new trees from the disease is rare, though other wood rots that live in dead roots and stumps can affect new trees. For more information, please contact your local Alabama Extension Office or visit us online at www.aces.edu



# CAMGA Minutes August 2017 Iva Haynie, Secretary



The Central Alabama Master Gardener Association met August 15, 2017 at the Elmore County Extension office. There were 36 in attendance. The president called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. Marie Pacheco West presented an informative program on Getting Ready for fall. She noted things to plant in spring for fall color.

After a break, the business portion of the program was conducted.

Upcoming events were pointed out: A Cut and Color Seminar in Montgomery, August 23; Tallapoosa Fall Extravaganza Sept 29; State Fall Seminar in Auburn October 12; our Christmas luncheon Dec 5, and the State Conference May 3 - 5, 2018. The program for September will be Native Plants for Fall and Winter by Dr. Sue Webb and we will meet at Lanark in October.

The minutes with one correction were approved by acclamation.

Bill Quailes gave the treasurers report - The balance at the end of June was \$10,060.67. There was \$70 income and \$115.19 expenditures in July, leaving a balance July 31 of \$10,015.48. The report was approved by acclamation.

There will be a papercrete workshop for master gardeners on September 23 beginning at 9 a.m. with a \$10 fee. Our plant swap will be October 20th at 10 a.m. Bring five potted plants to swap.

Mary McCroan reported the water garden pump is broken and asked for approval of \$300 to replace it. It should last approximately 5 years.

Candy Jones moved to approve the request and Amanda Borden 2nd. The motion carried.

Nominations for the upcoming year are under way. If you are interested in becoming an officer, see Jane Mobley.

Lee Borden reported on the Farm Bot. They have a breakthrough! The lights are working and it is now communicating.

Stubborn Old Gardeners: We have not published a new video in over 2 months, yet reviews have increased. There have been over 2500 views.

Next month there will be a demonstration on using the computer web site and face book for CAMGA.

Charlotte Hall reported the August Lunch and Learn program on Preserving Garden Bounty was attended by 20 participants. The September program will be Fall Gardening and Preservation by Lee and Amanda Borden.

# CAMGA Minutes August 2017 Iva Haynie, Secretary



Marie Updike reported on the State Master Gardener Association meeting. She gave a handout with information from that. A copy is available if anyone needs one. Robin Snyder asked for members to sign up to bring food for Master Gardener meetings. If no one brings food, we will not have refreshments.

Mallory said we have 29 applicants for the intern class. Robin Snyder and Lee Ann Marona will be asking for food for the class. Sign-up sheets were passed. Classes will begin September 7th and go for 11 weeks, ending November 16. We were asked to save seeds and bring gardening magazines for the class.

Mallory also pointed out educational opportunities. There will be a Hops Brewery workshop at the Lee County extension office September 20th. The fee is \$15 and there will be a tour of the brewery. There will be a Small Space Gardening and Bonsi workshop at the Doster Center in Prattville. It is free. Mallory will be doing a program on Decorating with Nature October 31 from 11 to 1 in Coosa County. Mary Ann Hatcher was thanked for her work with the Help Line. A new master gardener who graduated from Autauga County was welcomed.

Three new Advanced Master Gardeners were awarded certificates: Lee Boren for Horticulture Videography, Amanda Borden for Sustainable Landscape, and Maria Pacheco West for Herbs. Ann Hill, Cathy Wigham and Charlotte Hall have agreed to work together on directories. There will be a sheet to fill our next month. If you have not paid your dues by December 5th, you can be a member, but will NOT be in the directory.

The meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted Iva Haynie, Secretary



Maria Pacheco-West presented a program on "Getting Ready for Fall" at the August CAMGA Meeting.

# August 2017 Master Gardener Helpline By: Mary Ann Hatcher



The calls this month were fewer, but always varied and interesting.

The volunteers for August were: Sandi Rosamond, Gayle Wheeler-Leonard, Deborah Corn, Marie Updike, Sheila Pearson, Diane Hill, Ricky Hatcher, Pat Petro-Perryman. Mary Ann Klatt, Cindy Beumer, and Mary Ann Hatcher served as Advisors. Sharon Potts served as our Appointment Reminder.

I want to thank all of the dedicated Master Gardeners that stepped up to help make another season on the Helpline successful.

# Deepest Sympathy

Deepest Sympathy is extended to the family of our dear friend and fellow Master Gardener, Mr. Tom Jaworowski.

Tom passed away Wednesday, August 30th, 2017 after an extended illness.

Tom was a member of the 2011 Master Gardener Class and was also known as "Santa" at the annual CAMGA Christmas Parties.

We will miss this kind man and friend.



## August Learning Gardening Report By: Mary McCroan

August has been pretty quiet. We've been doing a little weeding each week. I used to hate that because it's like house cleaning. It just has to be done again, and again, and again. But I'm developing a fondness for it. As I've gotten older it's become somewhat of a meditation process rather than just a chore. Thanks much to Terry Chambliss and Candy Jones for joining me on my meditations this August.

Thanks also to the folks that I don't see on a regular basis because they come out on their own schedule to maintain the shade garden and the butterfly garden — (Carla, Charlotte and Sandi).



I've just gotten some experimental turmeric plants from Auburn and I'm excited about developing a turmeric bed. It will need a little shade, so some minor construction to erect a frame to hold up the shade cloth will be required. While at Auburn, I visited the medicinal herb garden and confirmed with Tia my understanding of the difference between Purple Basil and Purple Purilla. The plant that reseeds readily and pops up around the Learning Garden and maybe your garden is beautiful. But it is not basil. It is Purple Purilla. It's color ranges from purple to bronzy depending on how much sun it gets. Sadly, purple basil is not nearly as likely to reseed. Purple purilla is typically taller than two feet, while the basil maxes out at about two feet. They are similar in color, similar in leaf shape, similar in flowers. So, if it comes back--probably not basil. If it's tallish--probably not basil.



**Purple Purilla** 

## August Learning Gardening Report Continued By: Mary McCroan

Our other biggish project coming up is some somewhat aggressive pruning on the roses in front of the Extension Center. The folks would like to see out the windows. Remember when we said that you should give Knockout Roses plenty of room?

The last thing to report on is our Straw Bale Garden. Wow. I am far from an expert, but I can tell you that viney things (cucumbers, watermelon, squash, etc)

REALLY like the straw bales. We got bunches of cukes and we are growing watermelons that I think are going to end up bigger than me. The great thing about a straw bale garden is that you can do it on concrete. The fertility of your soil is totally irrelevant. It does require external applications of fertilizer in the beginning to get thing going while waiting for the straw bales to start to decompose. And it needs regular water--I recommend drip irrigation and a timer.

The peppers did not do well and I have no idea why. I suspect that with experience you can grow pretty much anything in a straw bale garden and any failures of plants are related to the fact that we've only been doing this one season. I'm just delighted that some things have done great. The only other negative is that the bales are starting to fall apart. I'm going to try and get a fall crop out of them before consigning them for use as mulch or in the compost pile.



Straw Bale Garden

# **MASTER GARDENER AWARDS PRESENTED**



Amanda Border (right) received an Advanced Master Gardener certificate for Sustainable Landscapes presented by Mallory Kelley (right).



Lee Borden above (right) received an Advanced Mastered Gardener certificate for Horticulture Videography presented by Mallory Kelley (left).

Maria Pacheco-West above (left) received an Advanced Master Gardener Certificate for Herbs presented by Mallory Kelly (right).



### Lunch and Learn Program August 2017 By: Sandi Adkison

### Preserving Your Garden's Bounty Presented By Janet Johnson

Janet Johnson began her career with the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service in 1994, and currently serves as a Regional Extension Agent in the area of Food Safety and Quality. She is responsible for seven counties in our region. Janet gave a very informative overview on the most common methods of home food preservation: dehydration, freezing, pickling, and canning.

Each method prevents the growth of microorganisms that are harmful to humans, as well as preventing deterioration of the food. To ensure quality, Janet stressed the importance of processing produce as soon as possible after it has been harvested.

Controls for temperature, humidity, and possible contamination (insects, mold, disease) must be employed for safety.



Janet Johnson presented the Food Safety & Quality Program At the August Lunch & Learn Meeting

Dehydration can be accomplished by the sun, on the vine, in the oven, or in a food dehydrator. It is the oldest method of food preservation. Freezing fruits (either whole or sugared) and vegetables (blanched or cooked) is a quick, fairly easy method.

After preparation, the food should be stored in dated, air-tight containers for up to one year at zero (or less) degrees for best quality. Pickling is a method involving food placed in edible, antimicrobial liquid, such as salt or vinegar. Some of these foods are cooked, some are not, and sealed in tempered glass jars.

Canning involves sealing food in jars, then placing the jars into a water bath or pressure cooker to ensure sterilization. Janet brought examples of pressure/water bath cookers and a variety of implements for canning and pickling. Janet also had copies of the ACES publication, <u>Home Food Preservation</u> (HE-0001) available for the attendees to buy.

This booklet contains the research-based recommendations for each method of food preservation, and it is available through the county extension offices.

Next month's program will be "Fall Gardening and Harvest," presented by Lee and Amanda Borden. We hope to see you there!



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



Volunteers at the Governor's mansion weeded around the pool, in the guest house bed, in the herb garden, and all the way from the pergola to the southeast corner at the Perry Street guard shack.

They cut back dead plant material and cleaned and trimmed as they worked through the beds.

Work days will continue to begin at 7:00 a.m. until the hot weather finally breaks. Let's hope it's soon!

Kathy Quinn (right) plants turmeric that was donated by the Auburn Medicinal Plant Garden.



Mirenda Tatum weeds an azalea bed.



Jane McCarthy cuts back Sago Palms and Allyson Ludington is weeding azaleas.

Page

## SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS August 2017 By Judy May



The Lunch and Learn Program was Preserving Your Gardens Bounty. The Presenter was Janet Johnson of ACES. There were 20 attendees, 15 of them Master Gardeners. Assisting were Sandi Adkison, Cathy Whigham and Bill Quailes.

Refreshments at the monthly meeting this month were thanks to Rhonda Miles, Candy Jones, Leslie Bingham, Linda Mincey, Bonnie McCormick, Judy May, Robin Snyder and Mary McCroan who brought fresh cucumber and melon from the Demonstration Garden.

The following people were awarded Certificates in Advanced Master Gardening: Amanda Borden- Sustainable Landscape, Lee Borden- Horticultural Videography, Maria Pacheco West- Herbs, their usefulness in the garden and for gardeners.

Helping Maria this month in the gardens at Lanark: Don Hoover, Peggy Gelpi and Paul Richards helped with the Catfish Rodeo in early August. Peggy Gelpi, Carla McCune, Leslie Bingham and Don Hoover helped in the Lanark gardens throughout the month helping Maria keep everything neat and trim. Maria says thank you for all your hard work.

The Helpline volunteers for August were Sharon Potts, Sandi Rosamond, Gayle Wheeler – Leonard, Deborah Com, Maria Updike, Sheila Pearson, Diane Hill, Ricky Hatcher, Pat Petro-Perryman, Mary Ann Klatt, Cindy Beumer and Mary Ann Hatcher.

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

Andy Wallace, Rod Douglas and Lee Borden worked on the FarmBot and got it running in five of its six directions. They're continuing to work on the sixth.

Working the Millbrook Farmers Market this month were Rick Ohlsen, Butch Kinney and Joe L'Abbe.

# Fall 2017 Master Gardener Class Update

## **ATTENTION CAMGA MEMBERS!!**

We have an Intern Class!! Its a large class of 25 Students!! As usual, the first lunch is always prepared by the board members. CAMGA is going to purchase the assorted wraps and we are going to bring the sides. Robin will have tea and water there to serve every week.

We need to prepare for about 36 people for the September 7th class.

Items needed are:



Deviled Eggs, Potato Salad, Pasta Salad, Cole Slaw, Chips and Dip, Doritos and Dip, Veggie Trays, Fruit Trays, and Desserts.

You will need to have your food at the Elmore County Extension Auditorium by 10:45 a.m. on September 7th for lunch.

Please email Sandy Rosamond at <u>sandrose2007@gmail.com</u> or call or text 334-652-4552.

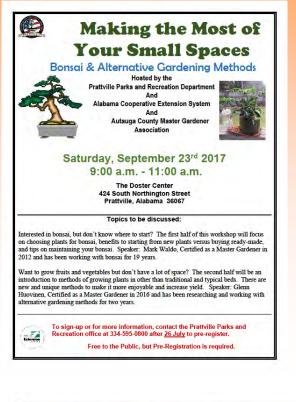
Thank You!! Sandy Rosamond

Hey, folks...we need volunteers to serve as mentors for the upcoming Master Gardener class.

Please contact Mallory at jones57@auburn.edu, Lee Ann at lawmarona@aol.com or Robin at jmsrgs@gmail.com (please do not hit reply) if you are willing to help us with this venture.

Thanks!! Robin Snyder











Calendar of Events

September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
-					1	2
3	4	5	<b>6</b> Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon	7 MG Class 9-2 p.m. Elmore County Ext. Audi- torium Elmore County Extension Office Learning Gardens	8	9
10	<b>11</b> Governor's Mansion Work Day 7 to 10 a.m.	12 Lunch & Learn 12 noon to 1 p.m. — Elmore Co. Ext. Office	13 Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon	14 MG Class 9.2 p.m. Elmore County Ext. Auditori- um Elmore County Extension Office Learning Gardens	15	16
17	18 Governor's Mansion Work Day 7 to 10 a.m.	19 CAMGA Meeting Elmore Co. Extension Office	20 Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon	21 MG Class 9-2 p.m. Elmore County Ext. Auditori- um Elmore County Extension Office Learning Gardens Workday 8 to 12 Noon	22	23
24	25 Governor's Mansion Work Day 7 to 10 a.m.	26	27 Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon	28 <sub>MG</sub> Class 9-2 p.m. Elmore County Ext. Audi- torium Elmore County Extension Office Learning Gardens Workday 8 to 12 Noon	29	30