



GARDEN BUZZZZZ



Volume 27 Issue 1 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

January 2018

Message from:

Rhona Watson
CAMGA President



Happy New Year! It is hard to believe it is already 2018. I have received lots of seed catalogs, and am excited about planning my upcoming garden.

I had three trees removed (two were dead) and a large shrub moved that was too close to a Japanese maple. January and February is the best time to prune, and move trees, shrubs and perennials while they are dormant. It is also the best time to plant. Now there is room for more plants that I just have to have, but are of course on the plan.

I hope you enjoyed the Christmas Party as much as I did. Robin Snyder did an awesome job organizing, decorating and making a lot of the food herself. Thank you to everyone else who brought food and helped set up and decorate.

Mary McCroan and Lee Borden did a great job reading and Carol Rattan and Lee led us in singing Christmas Carols. Thanks to everyone for getting us in the Christmas spirit.

The new officers were sworn in. Sandy Rosamond, as Vice President has been working hard to get us interesting and informative presentations for our 2018 meetings. Bill Quails will continue to be our treasurer, and Rhonda Miles will stay in the State Representative position. Thanks to Iva Haynie always being there, and taking accurate notes as last year's secretary. Our secretary this year will be Mary Lou Mullins.

I hope to see you at the January meeting. We will have a short overview of the different committees and what they do. It is a perfect time to consider, what you would like to learn and participate in this year. Mary McCroan will do a presentation about the learning gardens. She will give us a history of what we have accomplished since they were started.

Sandy Adkins and Mary McCroan have been working on getting us a new computer, and projector to use at Lunch and Learn and monthly meetings. Thank you both for the time you have spent researching what will work the best for us and still be reasonably priced.

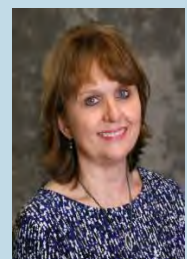


Table of Contents:

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



CAMGA Garden Buzzzz
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Message from: Rhona Watson
CAMGA President — (Continued)

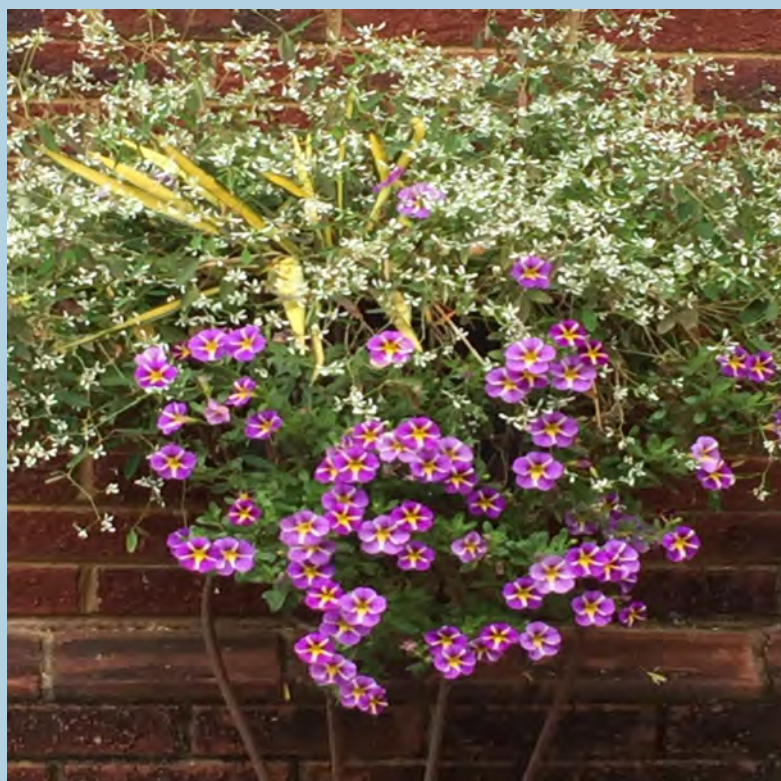


I love to do containers. It is fun to put different plants together in arrangements to brighten up an area or a table. Containers are also great for new plants and shrubs. It lets them get a good root system before they are planted, and can be moved around until you can see what lighting conditions they thrive in. So this year I will use examples of containers that I have in the garden.

This container was started last May, and this is what it looks like in the middle of December. The green leafy plant is a Diamond Star Euphorbia. It grows best in partial shade and blooms continuously. The purple flowers are Million Bells and are short-lived perennials in our area. In the middle is a variegated Yucca, which does great in containers and lasts the winter in our area.

Whether you are doing containers, annuals, perennials, or a new tree this year

MAKE YOUR FAVORITE GARDEN YOUR OWN
Rhona

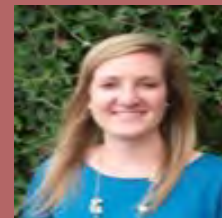


Rhona's Container Garden

Message from Mallory

Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests



What to do with those Holiday Plants?

The poinsettia is one of the most popular holiday plants along with the Christmas cactus. As the holiday season ends and the poinsettias start to lose their leaves and the Christmas cactus loses its blooms people often ask the question what to do now?

Too many poinsettias are seen in dumpsters and sitting out by the road side ready for trash pick up. With a little work and some special attention the poinsettia can be kept for the following year. This is sometimes hard to accomplish due to our low degree of light intensity, but if you are willing to give it a try, here are the steps to bring your poinsettia into a healthy life just in time for next year's holiday season.

When the bracts (colored leaves) begin to turn and fall from your plant, cut the plant back leaving 4 to 6 buds and keep in a sunny window or greenhouse if you have one and continue to water and fertilize regularly. By the end of May you should see vigorous new growth appearing. The poinsettia will begin to set buds and produce flowers as the nights become longer. In October, you should move the plant into complete darkness for 14 continuous hours and in the day allow 6-8 hours of bright sunlight. Continue this cycle for 8-10 weeks and your poinsettia will develop a colorful display of holiday blooms just in time for the holiday season.

If the process of salvaging your poinsettia seems too demanding, a compost pile is always a great alternative. Poinsettias are not much of a financial burden and buying a new one the following year will contribute greatly in supporting our growers.

While the poinsettia remains the most popular holiday plant, a healthy Christmas cactus in full bloom is always a beautiful sight. To keep your Christmas cactus blooming longer keep it in a well-lit, cool area, but once these blooms are gone many are left with the questions, what now? The best advice we can give you is neglect. Only a little extra care will bring it back to full bloom next year.

Watering seems to be the source of most problems with the Christmas cactus. The plant is a tropical type plant, but is not quite as drought tolerant as the name implies. Water thoroughly when the top half of the soil in the pot feels dry to the touch. Well-drained soil is a must for Christmas cactus and should be repotted every 2-3 years. A commercially packaged potting mix for succulent plants or a mixture of two parts potting soil with one part clean sand or vermiculite will work great. Pruning your cactus should be done after blooming and will encourage branching. The sections pruned out can easily be rooted in moist vermiculite to propagate new plants.

Much like the poinsettia, the Christmas cactus blooms according to the change in day length and light intensity. Too much direct light during the summer months can turn the leaves a bit red and cause them to look burned and become limp. Follow the same light pattern instructions as the poinsettia beginning in October and you will have a beautiful blooming cactus just in time for Christmas.

For more information on Poinsettias <http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-1222/>

For more information on Christmas Cactus <http://hort.purdue.edu/ext/cactusFAQs.html>

http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/christmas_cactus.html



CAMGA Minutes December 2017 By: Iva Haynie, Secretary

The Central Alabama Master Gardeners Association met on December 5, 2017 at Mulder United Methodist Church for a combined meeting and our annual Christmas party. Fifty-one people signed in. The president called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m. She commended Robin Snyder for an excellent job of coordinating the party.

Jane Mobley, Chairman of the nominating committee read the nominees for officers for 2018 as follows: Rhona Watson, President; Sandy Rosamond, Vice President; Mary Lou Mullins, Secretary; Bill Quailes, Treasurer and Rhonda Miles, Advisory council representative. The vote to accept these nominees was unanimous. Candy Jones swore them in.

At our January meeting, the program will include a brief word from the committee chairs and Mary McCroan will give a history of the learning gardens entitled "Lessons Learned."

The minutes of the November meeting as presented in the Garden Buzz were approved by acclamation. Bill Quailes gave the treasurer's report: The balance at the end of October was \$9,892.95. Income in November was \$452 and total expenditures were \$305.50, leaving a balance at the end of November of \$10,039.35. The report was approved by acclamation.

Ann Hill was welcomed back after an extended illness.

The December Lunch and Learn program will be on orchids, presented by Judy May. Some plans for 2018 were revealed. The committee chairs will be the same except for the projects committee which will be shared by Jane Mobley and Terry Chambliss. Sherrie Schaefer with the help of Carol Rattan will head up the plant sale. We will have a progressive garden tour on May 22. More details later. Carol Rattan provided a map of Elmore County and asked members to put pins on it where they live.

We sang Christmas carols led by Lee Borden with Carol Rattan on the piano.

Rhona thanked Iva for serving as secretary this year. The interns were recognized.

Mary McCroan gave a history of the poem "The Night before Christmas" and read the poem from a book her Dad used to read from. Lee Borden read the account of Jesus' birth from Luke Chapter 2 of the King James Version and offered a blessing for the food. We enjoyed a variety of heavy hors d'oeuvre and beverages.

After lunch, Rhona stated that we need a new computer. It will cost approximately \$1500. Bonnie McCormick moved to purchase it and Judy May Seconded. The motion carried.

It was noted that the Governor's Mansion room, which was done by master gardeners was outstanding. Those who worked at the mansion were recognized.

Sandy Rosamond was presented a Certificate of Appreciation for her participation in Old Alabama Town. Door prizes were given.

The meeting adjourned and clean up began.

***Respectfully submitted,
Iva Haynie, Secretary***



Photos from CAMGA Meeting December 2017 By: Iva Haynie, Secretary



Installation of officers conducted by Candy Jones far left. Officers: Bill Quailes, Rhona Watson, Sandy Rosamond, and Rhonda Miles



Pictured above Bill Quailes, Rhonda Miles, Rhona Watson, and Sandy Rosamond



Sandy Rosamond was presented a "Certificate of Appreciation" for her participation in Old Alabama Town. L-R: Rhona Watson, Sandy Rosamond and Jane McCarthy



December 2017 Lunch & Learn

By: Charlotte Hall

Orchids

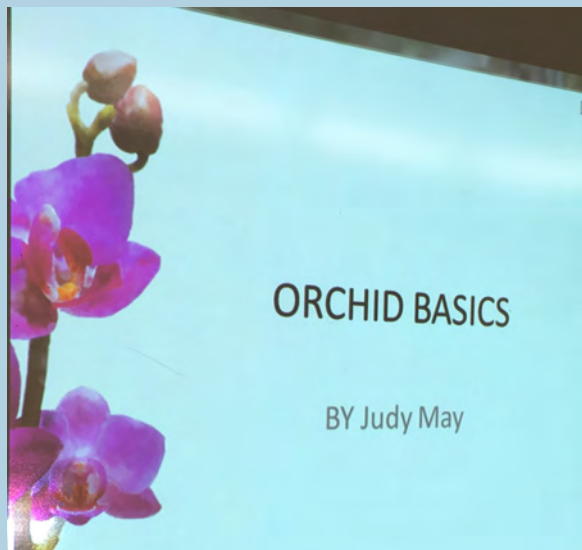
By: Judy May

What a way to end year 2017 with Judy May, a CAMGA master gardener, giving us a program on the beautiful blooming Orchid. And Judy certainly caught my attention right off the bat when she told us there were over 3000 varieties of Orchids, and her favorite book for growing them is entitled Growing Orchids for Wimps. Sounds like my kind of book.

Orchids are known for their gorgeous and unusual blooms and for their long growing periods. They are very diverse and come in many shapes, many forms and many colors. They have the smallest seeds in the world as it takes about 1500 seeds to make a teaspoon.

Orchids are either terrestrial (ground) or epiphytes (air) as they can grow with roots in soil or in the air without any obvious roots. Seventy five percent of the ones that we have are terrestrial.

There are two growth patterns for orchids – monopodial and sympodial. Monopodial – the stem grows from a single bud, leaves are added from the apex each year and the stem grows longer accordingly. Sympodial orchids have a front (the newest growth) and a back (the oldest growth) and grow from tubers. The plant produces a series of adjacent shoots which grow to a certain size, bloom and then stop growing and are replaced. These also grow laterally instead of vertically, following the surface of their support.



Most of the orchids that we see in the garden centers or grocery stores are Phalaenopsis orchids. They usually have long flower spikes and appear very graceful. They are widely grown as houseplants. Even though they usually bloom only once or twice a year, their flowers can often last several months.

Other types of orchids are cattleya, cymbidium, dendrobiums, and oncidiums. There are so many varieties of orchids and each has its own particular characteristics, size, shape and color. Since they are plants from a rain forest environment, orchids love humidity. Misting them frequently will increase the humidity and help the orchid to thrive. Light is a key factor in growing healthy orchids.

December Lunch & Learn Continued By: Charlotte Hall



Direct sunlight may cause plants to burn and too little light will prevent plants from blooming. They do not like northern light exposure. Very dark leaves on your orchid indicates it is not getting enough light.

Judy suggests fertilizing every other week during the orchid's growing season or between March 21st and September 21st. She also suggests that a commercial fertilize specially created for orchids be used. Be careful in applying the fertilizer or when watering as water can cause crown rot if it sits in the crown of the plant.

Judy gave us a demonstration of how to re-pot an orchid. When repotting an orchid, you need about one third as much root as plant. While re-potting, check for insects. A cotton ball with alcohol will kill scale, mealy bugs and thrips. Also when re-potting, sprinkle cinnamon on the leaves as cinnamon serves as an antifungal agent. Physan 20 fungicide or Listerine can also be used. But when using Listerine, it must be the gold colored only.

A helpful hint when growing orchids is to check the leaves. If they have horizontal folds in the leaves, it is an indication of insufficient watering.

Join us for our first program in 2018 on January 9, 2018, when Mary McCroan will make a presentation on Garden Lessons Learned. Mary is responsible for our Learning Gardens at CAMGA and I am sure that she has many lessons that she has learned over the years with this gardening project. Join us as we begin our year and usher in 2018 with a new slate of interesting speakers and topics.





Governor's Mansion Report December 2017 By: Amanda Borden



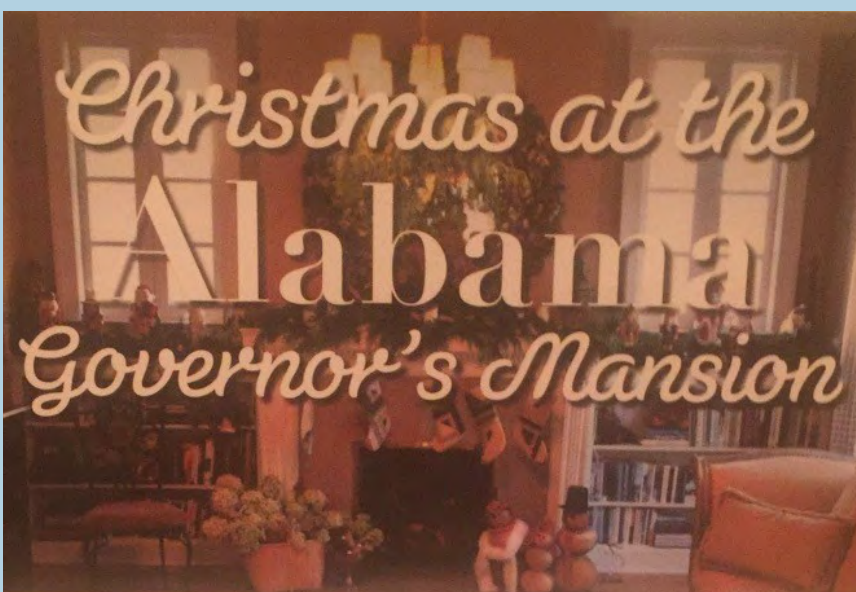
Volunteers at the Governor's Mansion in December did some trimming and clearing out in the garden, but most of their time was spent maintaining the presentation of the Hill House library Christmas decoration. They consistently refreshed the greenery to keep it looking good throughout the holiday season. A number of the regular volunteers also served as hosts during the various Christmas open houses at the Governor's Mansion and Hill House.

*Melanie Berry and Kathy host
one of the Christmas tours at
Hill House*





Governor's Mansion Report
December 2017
By: Amanda Borden



Library
designed by

*Monday Morning
Master Gardener Group*



SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

December 2017

By Judy May



Lee and Amanda Borden gave a presentation on Cover Crops at the monthly meeting of the Capital City Master Gardeners on November 28 at Frazer United Methodist Church.

Thanks to all who helped with set up, clean up, food serving and bringing food to the Christmas party. A very special thanks to Robin Snyder for organizing and displaying the food so attractively. Thanks also to Carol Rattan for getting permission to use the building as well as playing the piano. Thanks to Lee Borden for his reading and leading us in song and to Mary McCroan for her reading of The Night Before Christmas. Thanks to everyone for their attendance and a very special thank you to Wendolyn, the church keeper who went above and beyond with helping with clean up

December 5th Jane Mobley and Nancy Tribble did a presentation on Tumeric for a Herb group. There were 13 in attendance

The Lunch and Learn December 12 was Orchid Basics by Judy May. There were 16 attendees, 15 of them Master Gardeners. Assisting were Sandi Adkison, Charlotte Hall and Cathy Whigham.

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

Maria says we are doing some winter clean up at Lanark. Come help us during the winter months. We have a lot of fun working till we warm up! We'll be cleaning out around the Hydrangeas, pruning where needed, clearing wooded areas of privet and vines, removing unwanted vines and picking up wood, cutting back roses and rooting them, plus whatever else comes up and we decide to do!

Helping Maria this past month were Sheila Pearson, Peggy Gelpi, Don Hoover, Carla McCune, Leslie Bingham and interns Sue Brazzil and Cheri Cook. Thanks y'all! I couldn't do it without your wonderful help!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Central Alabama Master Gardeners Association Lunch & Learn 2018

2nd TUESDAY of EVERY Month

12:00-1:00 pm

Elmore County Extension Office
340 Queen Ann Road, Wetumpka 36092



BRING A SACK LUNCH

FREE PROGRAM

DRINKS PROVIDED

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 9 January | Garden Lessons Learned
<i>Mary McCroan, Advanced Master Gardener</i> |
| 13 February | Backyard Birding & Wildlife
<i>Hal Smith, Wild Birds Unlimited</i> |
| 13 March | Gardening without Injury
<i>Don Graham, Physical Therapist</i> |
| 10 April | Alabama Wildflowers
<i>Shirley Fifield</i> |
| 8 May | Herbal Teas
<i>Debbie Boutelier, Master Gardener</i> |
| 12 June | Landscape Design
<i>Rip Weaver, Director of Aldridge Gardens</i> |
| 10 July | Snake Identification
<i>Mary McCroan, Advanced Master Gardener</i> |
| 14 August | The Life of Butterflies
<i>Deborah Batson, Photographer</i> |
| 11 September | Fall Gardening & Harvest
<i>Lee & Amanda Borden, Advanced Master Gardeners</i> |
| 9 October | Succulents
<i>Jane McCarthy, Horticulturist & Master Gardener</i> |
| 13 November | Garden Varmits
<i>Chris Jaworowski, Wildlife Biologist, ACES</i> |
| 11 December | Floriculture
<i>Charlotte Hall, Master Gardener</i> |



For more information, please contact the Elmore County Extension Office (334) 567-6301

www.aces.edu/elmore

Calendar of Events

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Happy New Year!!</i>	2	3	4 <i>Work Day Elmore Co. Ext. office Learning Gardens 8 a.m.</i>	5	6
7	8 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day 9 a.m. to 12 Noon</i>	9 <i>Lunch & Learn 12 noon to 1 p.m. — Elmore Co. Ext. Auditorium</i>	10 <i>Lanark Workday 8 a.m. to 12 noon</i>	11 <i>Work Day Elmore Co. Ext. office Learning Gardens 8 a.m.</i>	12	13
14	15 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day 9 a.m. to 12 Noon</i>	16	17 <i>Lanark Workday 8 a.m. to 12 noon</i>	18 <i>Work Day Elmore Co. Ext. office Learning Gardens 8 a.m.</i>	19	20
21	22 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day 9 a.m. to 12 Noon</i>	23	24 <i>Lanark Workday 8 a.m. to 12 noon</i>	25 <i>Work Day Elmore Co. Ext. office Learning Gardens 8 a.m.</i>	26	27
28	29 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day 9 a.m. to 12 Noon</i>	30	31 <i>Lanark Workday 8 a.m. to 12 noon</i>			