



# GARDEN BUZZZZZ



Volume 27 Issue 3 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

March 2018

## Message from:

**Rhona Watson**

**CAMGA President**



## Table of Contents:

Message from Rhona.....1-2

Message from Mallory.....3-4

Reach for the Stars..... 5

Minutes .....6-7

Projects Committee

Minutes..... 8

Lunch & Learn ..... 9-10

Mansion Report ..... 11-13

Spotlight on Volunteers..... 14

Help Line Report ..... 15

March Calendar ..... 16



It was wonderful to see so many people at the February meeting, many we had not seen for a while like Ann Hill.

March is a busy month for me in my yard, and we have many master gardener activities schedule, it is good to be busy. The weather has been unexpectedly beautiful, and it is a joy to walk around the garden every day and see the trees budding out and perennials starting to come back.

This month I will fertilize the roses and gardenias with Bayer Advanced for Roses which has a systemic protection against insects like white fly. Japanese Beetles, and aphids as well as feeding the plant. The other shrubs and perennials I just top dress with compost as they start to come up, and leaf out.

There are several activities the project committee is organizing in March for the learning gardens, Lanark, and crafts for the plant sale. Check for the exact dates on the newsletter calendar. Many of our activities will be to prepare for our plant sale on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Sandy Rosamond has found some outstanding garden art that we will need your help with, gathering materials and assembling them before the sale. Sandy is doing all the prep work on the crafts, and Johan is making all the boxes to bring on March 15<sup>th</sup> to decorate.

We are going to try something a little different this year, and buy plants from a nursery to resell. They have hanging baskets of flowers that will be perfect for Mother's Day, and help improve our visibility from the road. We are also going to buy flats of herbs and annuals to fill our wooden boxes we are making.

We circulated a signup sheet to give us an idea of what plants we will bring and what we might want to purchase. The categories are herbs, vegetables, perennials, shrubs, trees, house plants and succulents, and annuals. If you are going to bring plants, and did not get to sign the sheet please email me with your name, name of the plant and the approximate number.



CAMGA Garden Buzzzz  
Carol Pugh — Editor



pughdia@aces.edu  
334-567-6301

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



The plant sale is our major fundraiser of the year and is a lot of fun and a great way to get unusual plants, learn, and get to know other master gardeners. Contact Sherri Schaefer to volunteer for the pricing day on Friday April 27, and the sale on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Lee Ann Marona reviewed the library survey that was sent out in February. Forty-one people took the survey and the results were interesting to see what different people's interests were and how they used our library and other sources of information. We are also exploring the idea of a quarterly garden book, book club. If have suggestions and are interested contact Lee Ann, or Amanda Borden.

The 2018 directories are now available, and can be picked up in the master gardener room at the Extension office if you did not get yours at the meeting. Cathy Whigham did an outstanding job putting them together so we all thank her.

The picture this month is of a miniature garden in the papercrete pot I made at last summer's workshop. The small tree is a Dwarf Hinoki Cypress, put with a small house and stones for a walk way. The moss I collected from the yard to finish it off. Last year at the conference one of the presentations was on making miniature gardens, and I was inspired.



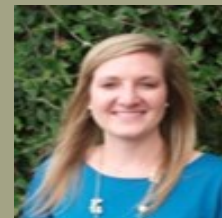
This year's conference is May 3<sup>rd</sup> thru the 5<sup>th</sup> in Birmingham. Information on presenters, and registration is in the state newsletter "Garden Pathways", which came out last month. If your garden needs inspiration, or you just want to spend a good time with other master gardens the conference will be an excellent experience.

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

## Message from Mallory

Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests



### Azaleas in the Landscape

If the warm snaps we have experienced lately have not already caused your azaleas to put out a few blooms, I think it is only a matter of time. Azaleas are a true sign of spring and a staple plant for the southern landscape with many different varieties and types.

The first southern hybrid azaleas were planted in Charleston, South Carolina in 1848. Today, azaleas can be found in every climatic region in the Eastern half of the United States and also in most of the Pacific Coast region. In Alabama, we have deciduous and evergreen varieties of azaleas. The native deciduous azaleas lose their leaves in the winter, but have very beautiful clusters of honeysuckle like flowers in early spring adding great flower color and texture to the landscape. More commonly seen in the landscapes are the evergreen azaleas that are available in many different varieties of size and flower color.

If you are thinking of adding azaleas to your landscape it is not too late to plant and both the native deciduous and evergreen are great choices for areas with filtered shade. Very heavy shade throughout the day may reduce flower production and result in weak growth. Azaleas do require some special treatment when it comes to soil conditions. Azaleas require an acid soil pH (around 5.5) to grow properly. Check the soil pH of your site before you plant azaleas.

The reason azaleas do better in slightly acid soil is because iron is more available to be taken up by the plants, which azaleas need. If the leaves of your azaleas have a yellow tint to them and the area between the veins is lighter in color than the darker green veins then the plants are not getting enough iron. Other causes of chlorosis (yellowing symptoms) in azaleas may also be attributed to poorly aerated soil, a heavy application of fertilizer, or roots that are heavily infested with nematodes or infected with root-rot disease organisms.

A big problem in azalea culture is over-fertilizing, especially with phosphorus. Too much fertilizer injures the plants and may even cause them to die. Be particularly careful with small plants using no more than 1 teaspoon of fertilizer at a time on plants less than 12 inches tall. For larger plants, use 1 heaping tablespoon per foot of height, scattering the fertilizer under the plant. It is best to split the recommended amount into two applications making a light application after blooming and another in July than to apply the yearly recommendation all at once.

The best way to avoid over-fertilizing your azaleas is to have your soil tested every 2 or 3 years and follow the recommendations. If you don't have a soil test, use an all-purpose fertilizer, such as 8-8-8 or 12-6-6. Some special azalea-camellia formulations are available and cater to the acid soil requirements of these plants.

In Alabama many azaleas begin to set flower buds in July. Therefore, pruning after early July may reduce the next year's flower production. The best time to prune is right after the flowering period in the spring before the new buds are set. Cut out the limbs that have grown out of the main body of the plant. Do not shear unless your intention is to create a formal hedge.

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



Serious pests of azaleas are spider mites and lace bugs. Spider mites are serious pests of many ornamentals such as roses, boxwoods, and azaleas. Adult spider mites vary in size and may be green, orange, red, brown, black, or a combination of these, but red is the most common. Spider mites puncture the tissue of leaves and flowers with needle-like mouthparts and suck juices from the plant. This destroys the chlorophyll around the puncture, giving the leaves and flowers a speckled appearance. As mites multiply, entire leaves become discolored and distorted and may drop off. These pests are very small and feed mainly on the underside of leaves. They often go unnoticed until plant damage is obvious.

Azalea lace bugs are very small insects with black bodies and colored or variegated lace-like wings. They also feed on the underside of leaves. The upper leaf surface opposite the feeding areas becomes speckled and the leaf looks light or bleached and eventually turns brown. Lace bugs give off large amounts of a dark almost black, sticky substance that you will find on the underside of leaves. Black raised bumps on the lower surface of the leaves is an obvious symptom of this insect.

Chemical control gives best results when used in the spring to control the spider mites and the first and second generations of Azalea lace bug. Products such as insecticidal soap, horticultural oil, neem oil, and most synthetic insecticides labeled for use on azaleas will provide control and often times multiple applications are necessary.



For optimal coverage be sure to direct the spray to the undersides of the leaves. Using a recommended systemic insecticide drench in spring could prove to be a season long remedy. Always maintaining a healthy plant with sufficient water and nutrients and planting in a shady area would be a good cultural practice to deter these damaging pest infestations.





## Reach for the Stars Awards

### Congratulations to the following individuals for receiving Master Gardener Star Awards:

**Bronze Star** -Amy Richardson; **Silver Star:** Leslie Bingham, Wanda Ivey, Bill Quailes, Sherron Schaefer, Robin Snyder, and Lee Ann Marona; **Gold Star:** Sandi Adkison, Sandy Rosamond, and Cathy Whigham.



Left to right: Debbie Hough, Chairman Reach for the Stars, Leslie Bingham, Robin Snyder, Sherron Schaefer, Lee Ann Marona and Bill Quailes.



Pictured left to right Debbie Hough, Chairman Reach for the Stars, Sandy Rosamond, and Cathy Whigham.



## CAMGA Minutes

February 2018

By: Mary Lou Mullins, Secretary

### February 20, 2018 CAMGA Meeting Minutes

**Welcome:** Rhona Watson (President), welcomed the 43 individuals attending, four of which were interns.

**Monthly Program:** Sandy Rosamond (Vice President and Programs Chairman), introduced our speaker Don Armstrong and his wife Glinda. His discussion "Plant Propagation Don's Way" provided members with new instruction, validation of existing practices along with plant specimens for members to take home.

#### **Business Meeting & Committee Reports:**

Rhona asked Debbie Hough (Chairman Reach for the Stars), to present the earned stars for volunteer hours for 2017. Congratulations to the following individuals: Bronze-Amy Richardson; Silver-Leslie Bingham, Wanda Ivey, Bill Quailes, Sherron Schaefer, Robin Snyder, Lee Ann Marona; Gold- Sandi Adkison, Sandy Rosamond, Cathy Whigham. Debbie reminded everyone to record their hours at least monthly. Instructions for recording them are in the Directory.

Cathy Whigham (Membership Care and Directory), under Ann Hill's tutorage, was applauded for her dedicated work on "The 2018 Membership Directory and Information Guide". The Directory will be made available online for those interested.

The December CAMGA Minutes and Treasurer's Report were approved. Bill Quailes (Treasurer), reported \$1213.09 in expenditures, \$32 in income with an end of January balance of \$8434.12.

Lee Ann Marona (Library Committee) presented last month's findings from the online Library Survey. From the forty-one responses, it was determined that CAMGA does indeed have a good and useful hard copy library. Barbara Wallace has overseen its care for more than a decade. Additional favorite books were suggested along with a request for a Gardening Book Club. Amanda Borden will look into its development. Everyone is encouraged to browse [CAMGA.net](http://CAMGA.net) which Lee Borden and Anita Wishnietsky constantly keep updated.

Sandy Rosamond discussed the April 28 CAMGA Spring Plant Sale. Sign-up sheets were distributed for volunteers to bring plants for sale and to work. Rhona said that the committee is looking to purchase wholesale plants that can be "dressed up" for sale. Sandy will be conducting a craft making day of containers and yard art on March 15 from 10AM-3PM. Members are asked to bring items that can be used. Mary Ann Hatcher (Helpline Chairman), stated that the Helpline will begin March 1. Interns will volunteer until June. Members will need to volunteer then.

**CAMGA Minutes (Continued)**  
**February 2018**  
**By: Mary Lou Mullins, Secretary**

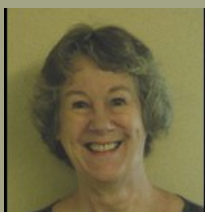


Mallory Kelly (Regional Extension Agent), showed the Helpline Table Runner that will be used as advertising at community events. Its purchase was approved at the Board Meeting. (**Motion:** Charlotte Hall). Candy Jones (Seconded), made a motion that \$75 be spent for the cloth table runner. (Approved.) Rhonda Miles (State Advisory Council) who attended the January State MG Meeting reminded everyone of the state conference in Birmingham, May 3-4. She stressed the need to share our monthly newsletter with the state office. She reported that [jima@alafarms.com](mailto:jima@alafarms.com) is a good place to advertise up-coming events online. Rhonda also shared the necessity of background checks for every volunteer and how other groups handle insurance for large events.

Rhona closed the program encouraging the following: Volunteerism at the Governor's Mansion immediately; participation in March 13 Lunch and Learn, "Gardening without Injury"; helping Maria at Lanark on April 4 Work Day and again on April 14 for Plant and Pollinators community event; and **START PREPARING FOR THE PLANT SALE!**

The meeting was adjourned. Our next meeting is March 20 at 10:00 a.m.

***Respectfully Submitted,***  
***Mary Lou Mullins, Secretary***



## Minutes from Projects Committee Meeting February 2018

Those present were Jane Mobley, Rhona Watson, John Butler, Judy May, Debbie Corn, Candy Jones and Terry Chambliss.

Projects for 2018 were discussed including the meeting day, work days in the spring and fall at the Governors' Mansion, Learning Gardens, Outdoor Classroom at WMS and Lanark; Crafts for plant sale, Plants and Pollinator Festival, Earth Day, Plant Swap and a project for fun.

The meeting day for the Project's Committee was changed to the second Tuesday of each month before Lunch & Learn at 10:30 a.m.

Spring schedule adopted:

February 26, 27, and 28— Governor's Mansion per Jane McCarthy

March 6—Middle School (pruning and clean up) from 10 a.m. — 12 noon

March 15—Crafting with Sandy Rosamond from 10 a.m. — 3:00 p.m. (pizza lunch provided)

March 22—Learning Gardens (pruning, weeding, constructing vertical elements) from 8 a.m. — 12 noon

April 4—Lanark (pruning, weeding, digging and potting plants for Festival)  
from 8:00 a.m. — 12 noon

April 14—Plants & Pollinator Festival at Lanark (manning informational table  
and seed planting with children) from 8-3 in two hour shifts.

April 21—Earth Day (public plant swap) from 8 a.m. — 11:00 a.m.

Fall activities including work days at the Governor's Mansion, Outdoor Classroom, Learning Gardens, Lanark, Plant swap and fun project to be scheduled at a later date.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Terry S. Chambliss*





## February 2018 Lunch & Learn

### By: Charlotte Hall

#### **“Backyard Bird Feeding and Bird Watching” Presented by: Tyson Farmer**

There seems to be a few subjects that always intrigues gardeners and information about attracting more birds to backyards is one of them. Birding is the most popular hobby in North America, second only to gardening.

For the February Lunch and Learn, Tyson Farmer informed those in attendance many facts concerning birds in our area. Tyson will be opening a Wild Birds Unlimited store in Montgomery next month in March. It is to be located across from the Eastchase Shopping Center where Whole Foods is now located. And as an extra bonus for everyone in attendance, a special 20% discount coupon was given that can be used in the new store.

People enjoy watching birds for many different reasons – sights, sounds, and for their delightful antics. It is also another way to replace their natural habitat that is being lost. This entertaining hobby is easy, inexpensive and it provides an opportunity to learn and share with friends much time and joy.

Probably one of the easiest ways to attract birds is to put up a bird feeder. There are many types of different bird feeders and choosing the perfect one can be more difficult than you might expect. Among the many types of different feeders are tube feeders, thistle or nyjer feeders, clinging feeders, hopper feeders (those that look like a house), window feeders, suet feeders, tray or platform feeders, nectar feeders, hummingbird feeders and the ever-illusive squirrel resistant feeders.

Different birds prefer different types of feeders. The ideal feeder is sturdy enough to withstand winter weather and squirrels, tight enough to keep seeds dry, easy to assemble, and easy to keep clean. To attract the greatest variety of birds, incorporate different types of feeders as some species of birds are more likely to use one kind of feeder over another.

Trays attract the widest variety of seed-eating birds. However, they offer no protection from the rain and seeds may become wet enough to sprout if there is not sufficient drainage. Wet seeds may also foster fungal and bacterial growth. Bird droppings can quickly soil the seed in tray feeders. The best tray feeders have a screened bottom which insures complete drainage.



**Tyson Farmer from Wild Birds Unlimited presented the Backyard Bird Feeding & Bird Watching program for the February 2018 Lunch and Learn.**

## February Lunch & Learn (Continued) By: Charlotte Hall

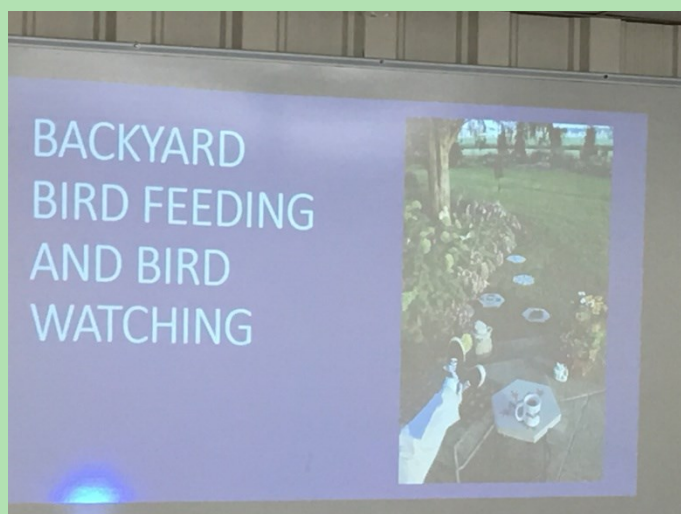


Hopper feeders are attractive to most feeder birds including finches, jays, cardinals, buntings, grosbeaks, sparrows, and chickadees but also very attractive to squirrels. Squirrel baffles are used to discourage squirrel takeover.

Hollow tubes keep seed fairly clean and dry. These feeders attract small birds such as sparrow, grosbeaks, chickadees, titmice, finches and goldfinches. Some of the tube feeders are designed for birds that can feed upside down.

In order to attract birds, it is best to provide both food and water, cover and a safe place to raise their young. Birds must have water as they use it both for drinking and bathing. You can also provide them with shelter from predators by planting regionally native plants. Allow dead trees to remain in your yard. Also provide a nest box.

Please join us on March 13<sup>th</sup>, the second Tuesday in March, at noon to enjoy a presentation by Don Graham, retired physical therapist who will give us hints on gardening without injuring ourselves. Remember that drinks will be furnished. See you then.



### **“Backyard Bird Feeding and Bird Watching” Program**





## Governor's Mansion Report February 2018 By: Amanda Borden



During the month of February, regular volunteers at the Governor's Mansion weeded and lightly trimmed shrubs along the route between the rolling gate and the Hill House gate. They trimmed and weeded in the herb garden, outside the front gate, and in the front yard. "Then on February 26-28, a larger group of workers reported for "Work Week."

Master Gardeners who volunteered during the month of February at the Mansion are:

Barry, Melanie  
Borden, Amanda  
Chambliss, Terry  
Clark, Joan  
Cook, Cheri  
Eads, Melanie  
Edwards, Lynda  
French, Charlie  
French, Mattie  
Hall, Charlotte  
Harrel, Emmi  
Jones, Candy  
Ludington, Allyson  
May, Judy  
McCandless, Sherri  
McCarthy, Jane  
McCoy, Ofie  
McCoy, Tim  
Mobley, Jane  
Montgomery, Barbara  
Owens, Dian  
Pruitt, Virginia  
Quinn, Kathy  
Salyer, Cynthia  
Schaefer, Sherri  
Smith, Fran  
Smyth, Jean  
Tatum, Lanell  
Wallace, Barbara  
Wood, Kim



Six Master Gardener volunteers removed the roses on 'Monday, February 26 due to weed issues

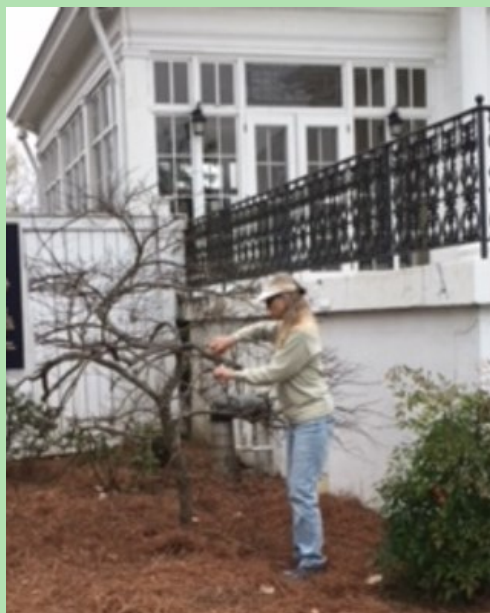


On Tuesday, February 27, twelve Master Gardeners pruned the 35 roses across the front of the mansion.





## Governor's Mansion Report Continued — February 2018 By: Amanda Borden



On Wednesday, February 28th, eight volunteers pruned the Japanese maple, relocated azaleas to the Serenity Garden, and Candy Jones and Joan Clark renewal pruned the front yard abellias and survived.



Jane McCarthy, Melanie Barry, and Kathy Quinn weeded and trimmed in the front yard





## Governor's Mansion Report Continued —February 2018 By: Amanda Borden



Rose Pruners: Seated in front: Lynda Edwards, Row 1 (L-R): Dian Owens, Virginia Pruitt, Row 2 (L-R): Lanell Tatum, Cheri Cook, Charlotte Hall, Melanie Eads, Kim Cook, Cindy Salyer



(L-R): Lynda Edwards, Jane McCarthy, Candy Jones, Joan Clark

## **SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS**

### **February 2018**

**By: Judy May**



Attending the Projects Committee meeting February 12 were Terry Chambliss, Rhona Watson, Jane Mobley, Candy Jones, Debbie Corn, John Butler and Judy May.

The Lunch and Learn Program this month was Backyard Birding presented by Tyson Farmer who will be opening a new Out Doors Unlimited in Montgomery. There were 46 attendees, 33 of them Master Gardeners. Assisting were Sandi Adkison, Charlotte Hall, Bill Quailes and Cathy Whigham.

Members who brought food to the Master Gardener monthly meeting this month were Robin Snyder, Marie Updike, Terry Chambliss, Charlotte Hall, Jane Mobley, Barbara Wallace, Johan Beumer, Sheila Pearson, Mary McCroan, Carolyn Placeway, Bonnie McCormick and Judy May.

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

Working with Maria at Lanark this month were interns Sue Brasel, Betty Plaster, Dee Ann Turberville, Cheryl Fitzpatrick and Master Gardeners: Carla McCune, Leslie Bingham, Peggy Gelpi, Don Hoover, Norman Turnipseed and Sheila Pearson.

Maria says we have been working on clearing out areas with azaleas and camellias that she has been unable to get to and clean out, fertilizing daffodils, cleaning out the hydrangeas, preparing pots for planting, cutting back and rooting roses, collecting baby plants and pruning where needed.

Norman is helping me with a special project rebuilding one of the boxes in the Heirloom garden and mending an arch that a tree fell on.

Thank all of you for all your help- I couldn't do it without your dedication and love of working hard!

Please call me at 334-657-9414 if you want to help out. Our usual work day is Wednesday, but call me if you want to come another day instead. I promise I'll find you a job!

# Helpline Report

## By: Mary Ann Hatcher

Spring seems to have arrived early, just in time for the Helpline to assist with garden concerns.

The Helpline begins March 1<sup>st</sup> and ends August 30<sup>th</sup>.

Working the Helpline for the month of March are these Interns: Linda Jarzyniecki, Cheryl Fitzgerald, Cecelia Ball, Allyson Andrews, Dee Turberville, Melanie Eads, Joan Clark, and Elizabeth Barber.

Ricky Hatcher is a Master Gardener working the Helpline.

Advisors are Cindy Beumer and Mary Ann Hatcher. Our Appointment Reminder is Sharon Potts.



# Calendar of Events

## March 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



				1 Work Day Elmore Co. Extension Office Learning Gardens 8 a.m.	2	3
4	5 Governor's Mansion Work Day 9 a.m. to 12 Noon	6	7 Lanark Workday 8 a.m. to 12 noon	8 Work Day Elmore Co. Extension Office Learning Gardens 8 a.m.	9	10
11 Daylight Savings Time	12 Governor's Mansion Work Day 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.	13 Lunch & Learn 12 noon to 1 p.m. Elmore Co. Ext. Auditorium	14 Lanark Workday 8 a.m. to 12 noon	15 Work Day Elmore Co. Extension Office Learning Gardens 8 a.m.	16	17
18	19 Governor's Mansion Work Day 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.	20 CAMGA Meeting 10 a.m. to 12 noon Elmore County Extension Office	21 Lanark Workday 8 a.m. to 12 noon First Day of Spring	22 Work Day Elmore Co. Extension Office Learning Gardens 8 a.m.	23	24
25	26 Governor's Mansion Work Day 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.	27	28 Lanark Workday 8 a.m. to 12 noon	29 Work Day Elmore Co. Extension Office Learning Gardens 8 a.m.	30	31