



GARDEN BUZZZZZ



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Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

June 2018

Message from:

Rhona Watson

CAMGA President



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June is a fun month in the garden for me. All the hard work of planting and mulching is done, so I can just enjoy watching everything grow and flower. I just do some pruning, dead heading, and fertilizing to keep every plant whether in the ground or in a container flourishing.

The tomatoes and containers each get fertilized every two weeks. There are already tomatoes and peppers on my plants, can't wait for my first vegetable of the summer.

I loved having the tour of my garden last month. It is a pleasure to show it to master gardeners who appreciate the diversity of plants, creativity, and hard work that goes into it. Thanks to Sandy Rosamond for organizing the tour. Let us know if you would be interested in doing something similar in the future.

The plant sale was a big success over \$300 more than last year. We made \$2500 after we paid all expenses. Sherri Schaefer did a wonderful job organizing all the volunteers and making sure all the supplies we needed were on hand. We couldn't do it without everyone who brought plants, and worked on pricing and the day of the sale.

Thank you to Sandy Rosamond for all her ideas, and heading up the workdays for all the planters and bird feeders. The planters from fence boards, filled with flowers that we purchased were charming thanks to Johan Beumer who put them together with his usual precision. It was a pleasure to present Sandy a Japanese maple and Sherri a purple pineapple Lily to remind them of their part in the fun and success we had.

It was wonderful to spend time with the master gardeners from our group and across the state, at the Conference.

The highlight for me was when Mallory was presented with the Gary Murray Outstanding Service and Dedication Award.

She deserved it for all the work she does with the intern class, workshops, advanced master gardener program, and all the numerous other things she does for us and the counties she is assigned. We love you Mallory.

CAMGA Garden Buzzzz

Carol Pugh — Editor

pughdia@aces.edu

334-567-6301



Message from: Rhona Watson
CAMGA President — (Continued)



Gold and platinum badges were handed out in the State business meeting. Maria Pacheco and I were in the same intern class, she got a platinum badge and I finally got my gold one, and we are still friends. Congratulations to Bonnie McCormick for her Platinum, and Marie Updike, and Carla McCune for their gold.

Maria Pacheco, Jane Mobley, and Mary McCroan, are working on planting a rose bush at Lanark in remembrance of Linda Griebel. She was an integral part of, CMGA for the last 12 years in the garden, a champion in propagating plants for the plant sale, one of the first Advanced Master Gardeners, and president for 3 years. Thank you to Mary McCroan for putting together an article about her for the newsletter. We will all miss her.



The picture this month is of the hanging basket in front of my greenhouse. The hydrangea is “Sara” that I propagated from the one in my yard. I had a small hydrangea three years ago, I had no place for so decided to try it in the hanging pot, where it thrived. Frequently the ideas that are just by chance are the best.

The purple plant is Million Bells, and the yellow plants on the side are torenia. I encourage you to do something different in your garden this year.

YOUR FAVORITE GARDEN SHOULD BE YOUR OWN

Rhona

Message from Mallory

Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests



“Have you Seen Um?”

If you are into camping, fishing, gardening, or really just hanging out on your patio grilling you may have come in contact with biting midges or what many people call “no-see-ums.” They are especially bad early in the morning and late in the afternoon, but can also be present at any time of day when it is cloudy and no breeze.

They get the name “no-see-ums” due to their tiny size and go unnoticed until you feel their painful bite. They are barely visible to the naked eye so many times people don’t know what is biting them. Males and females feed on nectar, but the females require blood for their eggs to mature. The females will blood-feed primarily around dawn and dusk; however, there are some species that prefer to feed during the day. The larvae cannot develop without moisture, but do not require standing water as they can develop in soil as long as it stays moist. In the U.S., the biting midges are primarily a nuisance and the major medical issue associated with *Culicoides* is allergic reactions to the bites. However, in some countries they do vector diseases.

Insecticide applications targeting the adult stage are not efficient. While this type of application may kill biting midges active one night, they are continually dispersing from the larval habitat and entering areas of human activity. It would require insecticide applications on a daily basis in some areas, and this is not efficient or environmentally sound. Many government agencies that provide mosquito control services receive complaints about biting midges. However, most of the programs are not mandated or allowed to respond by providing control measures.

Homeowners can install proper screening for windows and patios to prevent no-see-ums from entering areas used for leisure and entertaining. Most biting midges can pass through 16-mesh insect wire screen and netting, so a smaller mesh size is required. The small mesh size does limit air flow through the screens. In addition, because no-see-ums are so small and are weak fliers, ceiling and window fans can be used at high speeds to keep no-see-ums out of small areas.

Repellents containing DEET for mosquito repellents are also labeled for use against no-see-ums and can decrease your exposure to the painful insect. It is important that the directions for application that are printed on the label are followed for any product used as a repellent.



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



Congratulations Mallory for receiving the **Gary Murray Outstanding Service and Dedication Award** at the 2018 State Master Gardener Annual Conference! We appreciate everything that you do!!



Learning Gardens Report for May 2018

By: Mary McCroan

Spring is a busy time of year for all gardeners and the Learning Garden has been hopping.

Things that we've done in the last couple of months:

- Big time weeding was done by the whole team and things are just about under control.
- We've added a new double high raised bed for more herbs.
- We replaced a rotting 7x3 raised bed (not made with treated wood) with a larger 8x4 bed that is made with 2x12s treated with micronized copper that does not leach into beds or cause any health problems.
- Bill Quails and Carolyn Placeway designed a wonderful vertical element for this bed. The bed was filled with wood at the lower levels (a hugelkulture concept) and topped with soil and compost.
- Carolyn has the bed planted with a great assortment of veggies and herbs.
- Amanda Borden and Bill added a small vertical component to one of the raised beds near the rain garden.
- Candy Jones headed up a complete rework of the herb bed near the kitchen building. Her team removed the old plantings, refilled the raised stone bed with soil and compost, and then replanted the bed with an increased variety of kitchen and ornamental herbs.
- The team refilled assorted other beds whose soil levels had shrunk.
- Katrina is experimenting with "Baby Pool Gardens",
- Mary McCroan has been tweaking the irrigation system. One valve has been added so that an existing zone that was overworked can be divided into two zones. And one faucet was moved underground.
- Mary expects to discuss funding to move the four other faucets underground. This will allow use of the irrigation system for most of the year with little or no need to shut it off for freezing weather. In addition the water feature will be able to run for most or all of the year if freezing faucets are no longer an issue.





Learning Gardens Report (Continued)

By: Mary McCroan

Butterfly Garden



- Jane Mobley continues to improve the Butterfly Garden with new perennials
- Virginia Pruitt, John Barnes, and Terry Chambliss are transitioning winter bed to spring/summer plants
- Everybody helped with getting the “in ground” section of the garden ready for a summer of squash. Amanda headed up the plan and seed planting.

I've included pictures of all of the above.

And by-the-way, the blueberries are starting to mature--feel free to stop by and have a handful or two.

And my last thought--on the left side of the ornamental beds in front of the Extension there are two large, four foot tall weed looking plants. I've let them grow out of an abundance of curiosity. If anybody knows what they are, let me know!



New Raised Bed



Hugelculture in new bed





CAMGA Minutes

May 2018

By: Mary Lou Mullins, Secretary

Welcome Rhona Watson (President) welcomed the twenty-seven members and five interns present. Rhona thanked our presenter for bringing so many bonsai plants to share with the CAMGA members.

Monthly Program Sandy Rosamond (Vice President and Programs Chairman) introduced our speaker, Mark Waldo, who presented "An Introduction to Bonsai". An Episcopal priest from Coosada, Mr. Waldo considers bonsai a "Gift from God that is a kind of evangelism; co-creating beauty with God."

Business Meeting & Committee Reports

Rhona opened the meeting requesting approval of the April CAMGA Minutes. Bill Quailes (Treasurer) stated the income of \$22(ordinary income) and \$3,306(from the Plant Sale) totaling \$3,328 for the month. The expenditures were \$3,015.92. (This amount includes the \$1,000 AU scholarship donation.) A balance of \$8,329.53 remains. Both reports were approved. Note: All proceeds from the Plant Sale and Herb Day aren't in yet.

Rick Olson has donated a Gilmour Pull-Behind Sprayer to CAMGA to be sold with the organization keeping the profits.

Jane McCarthy took leftover plants and art work to The Herb Day Sale. She split the profits with the Herb Society and CAMGA creating a profit of \$92.15 for CAMGA.

MOTION (Sherri Schaefer/ Sandy Adkison 2nd -Approved by the CAMGA Board). The amount of \$200 will be spent on new water hoses and a rolling hose caddy for the Learning Gardens.

Rhona extended special recognition for work on the 2018 Plant Sale to Sandy Rosamond (Artwork Coordinator) who received a blood good Japanese maple, and to Sherri Schaefer(Plant Sale Chairman) who received a pineapple lily. More than \$350 was made this year than last.

Rhona said this year's State Master's Gardeners Conference was a success. Next year's will be in Clanton. Award badges were presented to the following members as recognition for their CAMGA Hours: Gold Badges- Ronald Arceneaux, Carla McCune, Rhona Watson; Platinum Badges-Bonnie McCormick, Maria Pacheco-West. Congratulations!

Amanda Borden who serves on the Montgomery Botanical Gardens Board asked for help at Oak Park on May 17 beginning at 8 a.m. Bring tools, sunscreen and bug repellent.



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



Lee Ann Marona (Library Committee) has been assessing, with the CAMGA members' help, the needs of our library. She asked for suggestions as she rearranges categories and makes changes. Lee Ann requests that the membership help her select ten books from a list of 32 suggested ones. Vote for your favorite books!

Discussion within the Board Meeting concerning next year's Plant Sale was shared with the membership.

- 1) Have the sale the beginning of the month. Sherri and Alyson will work to arrange this for May 4, 2019.
- 2) Start in the Fall making announcements about members preparing for the Spring sale.
- 3) Encourage members to bring more established plants that haven't just been repotted.
- 4) Seek to set-up as much as possible the day before the sale.
- 5) The church has agreed that we can do pricing at the church the day before so transporting plants from the Extension Office will no longer be a concern.

Intern Graduation will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Wetumpka on August 21, at 10 a.m. Robin Snyder (Hospitality Committee) will request members to sign-up to bring food to be added to the chicken fingers that Mallory Kelley will provide. Mallory will also take care of the certificates for the graduates. Charlotte Hall will coordinate the table decorations. The fulfillment of all interns' obligations regarding work with the HELPLINE was discussed along with retention of graduates in future years as CAMGA members.

Information concerning the May 22 Garden Tour was distributed. Three CAMGA members are opening their gardens for view. (Mary McCroan's- 9 a.m. , Rhona Watson's- 10 a.m. and Freda Frye's- 11 a.m.) Meet to carpool from the Extension Office at 8:30.

Sandy Rosamond reminded everyone of next month's program on June 19. Janell Diggs will present "Herbs in Cooking". Charlotte Hall said June's Lunch and Learn on June 12 will be "Landscape Design" with Rip Weaver.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Lou Mullins, Secretary

(Secretary's Note: My thanks to Dee Tuberville for taking the minutes in my absence!)



Governor's Mansion Report May 2018 By: Amanda Borden



May was a productive month for garden volunteers at the Governor's Mansion. They weeded, watered, and put down fresh pine straw in the Herb Garden, weeded and trimmed azaleas, forsythias, camellias, and nandina between the office parking lot and the porte-cochere, and pruned and limbed up camellias that were leaning out into the driveway. Trimming continued with the back porch camellia hedge, which the volunteers leveled with thinning cuts.

In the Secret Garden they weeded, removed dead wood in the hydrangeas and azaleas, and limbed up three Sasanqua camellia shrubs to create a more natural tree form. In and around the Serenity Garden they weeded, planted new seedlings, watered, removed suckers from the crepe myrtles, trimmed chrysanthemums, and relocated six 'Green Giant' arborvitaes to an area near the tennis court where they would be in afternoon shade and closer to a water source.

Camellia after limbing up



**Mirenda Tatum and Sandy Rosamond
prune a Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow
plant in the Herb Garden**



**Jane McCarthy begins the process of limbing up
a camellia in the Secret Garden**

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

May 2018
By: Judy May



The Program for the May 8 Lunch and Learn was Herbal Teas by Debbie Boutelier. There were 28 in attendance, 22 of them Master Gardeners. Assisting were Sandi Adkison, Bill Quailes and Carla McCune.

Members who brought refreshments to the monthly meeting were Robin Snyder, Carolyn Placeway, Freda Frye, Carol Rattan, Marie Updike and Betty Plaster.

Candy says from the Advanced Master Gardener Committee, members Amanda Borden, Candy Jones, Jane Mobley and Maria Pacheco-West reviewed applications from candidates to the program. Jane Mobley and Candy Jones led the Advanced Master Gardener round table discussion at the AMGA Conference, and Debbie Boutelier and Judy May submitted applications to the program.

Maria says the interns who helped her this month were Betty Plaster, Cheryl Fitzgerald, Sue Brasel, Sharon Kochik and Cecelia Ball. Master Gardeners helping were Leslie Bingham, Carla McCune, Norman Turnipseed and Judy May. I appreciate everyone! Thank you!

Attending the State Conference in Birmingham this year were Rhona Watson, Candy Jones, Sandy Rosamond, Rhonda and Jesse Miles, Jane Mobley, Robin Snyder, Lee Ann Marona, Amy Richardson, Terry Chambliss, Mary Long, Jane McCarthy, Rose McCauley, Carol Rattan, Paula Seamon, and Janice Jackson.

Helpline volunteers for the month of May were Sheila Radford, Sabrina Comer, Carolyn Placeway, Andy Hayes, Cheryl Fitzgerald, Ricky Hatcher, Sharon Kochik, Linda Anderson, Cathy Whigham, Cindy Beumer, Sharon Potts and Mary Ann Hatcher.



Helpline Report

By: Mary Ann Hatcher

The Helpline has provided information to clients this month from our very capable interns and MGs.

Volunteering this month were: Sheila Radford, Cheryl Fitzgerald, Sabrina Comer, Carolyn Placeway, Andy Hayes, Sharon Kochik, Linda Anderson, and Ricky Hatcher. Cathy Whigham, Cindy Beumer and Mary Ann Hatcher served as Advisors with Sharon Potts as Appointment Reminder



Cheryl Fitzgerald and Ricky Hatcher assist clients with information .



CAMGA Library News and Budget Report

By: Lee Ann Marona

Thank you to the forty-one people who participated in the Library Survey back in January and to the twenty-three of you who voted in the recent Book Purchase Survey. The votes have been tallied and the books you selected have been ordered. Below is the breakdown of how the \$300 budget for January-June was spent: twenty-three books from recent survey, one book requested by Help Line, and one book purchased from our April speaker.

These books will hopefully be processed and ready for check out in time for our June CAMGA meeting. If you don't see a title you voted for or suggested, it has been saved for purchase hopefully in the second half of 2018. *Please note that there are three titles listed at the bottom of the table that received votes but were, at time of order, unavailable at affordable prices, and I will continue watching for better prices.

Also, Butterflies of Alabama, U of Alabama Press, was generously donated to our collection. A few other books have recently been anonymously donated and added to our collection. I will try to feature some of those titles, along with some of these, in a future newsletter. Thank you!

Title	Author	Cost	Rank	Votes
Organic Gardener's Handbook of Natural Pest...	Bradley	\$15.44	1	15
Proven Plants Southern Gardens	Glasener	\$6.38	2	14
100 Plants to Feed the Bees	Xerces	\$10.24	3	11
The Complete Guide to Saving Seeds	Gough	\$19.69	3	11
The Ever-Blooming Flower Garden	Schneller	\$13.99	4	10
Butterflies of Alabama	Ogard	Donated	5	9
Natural Companions	Druse	\$18.36	5	9
Container Theme Gardens	Ondra	\$6.80	6	7
Easy Container Gardens	Crawford	\$7.49	6	7
Grumpy Gardener: An A to Z Guide...	Bender	\$16.95	6	7
Easy Container Combos: Vegetables & Flowers	Crawford	\$6.33	7	6
Grow a Little Fruit Tree...Small-Space, Easy Harvest	Ralph	\$7.87	7	6
How Not to Kill Your Houseplant	Peerless	\$12.94	7	6
Slow Gardening: No-Stress Philosophy	Rushing	\$9.76	7	6
Fairy Garden Handbook	Walsh	\$10.17	8	5
Small-Space Vegetable Gardens	Bellamy	\$7.46	8	5
Southern Garden Handbook	Marden	\$4.78	8	5
Miniature Gardens	Peters	\$8.48	9	4
Alabama & Mississippi Garden Guide	Rushing	\$6.28	9	4
Complete Houseplant Survival Manual	Pleasant	\$11.90	10	3
Dragonflies & Damselflies of ... the Southeast	Beaton	\$10.53	10	3
AHS Gardens Across America East of the Mississippi	Russell	\$5.97	11	2
Start a Community Food Garden	Joy	\$12.98	11	2
Weeds of the South - Helpline	Bryson	\$38.42		
Stacy Lyn's Harvest Cookbook – April speaker	Harris	\$25.00		
Tax		\$4.88		
		\$299.09		

On the wait list: Espalier Fruit Trees – 5 votes, Well-Tended Perennial Garden – 4 votes, Rescuing Eden: Preserving America's Historic Gardens – 3 votes

Calendar of Events

June 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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

With Deepest Sympathy

It is with deep sadness that we learn the passing of our friend and fellow Master Gardener, Linda Griebel. Linda passed away Friday, May 18, 2018. Linda was an outstanding leader, mentor and inspiration to us all. She was a member of the 2005 Master Gardener Class.

The following is a tribute to Linda for her friendship and wonderful leadership of the Central Alabama Master Gardener Association. We will all miss her.

Article submitted by Mary McCroan:

"It's hard for me to put words on paper how I feel about us losing Linda. I've heard that she fought hard to beat a disease that had the upper hand from the beginning. I'm sorry that she is not part of my life in the gardens anymore. I'm glad that she is now at peace.

I remember all the contributions that she made to many CAMGA projects. When I work in the gardens at the Extension Center she is all around. She planted many of the plants in all of our gardens.

In particular I think of her when I look at the roses, the Hot Lips Sage, the clematis that came from Fred and that she carefully nurtured in his memory, and the Pineapple Guava shrubs.

I think of her whenever I do a presentation on pruning and recall that she, Jane and I were the "Three Musketeers" of pruning presentations.

I find comfort in the thought that gardeners live on in the gardens they have created. I wanted to share some pictures that make me smile."



Hypertufa
2009



Linda's
monster 2013
Hot Lips
Sage



Pruning class 2014



Linda working on
the rain garden
2009



Linda's Rose

Thank Your CAMGA “Stars”

By: Mary Lou Mullins

CAMGA “Stars” abound here in Elmore County. You know who they are... our teachers and mentors. They possess amazing green thumbs, stubborn patience, and a willingness to share what they know with the newcomers, us— the interns.

They share their insights and experience freely. There is no money to be made; no frequent weed-pullers points to cash in. These “Stars” do it because they can’t help but share their love of gardening.

Our “Stars” learned our names and put smiley faces on our test papers. No questions we asked were too silly to answer. They showed us how to overcome difficulties. With their guidance we could do amazing things for ourselves, others and our community. We worked in awe alongside them as they demonstrated tasks we thought ourselves impossible of doing.

The Interns of 2018 have their own heroes. There have been many “Stars” since I graduated a decade ago.

Recently I realized that I have never properly thanked mine. I guess I thought they would somehow know by the look of admiration on my face.

Bob and Becky Brown, Jane Mobley, Mary McCroan, and Linda Griebel were my CAMGA “Stars”. I am grateful to each one. They each brought special talents that provided a sound base of instruction and feeling of family.

With Linda’s recent death, I regret that I never truly told her how grateful I was for all her talents and the abundant time she shared.

I do appreciate everyone who works to make our Master Gardener program a success over all the years. Thanks to you, it is a flourishing family of diverse talents and personalities. Our lives are richer and fuller because of our shared CAMGA experiences.



Thank you to you all. And thank you, Linda.

Article submitted by: Mary Lou Mullins