



GARDEN BUZZZZZ



Volume 27 Issue 7

Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

July 2018

Message from:

Rhona Watson

CAMGA President



Elmore County is beautiful in July with all the Crape Myrtles that are blooming. They are everywhere and no matter how they were pruned they are gorgeous. I have several that are over 20 years old, lining my drive way, along the back fence, and a huge one next to the patio that are putting on an impressive display with their blooms and defoliating bark.

I am also starting to enjoy my first tomatoes and peppers. There is nothing better than a sandwich made from a tomato that was just picked. So far the tomatoes are even pretty, no cracks or brown spots, and the dogs

are doing their job chasing away the birds.

It is still weed and water month so I try to get out early before it gets unbearably hot, that would be around 10. I enjoy starting my days touring the garden, watering all my containers and bonsai, and seeing what plants are putting on the best show that day. It is also nice when there is a good rain and I get a day off. No matter how much plants are watered they never look as good as when it has rained.

The Lunch and Learn committee continues to have outstanding speakers. June was Rip Weaver the director of Aldridge Gardens talking about Landscape design. His talk was very interesting focusing more on how to enhance the architecture of a house with trees and shrubs, instead of just using foundation plantings. Made sense to me so I came home and looked at my house, and the neighbors houses with a different perspective. I still like mine the best so that hasn't changed.

Gennell Diggs did a good overview on herbs, and their usages. It is great to hear master gardeners from different groups talk about their expertise. The advanced master gardener program is available to anyone who would like to improve their knowledge on a gardening related passion and share it with others. Contact Candy Jones if you are interested and she will give you more information.

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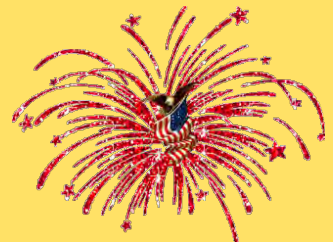
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CAMGA Garden Buzzzzz

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Message from: Rhona Watson
CAMGA President — (Continued)



There are two pictures this month. Both are by my front door, and I couldn't decide between them. The first is in a container I bought for \$8.00, it was originally priced at \$49, but the nursery reduced the price so I couldn't resist. It is planted with a hosta and torenia, which are doing well, even though they both get more sun then is optimum.

The second container is an urn planted with marigolds, purple million bells, and a Persian Shield. The Persian Shield is a tender perennial in our area and will come back with some protection when it is below 30 degrees. It will grow to 3 feet tall in the right conditions.



Hope everyone has a great 4th of July! Be careful of the heat when you work or play.

YOUR FAVORITE GARDEN SHOULD BE YOUR OWN

Rhona

Message from Mallory

Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests



Does the idea of fresh fruit right out your backdoor sound appealing? There are many different fruits we can grow in Central Alabama that can provide fresh fruits almost year round. Starting with strawberries in the early spring to blueberries all summer long, then comes fig and pomegranate with oriental persimmon and citrus in the fall. And the best part of all, all of these I mentioned are very easy to grow with very little care and maintenance and very few insect and disease pests. In addition, for each of them you could have just one. They are all self-fertile and will produce fruit without another plant or variety to cross-pollinate with.

But first, let's talk about the requirements of all fruits. They all need full sun, which is six or more hours of direct sunlight a day. Also, think about your water source as the plant will need plenty of water to produce the fruit. Then decide what varieties of the plant are best suited for your area.

Let's start with the strawberry. Plant varieties such as Cardinal, Camarosa and Chandler for central Alabama in September and October. These plants will grow through the fall and winter and be ready to produce big delicious berries for you in the spring. Then the plants will produce runners which can be harvested. It is best to get rid of the plant that produced in the spring and replant with the runners to continue to have strawberries year after year. To reduce disease incidence move to a new area of the garden or a new raised bed each year.

Blueberries are another great addition to the backyard orchard that require very little maintenance and in addition to fruit offer good fall color. The plants do not require much pruning, but when long shoots begin to form, prune them to create more branching. The more branches you have the more fruit it will produce. Blueberries also require acid soil so be sure to soil test. Amend with compost and peat moss and fertilize with an azalea camellia fertilizer in the early spring and again right after most all the berries are harvested to promote more new growth in the late summer and early fall. In addition, plant different varieties of 'Rabbiteye' blueberries to extend your season so all your berries are not ready at the same time with examples: 'Climax' (early), 'TifBlue' (Mid), 'Baldwin' (Late).

Fig is a great tree for the backyard orchard and can get really large over time. With proper pruning figs can be kept to a more compact tree where the fruit is easily accessible without a ladder. Again, prune the long shoots so you get more branches as that will produce more fruit. Plant fig trees on the south side of a building when possible to provide winter protection for their thin bark. The problem most homeowners have with figs is not a disease or insect, but competition with the birds. Hanging metallic streamers in the branches has shown to be the best defense. Plant varieties such as 'Celeste', 'Brown Turkey', and 'LSU Gold' just to name a few.



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

Pomegranate is a great shrub to add to the landscape and for central Alabama 'Wonderful' is the variety of choice. The production of fruit can be lacking for many years on the pomegranate and we still do not have answers as to why. The shrub will produce lots of beautiful red flowers and a handful of those will make a fruit after a few years in the ground, but with very little insect and disease issues and no pruning required, that makes this fruit producing shrub a good one for the orchard.

Oriental or Asian persimmon is not the persimmon you may think of that grows native in the woods. This is a small or medium size tree with a very attractive growing habit to make a great specimen tree in the landscape. In the late fall the fruit can range from small to medium-large, depending on variety, and can be cone-shaped or round like a tomato (photo 2). Ripe fruit tends to have very few seeds and most can be eaten fresh even when firm, without the pucker you get from our native persimmon. The fruit looks like orange Christmas balls on the tree around mid-November and must be harvested with a pair of pruners. Good varieties for Alabama are 'Fuyu' and 'Jiro.'

Lastly, citrus has become a very popular plant among homeowners in the last few years. While growing in a container is preferred so it can be moved for protection in the winter, you can put it in the ground if you can cover and provide heat when the temperatures get in the low 20's. While the plants need very little pruning and few insect and disease issues, the cold is the biggest issue to battle, but the fragrant blooms they produce almost year round make them a winner in the backyard orchard. Satsumas such as 'Owari' are the most cold hardy, but 'Meyer' Lemon is still most popular. Both Satsumas and Lemons will produce wonderful fruit just in time for Christmas.

Try adding just one or two of these fruits to your landscape or start a backyard orchard. It can be simple with just the right selection and good growing conditions your sure to have success with these easy to grow fruits.



The first blueberries to form each year are your biggest and best tasting.



An Oriental Persimmon ripening on the tree.



CAMGA Minutes

June 2018

By: Mary Lou Mullins, Secretary

Welcome Rhona Watson (President) welcomed the 45 members and 5 interns present. Rhona extended the invitation along with Jane Mobley for all interested members to attend Linda Griebel's Memorial Service on June 27, 10:00 at Lanark. Johann Beumer will construct a bench to be placed in the gardens there by a memorial marker that Jane is having made. Linda's favorite rose bush will be planted. Rhona presented Carla McCune with her Gold MG Badge. Congratulations!

Monthly Program Sandy Rosamond (Vice President and Programs Chairman) introduced our speaker, Janell Diggs. She presented a program on growing herbs and using them. Janell, a Master Gardener herself, shared the medicinal, aromatic, culinary, and beautification properties of herbs.

Business Meeting & Committee Reports

Rhona opened the meeting requesting approval of the May CAMGA Minutes. Bill Quails (Treasurer) stated the income of \$153.23. The expenditures were \$423.83. A balance of \$8,083.95 remains. Both reports were approved. Charlotte Hall sent Trinity Episcopal Church a thank you note for the use of their parking lot for the Plant Sale along with a \$100 donation from CAMGA.

MOTION: Jane Mobley (Bill Quails 2nd) requested the Board approve \$60 for materials for the bench Johann is constructing. Approved. **MOTION:** Rhona Watson (Charlotte Hall 2nd) made a motion that the \$100 requested by Lee Ann Moran for library purchases be approved. Approved.

Sandy Rosamond thanked Mary McCroan, Rhona Watson, and Freda Frye for sharing their gardens with everyone. The Gardens Tour was a huge success. Sandy reminded everyone of next month's program and brief meeting on July 17 at the George Family Organic Beef farm at 10760 Georgia Road, Eclectic. Anyone wanting to carpool from the Extension Office should arrive by 9:15. Everyone is encouraged to bring a folding chair and wear walking shoes. Items will be available for sale.

Mary McCroan said that additional items had been placed in the work shed. Due to limited space unnecessary items need to be removed. Please check that none of the items belong to any of our members before they "find a new home."

Intern Graduation will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Wetumpka on Aug. 21, 10 a.m. Robin Snyder (Hospitality Committee) with requested members sign-up to bring food to be added to the chicken fingers Mallory Kelley will provide. The theme will be "Picnic in the Garden". Mallory will also take care of the certificates for the graduates.

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



Mary Ann Hatcher voiced some concerns about the HELPLINE. The fulfillment of all interns' obligations regarding work with the HELPLINE was discussed. This is a requirement for graduation. Mary Ann also discussed the continuing problems they are having with one of the two computers used. She will make an immediate request for a new computer rather than a refurbished computer through Mallory Kelly and Kerri Smith. Our thanks were extended to Ricky, Mary Ann's husband, who often fills in on the HELPLINE.

On Oct. 5 at 9 a.m. there will be a bench making class. Johann had a sample at the meeting. The class size is limited to 20 people. To register for the class individuals must pay the \$35 cost of materials. There will be no reimbursement of fees once you have registered.

Lunch and Learn had 50 people at the June meeting. Linda Jarzyniecki will discuss bees at the July Lunch and Learn.

Bob Brown will look into replacing one of the large Plant Sale signs in order to have it ready for next year. Rhonda Miles (Advisory Council) handed out brochures about next year's State Convention "Party in the Garden" to be held May 8-10 in Clanton.

Mallory Kelly thanked the group for her nomination and its support for the statewide Gary Murray Outstanding Service and Dedication Award. She is the 2018 recipient of this prestigious award. We are proud of her and for her!

Mallory asked that anyone needing replacement name badges please contact. She will order them at a cost of \$10. She also asked that members begin recruiting individuals for next year's intern class. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Lou Mullins, Secretary

June 2018 CAMGA Meeting



Carla McCune (left), received her Gold Master Gardener Badge. Presented by CAMGA President, Rhona Watson. Congratulations Carla!

Janell Diggs give a presentation on "Herbs" at the June 2018 CAMGA monthly meeting





Lunch and Learn

June 2018

By: Charlotte Hall

Landscape Design Program

Presented by: Rip Weaver

For our June Lunch and Learn program, our group was treated to a second presentation from Rip Weaver, the director of Aldridge Gardens in Birmingham. Rip is a certified landscape architect, member of the CLARB (Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards), ASLA (American Society of Landscape Architects) and has previously taught landscape design for many years.

Rip explained the development of a widely used landscape design that originated in the Deep South. Southern homes were usually raised cottage design built up high for cooling purposes during the hot, humid summer months. Foundation plantings or shrubs were placed around the base of the house for two purposes – to keep the cold air out from under the house during the winter time and to keep out animals. This design usually called for anchoring plants located at the corners of the house which resulted in the practice of always including large shrubs or tree like plants which would support the corners of the house.

This technique which is still widely used in the South and most areas of the United States is much different than the European look. In Europe, there is not a lot of foundation planting. Newer homes have eliminated the need for foundation planting and allow the architecture of the house to be free and clear. European houses have walkways around the homes. Plants are pulled away from the house foundation, and air gets around the house and lets it breathe. This allows for easier access to repair any structural or maintenance problems that may occur with the house.

Europeans incorporate planters and very simple designs. Nothing distracts the eye from the design of the house and no plantings hide the rock work, water table or any other distinct architectural features.

While most of all the houses in the South incorporate the traditional foundation planting design with anchoring corner shrubs, Rip encouraged everyone to think about how you might move more into the area of maximizing the house design feature. Or at least give it some consideration, especially if building a new home.

The town of Mt. Laurel in Shelby County is based on this concept. It is 600 acres of home sites where Mother Nature basically designed the landscape. Native plants and trees were incorporated into the landscape design, and there are no formal grass areas in the front of the homes. These homes require little landscape or yard maintenance.

Although this European approach is a much different landscape design than most of us are accustomed to seeing and certainly having at our own homes, it was interesting to learn of different approaches to an easier maintained landscape.

Next month please join us on July 10th when one of our interns, Linda Jarzyniecki, is making a presentation on bees. It's going to be a hot day in July, so join us in an air conditioned cool room and learn all about bees. We'll have cool air, an interesting program and some refreshments. Hope to see you then.



Master Gardener Sandy Adkison and Rip Weaver, Director of Aldridge Gardeners at the June 2018 Lunch & Learn Program



**Minutes from Projects
Committee Meeting
June 2018
By: Terry Chambliss**

Those present were Rhona Watson, Andy Hayes, Judy May, Johan Beumer, John Barnes, Jane Mobley and Terry Chambliss

The Leopold bench making project was discussed. Johan volunteered to cut all of the pieces and will build a prototype after approval by the Board of Directors. Supplies needed are pressure treated lumber, clamps, screws, and torque screw bits. Johan and several of the Project members will provide drills for assembly. The practice class with Project members scheduled on September 21, 2018 will be at 9:00am. The class for CAMGA members scheduled on October 5, 2018 will be at 9:00am. The class will be limited to 20 paid participants. The fee is non refundable. Participants need to be able to transport the bench.

Jane reported ordering a 12x16 inch stepping stone and carefree beauty rose for the dedication to Linda Griebel. The dedication has tentatively been set for June 27, at 10:00am at the Lanark old house depending on the arrival of the stepping stone. She will make an announcement at the June CAMGA meeting for a show of hands for a chair count. Johan's prototype of the Leopold bench is being given to Lanark in Linda's memory.

Jane reported on the Elmore County Hospital courtyard beautification project. She presented a rough draft of the design to Amanda Hannon, Director of Operations. Ms. Hannon stated several nurses and a doctor already agreed to assist and plans to organize a committee to work on the project. She requested Jane serve on the committee. She seemed interested in planting this fall. Jane advised the need for soil tests, amendments as needed and two applications of grass killer as a prelude to planting. Jane felt more optimistic about their interest and ability to follow through. Rhona suggested sponsoring the groundskeeper for the Master Gardner's course in the fall.

Andy Hayes expressed an interest in learning about aquaculture. He was referred to several members that do hydroponics.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Chambliss



Governor's Mansion Report June 2018 By: Amanda Borden



During the month of June, volunteers at the Governor's Mansion weeded and trimmed in the following areas: the Herb Garden, the wax myrtle/forsythia bed behind the guest house, the pool bed, and the guest house east beds.

They weeded and trimmed azaleas with thinning cuts in the area starting at the rolling gate and working their way up the serpentine path to the west end of the side lawn. They limbed up the holly trees lining the driveway.

They pruned azaleas, camellias, and holly shrubs from the entrance to the visitor parking lot up to the side lawn and halfway down its south bed. Jane McCarthy worked with the inmates to limb up the guard shack and Finley Street oak trees.



These French hydrangeas in the side lawn beds were all from cuttings donated by the Maxwell greenhouse and planted in May 2016. Pretty now, but will be show stoppers in a few years.



Finley oak before



Finley oak after



Governor's Mansion Report Continued June 2018 By: Amanda Borden



SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

June 2018

By: Judy May



Attending the Projects Committee meeting June 12, were Terry Chambliss, Rhona Watson, Jane Mobley, Johann Beumer, Andy Hayes, John Barnes and Judy May.

Jane Mobley gave a Presentation June 6 on Butterfly Gardening to the Lunch and Learn for the Capitol City Master Gardeners. 43 attended.

The Lunch and Learn Presentation June 12 was Landscape Design by Rip Weaver. There were 46 attendees, 36 of them Master Gardeners. Assisting were Sandi Adkison, Charlotte Hall, Cathy Whigham and Bill Quailes.

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

Members who brought food to the monthly meeting were Carolyn Placeway, Robin Snyder, Rhonda Miles, Candy Jones, Linda Mincey, Cheri Bedford, Leslie Bingham, and Linda Jarzniecki.

Volunteers at Lanark this month were Carla McCune, Sue Brasel, Leslie Bingham, Peggy Gelpi, Norman Turnipseed, all helped Maria in the gardens this month. Maria says she so appreciates the dedication during one of the hottest times of the year. She couldn't do it without you.

A special thank you to those who helped with the Hydrangea Fest: Sandra Gilley, Sheila Pearson, Sheila's son Robert McDaniel, Judy May, Sherri Schaefer, Don Hoover, Cheri Cook and Sue Brasel. We had a wonderful, large turnout and made lots of extra money for the gardens at the plant sale.

Maria says Thank you all so much!



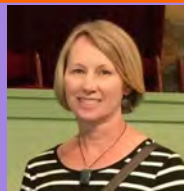
Helpline Report June 2018 By: Mary Ann Hatcher

From insect identification to various tomato maladies, the Helpline has provided information to clients this month from our very capable interns and MGs. Volunteering this month were: Pat Petro-Perryman, Cecilia Ball, Sherri Schaeffer, Sharon Kochik, Linda Anderson, and Sandy Rosamond. Mary Ann Klatt, Cindy Beumer and Mary Ann Hatcher served as Advisors with Sharon Potts as Appointment Reminder.



Linda Anderson and Sharon Kochik researching information for clients.





CAMGA Library News and Budget Report

By: Lee Ann Marona

Featured Author: Pamela Crawford

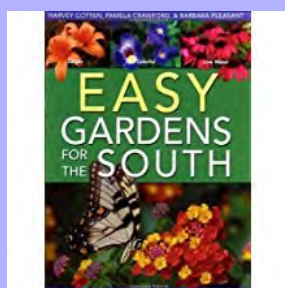
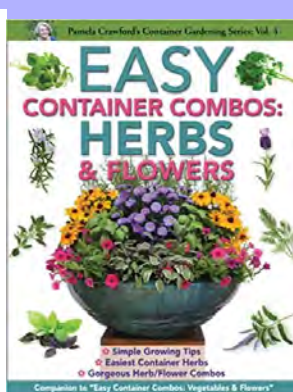


Pamela Crawford, author of eleven gardening books, is considered one of the most accomplished garden experts in the country. In addition to designing gardens for over 1500 residences, her work has been featured on the cover of Better Homes and Gardens publications as well as in Southern Living, HGTV Magazine, Fine Gardening, Country Gardens, Country Almanac, Small Gardens, and in over four hundred newspapers. As an expert in her field, she has appeared on the Fine Living Network, gardenloverstv.com, Fox News affiliates and numerous local tv shows.

Pamela has an undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University and a masters degree in landscape architecture from Florida International University, where she received the prestigious "Torch Award" as an outstanding alumna from the school of architecture.

Pamela has been heavily involved in trial gardens, both on a university and private level. Her goal is to find plants that give the most color for the least amount of care. Learn more about Pamela from her web site, www.pamela-crawford.com

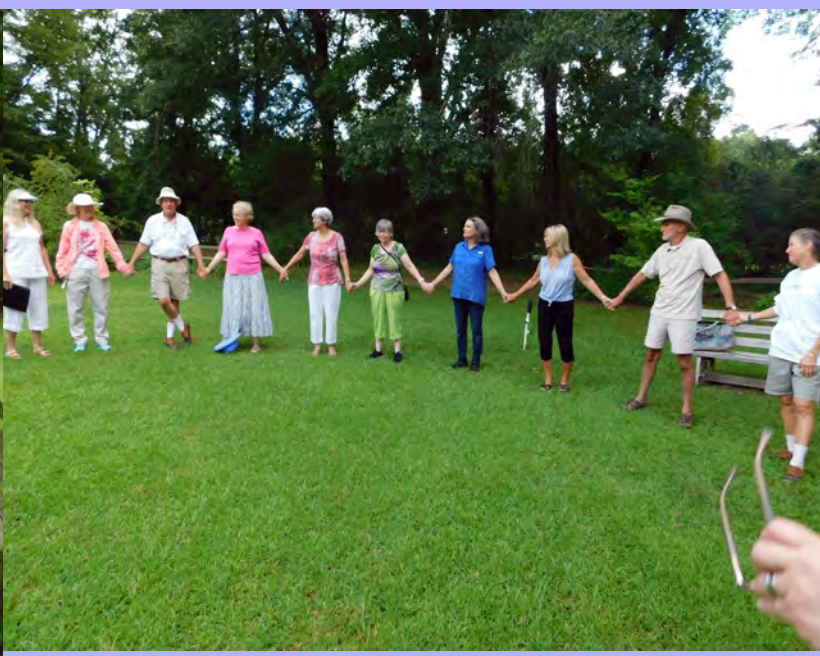
Pamela Crawford books in the CAMGA Collection:



Easy Gardens for the South is co-authored by Pamela Crawford and Harvey Cotton, formerly Executive Director of the Huntsville Botanical Garden, who was the closing session speaker at AMGA 2017 in Huntsville.

Memorial Program In Memory of Master Gardener Linda Griebel

**Lanark Heirloom Garden
June 27, 2018**



Leopold Bench Making Workshop

Save the Date!!

When: Friday, October 5, 2018
Where: Elmore County Extension Office
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Cost: \$35.00

All pieces will be cut and ready for your assembly. You will need to pre-register for the class. (Limited to 20 participants) and ability to transport finished product. Finished bench is approximately 4'W 30" H, 2 1/2' deep.



Terry Chambliss is organizing the class and can be emailed at: chamblissterry67@gmail.com. She will be collecting \$35 at the July CAMGA meeting from those wanting to take the class.



65TH ANNUAL FALL FLOWER SHOW

THE LAND OF OZ

AT THE
ALABAMA
NATIONAL
FAIR

Garrett Coliseum – Youth
Village

September 28 -
October 8, 2018

Presented by

Montgomery
Federation of
Garden Clubs

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

Entry times:

Photography: Pre-register by Sept. 20
 1st Show Containers Noon -5:30 pm
 Thurs. Sept. 27
 1st Show Horticulture & Designs
 7:30am-9:30 am Friday Sept. 28
 2nd Show Containers & Horticulture
 7:30 am-10:00 am Wed. Oct. 3

Calendar of Events

JULY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i> 8 to 11 a.m.	3	4 	5 <i>Elmore County Extension Office Learning Gardens</i> Workday 8-12 noon <i>MG Helpline</i> <i>Elmore Co. Office</i>	6	7
8	9 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i> 8 to 11 a.m.	10 <i>Lunch & Learn 12 noon to 1 p.m. Elmore Co. Ext. Office.</i> Program: From Flower to Table: the Miracle of Honey Making." 	11 <i>Lanark</i> Workday 8 to 12 noon	12 <i>Elmore County Extension Office Learning Gardens</i> Workday 8-12 noon <i>MG Helpline</i> <i>Elmore Co. Office</i>	13	14
15	16 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i> 8 to 11 a.m.	17	18 <i>Lanark</i> Workday 8 to 12 noon	19 <i>Elmore County Extension Office Learning Gardens</i> Workday 8-12 noon <i>MG Helpline</i> <i>Elmore Co. Office</i>	20	21
22	23 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i> 8 to 11 a.m.	24	25 <i>Lanark</i> Workday 8 to 12 noon	26 <i>Elmore County Extension Office Learning Gardens</i> Workday 8-12 noon <i>MG Helpline</i> <i>Elmore Co. Office</i>	27	28
29	30 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i> 8 to 11 a.m.	31				