



GARDEN BUZZZZZ



Volume 27 Issue 8

Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

August 2018

Message from:

Rhona Watson
CAMGA President



The Fire Bush and Mexican Heather are the stars in the garden this month. They have buds now, but will be in full bloom by the end of August. I will be doing some propagating this month for next year's containers and the plant sale.

I will do cuttings of Mexican heather, pineapple sage, lavender, and red honeysuckle that a few people have requested.

Watching my cuttings grow is a lot more fun than fighting the weeds and watering containers that are wilting in the heat.

All applications for the September Intern class are due in August. If you have friends that have shown an interest, get them an application and encourage them to join the class. The Interns are what keep our organization moving forward with new ideas and their excitement about learning is contagious. The application is on line at the camga.net site or can be picked up at the Extension office.

Thank you Rhonda Miles for agreeing to head the nominating committee. The usual term for officers is 2 years, so we will need a president, vice president, and treasurer for 2019. Please consider volunteering for one of these positions. If you have questions, the responsibilities for each officer is written in the directory, or you can call any of the officers for more information. Call Rhonda or she might be calling you, it is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to our organization, learn, and work with the talented people in CAMGA.

The graduation of this year's Interns will be at the First Presbyterian Church in Wetumpka and starts at our regular meeting time 10 a.m. We will give out diplomas and awards to the graduates, have a short business meeting and then chicken fingers provided by Mallory, and sides and desserts provided by those attending. Robin Snyder is coordinating the food, so please contact her if you plan on coming and have not signed up to bring food or drinks.

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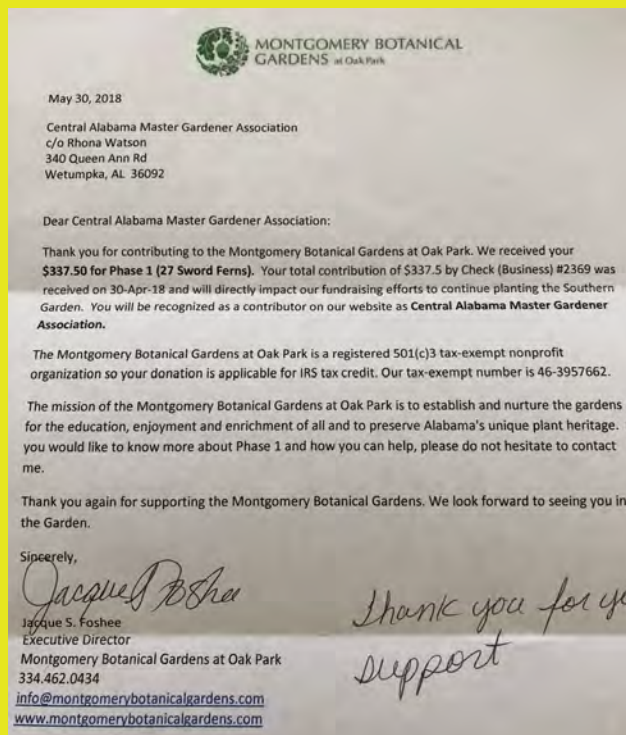
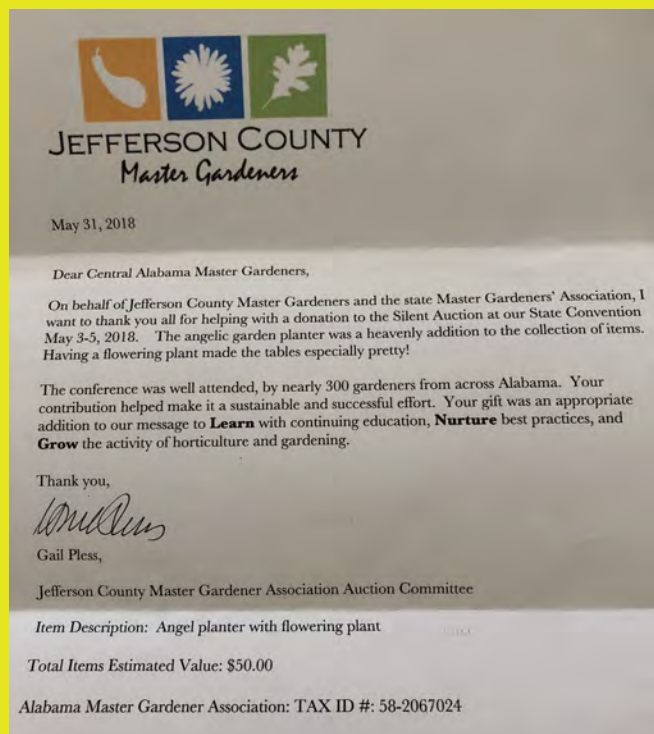
CAMGA Garden Buzzzz
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Message from: Rhona Watson CAMGA President — (Continued)



We received two nice thank you letters that are included in the newsletter. Jefferson County thanked us for our silent auction contribution at the state conference, and the Montgomery Botanical Gardens for the shield ferns we gave them money for. These are both organizations that we are proud to be a part of. Next year's conference is in Clanton May 8th thru the 10th, and is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about gardening, spend time with master gardeners from all over the state, and buy garden related items and plants from the vendors.



The picture is of a strawberry jar planted with rabbit foot fern around the side and a Lady Victoria fern in the top. I planted the pot about five years ago and the rabbit foot fern has completely covered it, but has a lot of the new growth.

I keep the pot outside all winter in a sheltered spot and both ferns flourish the next spring. The Lady Victoria fern is deciduous and likes shade and moist soil.

Hope to see everyone at graduation!

YOUR FAVORITE GARDEN SHOULD BE YOUR OWN
Rhona

Message from Mallory**Mallory Kelley****Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests****Worms on Tomatoes!****By: Kerry Smith, Administrator III
Outreach Programs — Horticulture**

Scouting and monitoring your garden for pests at least two to three times per week can greatly reduce the damage that is acquired from insects. It is also very helpful to use a 10X hand lens to help identify small insects and insect eggs. Keeping records will help identify their peak activity each season and can help you predict when peak activity might occur in future years. If you have a field of tomatoes, sample the field in a pattern that covers the entire field in a zigzag pattern. It is best to check plants along the field edges separately. Then walk into the field to begin the zigzag pattern.

The most common caterpillar (aka, worm) pests of tomatoes include fruitworms, armyworms and hornworms. Other insect pests include aphids, whiteflies, leaf-footed bugs and stink bugs. Tomato fruitworms, armyworms and hornworms may be controlled by sprays of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Dipel, Thuricide, along with others). This naturally occurring bacteria only kills caterpillars. Always read the labels to know what insects a pesticide will control, and if it is safe for vegetables. The most effective control time is just after eggs hatch and caterpillars are still small. Insecticidal soaps are effective for control of aphids and whiteflies if sprays are directed to the upper and lower leaf surfaces. Insecticidal soaps only kill stinkbugs when newly hatched.

From my own personal experience, caterpillars (aka, worms) on your newly set tomatoes can be very depressing. Just as we're ready to eat these on a sandwich...so are the worms. Below are the worms most commonly found in your garden on your tomatoes. Refer to these pictures when you scout and use the appropriate control measures to ensure that you get to reap your own tomato harvest.



Tomato Fruitworms or bollworms, feeds on more than 100 plants including the tomato, but prefers corn. Newly hatched larvae usually enter tomato fruit at the stem end when the fruit is small and green. They bore deeply into the fruit and during development they may emerge from one fruit and enter another. Their feeding results in a watery, internal cavity filled with feces; damaged fruit will ripen prematurely and be susceptible to secondary invasion by fungi and bacteria.

Beet armyworm is primarily a foliage feeder, but they will also attack fruit, usually creating single or closely grouped round or irregularly shaped holes. Feeding damage is usually superficial, and larvae only occasionally develop inside the fruit. Unfortunately, other organisms can then enter the feeding-damaged areas and can rot the fruit.



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



Yellowstriped armyworms feeds on a variety of crops including tomatoes, alfalfa, bean, beet, cabbage, clover, corn, cotton, cucumber, grape, grass, morning glory, onion, pea, peach, peanut, sweet potato, tobacco, turnip, wheat, and watermelon. The insect usually overwinters as a pupa in the soil. Egg masses are deposited on foliage, trees, or buildings. There are three to five generations per year. Yellowstriped armyworms feed during the day.

Depending on the year, environmental conditions, and proximity of adjacent host crops, infestations of these insects on tomatoes may range from very light to extremely severe. The tomato fruitworm (aka, corn earworm and bollworm), and the beet armyworm both overwinter in Alabama; so early season infestations of these species may occur. However, later season tomato plantings are often damaged more severely because fruitworm and armyworm populations generally increase as the season progresses. It is common that the most severe fruitworm damage in tomatoes occurs after dry-down or harvest of adjacent corn, and heavy beet armyworm damage in tomatoes occurs after population buildup on cotton. An effective strategy for managing the fruitworm and armyworm is to monitor fields regularly for signs of insects or damage and to apply an insecticide only when necessary.

Field trials in Alabama tomatoes demonstrated that using insecticides in conjunction with a monitoring program saved an average of \$44 to \$65 per acre in insecticide costs alone; when compared with a program applying insecticides on a weekly basis. In addition to applying insecticides only when needed, the fruitworm/armyworm scouting program enables growers to apply sprays at the optimal time, when the worms are young and most susceptible to insecticides.

Sampling for Tomato Fruitworm and Armyworms . Because beet armyworm is a foliage feeder, infestations may begin early--before the flower and fruit stage. Therefore, it is prudent to check young plants regularly for beet armyworm egg masses or small larvae. The presence of beet armyworm larvae can also be detected by shaking foliage over a shake cloth. The critical period for tomato fruitworm and fruitworm egg sampling begins at flower or, at the latest, when there are a significant number of green fruit at least 1 inch in diameter. Fruitworms are usually not a concern before flowering unless high numbers are present. Beet armyworm egg masses are covered by fuzzy white scales and are easy to spot. It is a good idea to check or shake some of the lower foliage for beet armyworm egg masses and larvae.

Fruit sampling serves as an extra precaution and a backup to the foliage sampling for worms and worm eggs. When scouting for insects and insect damage, check out the fruit. Tomatoes at least 1 inch in diameter are good candidates of insect attractants and damage. Check to see if any fruit have worm-feeding damage. Slice open damaged fruit to determine if damage is due to fruitworm (feeding deep inside fruit, feces often present) or armyworm (feeding usually confined to the surface). It is important to know which worm species is present to select the most effective insecticide needed.



Tomato hornworm. Horn worm larvae usually have green bodies with seven diagonal white stripes on the side, or eight V-shaped markings, depending on the species. The name comes from the large horn on the posterior end of the body. Hornworms can grow longer than 4-1/2 inches in length. They strip the leaves and may cause feeding scars on fruit. Hornworms are often controlled naturally by parasites. Parasitized hornworms may be identified by the presence of many white cocoons attached to the upper body surface. The preferred management approach is to wait until fruit begins to mature before applying insecticides. Insecticides may be applied sooner if extensive foliar feeding is observed. Insecticides are not highly effective against late stage larvae.



CAMGA Minutes July 2018 By: Mary Lou Mullins, Secretary

Welcome

Rhona Watson (President) welcomed 20 the members present at our brief meeting held at George Farms in Eclectic following the program.

Monthly Program

Chris George welcomed us to his organic beef, pork, lamb, goat, bee and vegetable farm. He explained the evolution and workings of his 400 acre farm. Mr. George also arranged a presentation on growing mushrooms. Hats off to Sandy Rosamond (Vice President and Programs Chairman) who organized and facilitated this instructive field trip.

Business Meeting & Committee Reports

Rhona opened the meeting requesting approval of the June CAMGA Minutes. Bill Quailes (Treasurer) stated no income for the month. The expenditures were \$235.67 for books for the library. A balance of \$7,848.28 remains. Both reports were approved.

The only item of business was a reminder about the Leopold Bench Workshop Class on Oct. 5. Jane Mobley said a practice workshop would take place held on Sept. 21 to prepare for the Oct. class. Spaces are filling up. To register members should pay \$35 to Jane Mobley (Projects Chairman)

Everyone was reminded about the Intern Graduation on Aug. 21, 10 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church Wetumpka. Watch your emails for reminders and additional information from Robin Snyder (Hospitality Chairman).

The meeting was adjourned

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



Lunch and Learn July 2018 By: Charlotte Hall

“From Flower to Table – The Miracle of Honey Making”

For our July Lunch and Learn program, a CAMGA intern, Linda Jarzyniecki and her friend Kate Pugh from the Lower Alabama Beekeepers made a very interesting, informative and entertaining presentation on the life of bees. Kate was also joined by her grandson Dillon.

Linda and Kate brought an active beehive with them for their presentation in which one could view the bee activity within the hive, including watching the queen bee, and all the other activity occurring within the hive.

And when you thought that you knew all about bees, you find out that the University of Montana is analyzing the sounds of the bees or their buzzes and then using the bees to detect land mines. So far, the accuracy rate is 91%. Soon honeybees may be the key to ridding the world of a deadly scourge – land mines.

Linda and Kate took turns telling about the life cycle of the bee – from the gathering of nectar from the plants, collecting pollen to the actual process of making honey. They covered basic bee anatomy, how to start a bee hive, materials required for making a bee hive, and the roles of the different bees within a colony.

Bees navigate by sun and horizon. They are able to instruct the other bees as to flower location by a dance they do known as a waggle. The pattern from the waggle indicates direction and distance to the flowers. The forager bees do a waggle dance on the vertical comb surfaces in a circle or a figure eight pattern which shows the other bees how far and in which direction to fly. Bees can see polarized light even when the sun is not out.



**Linda Jarzyniecki, Dillon, and Kate Pugh
presented the July 2018
Lunch and Learn Program**



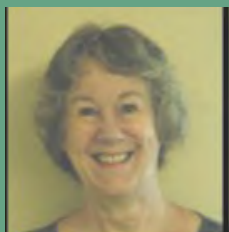
Lunch and Learn July 2018 By: Charlotte Hall

In addition to making honey which is consumed by humans, bees also eat honey themselves. Goldenrod honey has the best or highest honey content for bee food. It takes about 556 worker bees gathering from about two million flowers to produce one pound of honey. It takes about 55,000 flight miles per gallon of honey. Now we see why we get the term busy as a bee.

Flowers that bloom early for bees include alium, crocus, oakleaf hydrangeas, tulips (pollen and nectar), spotted bee balm, basil, holly trees and later on such flowers as sunflowers.

Next month please join us on August 14th when Deborah Batson, the butterfly lady, is going to make a presentation on the life of butterflies and how to attract butterflies to your yard. Deborah grows butterflies from eggs and releases them into the wild. She is also a professional photographer and has some truly amazing butterfly photos and videos. If you have grandchildren, this would be an excellent program for them to attend with you. Hope to see you on August 14th.





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

Those present were Sandy Rosamond, John Butler, and Terry Chambliss. Bill Quailes visited but does not want to be a member of Projects at this time.

John Butler and Bill Quailes volunteered to help Johan Beumer with the cutting of the boards for the Leopold benches.

The Elmore County Hospital courtyard beautification was discussed. Jane Mobley and Terry Chambliss presented and discussed the landscape plan with Amanda Hannon and one other employee at the hospital. They were given some soil test kits with instructions on where they should gather the samples. They were advised on resources for plants and materials.

Ms. Hannon plans to contact several organizations including the Scouts to assist with the project. They are hoping to plant in the fall. She requested consultative assistance with the planting.

Work days for Lanark, the Middle School and Learning Gardens in the fall were discussed but no dates were selected.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Chambliss



Governor's Mansion Report

July 2018

By: Amanda Borden



During the month of July, volunteers at the Governor's Mansion weeded, pulled smilax, and trimmed azaleas, wax myrtles, and roses. They weeded the herb garden and the forsythia and wax myrtle bed, harvesting four wax myrtle off-shoots for future planting along the Finley Street wall. They weeded the pool bed and across the front of the mansion from the portico to the Hill House gate and out to the street. They also limbed up the camellia at the Hill House gate and lightly pruned the camellia along the south side of the guest house and between the kitchen steps and dining room windows.

Volunteers weeded and trimmed roses in the bed near the front of the bungalow. They generated debris composed of trimmings, volunteer trees, smilax, and other weeds.



Rose brush after trimming





SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

July 2018

By: Judy May

The Lunch and Learn Program July 10 was “From Flower to Table – The Miracle of Honey Making”. Presenters were Linda Jarzniecki and Kate Pugh. There were approximately 39 attendees. Master Gardeners assisting were Charlotte Hall, Bill Quailes, and Cathy Whigham.

Working at the Governor’s Mansion this month were Allyson Ludington and Jane McCarthy.

Volunteering this month at Lanark were Carla McCune, Norman Turnipseed, Leslie Bingham, Sheila Pearson, and interns Sue Brasel and Sharon Kochik. Thank you all so much for helping in the heat to keep Lanark Gardens beautiful!

Attending the Projects Committee meeting July 10 were Sandy Rosamond, Terry Chambliss and John Butler.

On July 3rd, Terry Chambliss and Jane Mobley presented the landscape plans for the Elmore Community Hospital Courtyard to Amanda Hannon, Director of Operations for the hospital.

Working the Helpline this month were Candy Jones, Ricky Hatcher, Pat Petro-Perryman, Gale Wheeler Leonard, Mary Ann Klatt, Cindy Beumer and Mary Ann Hatcher.



Helpline Report July 2018 By: Mary Ann Hatcher

Rain and more rain this past month has caused an increase in calls with fungi on lawns, trees, shrubs, and vegetables. Clients have called concerned with weeds with resistance to chemicals that formerly eradicated them.

Volunteers this month on the Helpline were these Master Gardeners: Gale Wheeler-Leonard, Candy Jones, Pat Petro-Perryman, and Ricky Hatcher. Our Appointment Reminder was Sharon Potts with Cindy Beumer, Mary Ann Klatt, and Mary Ann Hatcher serving as Advisors.



Gale Wheeler-Leonard and Mary Ann Hatcher researching information for a client.



Learning Gardens Report

By: Mary McCroan



Summer in the garden is a mixed bag. On one hand, it's hot, hot, hot. On the other hand production is wonderful with squash and tomatoes, cucumbers and melons, peppers and basil; and all in great supply.

This month it has been particularly impressive to watch Carolyn's new vertical garden come into its own. She is growing a wide variety of plants in this space. Of particular interest is a hour glass shaped squash that is growing on the vertical element--see picture!

For those interested in pollinators, the big attractors this month have been the squash and melon flowers--you can't find one without a bee either entering or leaving. And the herbs, especially the basil, have been big hits among the six legged population.

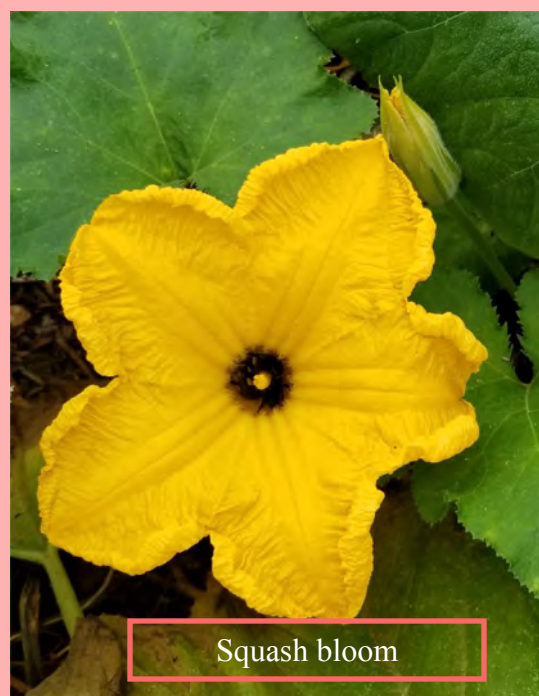


Hour Glass Squash

And one last point of interest is the zinnias growing wild in the field behind the garden. Just proving that zinnias will grow almost anywhere if you give them half a chance. And they are welcome almost anywhere. We have them popping up along our fence and among the melons as well as in the pasture. The butterflies enjoy them and they make the gardeners smile. What's not to like?



Zinnias in the field



Squash bloom

Learning Gardens Report

By: Mary McCroan



Thanks much to the crew: Amanda, Jane Mobley, John Barnes, Candy, Bill Quailes, Terry, Carolyn, Katrina, Mary McCroan and Virginia.

We are always happy to see new faces so come out any Thursday. Our normal hours are 8 to 12 noon, but since it has been so hot, some of us have been starting around 7 a.m. We quit when we have had enough sun--usually by 10 this time of year. There is no minimum time.

Come out for an hour or fifteen minutes.... or just to look around and chat!



Bee on the basil plants



Carolyn's Garden

Upcoming Events

Leopold Bench Making Workshop

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.



"A Picnic in the Garden"

*Elmore and Autauga County Master Gardener
Intern Class of 2018 Graduation*

Tuesday August 21 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon

at the First Presbyterian Church Wetumpka

(100 West Bridge Street, Wetumpka)

*Please join us for a celebration of our graduates and the
fellowship of lunch provided by CAMGA members.*

Please RSVP to Robin Snyder at jmirgs@gmail.com or

334-549-3921 by August 14

Calendar of Events

August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Lanark</i> <i>Workday 8 to 12 noon</i>	2 <i>Elmore County Extension Office Learning Gardens</i> <i>Workday 8-12 noon</i> <i>MG Helpline</i> <i>Elmore Co. Office</i>	3	4
5	6	7	8 <i>Lanark</i> <i>Workday 8 to 12 noon</i>	9 <i>Elmore County Extension Office Learning Gardens</i> <i>Workday 8-12 noon</i> <i>MG Helpline</i> <i>Elmore Co. Office</i>	10	11
12	13	14 <i>Lunch & Learn 12 noon to 1 p.m.</i> <i>Elmore Co. Ext. Office.</i>	15 <i>Lanark</i> <i>Workday 8 to 12 noon</i>	16 <i>Elmore County Extension Office Learning Gardens</i> <i>Workday 8-12 noon</i> <i>MG Helpline</i>	17	18
19	20	21 <i>Master Gardener Class Graduation at First Presbyterian Church, Wetumpka, 10 to 12 noon</i> 	22 <i>Lanark</i> <i>Workday 8 to 12 noon</i>	23 <i>Elmore County Extension Office Learning Gardens</i> <i>Workday 8-12 noon</i> <i>MG Helpline</i> <i>Elmore Co. Office</i>	24	25
26	27	28	29 <i>Lanark</i> <i>Workday 8 to 12 noon</i>	30 <i>Elmore County Extension Office Learning Gardens</i> <i>Workday 8-12 noon</i> <i>MG Helpline</i>	31	