



GARDEN BUZZZZZ



Volume 28 Issue 5 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

May 2019



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Message from:

Sandy Rosamond
CAMGA President



May is upon us! Plant Sale Time. As a child I was intrigued with Helen Keller. I was amazed how she used all her senses instead of her eyes.

I would close my eyes like her to use all my senses to see if I could smell a stronger fragrance from the flowers. I would like to think that the people that purchase our plants at the plant sale would enjoy their fragrance as well.

It is going to be great setting up on Friday, May 3 at 8 a.m. in front of the Episcopal Church. Looking forward to seeing all of you. Let's make it a Successful Sale!!!

After we finish our plant sale and before we can catch our breath, the State Conference begins. I hope to see you there since it is so close.

Mallory is giving us a presentation on Fire Ants at our next monthly meeting on May 21.

I am looking forward to learning how to better control these pesky devils.

See you there!

Sandy



CAMGA Garden Buzzzz



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



“The Carpenter Bees are Back”

It is officially the sign of spring, the presence of Carpenter Bees hovering around wooden structures, most likely the eaves of your house. These carpenter bees are searching for mates and favorable sites to construct their nests. Male carpenter bees are quite aggressive, often hovering in front of people who are around the nests, but are harmless as they do not have the ability to sting. Female carpenter bees can inflict a painful sting but seldom will unless they are handled or pestered.

Carpenter bees are very large and look a lot like bumble bees, but the upper surface of their abdomen is bare and shiny black; bumble bees have a hairy abdomen with at least some yellow markings and are overall a little smaller than the carpenter bee.

Despite their similar appearance, the nesting habits of the two types of bees are quite different. Bumble bees usually nest in the ground whereas carpenter bees tunnel into wood to lay their eggs. Bare, unpainted or weathered softwoods are preferred, especially redwood, cedar, cypress and pine. Painted or pressure-treated wood is much less susceptible to attack. Common nesting sites include eaves, window trim, fascia boards, siding, wooden shakes, decks and outdoor wooden furniture.

Carpenter bees overwinter as adults in wood within abandoned nest tunnels and emerge in the spring, usually in April. After mating, this is where the trouble begins. The fertilized females then begin to excavate tunnels in wood and lay their eggs within a series of small cells. The female places a ball of pollen in each cell to feed the larvae which then emerge as adults in late summer.

The entrance hole and tunnels are perfectly round and about the diameter of your finger. Coarse sawdust the color of fresh cut wood will often be present beneath the entry hole. Female carpenter bees may excavate new tunnels for egg-laying, or enlarge and reuse old ones and the extent of damaged wood that has been used for nesting year after year may be considerable.

Control

Carpenter bees prefer to attack wood which is bare, weathered and unpainted. Therefore, the best way to deter the bees is to paint all exposed wood surfaces, especially those which have a history of being attacked. Wood stains and preservatives are less reliable than painting, but will provide some degree of repellent versus bare wood.

If painting the wood structure is not an option, liquid sprays of carbaryl (Sevin) or a synthetic pyrethroid (e.g., permethrin or cyfluthrin) can be applied as a preventive to wood surfaces. The effectiveness of these insecticides are often only 1-2 weeks before they need to be reapplied. Tunnels which have already been excavated are best treated by puffing an insecticidal dust such as Sevin Dust into the nest opening. Aerosol sprays labeled for wasp or bee control also are effective. Leave the hole open for a few days after treatment to allow the bees to contact and distribute the insecticide throughout the nest galleries. Then plug the entrance hole with carpenter's glue, or wood putty. This will protect against future utilization of the old nesting tunnels and reduce the chances of wood decay. Although carpenter bees are less aggressive than wasps, female bees protecting their nests will sting. Treatment is best performed at night when the bees are less active, or while wearing protective clothing.



CAMGA Minutes

April 2019

By: Deann Stone, Secretary



The meeting was called to order by Sandy Rosamond at 10:00 AM. She welcomed all members.

Speaker: Linda Edwards introduced our speaker, Patrick Thompson, from Auburn Davis Arboretum. Mr. Thompson spoke to us on the topic of Native Azaleas. Alabama is number one for large species trees in America.

Fun Facts:

All Rhododendrons have 10 stamens. All Azaleas have five stamens.

Native Rhododendrons are evergreen. Native Azaleas are deciduous.

If you prune deciduous Azaleas after June, no blooms the next year.

It takes about five years for native azaleas to get established, then they are drought tolerant.

April 20 is the Auburn Azalea Festival! Davis Arboretum has 14% of the documented Azaleas.

Secretary's Report: Last month's minutes were shared in the news letter. They were approved by acclamation

Treasurer's Report: Bill Quaille's presented the Financial Report for March 2019. The beginning balance was \$5,570.50 a revenue of \$0, expenses of \$522.37, leaving an ending balance of \$5,048.13. The report was approved by acclamation.

Projects Reports:

Lanark Workday sign up sheet was provided for the April 17 work day.

Earth Day sign up sheet was provided. This is the public plant swap.

Plant and Pollinator Festival will be held Saturday, May 18, 2019 from 9AM - 3PM. Need volunteers.

T-Shirts - Buy your own shirt. The embroidery cost is \$6. Go online to Land's End T-Shirt

Women's Supima Cotton Short Sleeve T-shirt - Relaxed Crewneck — Item#414450AJ5 \$19.95

\$11.97 with offer code: THANKFUL. Color: Green Ash. Size Range: Regular, Petite, Tall

May 29, 2019 - Aldridge Gardens Tour (tentative)

June 25, 2019 - Wallace and Borden Garden Tour beginning at 10 AM.

Learning Gardens - Mary McCroan shared that the purple asparagus has done well. Tumeric was planted 18 months ago and divided last fall. The dirt that was ordered for the learning garden was 100% topsoil, and not a mix, as expected. A soil sample has been sent to Auburn.

Plant Sale - Need volunteers to sign up. Bring tents, wagons, tables, and PLANTS! Still in need of vegetable plants, tomatoes particularly. We have purchased 25 hanging baskets to re-sale. We also have fairy gardens to sale, made by CAMGA members. If you decide to keep your fairy garden, it was recommended that you make an appropriate donation to CAMGA. Friday, May 3, set up day starts at Trinity Episcopal at 8 AM. Hope to finish by 1 PM. Jane recommended using colored knives for pricing. Leslie Bingham volunteered to make pricing posters and buy cutlery.

Awards - Jane Mobley was awarded the Robin Award. Congratulations!

The meeting concluded at 12:00 noon.

***Respectfully Submitted,
Deann K. Stone, Secretary***



April 2019 Lunch and Learn By: Charlotte Hall

Native Plants Presented by: Peggy Thompson

Don't you just love the springtime in Alabama when you see trees sprouting those brilliant, light-green, tender leaves after just a few days of sunshiny, warm weather? You'll just be riding along and suddenly there is Mother Nature dressing up in a new wardrobe – lots of white blooms mixed in with some pink redbud blooms, all along the edge of some woods. And you see maple trees sporting that first burst of red color? And if your eyes drop lower, you see amazing shrubs and bulbs bursting forth from the earth and soon color sprouts come from them. The most amazing part of all this is that nobody deliberately planted these plants – they reside naturally in our state. Our April Lunch and Learn program for April was presented by Peggy Thompson. She is a Jefferson County Master Gardener who focuses on native plants. She has earned a Certificate in Native Plant Studies from The Birmingham Botanical Gardens where she is an active volunteer with the Native Plant Group.

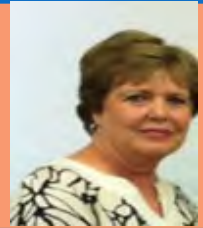


Native plants have formed a symbiotic relationship with native wildlife over thousands of years, and therefore offer the most sustainable habitat. Native plants help the environment the most when planted in places matching their growing requirements. Right plant...right place. This will lead to fewer problems with

watering and pest control. Native wildlife will also benefit. Alabama's warm, hospitable climate provides excellent growing conditions for a wide variety of flowering trees, shrubs and wildflowers. Peggy shared slides of some of her favorite plants including trees, shrubs, bedding plants, vines and ground covers.

She presented detailed information on *Callicarpa Americana* (commonly known as the American beautyberry or beauty bush), *Croton alabamensis*, *Illicium floridanum* (purple anise), *Hypericum prolificum* (commonly known as St. John's wort), *Calycanthus floridus* (commonly known as sweet shrub), *Cercis canadensis* (redbud), *Passiflora incarnata* (purple passion flower), *Amsonia hubrichtii* (bluestar), *Hydrangea quercifolia* (oakleaf hydrangea), *Mitchella repens* (partridge berry), *Zizia aurea* (golden zizia or golden Alexanders), *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly weed), *Echinacea purpurea* (purple coneflower), *Symphyotrichum georgianum* (Georgia aster), *Geranium maculatum* (wild geranium), *Coreopsis lanceolata* (tickseed), and *Campsis radicans* (trumpet vine).

April 2019 Lunch and Learn (Continued) By: Charlotte Hall



Native plants provide many benefits in landscaping. Among these are native plants are low maintenance, use less fertilizer and little to no pesticides, are healthier for people and pets, use less water, support local birds, other wildlife and biodiversity, cost less money, help fight climate change, and are naturally beautiful. Some indigenous or native plants are certainly more aggressive than others, but that does not mean they are invasive. Sometimes aggressive native plants are exactly what is needed to replace and outcompete truly invasive plants that have been introduced from other ecosystems.

Everyone is encouraged to incorporate native plants into their landscape because what could be more fun or bring more pleasure than to have a plant that has grown naturally over thousands of years right here in our own state? So, in May, join us to hear Rip Weaver, executive director of Aldridge Gardens in Birmingham, make his presentation on Effective Use of Plant Material in the Landscape. That will be on May 14th, the second Tuesday of the month, at noon, and drinks will be provided! Hope to see you then.





Governor's Mansion Report April 2019 By: Amanda Borden



April was a busy month for gardening at the Governor's Mansion. Volunteers weeded in front of the mansion, all around the side yard, in the Herb Garden, and up the driveway across from the portico/dining room. They tidied up daffodil foliage around the driveway and in the Herb Garden. They trimmed camellias on the south side of the mansion and guest house and in the Secret Garden, where they also weeded and removed dead material from the hydrangeas. In the process of bringing all the sunroom plants outside, workers found the lady palms covered with spider mites, so they bumped them up, treated them, and severely trimmed them. Norfolk Island pines are now on the back porch under the awning—to provide essential shade. Jane McCarthy and Kathy Quinn found the majesty palm to be leafless and struggling, so they replanted them and are each fostering one to nurse them back to health. The group laid pine straw in the forsythia bed between the pool and office and watered all the container plants.



Camellias trimmed with thinning cuts



**Anne Carr and Dawn Mitchell
braided daffodil foliage**



Governor's Mansion Report (Continued) April 2019



**Herb bed after weeding
and tidying**



**Forsythia bed with
pine straw**



SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

April 2019

By: Judy May

The Lunch and Learn Program April 9 was Native Plants for Our Area presented by Peggy Thompson. There were 46 attendees, 32 of the Master Gardeners. Assisting were Sandi Adkison, Cathy Whigham, and Bill Quailes.

Working in the Learning Gardens last month were Mary McCroan, Jane Mobley, Amanda Borden, Candy Jones, Virginia Pruitt, John Barnes and Terry Chambliss. Working there this month were Mary McCroan, Candy Jones, Jane Mobley, John Barnes, Virginia Pruitt, and Terry Chambliss.

Attending the Fairy Garden Workshop April 10 were Jane Mobley, Judy May, Rhonda Miles, Sharon Kochik, Robin Snyder, Sandy Rosamond, Cecelia Ball, Betty Plaster, Johan Beumer, Cheryl Fitzgerald, Candy Jones, Anne Carr, Marie Updike, Rhona Watson and Terry Chambliss.

Volunteers at the Governor's Mansion this month were Amanda Borden, Anne Carr, Linda Cater, Jane McCarthy and Robin Snyder.

Attending the Projects Committee meeting this month were Cecelia Ball, Jane Mobley, Rhona Watson, Bill Quailes, Johan Beumer, John Butler, and Terry Chambliss.

Projects Committee members working at Lanark this month were Cathy Whigham, Carla McCune, Norman Turnipseed, Jane Mobley, and Cheryl Fitzgerald.

Camga members who brought refreshments to the monthly meeting were Anne Carr, Freda Frye, Carolyn Placeway, Robin Snyder, Dee Turberville, Cheryl Fitzgerald and some other generous souls.

Maria says those who helped her at Lanark this month were Leslie Bingham, Norman Turnipseed, Dee Turberville, Carla McCune, Sue Brasel, Cheryl Fitzgerald, Cathy Whigham, and Jane Mobley who all helped in regular gardening chores as well as preparing for Plants and Pollinators which will be held at the Alabama Nature Plex May 18th from 9 am until 3 pm. Thank you all for your help! Norman is also rebuilding, sanding and painting some of our benches from the late 1800's which have needed new repairs for a while now. Maria says she will be on vacation May 3rd through May 11th, so please save your volunteer time with her for when she gets back.

Helpline volunteers this month were Sandi Rosamond, Robin Snyder, Gale Wheeler- Leonard, Pat Petro Perryman, Linda Queen, Ricky Hatcher, Sherri Schaefer, Sharon Potts, Mary Ann Klatt and Mary Ann Hatcher.

Earth Day volunteers Saturday, April 27 were Jane Mobley, Candy Jones, Nancy Tribble, Connie Willis, John Barnes and Terry Chambliss.



CAMGA Library News

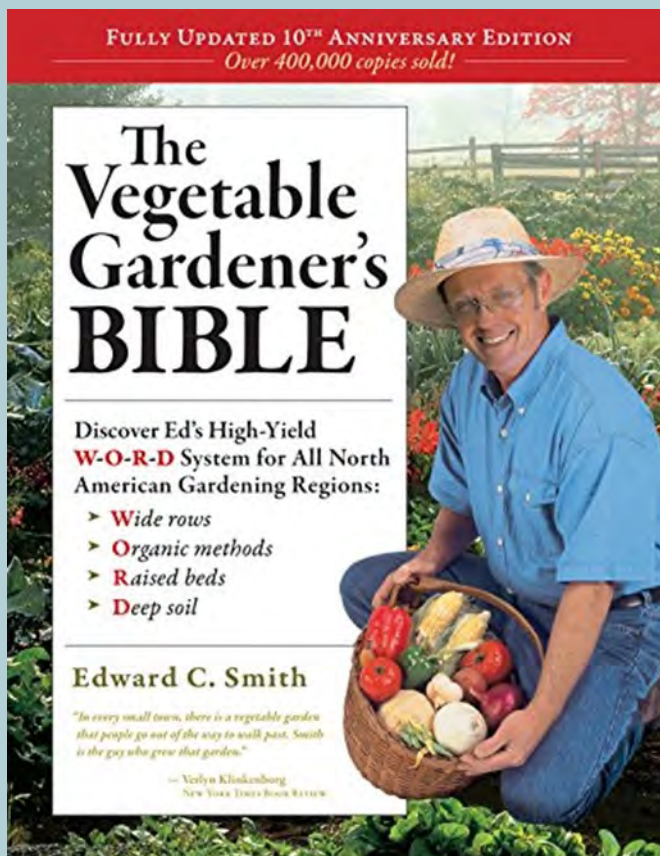
By: Dee Turberville

The Vegetable Gardener's Bible

By: Edward C. Smith

Although Edward C. Smith lives in the northeast, his readable reference book on vegetables can be adapted from gardening in Vermont to gardening in Alabama. This 2010 publication is the best-selling 10th anniversary edition that includes more fruits and herbs than the first edition. It also includes full-color photos, extended-season growing advice, sections on organic gardening and solutions for small-space gardening. With thorough profiles of hundreds of popular varieties, The Vegetable Gardener's Bible provides expert information for gardeners of all skill levels to enjoy homegrown vegetables. Discover Ed's High-Yield W-O-R-D System for the All North American Gardening Regions:

W-ide Rows
O-rganic Methods
R-aised Beds
D-eep Soil



Succeed with fussy plants, try new and unusual varieties, commit to organic methods, and learn what to do about bugs – if you don't want to hurt beneficial insects. With Ed's friendly advice in The Vegetable Gardener's Bible, you will have a favorite go-to-guide and quick reference for vegetable gardening.

Helpline News April 2019 By: Mary Ann Hatcher



The majority of Helpline calls this month were about WEEDS (the bane of all gardeners) and fruit trees problems.

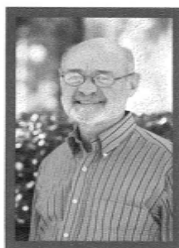
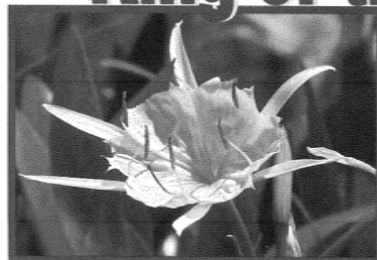
Master Gardeners responding to those calls were: Sandi Rosamond, Robin Snyder, Gale Wheeler-Leonard, Pat Petro-Perryman, Linda Queen, Ricky Hatcher, and Sherri Schaefer. Our Appointment Reminder was Sharon Potts, and our Advisors were Mary Ann Klatt and Mary Ann Hatcher.



Sherri Schaefer and Gale Wheeler-Leonard assisted clients with timely information.

Upcoming Meeting:

King of the Cahaba Lily



You are invited to hear
the self proclaimed

"King of the Cahaba Lily"

Dr. Larry Davenport

May 6th, 1:00 PM

at the Montgomery Extension Office
Eastmont Shopping Plaza
5340 Atlanta Highway
Montgomery, AL

Dr. Larry Davenport currently serves as Paul N. Propst Professor of Natural Sciences at Samford University in Birmingham, where he teaches undergraduate courses in general botany, plant taxonomy, and ecology, plus a graduate course on wetlands.



May Gardening Tips

By: Jane H. McCarthy

What I try to do in May...

If you didn't finish pruning your camellias and azaleas last month, you still have time. Just remember that if you prune them in the late summer through winter, you will cut off next year's flower buds.

Azaleas are not heavy feeders, so they may not need much fertilizing. Good organic compost or dried, chopped leaves may be all they need. They have extensive surface roots that can extend out past their drip line. Keep the compost or fertilizer away from the trunk and off the leaves.

Camellias, however, are heavy feeders, and need to be lightly fertilized twice during the growing season (late spring and then in mid-summer 2 months before first frost). Too much nitrogen will burn the leaves. Both azaleas and camellias can get unsightly leaf gall, but it will not harm the plant. All you need to do is prune out the affected branches.

Knowing that May is our 2nd driest month, watch your transplants and seedling and water accordingly. Roses need constant grooming, but it's an easy task. Dead head, scout for problems (Japanese beetles, thrips, black spot), and keep them tidy.

Plant your caladiums, elephant ears, tender herbs, and those warm season vegetables. After the foliage turns brown, spring blooming bulbs that are overcrowded can be dug up, separated, dried, stored in a cool dry place and then replanted elsewhere in the garden in the late fall.

Pinch the terminal and lateral buds of chrysanthemums and dahlias up until 1 July, to increase the flower display. Spring blooming shrubs should all be pruned by now, but understand that pruning summer blooming shrubs now will disrupt their display.





Learning Gardens Report

By: Mary McCroan

Spring has sprung in the gardens. For a little while I thought the weeds were going to win, but spring cleanup is about done and the gardens are looking pretty good.

Many thanks to Jane Mobley for how pretty the butterfly garden is looking. Jane brings in new perennials every year to experiment with what works and to feed our pollinators. She never get around to asking for a dime in reimbursements.

Speaking of experimenting, Terry Chambliss planted artichokes last fall. They are a perennial veggie, but I had no idea how they would do in Alabama. Well so far, the answer is they do great, and Terry is taking home artichokes to eat. We will see in a short while how they handle our hot, humid southern summers.

The Pineapple Guava shrubs, an experiment by Linda Griebel several years ago, continue to thrive and have gorgeous flowers with more fruit than I've seen on them before.

Also in the garden this spring are sweet potatoes. We plan to have a smorgasbord of six different varieties. We will have a taste test for Master Gardeners when it is time to harvest. Does a purple sweet potato taste different from a white one or an orange one? Y'all will be the judge.

Stop by the shade/water garden to see our favorite spring fern--you will understand the name "Autumn Fern" when you look at the striking bronze colored new foliage. I cut back the old fronds a couple of months ago, so the new growth really pops.

Meanwhile, Candy has planted strawberries. It's possible that the critters are getting more of the sweet fruit than she is, but the plants are looking great. Onions are also going gangbusters.

John Barnes, Virginia Pruitt and I have also worked hard to spruce things up and get spring/summer veggies going. Thanks to the team that makes Thursdays so enjoyable. And for those that aren't regulars, come on out! We'd love to share the fun.



Terry almost hates to clean up the old collards and mustards



Pineapple Guava Flowers



Amanda planting sweet potatoes



Cutting back the ornamental grasses



Terry's Artichokes



Autumn Ferns



**Projects Committee Minutes
April 2019
By: Terry Chambliss**

Those present were Cecelia Ball, Jane Mobley, Rhona Watson, Bill Quails, Johan Beumer, John Butler and Terry Chambliss.

The Fairy Gardening project was discussed. It was decided to order the same size containers for the seniors at \$6 each. Jane will touch base with the Senior Center in May as to how many will be needed. Several volunteers will be needed to fill the containers with soil beforehand. Digging tools such as a scoop or spoon, plastic tablecloths, disposable gloves, small paintbrushes and paper towels will be needed.

The committee briefly discussed the lack of volunteers for the recent workdays. Concern was expressed about the number of activities that are so clustered in the spring and fall.

The Plant and Pollinator Festival was discussed. The event is from 9-3 with set up at 8:00am. We will work in two hour shifts. Terry will be responsible for the table set up and Jane will do the take down. The children will plant marigolds in cups.

Cecilia shared that Mallory and Sandy will be promoting the plant sale with WSFA. The Wetumpka Herald and some local magazines will publish the plant sale flyer and other community activities free of charge.

Calendar of Events

May 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon</i>	2 <i>Elmore Co. Ext. Office Learning Gardens Workday 8-12 noon</i> <i>Master Gardener Helpline</i>	3	4 CAMGA Plant Sale 8:00 a.m. Trinity Episcopal Church, Wetumpka
5	6 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day 8-11 a.m.</i>	7	8 <i>Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon</i>	9 <i>Elmore Co. Ext. Office Learning Gardens Workday 8-12 noon</i> <i>Master Gardener Helpline</i>	10	11
12 <i>Mother's Day</i>	13 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day 8-11 a.m.</i>	14 <i>Lunch & Learn 12-1 p.m. Elmore Co. Extension Office</i>	15 <i>Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon</i>	16 <i>Elmore Co. Ext. Office Learning Gardens Workday 8-12 noon</i> <i>Master Gardener Helpline</i>	17	18
19	20 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day 8-11 a.m.</i>	21 <i>CAMGA Meeting 10-12 noon Elmore Co. Extension</i>	22 <i>Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon</i>	23 <i>Elmore Co. Ext. Office Learning Gardens Workday 8-12 noon</i> <i>Master Gardener Helpline</i>	24	25
26	27 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day 8-11 a.m.</i>	28	29 <i>Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon</i>	30 <i>Elmore Co. Ext. Office Learning Gardens Workday 8-12 noon</i> <i>Master Gardener Helpline</i>	31	