



GARDEN BUZZZZZ



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Message from:

***Sandy Rosamond
CAMGA President***



Happy Independence Day!

Aren't we all lucky to be a part of this wonderful free Nation? Free to plant our gardens and own our lands. I am forever grateful to the heroes that fought and laid down their lives to give us the independence we enjoy every day.

My wish for this Independence Day 2019 is that we all work together to make this a better country with peace, love, happiness, and prosperity.

Here's wishing you a safe and fun filled Independence Day.

Sandy

CAMGA Garden Buzzzz



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



Japanese Beetles in the Home Landscape



If you have not already seen these beetles in your landscape, be on the lookout. More and more Japanese or June Beetles as they are referred to are starting to appear in the landscape and cause damage to landscape shrubs, vegetables plants and especially herbaceous plants such as zinnias.

The Japanese beetle is a highly destructive plant pest native to Japan that was first found in the United States in southern New Jersey in 1916. In Japan, where the beetle's natural enemies keep its populations in check, this insect is not a serious plant pest, however, in the United States this beetle has no natural enemies.

The adult Japanese beetle is a little less than 1/2 inch long and has a shiny, metallic-green body with bronze colored outer wings. The beetle has six small tufts of white hair along the sides and back of its body under the edges of its wings. The males usually are slightly smaller than the females.

The adult Japanese beetles emerge from the ground and begins feeding on plants in June. Activity is most intense over a 4 to 6 week period beginning in late June, after which the beetles gradually die off. Japanese beetles lifespan is about 30 to 45 days. During the feeding period, females intermittently leave plants, burrow about 3 inches into the ground and lay a few eggs. This cycle is repeated until the female lays 40 to 60 eggs. By midsummer, the eggs hatch, and the young grubs begin to feed. Each grub is about an inch long when fully grown and lies in a curled position. Often you will find these in the soil while planting new flowers or shrubs so if seen it is a good idea to remove them. In late autumn, the grubs burrow 4 to 8 inches into the soil and remain inactive all winter. This insect spends about 10 months of the year in the ground in the larval stage. In early spring, the grubs continue to feed on roots (including turf) and in late spring, pupate. In about 2 weeks, the pupae become adult beetles and emerge from the ground. This life cycle takes one year.

The adult beetles are general herbivores and are known to feed on over 400 species of broad-leaved plants, damaging leaves, flowers, and overripe or wounded fruit. The beetles usually feed in groups, starting at the top of a plant and working down-ward. The beetles are most active on warm, sunny days, and prefer plants that are in direct sunlight.

The beetles eat the leaf tissue between the leaf veins but leave the veins behind, which gives the leaves a skeletonized appearance. The adults will often attack flower buds and fruit. The grubs can kill small seedling plants but most commonly damage turf.

Control

Both the adults and grubs of the Japanese beetles can cause damage. The adult Japanese beetle are capable of flying in from other areas so controlling one life stage will not completely prevent potential problems. Control of the grub stage requires properly timed applications of a soil insecticide to the infested site. If you are having problems with armadillos in your lawn, vegetable garden or flower beds then it is a good chance you have grubs, possibly Japanese beetle grubs they are feeding on and a grub control product would help.

Source: Dr. Kathy Flanders, Extension Entomologist, Dr. Elina Coneva, Extension Fruit Crop Specialist and Dr. Edgar Vinson, Research Associate, Auburn University.



CAMGA Minutes

June 18, 2019

By: Deann Stone, Secretary



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

Mary Ann Hatcher shared a handout providing information about beneficial and harmful stink bugs. Great information for gardeners!! Food grade diatomaceous earth - look it up!

Speaker: Linda Edwards introduced our speaker, Mallory Kelley. Mallory shared information on the biological control of imported fire ants.

How can you tell if it is a fire ant? You will find varying size ants in the mound, they have elbowed antenna, and two bulbs before the body. Fire ants first entered the Port of Mobile and are slowly spreading through the south east. They have recently crossed into Tennessee and the southern part of Kentucky. There are three varieties - black, red, and hybrid.

The Phorid Fly is a natural predator. The fly lays an egg at the base of the fire ant's head, causing the fire ant's head to fall off! The egg takes 5-12 weeks to mature. The fly has a 1 - 3 day life span. A single female can lay 200 eggs in a day. The sex of the baby fly is determined by the size of the host (an egg placed in a larger ant will be female, while an egg placed in a smaller ant will be male).

Every county in Alabama has documented the existence of Phorid Fly. However, fire ant bait is the best defense and the most economical. Look for the active ingredients hydramethylnon and methoprene. Put out when temps are between 70 - 80 degrees, when dew is not present, and when rain is not eminent. Store (and purchase) in a cool, dry place. Good for only one year.

Presidents Report: Sandy asked that everyone that is going on the member's garden trip next Tuesday to pay \$10 for their lunch. If you plan to carpool, meet at the extension at 9:30. Please pick up your tee shirt before you leave.

We received a letter from the Botanical Garden thanking us for the work we've done and for the plants we purchased. We also received a thank you note from the State Conference Committee thanking us for the pot we donated.

Cecilia and Sandy will meet with the Wetumpka Herald today to discuss opportunities for getting CAMGA's work into the paper and out into the community.

Secretary's Report: Last month's minutes were shared in the news letter. A BIG THANK YOU to Lee Ann Marona for taking notes for me so that I could be present for the birth of my first grandchild, Ashlyn Haze Menges. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Quail's presented the Financial Report for May 2019. The beginning balance was \$74,535.40, a revenue of \$2,879.85, expenses of \$1,084.24, leaving an ending balance of \$6,331.01. The report was approved by acclamation.

CAMGA Minutes (Continued)



Projects Reports: CAMGA will be conducting a fairy garden class with the Senior Citizen's Center next month. Wear your red apron. Rona announced that the few fairy gardens available for purchase on the front table were all sold during the meeting. Thanks, everyone, for your support!

Mallory will be ordering name badges soon. If you need one, let her know ASAP!

Hydroponic/Aquaponic workshop on July 24. A flyer was distributed providing additional details. \$15, includes lunch.

Awards - Leigh Ann presented the Robyn Award to Bill Quailes.

The meeting concluded at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deann K. Stone



Bill Quailes received the Robin Award for the month of June. Congratulations Bill!



June Lunch and Learn By: Charlotte Hall

“Hydrangeas” Presented By: David Doggett

What a wonderful time of the year it is in the South when you see so many shrub-filled yards bursting with large blue, pink and purple balls of gorgeous blooms. Or see others with balls of white profusion. Or others with cascading white blooms and still others with panicle-shaped white blooms. Who would think that they all belong in the same family? The hydrangea is one of the most beloved plants in the southern garden. There is such an array of different types of hydrangea blooms, and we were so fortunate to have an expert on that subject speak to our Lunch and Learn group this past month. David Doggett from the Jefferson County Master Gardeners gave us a look into the mysteries of hydrangeas and told us about all the many types.



Hydrangea is a most unique plant as it is the only plant in the world that tells you something about the pH of the soil in which it is growing. The bigleaf hydrangea, known also as the French hydrangea or mophead hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla*, *Hydrangea serrata*) displays large ball-shaped blooms of pink, blue or purple depending upon the soil pH. They are native to Asia. They also include the lacecap hydrangea. Acidic soil produces blue blooms, alkaline soil produces pink and purple blooms result from a more neutral pH soil. Though mophead hydrangeas may be tweaked to change colors by adjusting the soil pH, there are many varieties that have a propensity to maintain an original color. The recent introduction of the Endless Summer repeat bloomers has extended the flower production time and has a profound impact on the growth of hydrangeas.

Here is the part of David's presentation that I found most interesting. He discussed the names of hydrangea varieties that are old standard varieties of each group and the new recently developed varieties. There are bunches and bunches of different hydrangeas. Some of the bigleaf hydrangeas that were discussed were Nikko Blue, Bluebird, Endless Summer, Merritt's Supreme, Sister Theresa, Fuji Waterfall, Lady in Red, All Summer Beauty, and Blue Deckle.

Oakleaf hydrangeas (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) are also called wild hydrangeas as they are indigenous to this area and many grow naturally in wooded areas. Some types of oakleaf are Snowflake, Snow Queen, Pee-Wee, Little Honey and Sikes Dwarf. David also told the story of how the Snowflake hydrangea was discovered by Dr. Eddie Aldridge. A chance seedling that has made it to national prominence, the Snowflake hydrangea was named for the intricate flowers that look like magnified snowflakes. And to think that all the thousands and thousands of Snowflake hydrangeas that are grown came from that one plant that was discovered accidentally. Unlike bigleaf hydrangeas, oakleaf or wild hydrangeas are always white.

Smooth hydrangeas (*Hydrangea arborescens*) is another type of hydrangea and has characteristic smooth leaves. They are also different from the bigleaf in that they also are white. They have large round ball blooms that often weigh down the stems, love the sun and bloom on new growth. .

June Lunch and Learn (Continued)

By: Charlotte Hall



Some of the discussed smooth hydrangeas include Annabelle, Icrediball, Hayes Starburst, White Dome, and Bella Anna Panicle Hydrangeas (*Hydrangea Paniculata*) include Limelight, PeeGee, Tardiva, Little Lamb, Phantom, Pink Diamond, Quick Fire, Fire Light, and Pinky Winky. As the popularity of these hydrangeas grow, more and more new breeds are being developed. Unlike the other hydrangeas, panicle hydrangeas are sun tolerant and can extend the bloom season from July to October. This is probably the easiest hydrangea to grow as it is the least particular regarding soil. It needs minimum half-day sun to bloom at its best.

Climbing hydrangea (*H. anomala petiolaris*, *Schizophragma* and *Decumaria* species) is a type of hydrangea that grows in trees or climb on a trellis. These vines are very slow to get established and may take years before beginning to bloom for the first time. Patience is required. Believe me, I know about this as I have had one for many years. It still has not bloomed. My patience is beginning to run thin.

David provided excellent handouts concerning how to grow each type of hydrangea, planting tips, proper pruning techniques for each type, fertilizer recommendations, and a hydrangea care calendar that gives details month by month of what and when to do for hydrangeas. Due to the phobia most gardeners have concerning whether to prune or not to prune hydrangeas, the detailed pruning handout is a wonderful guide to help eliminate that fear.

Next month please join us on July 9th when our own advanced master gardener Mary McCroan will make a much-anticipated presentation on Snake Identification.

I'm sure it's going to be another hot day in July, so join us in an air-conditioned cool room and learn all about both venomous and harmless snakes. We'll have cool air, an interesting program and some refreshments. Hope to see you then!





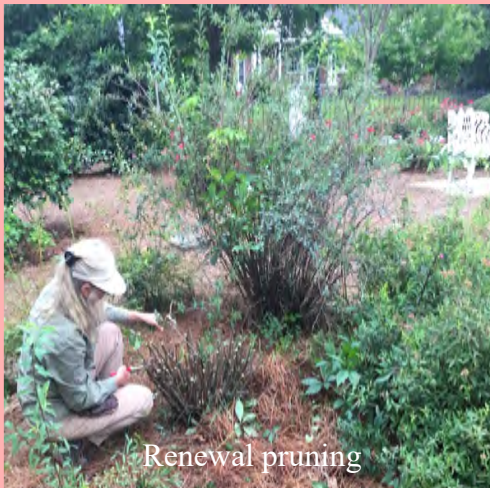
Governor's Mansion Report June 2019 By: Amanda Borden



Serenity Garden

In June, volunteers at the Governor's Mansion consistently watered all containers and trimmed, watered, and weeded around plants in the Herb Garden and the Serenity Garden.

They weeded and trimmed the boxwoods on the south side of the Mansion from the portico to the Guest House and in the Hill House front south bed and the Mansion's northeast bed. They trimmed the palms in the staff parking lot, renewal pruned spireas, pruned azaleas, and removed suckers from crape myrtles.



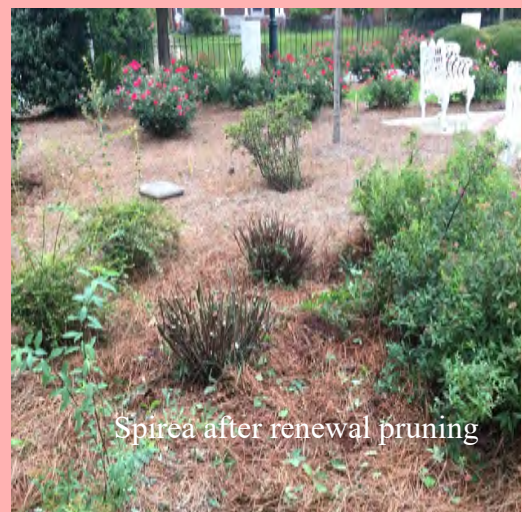
Renewal pruning



Spirea before renewal pruning



Water break



Spirea after renewal pruning

**Pictures from Master Garden Tour held June 25th
at the gardens of Lee & Amanda Borden and
Andy & Barbara Wallace**



Master Garden Tour held June 25th (Continued)





SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

2019

By: Judy May

The Lunch and Learn Program June 11 was Hello Hydrangeas by David Doggett. There were 47 in attendance, 26 of them Master Gardeners. Assisting were Sandi Adkison, Charlotte Hall and Cathy Whigham.

Attending the Unique Herb Varieties and Fresh Culinary Ideas workshop in Pike Road June 14th were Rhonda and Jesse Miles, Carolyn Placeway, Ricky Hatcher, Anne Carr, Linda Cater, Sherrie Schaefer, Marjorie Hannah, Sharon Kochik, Judy May, Linda Jarzyniecki and Montgomery intern Linda Jennings. Speakers were Jason Powell, Master Gardener Jeanelle Diggs and Extension Agent Janice Hall.

June 13 Judy May gave an Orchid Basics presentation to the Autauga County Master Gardeners. There were 21 in attendance.

Candy Jones did a presentation on Mountain Mint to 12 individuals in an Herb Group.

Bringing refreshments to the monthly meeting this month were Rhonda Miles, Linda Jennings, Marie Updike, Janet Lewis, Lynda Edwards, Bonnie McCormick, Robin Snyder and Judy May.

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

Working the Helpline this month were interns Sue Morris and Sita Williams; Master Gardeners John Barnes, Katrina Mitchell, Sandi Rosamond, Ricky Hatcher, Mary Ann Klatt and Mary Ann Hatcher.

Maria says thanks to all who helped set up and run Plants and Pollinators Day last month and clean up afterwards: Leslie Bingham, Ricky Hatcher, Sandra Gilley, Judy May, Mary Ann Hatcher, Jesse Miles, Cathy Whigham, Cheryl Fitzgerald, Linda Queen, Marie Updike, Don Hoover, Sue Brasel, Linda Jarzyniecki, Betty Plaster, Dee Turberville, and Ernie Edwards. Maria asks you to please call her if she left anyone off the list. She says she absolutely couldn't do it without your help. Your willingness to help not only gets the work done, but your enjoyment encourages the vendors and other guests. Thank you all!

Hydrangea Fest- Thank you Judy May and Sue Brasel for helping both weekends! Also thanks to Leslie Bingham, Carla McCune, Dee Turberville and Cathy Whigham for helping with Hydrangea Fest. It was a little crazy breaking it up over two weekends, but it went well and Maria says she has received a lot of positive feedback. Thanks for all the hard work.

Also a special thanks to the Master Gardeners who helped with the CAMGA table at Plants and Pollinators, providing information and fun activities for the children is vital to the success of this event.

Volunteer Opportunity: Maria will be harvesting Hydrangea Flowers for the rest of the summer so that she can make Hydrangea Wreaths for next year's Hydrangea Fest. Please call her if you want to participate in helping harvest flowers, root cuttings and relocate Hydrangea plants. 334-657-9414. Please don't forget, we do regular garden chores every Wednesday from 8 until 11 am and all are welcome.

Traveling to the Wallace's and Borden's on the 25th were Mallory Kelley, Cecelia Ball, Leslie Bingham, Anne Carr and her husband and daughter, Linda Cater, Ernest and Lynda Edwards, Iva Haynie, Candy Jones, Judy May, Bonnie McCormick, Mary McCroan, Debbie Kelso, Jesse and Rhonda Miles, Jane Mobley, Carolyn Placeway, Virginia Pruitt, Bill Quailles, Linda Queen, Sandy Rosamond, Sherron Schaefer, Robin Snyder, Dee Turberville, Marie Updike, Cathy Whigham, Barbara and Andy Wallace, Lee and Amanda Borden.



CAMGA Library News

By: Dee Turberville

DIY Hydroponic Gardens: How to Design and Build an Inexpensive System for Growing Plants, by Tyler Baras

Whether a beginner or an advanced gardener, *DIY Hydroponic Garden* takes the mystery out of growing plants in water. If you would like to build your own system, Tyler Baras (aka Farmer Tyler) provides step by step instructions to create, plant, and maintain over a dozen different hydroponic systems. The book includes practical solutions, some unique and affordable, with excellent photos that complement the instructions.

There are recipes for nutrient solutions, light and ventilation sources, and crop selection charts that explain how to grow specific plants, like popular vegetables, in a self-contained soil-less system. Seven chapters cover an (1) Introduction, (2) Equipment, (3) Hydroponic Growing Systems, (4) Starting Seeds and Cuttings, (5) Plant Nutrition, (6) System Maintenance, and (7) Common Problems and Troubleshooting. The glossary, the metric conversions and especially, the appendix of crop selection charts, are helpful at the end of the book. If you enjoy hands on learning, you will like the specific guidance in these creative constructions.



Author Tyler Baras, is a renowned hydroponic grower with extensive experience in both hobby and commercial hydroponics. Besides writing books for both home gardeners and commercial growers, Tyler creates educational videos covering a range of horticultural topics. His website, www.FarmerTyler.com, offers information for hydroponic growers of all experience levels.



July Gardening Tips

By: Jane H. McCarthy

What I try to do in July

- Do not plant or prune any trees or shrubs...too hot
- Water deeply...sprinklers water shallowly and lose water through evaporation
- Watch your established plants for drought stress...remember hydrangeas are heavy drinkers
- Camellias, hydrangeas, roses, and azaleas can be propagated with stem cuttings...soil must not be allowed to dry out
- Prune old blackberry canes after fruiting...promotes new shoots on which next year's berries will form
- Dig and separate iris...remove brown foliage and watch for borer damage
- New tomato plants you created in June can be planted when you have space in the garden

Field Trip to Aldridge Gardens

By: Candy Jones



Rip with the Snowflake Hydrangea

The sunny and warm morning of May 29th was a perfect time to explore the beautiful Aldridge Gardens in Hoover! Charlotte Hall, you are a gem for making the arrangements for this CAMGA field trip where there were over twenty members and guests in attendance. Director of Aldridge Gardens, Rip Weaver was a wonderful guide and historian telling us the fascinating story of how Aldridge Gardens came to be in existence. Opening in 2002, this 30-acre botanical garden sits in the heart of Hoover on the corner of Lorna Road and Rocky Ridge Ranch Road, and was founded by well known horticulturist, Eddie Aldridge. Aldridge and his father, Loren, are known internationally for their work with hydrangeas and many varieties of hydrangeas are showcased at the gardens. The signature, "Snowflake Hydrangea" was propagated, and then patented by Eddie Aldridge in 1971 after he and his father first saw the rare flower in 1969 and knew it was a very special species.

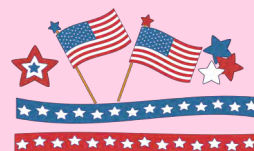
This plant produces sepals, not seed, so was propagated by taking cuttings and is named for the intricate flowers that look like magnified snowflakes and today is grown in gardens around the world.

As a nurseryman, Aldridge planted two magnolia trees on the property, which was then owned by the Coxe Family Estate, and it was then he noted the natural beauty of the property. It wasn't until years later that the property was put up for sale and he toured the property with his father who suggested he "could make a garden out of it". Before Aldridge could put an offer in, a development company was going to purchase the property to build apartments; however, the City of Hoover at the time put a halt on sewer connections, which led to the developers pulling out. It was then, the price fell and Aldridge offered to buy the property which Mrs. Coxe even financed for him. He moved into the large home on the property in 1978, though it wasn't until 1981 that he met his future wife, Kay. They married on the estate, and lived there until 1995. Eddie and Kay Aldridge donated the 30-acre gardens to the City of Hoover so that the varieties of hydrangeas could be enjoyed by all forever. The Snowflake is the official flower of the City of Hoover.

Though hydrangeas are the signature plant of the gardens, including the Snowflake, Annabelle, Harmony Oakleaf, Lacecap, and climbing hydrangeas; there are many other varieties of plants and trees featured throughout the garden, along with water features and a five-acre lake. On the peaceful, half-mile walking trail, visitors will see a Camellia garden, Chinese Fringe trees, Chinese Elm, Crepe Myrtle, Giant Dogwood, Ginkgo, Harry Lauder's Walking Stick, Japanese Maples, Olive Trees (to name a few), a beautiful pavilion in the woods along with rabbit statues, a butterfly bench and other seating areas, a wildflower meadow, a woodland stream that flows into the 5-acre lake, and an apiary with observation beehives. At the edge of the trail, is a lovely herb garden and gift shop. There is so much more to this oasis not mentioned here that I would recommend you go for a visit, or go back again. Each time you do, more gifts will be discovered and treasured.

Calendar of Events

July 2019



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i> 8-11 noon	2	3 <i>Lanark Workday</i> 8 to 12 noon	4 	5	6
7	8 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i> 8-11 noon	9 <i>Lunch & Learn</i> 12-1 p.m. Elmore Co. Extension Office	10 <i>Lanark Workday</i> 8 to 12 noon	11 <i>Learning Gardener Workday</i> <i>Master Gardener Helpline</i>	12	13
14	15 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i> 8-11 noon	16 <i>CAMGA Meeting</i> 10-12 noon Elmore Co. Extension	17 <i>Lanark Workday</i> 8 to 12 noon	18 <i>Learning Gardener Workday</i> <i>Master Gardener Helpline</i>	19	20
21	22 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i> 8-11 noon	23	24 <i>Lanark Workday</i> 8 to 12 noon	25 <i>Learning Gardener Workday</i> <i>Master Gardener Helpline</i>	26	27
28	29 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i> 8-11 noon	30	31 <i>Lanark Workday</i> 8 to 12 noon			