

Central Alabama Master Gardener Association September 2019

GARDEN BUZZZZ

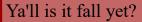






Message from:

Sandy Rosamond CAMGA President



September is the month that I start looking for cooler weather and falling leaves.

I know it is too early for fall in Alabama, but I am anticipating it. It feels like a different kind of spring to me, but still a new beginning.

Fall gardening, campfires, festivals and then the holiday season! I guess this season is our reward for surviving Alabama's hot summer.

Since the August heat killed my garden and the tomatoes are gone, it's time to start a fall garden. I just love fall gardening because it is at a slower pace. Then I still have time to build a campfire and have s'mores!

Slow down and enjoy! Sandy

Please Note: September 2019 Lunch & Learn Program New Meeting Location!! First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall 100 West Bridge Street, Wetumpka. 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.



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

Eliminating Pesky Mosquitoes

Football season is upon us and for many people this means gathering with friends outdoors to tailgate and grill burgers and hotdogs while watching the big games. Mosquitoes can quickly put a damper on outdoor activities and there is no simple solution for combating this perennial summer pest. **Where do they come from?** Even though we are still in drought conditions, we have had enough afternoon showers to favor mosquito development. Mosquitoes need quiet, non-flowing water for their development to take place. Mosquitoes can lay their eggs on the surface of water in anything that will collect and hold water such as; birdbaths, water pans under container plants, children's toys in the yard, roof gutters and the list goes on... Some types of mosquitoes can lay their eggs at the base of vegetation bordering streams or in low-lying moist areas subject to flooding.

Mosquitoes develop rapidly, transforming into biting adults in as little as one week. A neglected birdbath or wheelbarrow allowed to accumulate water can produce hundreds of new mosquitoes each day.

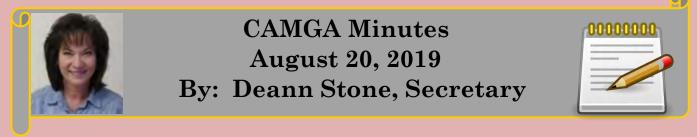
What can be done about them? Eliminate Breeding Sites. The best way to control mosquitoes is to find and eliminate their breeding sites. Eliminating large areas of standing water such as swamps or ditches may require a community wide effort. Nonetheless, homeowners can take steps to prevent mosquitoes from breeding on their property.

- Dispose of anything that can collect and hold water. Do not allow water to accumulate at the base of flower pots or in pet dishes for more than a few days. Clean debris from rain gutters and remove any standing water on patios or flat roofs.
- Change water in bird baths and wading pools at least once a week. Consider stocking ornamental ponds with predacious minnows. Known as mosquito fish, these minnows are about 1-1 ¹/₂ inches in length and can be purchased or seined from streams and creeks. Another approach with ornamental ponds is to apply a "biorational" insecticide which prevents mosquitoes from developing in the water. Products containing methoprene or Bacillus thuringiensis varisraeliensis (Mosquito dunks, Bactimos) are essentially harmless to other aquatic organisms and easily found in your local garden centers.
- Check around faucets and air conditioner units and repair leaks or puddles that remain for several days. Eliminate seepage from cisterns, septic tanks, and animal watering troughs.
- Fill or drain puddles, ditches and swampy areas. Remove, drain or fill tree holes and stumps with a suitable sealant. Irrigate lawns and gardens carefully to prevent water from standing for several days.

Mosquitoes can be kept out of homes by securely screening windows, doors and porches. The occasional mosquito found indoors can be eliminated with a fly swatter or aerosol-type insecticide labeled for flying insects.

Topically-Applied Repellents will help prevent bites when spending time outdoors. Use mosquito repellents containing ingredients such as diethyl toluamide (DEET). In general, the higher the percentage of DEET in the ingredients, the longer the protection. Low-percentage formulations are available for use with young children. Non-DEET containing repellents (e.g Avon Skin-so-soft, citronella) may provide some relief, but to a lesser degree and for a shorter duration. It is often desirable to apply insect repellent on outer clothing as well as the skin. Always read and follow directions on the container. Mosquito repellent should not be applied to the hands of young children, and treated skin should be washed with soap and water.

Remember, pesticides are poisonous. Read and follow directions and safety precautions on labels. Handle carefully and store in original labeled containers out of the reach of children, pets, and livestock. Dispose of empty containers right away, in a safe manner and place and do not contaminate forage, streams, or ponds.



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

Speaker: Linda Edwards introduced our speaker, Janice Hall, Food Safety and Quality Regional Extension Agent based in Autauga County. Her presentation was on Pressure Cooking Meals in Minutes.

Pressure cooking was created in 1680. The pressure cooker was revolutionized in 1915. Pressure cooking cuts cooking time by 1/3, more vitamins are retained in the food due to decreased cooking times. The cooler of your food is retained and more flavorful, resulting in less use of salt. Wild game and cheaper cuts of meat are more tender when pressure cooked.

Mrs. Hall provided pressure cooking safety tips, wild game recipe tips, and suggested that if you are cooking 1 lb of meat to pressure for 12 minutes per pound, if you do not have a recipe for pressure cooking the meat.

Presidents Report: Wetumpka will host a Charles Dickens Christmas December 6-7, 2019 and have asked CAMGA to help. We will make ornaments for the tree and sachet bags for us to distribute to participants on Tuesday, October 29, 2019. A sign up sheet will be provided soon so that you can sign up to participate. If you choose to participate on December 6 -7, we are asked to dress in Victorian Period costume.

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

Treasurer's Report: Bill Quailes' presented the Financial Report for July 2019. The beginning balance was \$6,457.01, a revenue of \$36.00, expenses of \$243.06, leaving an ending balance of \$6,249.95. The report was approved by acclamation.

Projects Reports: Terry Chambliss provided a convenient card listing all upcoming projects. Terry also mentioned that additional red aprons will be ordered and available for purchase. The cost will be \$15 per apron. A recap of the card is provided below:

Gourd Preparation - Thursday, August 29 from 10 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Volunteers will assist Sandy in preparing gourds for the September 20 Make & Take Gourd Birdhouse presentation. A sign up sheet was provided at the meeting.

Make & Take Gourd Presentation - Friday, September 20 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Participants will create gourd birdhouses using materials provided by our presenter, Sandy Rosamond. A sign up sheet was provided at the meeting. If you plan to participate, please bring a pair of scissors and a small (baby food size) jar. Sandy will share the solution, Rain Guard, to preserve your completed gourd. The cost is \$12 and can be paid the day of the class. However, if you did not sign up during today's meeting, please let Sandy know that you plan to attend so that she has ample supplies.

Plant and Pot Swap, plus Propagation -Friday, October 18 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Please bring plants and pots to exchange. You may exchange a plant for a plant and a pot for a pot!

Ornament & Sachet Making - Tuesday, October 29 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - see President's Report for details.



CAMGA Minutes August 20, 2019 (Continued) By: Deann Stone, Secretary

A Charles Dickens Christmas - December 6-7, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. see President's Report for details.

Jane Mobley thanked everyone for helping with the fairy garden project.

Rhonda Miles circulated cards of encouragement for Jane McCarthy.

Anne Carr shared a brochure for The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), which begins in September. You can register online at aum.edu/olli. Several classes are available. Anne also announced the Alabama National Fair Botanical Photography competition. Anida Wishnietsky will send information out to everyone via email.

Mary McCroan asked if members were interested in starting a food production garden to feed the homeless and contribute to the food pantry. If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact Mary.

Robin Snyder announced that the 2019 MG class will host an orientation on August 27. We have approximately 20 applicants! The class begins September 5 and will be from 9-2 each Thursday for 12 weeks. A mentor signup sheet was distributed. A signup sheet was also circulated to assist with setup and clean up for the class. Soon, a lunch signup will be circulated.

Janice Jackson, president of Master Gardeners of Montgomery, announced that Montgomery will meet with a representative from the Alabama Master Gardener's Association to vote on the possibility of Montgomery hosting the state conference in 2022. She has asked CAMGA to assist, if they vote host. Sandy and Candy will go to meeting and update us at our future meeting.

We are scheduled to go to Petals From the Past on September 17 at 10 am for our meeting and lunch. Linda will send an email to confirm your attendance and get your lunch order. Lunches are \$12 each.

The meeting concluded at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully Submitted, Deann K. Stone

Janice Hall, Regional Extension Agent presented a program on "Pressure Cooking Meals in Minutes" at the August CAMGA Meeting



Mary Ann Hatcher, right received the Robin Award at the August CAMGA meeting presented by Sandy Rosamond



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August 2019 Lunch and Learn By: Charlotte Hall

"Unique Ideas to Gardening in Small Spaces" Presented by: Glenn Huovinen, Master Gardener

We all know some of the basic requirements for a successful garden – good soil, water and sunshine – and therein lies the problem for a lot of us. Some of us more unfortunate gardeners may have less than advantageous soil, such as prairie soil (that would be me), or lots of trees and shade (me, again). Makes you wonder why I try to garden, doesn't it? However, Glenn Huovinen's Lunch and Learn presentation in August gave me a lot of new techniques where some of these conditions can be controlled.

The wonderful appeal of gardening in different containers is controlling some of the required elements for successful gardening. If you have bad soil, you can use different containers and fill them with nutrient-filled, almost perfect soil. If you have a limited amount of sun, you can move these containers to sunnier areas, and you locate these containers to a nearby water source. As with regular gardening, detail



should be given to plant selection and all the other basics of good gardening.

Rain gutters are a good example of a small container gardening idea. They are ideal for growing strawberries on a wall or in window box liners which are a little deeper than the rain gutters.

A tree garden made from an old tree with the branches cut to a shorter length for hanging baskets is another decorative and novel approach. Cut off the limbs of a tree trunk and place hanging baskets up and down the trunk for an interesting garden. More gardening in less space.

Espalier – a fruit tree or any other plant whose branches are trained to grown flat against a wall, supported on a lattice or a framework of stakes. This is a wonderful way of utilizing vertical space when there is not an overabundance of ground area. Not only is this a great way to get more in a smaller area, it also provides an easier way to gather your fruit without straining your back and bending over so much. Many fruit trees (apples, pears, etc.) and different berries, such as blackberries, can be grown in espalier form. A blank wall area can be transformed into a productive fruit bearing garden.

A new concept for me was the use of grow bags. A grow bag is a fabric bag filled with a growing medium and used for growing different plants, especially tomatoes and other salad crops. Grow bags can be different sizes and made of different materials. You can make your own or purchase some from various companies who specialize in these products. Glenn shared several company names and their website addresses.

The advantage of using grow bags, along with control of soil, water, etc. and their mobility, is the elimination of entangled roots. We have all seen plants that are all roots inside a pot or container. In pots, the roots of the plants grow in circles and entangle themselves. This increases the likelihood of having oxygenation or water stagnation problems. When the roots reach the edge of a regular plastic pot, they continue to grow in search of more water and nutrients and begin to encircle the pot, becoming more and more constricted.

August Lunch and Learn (Continued) By: Charlotte Hall





Grow bags help to alleviate this problem. When the roots come in contact with the fabric, they sense the drier soil that is exposed to the air and know they have reached their growth limit. The roots become "air pruned" which prevents overgrowth of roots and eliminates the girdling or encircling roots. You will also get more fibrous roots (many small root tips) from air pruning which allows the plants to take in more nutrients and water. Growth bags are breathable and help regulate temperature by allowing heat to escape through the sides of the breathable bag. Regular pots trap heat and get quite hot if located in direct sunlight.

Since grow bags are porous, they require more frequent watering. However, it is harder to over-water as excessive moisture wicks out of the container. Other big plus feature of grow bags are they are easy to store during the winter when pots are not needed, take up less space to store, and eliminate stacking traditional pots somewhere. Grow bags are light weight and usually comes with built in handles which makes them easy to move to different locations.

In conclusion on grow bags, the advantages are healthier root system (encourage root pruning rather than root circling),temperature control (shed excess heat through breathable fabric), prevents over-watering (excess water percolates through the fabric material), easy storage (can be folded and stored with minimal space), and versatility (can be easily moved or planted directly in the ground).

Glenn also shared with us sources of rain barrel kits which can be used for water sources with small container gardens. He even showed us a unique garden made with a kiddie pool and some tarp utilizing a drip irrigation system. Another example was a kiddie pool with plastic bags, such as ones from Walmart, substituting for growth bags. The plastic bags contained growing medium and had holes punched in the bottoms and sides of the bags for ventilation and a means of the water to drain. All in all, there are many different and varied methods of gardening which helps utilize space more efficiently and control some of the other gardening requirements.

Next month please join us on September 10th for a presentation on Controlling Pesky Weeds with Virginia Pruitt. This will be of particular importance to me since I have had an inordinate number of weeds this year for some reason. And you can enjoy Virginia's presentation at the **Wetumpka First Presbyterian Church at 100 West Bridge St.** We have been graciously invited back by pastor Jonathan Yarboro to have our monthly meetings there. Please join us and spread the word about our new location and learn all about controlling pesky weeds in your garden. We'll have cool air, an interesting program and some refreshments. Hope to see you then!

Garden Buzzzz September 2019



Governor's Mansion Report August 2019 By: Amanda Borden



During August, volunteers at the Governor's Mansion trimmed back the loropetalum between the tool shed and the herb bed, and they weeded and removed dead azalea branches along the front of the Mansion. They had to take one work day off due to the intense heat. Upon their return, the gardeners worked along the outer corner adjacent to the Finley bungalow; they trimmed and evened up the solidago and tidied the lantana at the side steps, making sure there were no branches trailing into the walkway. They trimmed the irises, removed pecan trees, and weeded where needed. They cut back spent aspidistra from the bed in front of the bungalow.





Projects Committee Minutes August 2019 By: Terry Chambliss

Minutes Project Committee Meeting

Those present were Jane Mobley, Sandy Rosamond, Johan Beumer, John Butler, Bill Quails, Rhona Watson, Candy Jones and Terry Chambliss

Old Business:

The Gourd Birdhouse Make and Take was discussed. Sandy needs about 8 volunteers to clean out the gourds, and cut pine cone bract scales. They will need gloves, scissors, and drills. The date was scheduled for Thursday, August 29, from 10-12:00. The date for the Make and Take remains Friday, September 20 from 9-12:00.

The date for the Plant Swap was scheduled for Friday, October 18 from 10-12:00 It will include the pot swap and propagation demonstration with Rhona and Jane. They discussed propagating camellias and hydrangeas. As before, participants do not need a plant or pot, they just will not be allowed in the first round of picks.

New Business:

Sandy shared she has been approached about Master Gardeners helping out at Jasmine Hill Gardens. They are promoting more community involvement and hope to attract educational programs on a monthly basis. Sandy requested volunteers to meet at Jasmine Hill on Monday, August 26th at 8:00am to see what is involved.

Sandy also spoke with Shellie Whitefield with the Wetumpka Chamber of Commerce about Christmas activities in downtown Wetumpka. A Victorian Christmas is planned including period carolers, Christmas tree lighting, free photos with Father Santa, a tree walk, possible snow in the ally area, etc She would like the Master Gardeners to decorate an indoor tree and be on hand to promote our organization. The volunteers need to dress in period clothes as well. After discussion, it was decided we need at least eight volunteers for December 6 & 7 from 5-8:00—four each day. In addition, volunteers will be needed for decorating the tree and dismantling when the holidays are over. The city will provide the tree. Sandy suggested we make period ornaments. It was also suggested we give out organdy sachet bags filled with herbs. Ornament and bag making was scheduled for Tuesday, October 29 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Candy volunteered to make chili.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Chambliss

Helpline News August 2019 By: Mary Ann Hatcher



Thank you to all of our dedicated Master Gardeners and Interns who worked the Helpline this season. You all made it so enjoyable and the volunteer hours flew by.

Working the Helpline in August were: Candy Jones, John Barnes, Sandi Rosamond, Terry Chambliss, Connie Willis, Ernie Edwards, Ricky Hatcher, and Corky Butts.

Sharon Potts was our Appointment Reminder. Cathy Whigham and Mary Ann Hatcher served as Advisors.





Connie Willis and Ernie Edwards assisting clients at the Master Gardener Helpline

Garden Buzzzz September 2019



Learning Garden Report By: Mary McCroan

Looking around the garden this month it was hard not to notice some opportunities for doing some plant propagation for our 2020 Plant Sale. Black Eyed Susan and Bee Balm are a bit crowded in the Butterfly Garden. Arborvitae Fern, Cast Iron Plant and the Anemone have overgrown their spots the Shade Garden and I'm not sure we want to talk about the proliferation of the Papyrus plant in the Rain Garden. We can plan on getting Angle Trumpet and Confederate Rose cuttings as well. Rhona Watson, one of our plant propagation experts, has agreed to lead a group to dig, divide and pot up plants at our next work day that we are tentatively planning for October 3, 2019. Part of our effort will be to set up an area behind the work shop to maintain our newly potted babies over the winter. I'd really appreciate donations of one gallon pots (cleaned please!) for this effort.

In addition, the work day will include the following projects if we get enough participation: build a new blackberry demonstration bed and prepping the hugelkultur bed for propagation efforts. Please put October 3rd on your calendar!

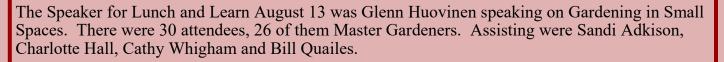


Although Amanda got a substantial late carrot harvest, overall the veggie production has slowed way down in our recent heat wave. However, there is still lot's going on the garden for the pollinators. The winter squash may be done for producing fruit, but the bees are still loving the late blossoms.

The zinnias that are allowed to free range around the garden are making the butterflies happy. The garlic chives in the morning light are a delight for the senses. And other flowers (crinum lily, clematis, and swamp lilies) are God's gift to make gardeners smile.



SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUTEERS August 2019 By: Judy May



Refreshments for the CAMGA meeting were provided by Jane Mobley, Linda Cater, Anne Carr, and Barbara Wallace. Janice Hall provided wonderful little cheesecakes with fruit toppings that were a delightful surprise.

Members attending the Projects Committee meeting August 13 were Jane Mobley, Johan Beumer, John Butler, Bill Quailes, Sandy Rosamond, Rhona Watson, Candy Jones and Terry Chambliss.

Members who worked with Maria this month at Lanark were Carla McCune, Leslie Bingham, Sue Brasel and Dee Turberville.

Working the Helpline this month were Candy Jones, Corky Butts, John Barnes, Sandi Rosamond, Terry Chambliss, Connie Willis, Ernie Edwards, Ricky Hatcher, Sharon Potts, Cathy Whigham and MaryAnn Hatcher.

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

Friday, August 24 Robin Snyder organized a kitchen cleaning session at Extension and wants to thank Lee Ann Marona, Cathy Whigham, Cecelia Ball, Bill Quailes, Katrina Mitchell and her employee Laurie. Robin says Katrina and Laurie facilitated getting lots of the area cleared out and it is much, much cleaner now in preparation for our intern class which starts September 5. Robin says it was a great accomplishment.

Thursday August 29, the Advanced Master Gardener committee met to hear the presentation on Weeds by Virginia Pruitt. Attending were Candy Jones, Bill Quailes, Mary McCroan, Jane Mobley, Amanda Borden, Glenn Houvinen, Maria Pacheco West, Judy May, Debby Boultelier and Rose McCauley.

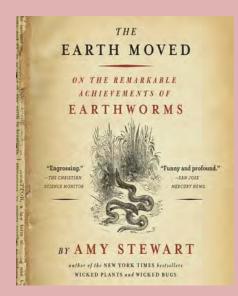


CAMGA Library News By: Dee Turberville

The Earth Moved; On the Remarkable Achievements of Earthworms

By Amy Stewart

Did you know that there are over 4,500 earthworm species worldwide and that most of those we encounter are not native to the United States? Charles Darwin discovered that an acre of garden soil can contain over 50,000 earthworms and yield 18 tons of castings per year. Earthworms eat 1/3 of their body weight in soil daily and there are enough of them to collectively "pass the top few inches of the planet's soil through their guts every year."



In her quirky nonfiction book *The Earth Moved* (remember my review *of Wicked Plants*), Amy Stewart takes us underground to discuss the humble earthworm. She is not a scientist but a gardener with a passion for growing and observing living things. She interviewed oligochaetologists (earthworm scientists) from around the world to write thirteen chapters of worm behavior, worm sex and anatomy, a worm's relationship to its environment, worms as a business, and keeping worms as a hobby.

We learn early in the book that Stewart has a great appreciation for Charles Darwin, who in his final years, became a meticulous researcher of the earthworm. This pioneer wrote a respected book on his observations, experiments and thoughts of these small, spineless, blind, yet intelligent (!) creatures. Their impact on the environment is now accepted as they plough the soil, fight plant diseases, clean up pollution, and turn ordinary dirt into fertile soil. While overall earthworms are beneficial, they can be an invasive species and have displaced many native species and have even disrupted woodland forests. Bait worms have been banned from dumping in some forests in the northern U.S. because they have devoured the decaying forest floor essential for the germination of ferns, wildflowers, and trees. This in turn has caused the disappearance of microscopic creatures, ground-dwelling birds, and soil erosion. However, in the right environment, earthworms are of great benefit and will continue to be for the future of humani-ty. The latest research reveals better ways to make use of their actions and products to increase nutritional crop yields and to control the destructive actions of other soil organisms and diseases. Amy Stewart's chapter on worms and sewage treatment facilities give hope that they may be able to break down animal and human waste as well as remove toxins.

Amy Stewart often mentions her awesome worms in her worm composting bin. You may be inspired to purchase your own Can-O-Worms, Wriggly Wranch, or Worm Factory, too.



September 2019 Gardening Tips By: Jane H. McCarthy

What I try to do in September

- Need I remind you to water?
- Start thinking about which perennials you want to divide in November
- Add organic material to your beds
- Collect seeds
- Purchase and plant perennials and biennials remembering to mulch and water
- Some perennials can be propagated by stem cuttings now, protected over the winter, then planted in spring
- Camellias can be purchased now and chosen based on their bloom, and planted in November
- Plant veggie seedlings...broccoli, cabbage, collards, and lettuce for your fall garden

UPCOMING EVENTS



Calendar of Events

September 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Labor Day	3	4 Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon	5 Learning Garden Workday 2019 MG Class, Extension Office 9-2	6	7
8	9 Governor's Mansion Work Day 8-11 noon	10 Projects Meeting Extension office Conference Room 10:30-11:45 a.m. Lunch & Learn — First Presbyterian Church, Wetumpka 12 noon — 1 p.m.	11 Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon	12 Learning Garden ^{Workday} 2019 MG Class, Extension Office 9-2	13	14
15	16 Governor's Mansion Work Day 8-11 noon	17 CAMGA Board Meeting 9-10 a.m. Extension Office Conference Room CAMGA Meeting at Petals from the Past	18 Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon	19 Learning Garden Workday 2019 MG Class, Extension Office 9-2	20 CAMGA Gourd work- shop 9-12, Ex- tension Auditorium	21
22	23 Governor's Mansion Work Day 8-11 noon Autumn Be-	24	25 Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon	26 Learning Garden Workday 2019 MG Class, Extension Office 9-2	27	28
29	30 Governor's Mansion Work Day 8-11 noon					