



GARDEN BUZZZZZ



Volume 28 Issue 10 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association October 2019



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Message from:

Sandy Rosamond
CAMGA President



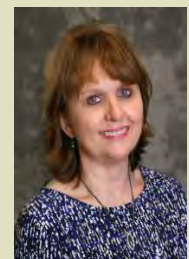
WHAT TO DO WHEN THE WEATHER IS HOT!

I'm ashamed to say that I have not entered my volunteer hours like I should have. Especially since I made a promise to myself at the beginning of the year to stay up to date with them. Have you entered yours? No?? Don't wait to the last minute! While the weather is so hot it is a good time to enter them.

I would like to relocate some perennials , but I know the plants would have a difficult time surviving in this heat.. I guess all I can do right now is make a plan where to relocate the perennials and wait for cooler weather.

And of course enter my volunteer hours.....

Sandy



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

The Plague of the Lady Bugs

For Alabamians, lovebugs are not so lovely. These insects are a stubborn, sticky seasonal problem for drivers especially when stuck to the front of your vehicle. I have had clients calling asking if there is anything they can do to repel or kill these “plague like insects?”

“Lovebugs get their common name as some often fly while still coupled from mating. These bugs swarm twice a year like clockwork, every May and September” says Dr. Xing Ping, an Extension Entomologist for Alabama Extension. The autumn swarm is usually larger and plague-like. Although individual females live for only a few days, adult flight activity last for about a month before they disappear.

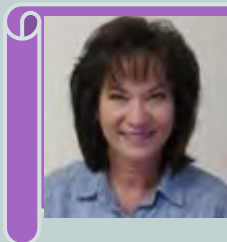
These nuisance insects become more abundant after a rain and are concentrated in areas with decaying organic matter, especially in pastures and farms with livestock. Swarming occurs primarily from 10 to 11 a.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. each day.

Lovebugs do not bite or sting and are not poisonous, but they are a major nuisance to motorists when smashed on car windshields and headlights. The lovebugs on your vehicle when exposed to sunlight will turn acidic within 24 hours and can cause damage to car paint and clog radiators. The best solution is to wash the bugs off as soon as possible.

For management of Lovebugs there is no easy solution. The females lay eggs in moist habitats such as ditches and swampy areas high in organic matter. Larvae or maggots live on decomposing organic matters in the soil. Organic matter in the soil is music to the ears of a gardener, but it is an attractant to lovebugs, but it is important to remember only a few more weeks and they should be gone. In the mean time, you can try to eliminate the areas that are holding moisture and around the home prune back foliage for better light penetration and air circulation.

These insects do not respond to insect repellents containing DEET or citronella and spraying them with other contact insecticides is really not advised or economical.

Just hang in there, the plague will pass soon!



CAMGA Minutes

September 17, 2019

By: Deann Stone, Secretary



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

Speaker: Lynda Edwards introduced our speaker, Jason Powell, Petals from the Past. Jason welcomed everyone and shared the background of the nursery. The topic for today was Antique and Garden Roses. Members were able to shop following the meeting.

Secretary's Report: The report was published in the newsletter. The report was approved by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Quailes' presented the Financial Report for August 2019. The beginning balance was \$6,249.95, a revenue of \$0.00, expenses of \$373.47, leaving an ending balance of \$5,876.48. The report was approved by acclamation.

Projects Reports: Terry Chambliss announced the following projects: Friday, September 20 - Gourd Project. Registration has closed. Thursday, October 1 - Learning Garden Work Day Friday, October 18, 10 - 12, Plant and Pot Swap + propagation.

Learning Gardens: Mary McCune proposed a blackberry trellis to use for demonstration. She requested \$200 for this project. Discussion was held. Bonnie McCormick made the motion to approve. Jane Mobley seconded it.

Mary shared that she has some pruning that needs to be done in the learning garden, as well as some propagation of some overgrown plants. The work day will be October 3 at 9 AM. Mary asked for some 1 gallon pots to use for planting some of the plants that are being divided. Please rinse them out first and drop off at the learning garden. The newly potted plants will be used for the Plant sale, next May

Presidents Report: Charles Dickens Christmas - Ornament and Sachet making scheduled for October 29 has been postponed until further notice. Sandy proposed that we send out a message to the group regarding times during the week that a group will meet to make approved ornaments. Sandy also said that members could take supplies home to make ornaments. Sandy also requested members to collect drift wood and broken glass with which she can make a star. Terry asked for members to dry mint, rosemary, and lemon balm to use to make sachets.

UPDATE: We will meet on the 29th from 10-2 to make ornaments.

Sandy reminded members to dress in Victorian period dress if you choose to participate. She also mentioned that the Chamber had asked for us to recommend flowers/plants for the pots that will decorate the streets down town. Deann Stone suggested using birch, spruce, and cedar limbs in the pots. Deann will provide Sandy with a picture of some she has seen before.

Intern Luncheons - Sandy distributed the intern luncheon sign up sheets and asked for members to complete the grids to ensure all items are covered. Robin shared that you are welcome to bring your items early, if needed, to be kept in the fridge. If the item needs to be warmed, please bring in a crockpot or we can use the oven to warm food. If you were not present for the meeting and would like to help with the luncheons, please contact Deann Stone, deann.stone@mc.com.

Rhonda Miles commended Sandy on her gourd presentation she did for Montgomery.

Award: Virginia Pruitt received the Robin Award this month. Congratulations!!

The meeting concluded at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deann K. Stone



September 2019 Lunch and Learn

By: Charlotte Hall

“Controlling Pesky Weeds - Virginia Pruitt”

Well, here it is September – the month autumn officially starts. And I don’t know about you, but it is still stifling hot at my house and in my yard. And at Lunch and Learn last month, we learned about something that we all have. I have them. You have them. Seems all God’s children have them, and they can be most aggravating to gardeners. And I’m not talking about skeletons in your closet. They are WEEDS! Somehow, they seem to survive and, in some cases, thrive in this heat. Virginia helped us identify and commiserate over these pesky garden invaders.

We first need to define exactly what a weed is. Merriam-Webster identifies a weed as a plant that is not valued where it is growing, is usually of vigorous growth and tends to overgrow or choke out more desirable plants. Or as Virginia put it simply, a weed is a plant in the wrong place. And I know this to be true because I have a friend who loves morning glories, but they are not welcome in my yard and are considered weeds by me. Some people have centipede grass growing in their yard and work very hard to maintain it. However, centipede in a pasture can be considered a weed. Just in the wrong place. Although henbit is considered a weed by most, it is food for bees in January when there is not an abundance of plant choices. Interesting fact – bees collect red pollen from henbit, a member of the mint family with a square stem. There are two (2) species of red pollen in the South and henbit is one of them. I may have to give henbit a “bit” of a pass now that I know this interesting fact.

During her presentation, Virginia had slides of the common Southeastern weeds that she covered. The most invasive plants that we have are from Eastern Asia where they have weather very similar to ours. So once here, these plants thrive and thrive and continue to thrive.

Lots of weeds cause headaches for gardeners when found in their lawn. Virginia cuts her grass and doesn’t mow her lawn. There is a big difference in that a lot of your grass yard may contain plants other than the formal grass you have chosen. And you may choose just to cut all the green plants in your yard and not fret over some of the weeds that are there.

In making an effort to lessen the weed count, first try to identify what type weed is present. Is it a forb (herbaceous flowering plant) or a graminoid (grass, sedge or rush)? Is it monocot or dicot? Does it have runners under the ground and propagate through runners? Is it broadleaf or narrow leaf? Does it seed? Is it native? Terribly invasive? Does it have a long tap root? All of these answers will help determine how to combat that pesky little invasive non-appreciated, don’t want it growing here, plant. Answers will determine if the weed can be addressed by a pre-emergence application or a post-emergence.

Some of the common weeds discussed were sedges (my ALL TIME favorite – nut sedge or nut grass), smilax, Virginia creeper, rattlesnake weed, dandelion (did you know all parts of the dandelion plant are edible?), yellow thistle, sow thistle, wild lettuce, plantain, hop clover, vetch, crabgrass, Virginia button-weed, common grasses such as Johnson grass, sandbar or sandspur, creeping signal-grass, goose-grass, Alexander grass, common and Chinese lespedeza, hyssop spurge, pig weed, woolly croton, horse-weed, morning glory, horse nettle and last but not least - chamber bitter or gripe-weed.

September Lunch and Learn (Continued)

By: Charlotte Hall



I re-rank my all-time despised weeds and put chamber bitter or gripe weed as the number one (BIG NO. 1), NUMERO UNO, at the top of my list. It is only referred to as gripe weed at our house because my husband says that is what I do about having it anywhere in the yard – gripe! He thinks there is no more appropriately named plant or weed in the South.

Virginia helped us to identify lots of these common weeds with her photos and plant descriptions. She also recommended a book entitled “Weeds of Southern Turfgrasses” which is a publication by ACES in conjunction with Auburn University which has both pictures and descriptions of these weeds.

Some simple means of dealing with some weeds is to have a heavy application of mulch which slows the “spread and take over” aspect. Cardboard, layers of newspapers and magnolia leaves being used for mulch also aids in controlling some weeds. In summary, Virginia said that the first line of defense is a healthy lawn, well fertilized and adequately watered. Identify your weed problem. Research lawn grass and crop tolerance – pre-emergent or post-emergent. Tackle the job before the plants seed. If you didn’t plant it, pull it. Nip it, nip it in the bud. And remember that one year of seeding is seven (7) years of weeding – or more. And if you have nut sedge, you can take the advice of Virginia’s father on how to get rid of that one – move off and leave it!

Please join us on October 8th which is the second Tuesday in October, again at noon at the Wetumpka First Presbyterian Church location to enjoy a presentation by Dani Carroll on Bugs In and Around the Home. Since Virginia has helped us identify those pesky weeds, we now have the opportunity to find out about these pesky bugs. And I don’t think the aggravating love bugs that are invading Central Alabama right now are the only ones that will be covered. You never know exactly what you are going to see and hear, but you can know that it will be informative and entertaining.

Who knows? It may be just the solution you are needing. Remember that drinks will be furnished. Hope to see you then!





Governor's Mansion Report September 2019 By: Amanda Borden



During the devastatingly hot, dry month of September, Governor's Mansion volunteers watered, watered, and watered some more, with special attention to pots on the porches and the distressed plants in the herb garden. They worked in front of the Mansion, in the back yard, in the Secret Garden, and on the side entrance to the Mansion. They weeded, dead-headed knockout roses, and trimmed dead plant material in the herb garden and from azaleas near the Mansion. All are hoping for some rain and cooler temperatures by October!

Anne and Kathy weeding and trimming in the back



Secret Garden border before weeding



Secret Garden border after weeding, with Dawn, Anne, Kathy, Linda and Amanda (photographer) admiring their handiwork





Projects Committee Minutes September 2019 By: Candy Jones

In attendance: John Butler, Candy Jones, Mallory Kelly, Jane Mobley, Bill Quailes, and Rhona Watson

The meeting opened discussing Make & Take Gourds Project scheduled for September 9th, 9 a.m. --12 noon. Gourd prep day went very well.

Learning gardens workday is scheduled for October 3rd, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We will work on:

New propagation area – for the plant sale.

Mary will ask Deann about Intern lunch & whether it would be ok for Project's Committee to bring pizzas. Need sign-up sheet

Plants & Pot Swap & Propagation was discussed. The date is October 18th, 10 a.m. to 12 noon with Rhona & Jane discussing propagation.

Note: Jane has looked at the camellias that were air-layered at her home & thought some would be ready for the Plants, Pots & Pollinators in October.

Ornament & Bag Making Workshop will be October 29th, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

Need 300 organza bags for the herbs & business cards – Candy will order (*check with Terry first*). We will work on ornaments October 29th, but herb bags will be scheduled for another date. Candy will be make chili.

Month of November has nothing scheduled

Downtown Dickens Christmas will be December 6 and 7th, 5 to 8 p.m.

Sandy will let us know when we can decorate the tree, (*likely will be only a few days before the event*).

Learning Garden Report

September 2019

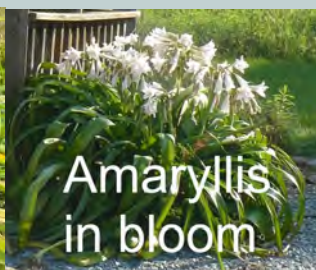
By: Mary McCroan



A couple of days ago I walked around our gardens at the Extension Center and was impressed with the hardiness of some of the plants in the areas that are not irrigated. I finally did put a “flip-flop” sprinkler on some, but these pictures were taken before that. So for tough as nails plants for your garden that hang in there when times are tough: Amaryllis (pictured both now and when in bloom last spring), roses and Lantana which is our top pollinator.



Amaryllis



Amaryllis
in bloom



Lantana
and Bush
Rose



Cashmere
Bouquet



Zinnias

And then there is the Cashmere Bouquet completely neglected behind the kitchen and looking great. Zinnas that grow wherever they want including the gravel in front of the butterfly garden.

And don't forget Confederate Rose and Angels Trumpet that don't seem to care about water at all. And the rose that Linda Griebel left us growing on the pergola (one of her favorites) deserves special mention.

My last garden thought--don't forget that our work day for October 3rd has been cancelled on account of TOO HOT.



Confederate
Rose

September Events — Master Gardener Intern/Mentor Luncheon and Decorating With Gourds Workshop

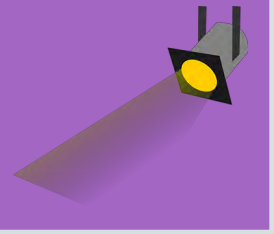




SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUTEERS

September 2019

By: Judy May



The following CAMGA members made a Mexican Fiesta possible for the interns: Sheila Radford, Virginia Pruitt, Robin Snyder, Sandy Rosamond, Iva Haynie, Lynda Edwards, Glen Houvinin, Deann Stone, Cathy Whigham, Charlotte Hall, Sandi Adkison, Judy May and Mallory Kelley.

Present at the Projects Committee meeting were Jane Mobley, Rhona Watson, John Butler, Bill Quailes and Candy Jones.

Rhona Watson is presenting Fairy Gardens to the Emerald Mountain Garden Club on September 23.

The Lunch and Learn Program September 10 was Pesky Weeds by Virginia Pruitt. There were 42 attendees, 36 of them Master Gardeners. Assisting were Sandi Adkison, Charlotte Hall, Cathy Whigham and Bill Quailes.

CAMGA members who worked at the Governor's Mansion this month were Amanda Borden, Anne Carr and Linda Cater.

Maria says Carla McCune, Leslie Bingham and Dee Turberville all helped her this past month. It's been hot and dry and she really appreciates the help! She says we've had several weddings and things would not have been so beautiful without these hard working Master Gardeners!

Thanks so much! Please consider helping me in the Lanark gardens weekdays. Just call 334-657-9414 and schedule your time. Thank you.



Sandy Rosamond presented "Decorating with Garden Gourds" program at the Montgomery County Lunch and Learn in September.

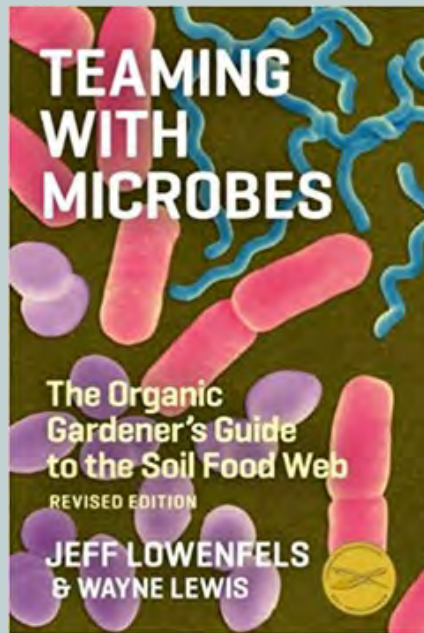


CAMGA Library News

By: Dee Turberville

Teaming with Microbes; the Organic Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web

Teaming with Microbes was written by Jeff Lowenfels, a garden writer and attorney, and Wayne Lewis, a lifelong gardener. Both gardeners follow the teaching of Dr. Ingham's soil food web theory. They have adapted her methodologies and present the ideas in this book. The book won the 2011 Media Award from the Gardener Writers Association and has played an important role in educating gardeners about soil and the importance of microbes.



Teaming with Microbes is divided into two parts. Part One is a good introduction to the various life forms in the garden including bacteria, fungi, nematodes, protozoa and dew worms. The authors discuss some of the chemistry going on in the soil as well. Part Two discusses action items using 19 simple rules for gardeners to follow. In summary, the rules use the application of compost, mulch and compost tea to improve the soil web. Compost and mulch are accepted scientific methods for improving the soil and plant health. Compost tea, not so much so, although the authors do provide precise instructions on creating a erated compost tea. They are encouraging gardeners to be soil smart. The scientific community may disagree with a few of the rules, noting that some synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, when used correctly in the right amount, do no not kill all soil microbes.

I liked their “lazy” idea of cold composting – spreading, topping, and lightly digging rather than tilling deeply into the soil to disturb the food web. The authors nurture plants the way Mother Nature intended. For example, Chapter 24 -- “No One Ever Fertilized an Old Growth Forest.” Owen, a reviewer on the *Good Reads* site, states: “I love a book that gets me to think of bacteria and fungi as little bags of fertilizer. And then come along the protozoa and nematodes to release that fertilizer as manure right in the root zone, or the rhizosphere. Love it. My inner ecology/farm nerd gives this book two green thumbs up. If you garden, you should read this book.”



October 2019 Gardening Tips

By: Jane H. McCarthy

What I try to do in October

Remember October is usually our driest month...so don't forget to water

Prepare your house plants and tender perennials to come in for the winter...repot if necessary in clean pots, clean soil and apply ½ strength fertilizer

I try and get all my tender plants inside before the first frost, or before I turn the heat on...whichever comes first

Purchase your spring bulbs, store them in a cool dry place until December, then plant... However, if you are like me, you will forget them, accidentally find them, and get them planted by mid-January

After the first frost (but before the first killing frost) you can dig up your geraniums, caladiums, dahlias, tender elephant ears, and tender cannas...knock off the excess soil and store them in a warm, dry, and dark place...and if you're like me, you will promptly forget where you put them

Watch for camellias in the retail stores...blooms are the best way to select a new plant...and consider mature size

Start propagation for the plant sale...remember, a healthy plant in a small pot is more desirable than a weak plant in a large pot...



2020 CAMGA Membership Form

Central Alabama Master Gardener Association 2020 Membership Form Due: December 15, 2019

Please Print:

Name _____ Birthday - Month _____ Day _____

_____ *Check if your information in the 2019 CAMGA Membership Directory is correct. If your information is correct, it is unnecessary to complete your profile information below.*

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Home Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Year of your Master Gardener Class Graduation _____ County _____

Membership (includes graduating interns):

_____ CAMGA Membership Dues - \$ 20

_____ Pay \$12 only if you are already paying state dues through another Master Gardener Association (example: CCMGA, ACMGA, LCMGA)

Name of Association of State Membership: _____

Checks should be made payable to CAMGA.

Amount Enclosed: Check \$ _____ Check Number _____ Cash \$ _____

Please mail or give this completed form and dues to:

Bill Quailles, Treasurer
309 Ross Road
Wetumpka, AL 36092

Would you like to receive a CAMGA Membership Directory Booklet as well as the digital version or only the digital directory? **Check one:**

_____ CAMGA Directory Booklet as well as the Digital Version

_____ Digital CAMGA Directory ONLY

***Your completed form and dues must be submitted by December 15, 2019 or you risk not being included in the 2020 CAMGA Membership Directory. If you wish to have a new picture in the directory, send to cathywhigham@gmail.com by December 15.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Oct Lunch & Learn Program
New Meeting Location!!
First Presbyterian Church
100 West Bridge Street, Wetumpka.
October 8th — 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.**

**Fall High Tunnel Vegetable Workshop for
Small, Beginning, and Experienced
Farmers**

**Wednesday, October 9, 2019
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

**Registration: Call the Shelby Co. Extension Office
(205) 669-6764**

**Workshop cost: FREE for everyone!
(lunch will be served without charge)**


**Location: Kirk and Allison Creel's
Blue Rooster Farms
185 Leisure Lane, Sterrett, AL 35147**

Calendar of Events



October 2019

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1	2 <i>Lanark Workday</i> 8 to 12 noon	3 <i>Extension Workday canceled</i> 2019 MG Class, Extension Office 9-2	4	5
	6	7 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i> 8-11 noon	8 <i>Lunch & Learn</i> <i>First Presbyterian Church,</i> <i>Wetumpka</i>	9 <i>Lanark Workday</i> 8 to 12 noon	10 <i>Learning Garden Workday</i> 2019 MG Class, Extension Office 9-2	11
12	13	14 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i> 8-11 noon	15 <i>CAMGA Meeting</i> <i>Extension Auditorium</i> 10-12 noon	16 <i>Lanark Workday</i> 8 to 12 noon	17 <i>Learning Garden Workday</i> 2019 MG Class, Extension Office 9-2	18
19	20	21 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i> 8-11 noon	22	23 <i>Lanark Workday</i> 8 to 12 noon	24 <i>Learning Garden Workday</i> 2019 MG Class, Extension Office 9-2	25
26	27	28 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i> 8-11 noon	29	30 <i>Lanark Workday</i> 8 to 12 noon	31 <i>Learning Garden Workday</i> 2019 MG Class, Extension Office 9-2	