



GARDEN BUZZZZZZ



Volume 28 Issue 12 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association December 2019



Message from:

Sandy Rosamond
CAMGA President



We are ending this year busy. Just as it has been all year. I guess that is why it went by so quickly.

During November our 2020 Intern Class completed the course with top scores! We are so excited to have them join our association. We also completed over 200 Christmas ornaments for the Chamber of Commerce tree and 350 sachet bags to give out with our business cards attached.

Thank all of you for volunteering to create so many natural ornaments. Yes, I do like sticks and acorns and all the good stuff you can find in the woods. Most of all I enjoyed being with all of you as we worked.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our Christmas party "Through the Eyes of a Child". Just following that is "The Charles Dickens Christmas" in downtown Wetumpka. They even have a snow alley.

It has been a wonderful year and I am looking forward to an even greater year in 2020. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year !

Sandy



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CAMGA Garden Buzzzzz
Carol Pugh — Editor
pughdia@aces.edu



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

Growing Camellias

Did you know that the camellia is the state flower of Alabama? I find this most fitting as we can grow this evergreen flowering shrub quite easily and there are varieties that bloom 3 out of the 4 seasons (except summer) in our Alabama climate. Not only are they easy to grow in Alabama, but did you know that the sweet tea we southerners love to drink comes from the camellia genus, a relative of the camellias we have growing in our landscapes?

Each year you may notice there are more and more varieties of flower forms, new hybrids, seedlings, and hardier species. Even though we can have camellias flowering in Alabama September through March, not every variety of Camellia is suitable to our climate (Zone 7-8) in central Alabama, so do your research on varieties before purchasing.



Some camellias can be grown in full sun, although most grow and produce better flowers in partial shade where the blooms and foliage are protected from sunburn. A site under pine trees is ideal as they provide filtered light year-round for growth, winter protection and natural mulch from the pine needles. Camellias do best in soils that are acid (pH 5.0 to 6.5) and do poorly in alkaline conditions (pH above 7.0).

Camellias require only light pruning, if any, to remove dead wood and to thin inside limbs to increase air movement. The best time to prune is after blooming and before new flower and vegetative buds form. As for problems on camellias, the most common is flower blight (also called petal blight) and tea scale. The flower blight is caused by a fungus that infects only the flower tissue of camellias and does not spread from flower to flower. It is characterized by brown spots on the petals that spread rapidly to engulf the whole bloom. Infected blooms fall to the ground where the fungus will overwinter until the following year. This fungus can lie dormant in the soil up to 4 years.

When warm and humid conditions occur, small, dime-sized, brownish-gray mushrooms form and produce the fungal spores that will infect the blooms. A community effort is needed to collect these mushrooms as the spores can be carried by wind for half a mile or more. It is prevalent and most active in humid areas when the temperatures range between 45 degrees F and 70 degrees F when the camellias are in bloom. Tea Scale insects are the most significant pests of camellias. They pierce the leaves and twigs and suck out the plant juices. This stunts and weakens the camellia and hurts the appearance of the foliage. Yellow splotches appear on the upper side of the leaves, while the underside is covered with a cottony mass.

For control of scales you can use Horticultural oil sprays which should be reapplied often and must make direct contact with the scales or you can use systemic insecticides, such as imidacloprid which is an insecticide drench that is taken up by the roots and ingested when the scales feed on the leaves.

If you live in Alabama and do not already have a camellia growing in your yard, I encourage you to add one to your landscape. They can add beautiful color almost any time of the year.



CAMGA Minutes November 2019 By: Deann Stone, Secretary

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

Speaker: Lynda Edwards introduced our speaker, Kevin Denham, assistant manager of Southern Homes and Gardens. He spoke on how to transition your home from fall to Christmas. Wreaths and garlands are easy to use. Mr. Denham provided a display and examples of how to use items in your home.

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

Treasurer's Report: In Bill Quailes absence, Rhona Watson presented the Financial Report for October 2019. The beginning balance was \$6,048.05, a revenue of \$562.00, expenses of \$502.01, leaving an ending balance of \$6,108.04. The report was approved by acclamation.

President's Report: Sandy Rosamond shared that a stag horn fern needs a foster home until the plant sale, or can be purchased for \$25. We also have some aprons for sale for \$15.

Judy May has resigned her post as "Spot Light on Volunteers" coordinator. Judy writes a monthly column about those that volunteer each month. If you would like to serve in this position, please let Sandy Rosamond know.

Also, Bill Quailes will be away from our group for the next three months. Bill usually comes early to our meetings and sets up the room. If you are available to help with this task, please arrive a little early to the meeting and join in the fun! Your help is greatly appreciated and much needed.

The Spring AMGA Conference is in Mobile March 30 - April 1 at the Renaissance Hotel. You are encouraged to call and make your reservations, if you plan to attend.

Robyn Snyder asked everyone to notice the new bulletin board in the entry of our meeting area. Please check the board for announcements and use the board to post group pictures.

Robyn circulated a sign up sheet for the January - May monthly meeting snack items and asked members to volunteer to bring goodies for our meetings.

Robyn Snyder announced that the annual Christmas Party is December 3 beginning at 10:00 AM (the board will meet at 9 AM) at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall at 100 West Bridge Street, Wetumpka. There will be a short business meeting followed by holiday festivities and lunch. Please RSVP at your earliest convenience. A sign up sheet was circulated for luncheon items. The theme is "Christmas Through the Eyes of a Child." If you would like to share a special Christmas memory from your childhood, please plan to do so. You are invited to bring a guest. We would especially like for our senior CAMGA members who may no longer participate to join us. If you know someone, please reach out to them and invite them to come!

CAMGA Minutes (Continued)

November 2019

By: Deann Stone, Secretary



Lynda Edwards asked for volunteers to share their gardens with our group this spring. If you are willing to host a visit to your garden, please let Lynda know.

Lynda also shared that an orientation for interns will be held in January. Leaders of groups/committees will share volunteer opportunities. If you lead a committee, expect to hear from Lynda soon. If you are a veteran master gardener, please plan to attend this orientation and learn how you can better participate in the many activities available.

Lunch and Learn Report: Charlotte Hall shared the flyer for Lunch and Learns for 2020 and encouraged all members to participate.

Projects Reports: Terry Chambliss announced the following projects:
Victorian Christmas - still need some help December 6 and 7. Please sign up!
Tree Decorating - December 2 at the Chamber Office from 10 AM until
Tree Take Down - December 30 from 10:00 AM until

We need your help! Please come if you are available!

Nomination of Officers —
Rhona Watson led the nomination of officers:
Sandy Rosamond, President
Lynda Edwards, Vice President
Deann Stone, Secretary
Deborah Kelso, Treasurer
Linda Queen, Representative

No nominations were offered from the floor. The membership voted unanimously for those nominated.

Rhona also announced the trip to Quail Hollow Friday, November 22. Meet there at 10 AM, if you plan to participate. The tour should conclude by noon.

Mallory is planning to order some badges. If you need a new one, please let Mallory know as soon as possible. All Advanced Master Gardeners will receive a golden acorn at the Christmas Luncheon. She also reminded mentors to “be mentoring” their interns. She also announced that the Governor’s Mansion tours will be the first, second, and third Monday nights of December from 5:30 - 8 PM. The tour is free, but you must get a ticket.

Award: The Robyn Award was given to Carolyn Placeway this month. Congratulations, Carolyn!

The meeting concluded at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deann K. Stone



November 2019 Lunch and Learn By: Charlotte Hall

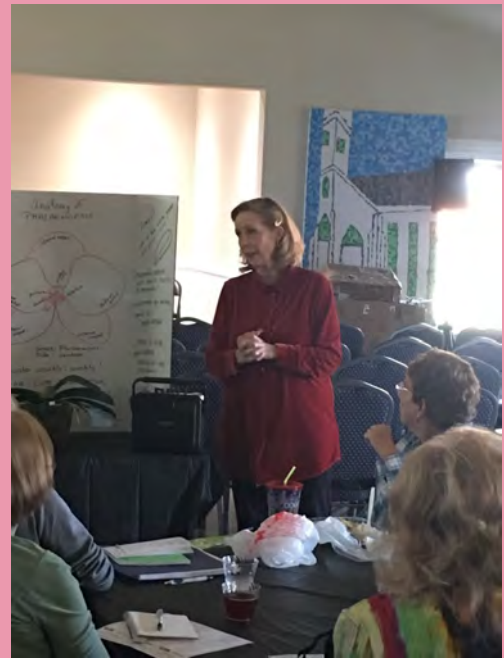
There is one thing that you can say about the CAMGA Lunch and Learn programs, other than they are informative and entertaining, and that is that they are always interesting with a lot of fun. Such was the case for our November meeting! If you just walked into the building, you would have thought that you were in a '70s disco club with strobe lights flashing.

There was an electrical problem at the church, and the overhead lights were brightly blinking on and off. While waiting for the electrician to arrive, we decided to make the best of a difficult situation. The overhead lights were turned off and the blinds were raised to let in as much light as possible, because as the old saying goes "the show must go on." And so it did.

Kudos to our very agreeable and flexible speaker, Charlotte Bent, who was more than happy to accommodate our unusual circumstance and make her presentation in natural light.

Charlotte brought and spoke about Orchids, answering lots and lots of questions from interested gardeners. Charlotte was also kind enough to provide her PowerPoint presentation, so everyone can see the entire program instead of the note highlights.

If you would like a copy of Charlotte's PowerPoint presentation, please email Carol Pugh at: pughdia@aces.edu



Please join us on December 10th, the second Tuesday in December, again at noon at the Wetumpka First Presbyterian Church location to enjoy a presentation by our own master gardener Betty Plaster on Artistic Flower Pressing.

I can't think of a better way to wrap up 2019 than with a presentation of how to preserve some of Nature's beauties – especially if they are some beauties than you have grown yourself.

Get prepared for some exciting Lunch and Learn programs in 2020 because we have lined up a year's worth of new and different speakers. Hope to see you then!



Governor's Mansion Report 2019

By: Amanda Borden



During November, volunteers were busy decorating Hill House for the upcoming Governor's Mansion Christmas Candlelight Tours. They used natural materials to make the decorations, which included tree ornaments, topiaries, wreaths, wrapped presents, and other touches to create a festive holiday atmosphere. They had some input into every room in Hill House but concentrated their efforts on the salon, in which two large Christmas trees display their handiworks. All are invited to the Candlelight Tour open houses. Dates are December 2, 9, and 16, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Visitors should pick up tickets at the Gift Shop, 30 Finley Avenue, located across the street from the side entrance of the mansion.





Projects Committee Minutes November 12, 2019 By: Terry Chambliss

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

Christmas activities were discussed. Twenty five volunteers made about 150 ornaments on October 29th. There were nine participants at the sachet workshop on November 8th. Six have volunteered for tree decorating on December 2, three for the tree take down on December 31, and two for each of the shifts on the 6th and 7th. The sign up sheet will be made available at the meeting.



Projects were discussed for 2020. Jane shared the Middle School has an Eagle Scout involved in the maintenance of the outdoor classroom so we may not be requested to assist. It was suggested we provide some training in ½ hour segments during Earth Day. Members agreed we should do a project again with the seniors since it was so well received. Some suggestions for the Make & Take were wind chimes and hypertufa bird baths. It was suggested that members be surveyed about their interest and suggestions in the proposed projects for 2020.

The plant sale was briefly discussed. The committee will promote craft and plant propagation workshops starting in February. Some craft suggestions included dragon flies, gourd birdhouses, and a few fairy gardens.

The committee will not meet in December.

*Respectively Submitted,
Terry Chambliss*

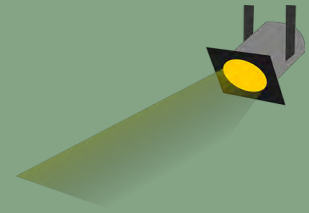


Master Gardeners Working Hard Preparing for December Christmas Programs!





SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS November 2019 By: Judy May



The Lunch and Learn November 12 was a Program on Orchids by Charlotte Bent. There were 35 attendees, 30 of them Master Gardeners. Assisting were Sandi Adkison, Charlotte Hall, Cathy Whigham and Bill Quailes. It was nice to be back in the Presbyterian Church's Parish Hall.

Present at the Projects Committee meeting November 12 were Rhona Watson, Sandy Rosamond, John Butler, Bill Quailes, Johan Beumer, Candy Jones, Jane Mobley and Terry Chambliss. Volunteers for the Sachet Workshop November 8 were Sandy Rosamond, Cindy Augustine, Lynda Edwards, Jane Mobley, Anne Carr, Linda Cater, Betty Plaster, Janet Lewis and Terry Chambliss.

Refreshments at the monthly meeting were provided by Leslie Bingham, Sheila Radford, Cecelia Ball, Amanda Borden, Charlotte Hall, Virginia Pruitt, Candy Jones, Carla McCune and Deann Stone. The refreshments were delicious! Members were asking for the recipes right and left!

Carla McCune, Leslie Bingham, Dee Turberville, intern Beverly Counts all helped Maria get ready for 5 weddings at Lanark in November. Thanks for all the help! Please consider volunteering with Maria after Thanksgiving. (She'll be on vacation that whole Thanksgiving week). Please call Maria at 334-657-9414 and let her know what day and time you want to come have some fun! Remember winter is a great time to garden, there's more to see and lots to learn!

Amanda and Lee Borden presented to the AUM OLLI Gardening class. Amanda on Landscape Design (October 30) and Lee on Backyard Fruit (November 6).

Volunteers helping with the November 7 intern luncheon were Iva Haynie, Dee Turberville, Sheila Radford, Mary McCroan, Terry Chambliss, Sandy Rosamond, Sandi Adkison, Sharon Kochik, Judy May, Deann Stone, Janet Lewis, and Carolyn Placeway.

Working at the Governor's Mansion this month were Amanda Borden, Anne Carr, Linda Cater, Charlotte Hall, Jane McCarthy, Sandy Rosamond and Robin Snyder.





CAMGA Library News

By: Dee Turberville

CAMGA LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS IN 2019

Straw Bale Gardens	1/5/2019	\$10.93
DIY Hydroponic Gardens	1/5/2019	\$10.93
Teaming with Microbes: The Organic Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web	3/11/2019	\$17.10
The Hidden Life of Trees: The Illustrated Edition	3/11/2019	\$23.69
The Vegetable Gardener's Bible, 2 nd Ed., Discover Ed's High-Yield W-O-R-D	3/11/2019	\$16.62
Roots Shoots Buckets & Boots: Gardening Together with Children	3/11/2019	\$ 9.49
Epic Tomatoes: How to Select and Grow the Best Varieties Of all Time	4/29/2019	\$20.84
Covering Ground: Unexpected Ideas for Landscaping with Colorful, Low	4/29/2019	\$13.88
The Flower Gardener's Bible: A Complete Guide to Colorful Blooms All Season	4/29/2019	\$20.84
French Dirt: The Story of a Garden in the South of France	4/29/2019	\$ 8.80
The Plant Propagator's Bible (Memorial Donation for Paul Fitzgerald)	4/29/2019	\$31.44
The Organic Gardener's Handbook of Natural Insect and Disease Control	4/29/2019	\$40.42
The Earth Moved: On the Remarkable Achievements of Earthworms	7/15/2019	\$11.00
The Rodale Book of Composting, Newly Revised and Updated: Simple Method	7/15/2019	\$13.01
The Botany of Desire: A Plant's Eye View of the World	7/15/2019	\$12.08
Pick Fresh Cookbook: Creating Irresistible Dishes from the Best Seasonal	7/15/2019	\$14.48
Mr. Owita's Guide to Gardening (Memorial Donation for Laura E. Johnson)	11/2/2019	\$ 8.50
Mr. Goethe's Gardener	2/19/2019	Donated
Junior Master Gardener Handbook	2/19/2019	Donated
Pest Thrips of the United States	7/16/2019	Donated
Secret Techniques of Bonsai	7/16/2019	Donated
Bonsai with Japanese Maples	7/16/2019	Donated
The Creative Art of Bonsai	7/16/2019	Donated
All New Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening	7/16/2019	Donated
The Weekend Garden Guide	7/16/2019	Donated
Forest Plants of the Southeast and Their Wildlife Uses	7/19/2019	Donated
Great Garden Formulas: the Ultimate Book of Mix-It-Yourself	8/20/2019	Donated
Guilding the Lily: Inside the Cut Flower Industry	8/20/2019	Donated
Greenhouses and Garden Sheds	9/10/2019	Donated
Complete Guide to Orchids	9/10/2019	Donated
Complete Book of Topiary	9/10/2019	Donated
The Complete Book of Cacti and Succulents	9/10/2019	Donated



December Gardening Tips

By: Jane H. McCarthy

What I try to do in December...

Remember those daffodil bulbs you bought in October at the big box store? And I suggested you put them in your garage refrigerator for 6 weeks? Well, now is the time to collect them from the fridge, and get them planted before the end of the year. A purist would dig a nice whole 3 times deeper than the width of your bulb, apply some bone meal and then water it in. But then when you are planting 50 bulb, you may just D&S...dig and stick.

Your evergreen shrubs can be pruned now, and use the branches to decorate your home. When the branches get crispy, just compost them and go out and cut a bit more.

Watch the temperatures, and take winter precautions on your tender perennials. If the night temperatures are predicted to hit 28 degrees or below, I roll my citrus trees into the garage. If your trees are in the ground, they can be tented with a breathable fabric (never plastic), and even decorated with low wattage Christmas lights. I wrap my sago palms with old sheets taking care to protect the plant core (the leaves are expendable), and if I have new perennials, I mound pine straw over the new plant as insulation.

Remember that Wetumpka is celebrating a Dickens Christmas in downtown Wetumpka... December 6th and 7th, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The Governor's Mansion is holding it's Candlelight Tours for the holidays... December 2nd, 9th and 16th, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Come, celebrate, and enjoy all the volunteers handi-work!

Have a happy and safe holiday season, and we'll see you in 2020!



Central Alabama Master Gardeners Association **Lunch & Learn 2020**

2nd TUESDAY of EVERY Month

12:00-1:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church

100 West Bridge Street, Wetumpka 36092



BRING A SACK LUNCH

FREE PROGRAM

DRINKS PROVIDED

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 14 January | Soils of Alabama
<i>Dr. Charles Mitchell, Retired Professor, Auburn University</i> |
| 11 February | Houseplants
<i>Elizabeth Leatherwood, Leatherwood Nursery</i> |
| 10 March | Gardening with Climate Change
<i>Lee and Amanda Borden, Advanced Master Gardeners</i> |
| 14 April | Invasive Plants
<i>Nancy Lowenstein, Professor, Auburn University</i> |
| 12 May | Southeastern Natives
<i>Dr. Sue Webb, Petals From The Past</i> |
| 9 June | Herbs
<i>Betsy Smith, Chilton County Master Gardener</i> |
| 14 July | Fermentation
<i>Deborah Kelso, Elmore County Master Gardener</i> |
| 11 August | Bulbs & Tubers
<i>Karen Weber, Capital City Master Gardener</i> |
| 8 September | Coping with Aging Gardens & Gardeners
<i>Mike Rushing, Jefferson County Master Gardener</i> |
| 13 October | Bugs In And Around the Home
<i>Dani Carroll, Horticulturist, ACES</i> |
| 10 November | Holiday Decorating
<i>Anna Owen, Capital City Master Gardener</i> |
| 8 December | Transplanting Trees & Shrubs
<i>David Doggett, Jefferson County Master Gardener</i> |



For more information, please contact the
Elmore County Extension Office (334) 567-6301

www.aces.edu/elmore

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:

Rhona Watson
1160 Emerald Mountain Pkwy.
Wetumpka, AL 36093

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.

Calendar of Events



December 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1	2 <i>Mansion Workday 9 a.m. — 12 noon</i>	3 <i>CAMGA Christmas Party 10 a.m. — First Presbyterian</i>	4 <i>Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon</i>	5 <i>Learning Gar- den Workday</i>	6	7
8	9 <i>Mansion Workday 9 a.m. — 12 noon</i>	10 <i>Lunch & Learn First Presbyterian Church 12-1 p.m.</i>	11 <i>Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon</i>	12 <i>Learning Garden Workday</i>	13	14
15	16 <i>Mansion Workday 9 a.m. — 12 noon</i>	17	18 <i>Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon</i>	19 <i>Learning Garden Workday</i>	20	21
22	23 <i>Mansion Workday 9 a.m. — 12 noon</i>	24	25 <i>Merry Christmas!</i>	26 <i>Learning Garden Workday</i>	27	28
29	30 <i>Mansion Workday 9 a.m. — 12 noon</i>	31				