



GARDEN BUZZZZZ



Volume 29 Issue 2 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association February 2020



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Message from:

Sandy Rosamond
CAMGA President

WOW! We have started 2020 with a bang! I am so excited that we voted to move the Plant Sale to the Extension Office.



Instead of dreading this sale, I am full of excitement. Our largest obstacle will be getting the word out that we are having a Huge Plant Sale and Expo at the Extension office. All of us together can make this sale so wonderful that people will be looking forward to it each spring.

"Let The Good Times Roll". We are celebrating Mardi Gras with a float in the Wetumpka Mardi Gras Parade on February 22. We are going to advertise the Plant sale, Lunch and Learn and Intern Class. We will throw seed packets with info, beads, and candy out as we pass the crowd riding on the best decorated float in parade and pulled by a beautifully decorated garden tractor! Our plan is for the public to remember us and what we have to offer!

We will decorate the float on February 19. I am bringing lunch. Please let Deann or me know if you are going to help.

It has been brought up many times about a name change for our organization. We asked Mallory about it at a board meeting a few months back. All we have to do is vote on it. CAMGA was the name given when Montgomery, Autauga, and Elmore were one organization years back. When they split, we were the county that kept the name Central Alabama Master Gardener Association.

As the last business in February, we will discuss and vote if we want a name change to Elmore County Master Gardener. I wanted all of you to have time to think about this before next meeting.

See you at the meeting.

Sandy



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



Message from Mallory

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

The War against Lawn Weeds

Many of you have given up the battle to treat your lawn on your own and many of you are still waging war yourself and wondering what am I doing wrong? Well if you want to get ahead of the game a pre-emergent in February is the way to go! This article will hopefully give you several tips from pre and post emergent products to fertilizers to help you achieve the beautiful lawn you are hoping for.



The most popular product out there that seems to have it all, the “one stop shop” for all your lawn needs is the “Weed and Feed” products. I am often asked if this is the correct way to treat the lawn. In central Alabama, there is not a large window of time when this product would be beneficial, but it can be used in May or early June when an extra application of fertilizer would not hurt and the application of the pre-emergent chemical in the product will help prevent weed seeds from germinating through the summer and into the fall.

The best and most effect control of weeds in the lawn may take a little more effort than the “Weed & Feed” products, and you can save money and time in the long run applying them separately. Pre-emergent weed killers should be selected based on the type of lawn grass you have to start with. These weed control products are preventative so they should be applied before the weeds are visible in the lawn as they prevent the seeds of the weeds from germinating. These can be applied any time of year except during “Green-up” or to newly seeded or sprigged lawns. Again, February is a great month as we will soon have spring like temperatures and spring weeds will start to germinate. Do not reseed a lawn for 4-6 months after a pre-emergent chemical is applied and remember to always read and follow all label instructions when making applications of any chemical. Don’t forget, a post-emergent herbicide is only going to kill a weed that has already begun to grow in the lawn. Next, you will need to determine if grasses or broadleaf weeds are your issue or both? Grasses have parallel venation and the broadleaf weeds have net venation so that is an easy way to understand the difference.

Fertilizers are generally applied twice throughout the year, first in early spring during green-up and then again in mid summer. Fertilizer type and amounts should be based on soil test results, not guess work and anytime is a good time to have a soil test. Soil tests will provide you with the correct type of fertilizer and amounts needed for your specific lawn and if lime is needed, lime can be added at anytime of year. Remember, lime raises the soil pH. A soil test will help you be more accurate in your fertilizer application, provide your grass with the exact nutrients it needs and save you money down the road.

For information on proper care of your turfgrass visit our publications online at www.aces.edu and search for the type of grass you have.



CAMGA Minutes

January 21, 2020

By: Deann Stone, Secretary

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

President's Report: Lynda Edwards, Vice President of CAMGA, provided an overview of the many opportunities that exist for serving in our organization. Members present were provided time to sign up for projects.

Secretary's Report: December minutes were posted in the monthly newsletter. The minutes were accepted as presented by email in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Deborah Kelso presented the Treasurer's Report for December 2019. The beginning balance was \$6,591.40. Total income for the month was \$468.00. Expenditures for December were \$307.97, leaving an ending balance of \$6,751.43. There were no questions and the report will be filed for audit.

Projects Reports:

Mardi Gras Parade

The Wetumpka Mardi Gras Parade will be February 22, 2020. Please sign up to be part of the Decorating Team! We also need members to prepare Seed Packets (which can be picked up at our next meeting on February 18 and taken home to prepare and returned to the Extension office on February 20 by 12 noon.). Rhona made a motion to approve the \$250 budget for float decorations. The Parade starts at 1:00 PM. Line up at 12:00.

Rhona Watson presented the results of the CAMGA survey results. 37 of the 90 paid members participated in the survey Committee Interest - Learning Gardens and Lanark were projects we will continue to sponsor. There was little interest in the Governor's Mansion Gardens. While members may still participate, this project will not be sponsored by the Projects Committee Suggestions for Projects - The Plant Sale was highly favored.

Summary - The projects planned for the first half of the year were selected based not he results of the survey. Cards were distributed listing the project dates through May.

CAMGA Projects

February 19 – Mardi Gras Float Decorating 9:00 – 2:00. Please join us! We will meet again on February 20, if needed. Please pickup seed packets on at the February 18 meeting and you can put them together at home and return to the extension by noon on February 20.

February 22 – Mardi Gras Parade –The parade begins at 1:00 PM. We need people to ride the float and walk the parade route beside the float!

March 6 – Propagation Workshop at Rhona's – 10:00 – 12:00 noon

March 26 - Craft Workshop – 9:00 – 12 noon

April 8 – Lanark Work Day – 8:30 – 11:30

April 22 – Air Layering Camellias at Jane's – 10:00 – 12 noon

April – Earth Day (date will be given at a later time)

May 2 – Plant Sale. Please sign up to help!

May 9 – Plant and Pollinator Festival at Lanark – 9:00 – 3:00. Please sign up to help!

CAMGA Minutes Continued

January 21, 2020

By: Deann Stone, Secretary



Jane Mobley, CAMGA Historian, asked that members send pictures to her so that those events can be placed in our book. She has created a picture book documenting the yearly events. You can purchase your own copy by letting Jane know that you would like one.

Plant Sale: Mary McCroan shared the history of the plant sale and how the event has changed over the years. Mary wants the plant sale to be more fun and less stressful and proposed that the plant sale be held at the Extension office. The public could tour our learning gardens and water gardens and possibly even hold a seminar in the meeting room. Mary made the motion to hold the plant sale at the extension. Rhona stated that the plant sale is our main fund raiser and wanted everyone to keep in that in mind when deciding where to hold the plant sale. Lynda Edwards seconded the motion to hold the plant sale at the Extension office. Discussion followed. \$100 is donated to the church for using their grounds, which would be eliminated if we do it here. Deborah Kelso stated that doing it here would be safer and easier. Bonnie McCormick stated that the plant sale was held here in previous years. The struggle was advertising and letting the public know where we were. Maria Pacheco shared the struggle with moving a well known event. Sandy stated we will be sure to advertise the change in location so that everyone is aware and that we will work with the newspaper to advertise. The motion passed to move the plant sale to the Extension Office.

Robin Award - The Robin Award is an award for the hours a member accurately documented for the work they performed during a given month. The award is given in arrears. Leigh Ann looks at the website on the last day of each month to determine the award winner for the coming month. Please record your hours monthly!

Lunch and Learn - Charlotte Hall announced the schedule for Lunch and Learns. Elizabeth and Eric Leatherwood, Leatherwood Nursery, will speak on House Plants in February. The Lunch and Learn will continue to be held at the Presbyterian Church located at 100 W. Bridge Street.

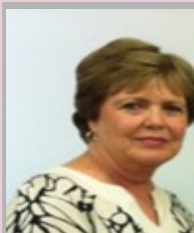
Maria Pacheco shared that Fred Evans was the first Master Gardener to help at Lanark. He was Vice President of the State MG association and became the president when the current president passed away. Linda Evans, Fred's widow, has prepared a beautiful plaque and Maria asked if CAMGA would like to contribute \$200 to purchase a bench in Fred's memory. Mary McCoan made a motion that was seconded by Bonnie McCormick. The motion was approved.

Rick Beauchamp Service Award was presented to Ann Hill. Thank you, Ann, for all of your hard work in making CAMGA the organization it is today.

The meeting concluded at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deann Stone



January 2020 Lunch and Learn By: Charlotte Hall “Soils of Alabama” Presented by: Dr. Charles Mitchell

Well, CAMGA January 2020 proved to be another one of those “challenging opportunities” that has plagued our meetings of late, but Dr. Charles Mitchell is such a good sport and proceeded to make his presentation after we made the best of a less than perfect situation.

And while I thought I was not too enthused about learning more about “Soils of Alabama,” I’ll have to hand it to Dr. Mitchell. He made a boring sounding topic come alive by pinpointing the different souls in our tricounty area and honing in on the soil types most common in Elmore County. It’s always more interesting when someone speaks specifically on a subject that covers our area like a perfectly fitted leather glove.

Did you know that Elmore County is home to 40 different soil types? The “stuff that covers the earth beneath our feet” is quite a different conglomerate of elements throughout different parts of our state. Alabama has one of the most diverse soil types of any area in the entire country. From mollet soils (very deep, well drained soils that formed in alluvium and colluvium derived from fine grained igneous rocks) to sandy loam, Alabama has some of it all except volcanic activity soils, desert soils and glacial soils.

Dr. Mitchell had a detailed soil diagram of the state and concentrated his presentation on the soils that are in Elmore, Montgomery and Autauga counties. Soils in the tri-county area include sandy and loamy upland soils of the Coastal Plain; alluvial terraced and poorly drained floodplains of the Alabama, Coosa, and Tallapoosa rivers; and alkaline and acid, clayey Soils of the Alabama Black Belt prairie region. He also covered upper and Lower coastal plain, black belt, wire grass, coastal flat woods, pine flat woods and clay hills areas.

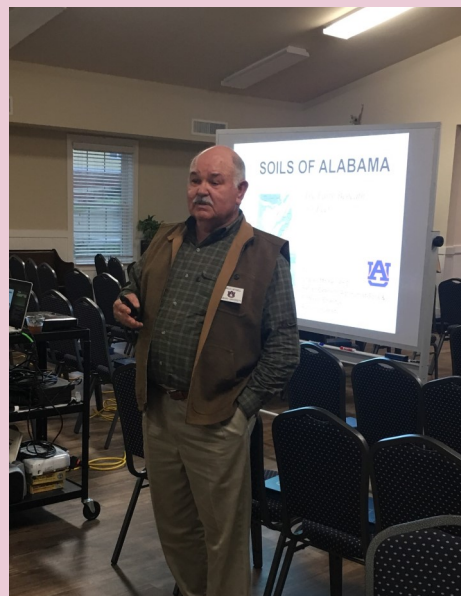
It was most interesting to see everyone’s heads nod in understanding agreement when he hit on the type soil in each attendee’s gardens and properties. I know my ears perked when he discussed prairie clay soil and the challenges one has trying to garden in that stuff!

Soil types can determine the type of crops which may successfully be grown in particular land. Each soil type has distinct qualities such as the type drainage, how it percolates, how it maintains nutrients and many other characteristics that gardeners and farmers must know and account for when growing plants. Soil with a red subsoil means water drains well or percolates well. Topsoils in the Central Plains area are very sandy, low in organic matter and subject to erosion. These topsoils drain so well that they actually will wash away and erode easily. All Coastal Plains Soils require lime and fertilizer for good crop production.

The Black Belt area was also known as the cane brake area at one time because of the prolific cane brake grasses that once grew prolifically in that area. They are not in the same abundance today.

One last tidbit of trivia information that Dr. Mitchell provided is that the State of Alabama has a state soil. It is found fairly extensively throughout the state, is very productive and well drained, has a crimson subsoil and is great for building homes. And it is known as Bama sandy loam - a name not unnoticed by our retired extension agronomist from Auburn University. You never know what you are going to learn at these Lunch and Learn programs!

So please join us next month on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, February 11th, noontime at the Wetumpka First Presbyterian Church when Eric and Elizabeth Leatherwood from Leatherwood Nurseries will make a presentation on Houseplants. Great time to be concentrating on inside “gardening” while the weather outside is not most ideal. Hope to see you there.



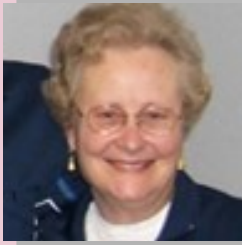


Governor's Mansion Report January 2020 By: Amanda Borden

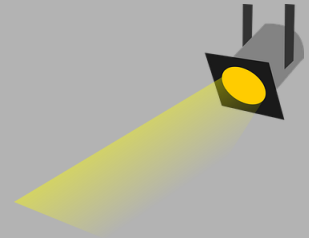


Inclement weather proved an obstacle in January, but volunteers made it to the Governor's Mansion gardens twice, both times accomplishing a great deal. They dead-headed pansies, cut back spent lantana, and trimmed dead branches off a cedar tree. They walked around the grounds and identified projects for the immediate future. Planning is underway for a couple of workdays for which we will need participation from a large group of Master Gardeners. This is likely to begin toward the end of February, so please be on the lookout for an upcoming email with all the details.





SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS January 2020 By: Judy May



The Lunch and Learn January 14 was “Soils of Alabama” by Dr. Charles Mitchell. There were 36 attendees, 32 of them Master Gardeners. Assisting were Sandi Adkison, Charlotte Hall, and Cathy Whigham.

Bringing refreshments to the monthly meeting were: Pat Petro Perryman, Julia Griffith, Rhonda Miles, Judy May, Carla McCune, Mary McCroan and Bonnie McCormick and possibly a few more whose names we didn't get.

Working at the Governor's mansion this month were Amanda Borden, Anne Carr and Jane McCarthy.

Members who were present at the Projects Committee meeting January 14 were : Rhona Watson, Cecelia Ball, Lynda Edwards, Johan Beumer, John Butler, Mary McCroan, Candy Jones, Sandy Rosamond, Robin Snyder, Jane Mobley and Terry Chambliss.

Maria says volunteers at Lanark this past month were Carla McCune, Dee Turberville, Don Hoover and intern Beverly Coutts. We are digging up and transplanting bulbs, clearing out areas we can't get to in the summer and beginning to set up our seedlings for February sowing. I always need your help, please consider coming out for a visit and see what we are doing. You might decide to stick around! Regular workday at the Lanark gardens are Wednesday from 8 until 11ish, but you can call me to see if there is another morning or afternoon that we can work together. Please call me at 334-657-9414.

On January 29 Lee Borden gave a presentation on Backyard Fruit to the Gardening class at AUM-Oli.

On January 29, Judy May gave her Orchid Basics presentation to the River Region Catholic Seniors at Arrowhead Country Club. There were 33 people in attendance.



CAMGA Library News February 2020 By: Dee Turberville

Valentines

By Aileen Fisher

I gave a hundred Valentines.
A hundred, did I say?
I gave a thousand Valentines
one cold and wintry day.
I didn't put my name on them
or any other words,
because my Valentines were seeds
for February birds.



Complete Guide to Saving Seeds: 322 Vegetables,
Herbs, Flowers, Trees, and Shrubs

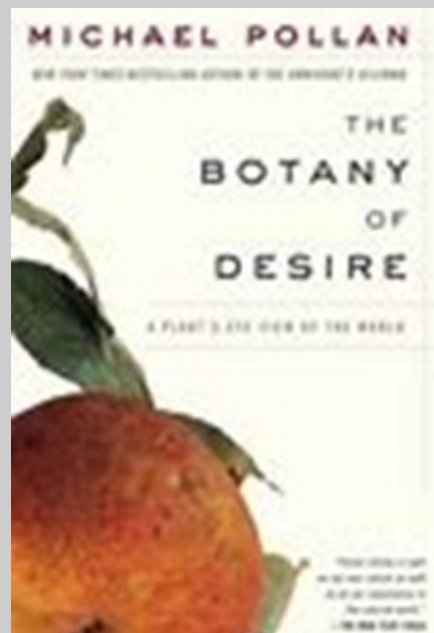
Attracting Birds to Southern Gardens

Michael Pollan's The Botany of Desire: A Plant's Eye View of the World is a book that changes your perspective of plants. Pollan links four fundamental human desires with four plants – sweetness (apples), beauty (tulips), intoxication (cannabis), and sustenance (potatoes).

His premise is that we think we have domesticated and used plants to our own advantage but in fact it is they who have used us as a means of survival. An accomplished gardener and writer, he weaves little-known facts, historical events, and personal gardening anecdotes to tell each species story. For example: The sweet appeal of hard cider enticed settlers to plant orchards throughout the American colonies. The tulip obsession in Holland reached its peak between 1634 to 1637 and continues today in the quest to find the perfect black tulip. No longer offered, he discusses Monsanto's development of the genetically modified New Leaf potato and the current influence of marijuana upon modern day agri-business.

Feb. 14 -- time to prune the roses – do I control them or do they control me?

Happy Valentine's Day!



February Gardening Calendar

Fruits and Nuts

- Planting season continues for dormant trees.
- Fertilize fruit trees.
- Apply half of the fertilizer recommended for grapes now; apply the other half soon after fruit sets.
Continue dormant pruning and grafting. Start strawberry plantings.



Shrubs

- Planting season continues.
- Visit camellia shows to learn of hardy varieties in your area.
- Graft camellias in central and south Alabama.
- Spray all shrubs with a fungicide before new growth starts.
- Good time to prune all shrubs before new growth starts.
Don't prune early-blooming species because flower buds will be removed.

Roses

- Prune hybrid tea roses in south Alabama; delay pruning for a few weeks in north Alabama.
Continue planting.

Annuals and Perennials

- Replant early plantings of hardy annuals.
Prepare beds for summer annuals.

Bulbs

- Plant cannas, amaryllis, gladiolus, and zephyranthes in south Alabama; delay planting for a few weeks in north Alabama.

Miscellaneous

- Houseplants are beginning to show signs of activity.
- Fertilize with liquid or soluble fertilizer according to manufacturer's directions.
Remember Valentine's Day. Why not send roses or a potted plant?

Vegetable Seed

- Plant some vegetables listed for January in central Alabama plus collards, salsify, and Swiss chard.
Add tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, cauliflower, and Brussels sprouts to cold frames.

Vegetable Plants

Plant cabbage, onions, lettuce, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts.



Projects Committee Minutes January 14, 2020 By: Terry Chambliss

Those present were Rhona Watson, Cecelia Ball, Lynda Edwards, Johan Beumer, John Butler, Mary McCroan, Candy Jones, Sandy Rosamond, Robin Snyder, Jane Mobley and Terry Chambliss.

Rhona shared the results of the survey. With one being not interested and five as very interested, the results averaged a 2.6 in interest for the Mansion work day, 2.8 for Earth Day, 3.2 for the Plant and Pollinator Festival, 3.3 for the CAMGA and Lanark work days, 3.5 for the Plant Swap and Senior Project, 3.6 for the Propagation Workshop, 3.7 for the Craft Workshop and Plant Sale and 3.8 for the Make and Take.

Land's End does not carry the t-shirt color from last year. Charlotte Hall said the lady who embroiders the shirts can order them in a very similar color and do the embroidering for \$20 each. The shirts do run large. Several of the interns ordered them.

Deanne Stone requested Sandy propose decorating a float for the Mardi Gras Parade to be held on February 22. She offered the use of a 16' trailer and her husband's labor to build the guard rail. Sandy volunteered to chair the committee. She has located seed packets for 6 cents each. The committee suggested a budget not to exceed \$400 for reusable decorations and props since this can be an annual event. It was suggested we explore using one of the trailers in the pole barn.

The following activities and dates were approved:

February 19 & 20 th	Float Decorating-- 9-2:00
February 22 nd	Mardi Gras Parade—1:00
March 6 th	Propagation with Rhona (her house)--10-12:00
March 26 th	Craft workshop for the plant sale—9-12:00
	Crafts include ornaments, bird houses and dragon flies
April 8 th	Lanark Work Day-- 8:30-11:30 (Rain Date-April 15)
April 22 nd	Air Layering with Jane (her house)-- 10-12:00
May 9 th	Plant & Pollinator Festival at Lanark—9-3:00

Mary is not in need of a work day for the Learning Gardens at this time. She would rather wait until she has a specific project needing to be done.

Robin discussed the plant sale. She wants to organize teams to cover every aspect of the sale. She hopes to have a power point presentation ready for the CAMGA meeting next week.

***Respectively submitted,
Terry Chambliss***



Helpline News

By: Mary Ann Hatcher

Our Helpline Season in Elmore County begins Thursday, March 5th. The Online calendar is up and running and there are just a few interns that haven't signed up.

When you go on the site, you will see slots for MG and Intern. Please sign up under the Intern slot. If you need assistance in signing up, please call me at 334-300-551 or email me: spgerkgirl55@yahoo.com

On Tuesday, February 18th, we will have our annual Thank you Luncheon/ Training for all the Master Gardeners who worked the Helpline last season and all the Interns who will work it this season.

This Luncheon will follow our regularly scheduled monthly meeting at the extension. Many have already let me know that they will attend. Again, you may call or email me to let me know.



On January 29, Lee Borden presented on "Backyard Fruit" to the Gardening class at AUM-OLLI.

Calendar of Events

February 2020

Sun

Mon

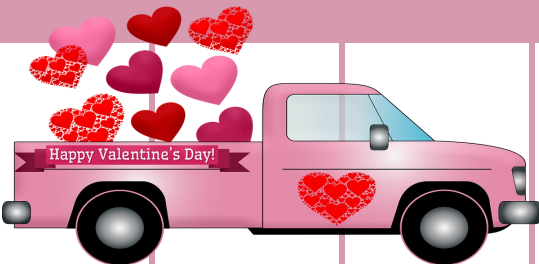
Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						
						1
2 <i>Groundhog Day</i>	3 <i>Mansion Workday 9 a.m. — 12 noon</i>	4	5 <i>Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon</i>	6 <i>Learning Garden Workday, Elmore Co. Extension Office</i>	7	8
9	10 <i>Mansion Workday 9 a.m. — 12 noon</i>	11 <i>Lunch & Learn First Presbyterian Church 12-1 p.m.</i>	12 <i>Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon</i>	13 <i>Learning Garden Workday, Elmore Co. Extension Office</i>	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day!</i>	15
16	17 <i>Mansion Workday 9 a.m. — 12 noon</i>	18 <i>CAMGA Meeting 10-12 Elmore Co. Ext. Office</i>	19 <i>Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon</i>	20 <i>Learning Garden Workday, Elmore Co. Extension Office</i>	21	22 <i>Mardi Gras Parade 1 p.m. Downtown Wetumpka</i>
23	24 <i>Mansion Workday 9 a.m. — 12 noon</i>	25	26 <i>Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon</i>	27 <i>Learning Garden Workday, Elmore Co. Extension Office</i>	28	29