



President's Message

By Linda Griebel



With just one month into the New Year, we are experiencing some rather strange weather patterns. Our plants probably don't like the periods of extreme cold any better than we do and will be really confused as the temperatures yoyo from below freezing up to 60's within the same week! Perhaps most of our hard work won't be lost and nature will allow rejuvenation for those hardier species. Some winter pruning tasks need to be tackled in February - just don't prune your fig trees too early (wait until mid to late March) or there could be coldsequences! If you want to use those pruners soon, plan to attend one or

both of the upcoming pruning workdays: February 4 at the Learning Gardens and February 24 at the Governor's Mansion. *Your hands are definitely needed.*

The 2014 Directory is wonderful and I plan to use it all year as our new Board of Directors works to keep CAMGA moving forward. If you don't yet have your copy, you can pick it up at the February 18th meeting. Thanks to Ann Hill and committee for creating this valuable document. You will notice some of the board members carrying over which lends expertise and continuity to organizational efforts, but also many new committee chairs who are eager to offer their skills and knowledge to guide CAMGA and to assist you during the upcoming months. *If you aren't already a team member, please select and join at least one committee where you can enjoy sharing your talents as well as furthering the goals of our association.*

At the January board meeting, we discussed the following items:

Goals for 2014 (**RECRUIT FOR INTERN CLASS!** Fun events for members. New directory completed and into member hands. Add sharing site in newsletter. Lunch and Learn schedule/ postcard change. *Open communications: Board Members and Officers need feedback and are interested in hearing member suggestions and issues.*)

How to fulfill member requests to have door prizes at every meeting (suggestions included having members bring established plants when available, bring gardening items /new or nice looking recycled items, books, etc Possible win one, bring one next meeting. No invasives? Keep mass / recently dug plants available for distribution after meeting, not door prizes - see exchange column in newsletter.)

Changed board meetings to 8:45 to enable transition to regular monthly meeting.

Members will be needed to work Helpline - sign up calendar ready.

Guest policy for meetings not at Extension (Depends on space available and situation). Will be handled on a case-by-case basis with prior notification to

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members.)

Non-paying members will be dropped after January 31st.

Donation of \$100 to Extension for CAMGA printing privileges was approved.

Opportunity for CAMGA / MG table at National Extension conference in July (considering ways to fulfill Kerry Smith's request).

Thank you letter from Elmore County Food Pantry for Christmas donations (read at meeting).

Jane Mobley's presentation on heirloom gardens at the January meeting was terrific. I dearly adore plants with staying power. Because of Jane's comprehensive information, I now keep running across articles on pass-along plants that get my attention. And what delicious goodies at the break - master gardeners are great cooks. Look for upcoming topics of interest and remember to bring a potential intern as your guest at a monthly meeting. It was an informational jam-packed meeting. Missed you if you didn't make it, but hope to see you at the February get-together.

★ **CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE STARS RECIPIENTS!** Your contributions are definitely appreciated and extremely important to CAMGA. Thanks for all of your hard work. *Linda*

Message from Mallory

Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests

Black Twig Borer on Magnolias

Do your Magnolia Trees have Dying Branches?

As the Auburn Entomologist, Dr. Charles Ray says "It's almost an epidemic in central Alabama this year." What is he referring to? *Xylosandrus compactus*, the black twig borer, a type of ambrosia beetle that infests a wide variety of hardwood trees and shrubs. This fall and winter the calls have been flooding in all over central Alabama, mostly about magnolia trees with dying branches scattered all over the tree.

The beetles only attack branches and twigs about ½" in diameter or less. They bore into the branch and begin to excavate a gallery that is inoculated with a fungus. Then the beetles lay eggs and its larvae feed on the fungus. As a result, the twig or branch dies above the gallery which results in dead tips of branches scattered around the plant. One other noticing characteristic is most material attacked is within 10 feet of ground level, some insects do infest material near tree tops, but not commonly.

If possible, you can prune out the dead branches one foot below where you are seeing the dead tissue and remove the branches from your property or burn them. According to Dr. Ray "Actual effect on the number of beetles next year that pruning would have could be minimal on a regional basis, but there might be some satisfaction in destruction of those insects infesting your magnolia."

There is no chemical treatment for the beetles once they are inside the wood and systemic insecticides DO NOT WORK. There are some preventative measures that can be employed next spring to reduce infestation of additional plant material, but that can be difficult. See the link below for more information on the beetle and preventative measures that can be taken.

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/O&T/trees/note111/note111.html>

Source: Dr. Charles Ray, Auburn University, Extension Entomologist.



Calendar of Events

February 2014

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1 Pruning Workshop Tallapoosa County
2	3 <i>Governor's Mansion Workday</i> <i>9-11 a.m.</i>	4 <i>Learning Garden Workday</i> Pruning Session	5 <i>Lanark Workday</i>	6	7 <i>All Bugs Webinar</i> <i>2 p.m. Eastern</i>	8
9	10 <i>Governor's Mansion Workday</i> <i>9-11 a.m.</i> <i>WAKA 12 Talk</i>	11 <i>Learning Garden Workday</i>	12 Lunch and Learn <i>Lanark Workday</i>	13	14  Valentine's Day	15 Start more tomato and pepper seedlings for spring.
16	17 President's Day <i>Governor's Mansion Workday</i> <i>9-11 a.m.</i>	18 MG Meeting Attracting Birds	19 <i>Lanark Workday</i>	20	21 Continue to Prune Knockout Roses	
23	24 <i>Governor's Mansion Workday</i> <i>9-11 a.m.</i>	25 <i>Learning Garden Workday</i> <i>Backyard Fruit Pruning</i> <i>Billingsly, AL</i>	26 <i>Lanark Workday</i> Bonsai Class at Extension	27	28	

Learning Gardens Report 2013 By Mary McCroan

Our Learning Gardens at the Extension Center illustrate many gardening styles. There are the ornamental gardens in front of the Extension Office, the shade and water garden between the buildings, a four season perennial garden in front of the kitchen, an herb garden on the side of the kitchen, a rain garden and veggie gardens between the kitchen and the shed. These gardens provide visual aids for classes in pruning, planting, growing eatables, landscape techniques and so forth.

Our big projects accomplished in 2013:

- Install irrigation. With the nearest faucet 100 feet or more from our gardens, keeping things watered during the dry spells was a challenge. Now our gardens have six places we can attach hoses as well as multiple valves that allow us to water various areas automatically. The 12 station irrigation controller allows us to add irrigation valves as needed. Dawn got us going on this and then left us. Rats!
- Build a water and shade garden. This was a neat project that was originally Nancy Tribble's idea. We transformed a hodge-podge of plants between the Extension Center and Kitchen into a soothing oasis with the sound of water and a pleasant tapestry of shade plants.
- Clean out the ornamental shrub beds in front of the Extension Center and install landscape fabric so reduce the maintenance required for these beds. This so far is a very successful project. The beds are much neater and easier to maintain. A little nut grass is coming up through the landscape fabric but overall what was turning into a monster for maintenance has been tamed.
- Install ground fabric and build raised beds in part of the veggie garden. This has worked out well. The ground fabric is less water permeable than the landscape fabric and suited for walking paths and areas between raised beds. It would not be as good around shrubs and trees. On the good side, weeds don't seem to grow through it at all. This area also now looks much neater, is easier to maintain and the raised beds provide a pleasing geometric pattern and architectural interest.
- Solarize the rest of the veggie garden. My real goal here was to make this area "no maintenance" until some master gardener became interested in planting it. Meanwhile solarizing with clear plastic killed the weeds and presumably also put some serious hurt on harmful nematodes and insects. After several mounts the plastic degraded and started to fall apart. This is expected--that's when you throw it away and start planting. Since we did not have a volunteer that wanted to plant this larger area (as compared to the raised beds), Amanda donated some Lupine seed as a winter cover crop. This should suppress the winter weeds and also have pretty flowers in the spring. Candy Jones thanked Rhona for her work .



Cold weather has limited our January play in the Learning Gardens, but we did get out last week. Participants were Linda Griebel, Nancy Tribble, John Barnes and Amanda Borden and Mary McCroan. We pulled weeds in the shade garden, added some soil and cleaned up plants in Alice's Garden, and took the overly aggressive Confederate Jasmine off the pergola. We plan to plant something a little tamer for that area.



Governor's Mansion By Amanda Borden

Jane McCarthy is planning a pruning workday at the Governor's Mansion for the three area Master Gardener associations (i.e., CAMGA, Capitol City, and Autauga) on **Feb. 24**--with a rain date a week later. In addition to CAMGA's pruning experts, we will also need lots of volunteers who may not necessarily have pruning experience; it will be a learning opportunity. CAMGA will be organizing additional workdays at the Mansion in the future for weeding, digging up and/or relocating plants, etc., so

please watch the calendar for those dates. We plan to work every Monday, 9-11 a.m. unless instructed otherwise. Please notify Jane McCarthy no later than noon of the Friday immediately preceding the workday in order to be added to the security list.



The All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar Series

begins this month on February 7. We would like for Master Gardeners to help in promoting the upcoming webinar series that will cover insects that affect the general public. Topics and speakers for the webinars and connection information are listed on the promotional materials linked below. The webinars are free and will be offered on the **first Friday of each month at 2 p.m. eastern time**. Webinars in the series are sponsored by various Extension Communities of Practice (Imported Fire Ants, Urban IPM, Invasive Species, Gardens and Landscapes, and Bee Health) and by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. A link to the release announcing the series is listed below, please feel free to share it in your communities. It includes information about the first webinar, and I am

listing the links to those pages as well.

Over all Webinar Promotion Links:

Link to All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar News Release: <http://www.extension.org/pages/70252/>

The following web page can be used to promote the 2014 series: <http://www.extension.org/pages/70120/>

A flyer is also available:

jpeg: <http://www.extension.org/sites/default/files/2014%20Webinar%20Schedule.jpg>

pdf: <http://www.extension.org/sites/default/files/2014%20Webinar%20Schedule.pdf>

February 7 Promotion Links:

Information about first webinar in the series AND a promotional flyer:

<https://learn.extension.org/events/1370>

February 7 jpeg flyer:

<http://create.extension.org/sites/default/files/All%20Bugs%20Good%20and%20Bad%20February.jpg#overlay-context=node/98363>

Look for updates on Imported Fire Ant Social media sites that could easily be shared to your facebook and twitter pages. (Facebook: www.facebook.com/fireantinfo ; Twitter: [@fireantinfo](https://twitter.com/fireantinfo) ; Pinterest: <http://www.pinterest.com/exfireants/fire-ants/>)

Let me know if you've got any questions! Thank you for your help!

Katie Wendland

c/o Maggie Lawrence and Dr. Kathy Flanders

Alabama Cooperative Extension System



Carol Rattan presents Candy Jones with a much deserved gift certificate to Petals from the Past as a gift of appreciation from all of us in the Central Alabama MG Association for her three-years of faithful leadership to our association.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

LISTED on PAGE 24 OF 2014 DIRECTORY you will find the Speaker's Bureau. If you are not already part of CAMGA's Speakers' Bureau, please consider what topic(s) you could share and join in the fun. We receive multiple



requests from both small and large groups for horticultural and gardening information. Most are informal gatherings. Usually time frames run from approximately 20 minutes to around a half hour talk with a few minutes for questions. Nothing has to be fancy. Just organize your thoughts and prepare to present your information in an understandable approach. Not only do you teach others, but you also get to meet and interact with delightful people.

If needed, you can have access to laptop and projector for Power Point presentations. Sufficient copies of your short printout can be made and available ACES handouts are available if planning time permits (be sure to include Helpline bookmarks and Lunch and Learn schedule postcards). Hope you can all be involved in educating homeowners and the public. ***Please let Carol Rattan*** (who handles fulfilling speaker requests) ***know if you would be willing to do a gardening-related presentation that could educate, entertain, and/or benefit others.***

RECRUIT A CANDIDATE FOR SEPTEMBER INTERN CLASS By Linda Griebel

- Identify just one person who likes growing things or would enjoy learning more about gardening.
- Share plants or do a home visit (could be a prospective candidate).
- Talk about your love of plants to others and detail how much fun master gardeners have.
- Tell how our instructional programs can benefit homeowners and how we assist Extension in educating and dispensing horticultural information at events (how to access the Helpline, etc.)
- Invite one prospective candidate to attend a monthly meeting or Lunch and Learn with you. Select a month in which the topic (presentation) might be of interest to that person. After the meeting, encourage that person to take, complete, and return an application / put the application in their hands.
- Do a presentation to an organization - give out at least one application for mg intern class
- Share the application and information sheet via email (also, direct potential candidates to master gardener website)

If each CAMGA member gives out only one application and even half of those distributed applications are returned by July 1, we will have a fall class!

Reach for the Stars Program Coordinator, Rhona Watson (far right) presented 2013 the stars earned this year.



Congratulations to those who have earned the **Gold Badge** (1000-1999 hours):
From left: Becky Brown, Amanda Borden, Mary McCroan, and Lois Pribulick.

Kelly Lafreniere, Angela Peltier, and Lee Borden received the gold badge but are not pictured. Gold badges will be given at the AMGA Conference.



Gold Stars (500-999 hours) were earned by (from left) John Barnes, Andy Wallace, John Butler RJ Arseneaux, Mary Ann Hatcher, Gayle Wheeler, Norm Turnipseed, Anida Wishnietsky, and Maria P. West (not pictured).



Platinum Badge (2000-3999 hours) recipients, Ann Hill (above) and Dawn Cermak, will receive their badges at the AMGA Conference in Baldwin County. Congratulations to all of the award recipients for service to the community.



Silver star recipients (300-499 hours) present at the meeting included (from right) Suzanne George, Rosemary Mobley, Carol Rattan, and Carla McCune; also receiving silver stars were Penny Arcenau, Mary Holt and Barbara Olds (not pictured).



CAMGA members receiving bronze stars (100-299 hours) were: (right) Jim Davis, Sandra Walker, and Sandi Adkison.

Recipients not pictured are Debbie Hough, Susan Jones, Cathy Whigham, Rick Hatcher, Katrina Mitchell and Janet Lewis.

Central Alabama Master Gardener 'Lunch & Learn'

JOIN US FOR LUNCH & LEARN 2014!!
THE 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH
 12:00--1:00 P.M.

Elmore County Extension Office, Wetumpka

FEBRUARY 12TH

SUCCULENTS

MARCH 12TH

GARDEN DESIGNS

APRIL 9TH

ANNUALS & PERENNIALS

MAY 14TH

SHADE GARDENING

JUNE 11TH

HYDRANGEAS

JULY 9TH

ATTRACTING BUTTERFLIES TO THE GARDEN

AUGUST 13TH

WORMS EAT MY GARBAGE

SEPTEMBER 10TH

BEE FREE PROGRAM

OCTOBER 8TH

HERBS BRING A SACK LUNCH

NOVEMBER 12TH

HOLIDAY DECORATING WITH NATURAL MATERIALS

DECEMBER 10TH

HOLIDAY PLANTS & FORCING BULBS

For more information contact the Elmore County Extension Office. (334) 567-6301
<http://www.aces.edu/counties/Elmore>
 The Alabama Cooperative Extension System
www.aces.edu

Lunch & Learn News By Charlotte Hall

Do you have some overgrown bushes that are just too large or misshaped? Perhaps some are straggly limbed trees that look especially rough now that it is winter and they have no leaves? Are you getting antsy to put a pair of pruning shears in your hands and just get with it? If you had attended the January 'Lunch & Learn' program, you would know just how to do that. On January 8, 2014, Mary McCroan presented an enlightening program on the how, when, why, how much and where of pruning for our Central Alabama area. She covered the basics for ornamental plants, fruit trees, roses and many other specific plants. Mary gave an explanation of the May rule for blooming ornamentals – if the plant blooms before May 1, prune as soon as its flowers are spent; if the plant blooms after May 1, prune it right after it blooms before buds set for the next year.



Specific details were given for fruit trees - both those that follow the general pruning rules and those that have special pruning needs and rules. A detailed discussion and explanation of proper pruning tools were given; Mary brought personal pruning tools and showed the various types of tools used in proper pruning. After the formal presentation, Mary fielded many questions from attendees eager to learn about specific pruning problems. 'Lunch & Learn' programs are proving to be very informative and very hands-on, so mark your calendars for the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Bring your lunch — learn while you take your lunch break. Drinks are provided. The next opportunity for this enjoyable learning lunch hour will be February 12th at noon, Elmore County Extension Office, and the subject is Succulents with speaker Jane McCarthy.

Mary McCroan comes "armed" with pruners to demonstrate pruning techniques.





Camellia Garden Club in Montgomery

Pictured left to right are Kristi Carr, Jane McCarthy, Janet Lewis, Marie Updike, Linda Davis (seated) and Jean Taylor. On January 14, the Camellia Garden Club hosted a meeting with a presentation given by CAMGA associate member, Jane McCarthy who is also a certified horticulturalist and succulents expert. She showed the Camellia Club how to identify, propagate and enjoy succulents. Marie and Janet, of course, are two active members of CAMGA.



Beginner Beekeeping Course

Thursday Nights in Tallapoosa County (Dadeville).

**January 30th -
March 20th**

6 pm - 8 pm

A large crowd enjoyed Jane Mobley's program on Heirloom Gardening at our January MG meeting.



Add these three names to your directory:

Stricker, Betty 2009
657 Neman Road
Tallasse, AL 36078
334-303-327 1
bettystricker@me.com

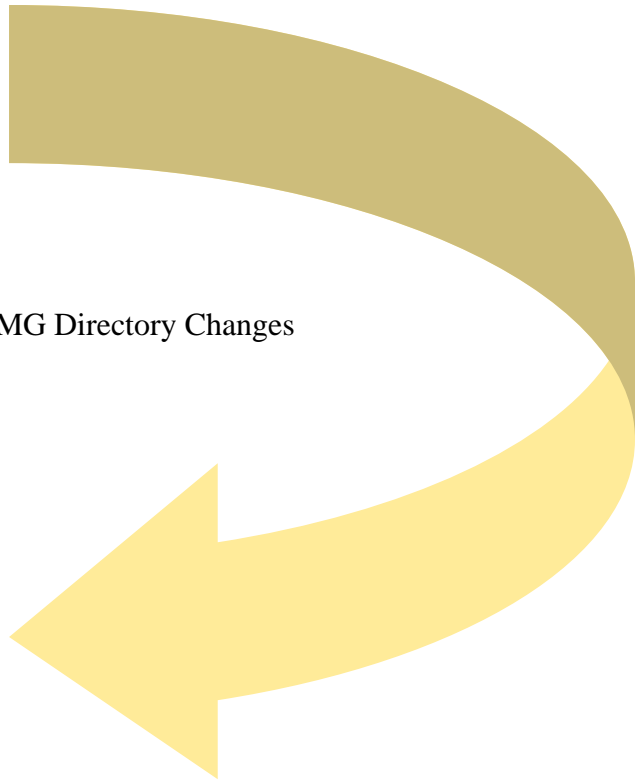
McCauley, Rose
252 Berry Lane
Prattville, AL 36066
334-365-3112
jrmprat@charter.net

Willis, Connie
3000 Cobbs Ford Road
Millbrook AL 36054
334-285-7010
williscjrn@aol.com

Corrections:

Pribulick, Lois
lois105@aol.com

L'Abbe, Joe
joelabbe@elmore.rr.com



MG Directory Changes

Program Notes By Carol Rattan

CAMGA Meetings and Speaker's Bureau

We had a wonderful presentation by our own Jane Mobley who shared her expertise on Heirloom Gardens last month. Thank you, Jane! Patrick Cook is coming in February to teach us about attracting songbirds to our gardens. Mary McCroan will share her knowledge on planning and installation of irrigation systems for the garden in March. Richard and Nancy Cobb from the Alabama Native Plant Society are coming to speak, of course, on Alabama natives. We go off-site in May to visit Jim Scott's beautiful gardens. June's meeting is also off-site and one day later, on a Wednesday, at Young's Farm. Mal-lory has agreed to speak to us in July on the Extension System and its organization. At our last meeting, board members realized we don't know much about its inner workings, and thought members would benefit from a presentation from our own agent!

Finally, part of my responsibility is the Speaker's Bureau. If any of you receive a request to speak with a group, please let me know and I will find someone. If you accept a speaking engagement, please let me know that as well. Also, if you are not on our Speaker's Bureau list, but would be willing to speak to groups, please let me know and provide your topics of interest. Thank you!

Carol Rattan, Program Chair



There is nothing unusual about Impatiens as a general rule. These, however, are blooming happily in the middle of winter — inside the house of course. Anyone else had a similar experience?

—Iva Haynie



SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS by Judy May

Attending the Projects Committee meeting January 13th were Catese Chaffee, Linda Griebel, Carol Rattan, Jane Mobley, Mary McCroan, Johan Beumer, John Barnes, John Butler and Mallory Kelley.

Mary McCroan says cold weather has limited January play in the Learning Gardens, but they did get out on the 14th. Participants were Linda Griebel, Nancy Tribble, John Barnes, Amanda Borden and Mary McCroan. Weeds were pulled in the Shade garden, soil added and plants cleaned up in Alice's Garden, and they took the overly aggressive Confederate Jasmine off the Pergola. Something a little tamer is planned for that area.

Maria P. West says it was a short month at Lanark as she was gone on vacation and several Wednesdays the office was closed, but she was fortunate to have some volunteers when they opened back up. Candy Jones and Phil Easter helped decide what to do with the Fred Evans Memorial bench and then presented the idea to the board.

Carla McCune and Sandra Gilley helped with gardening chores. She says there are lots of things to do at Lanark, even when it is cold outside. Come join us! Bundle up and help collect rocks in the woods and streams for our new water feature in the Heirloom garden, or, help collect plants for the Flora and Fauna Arts Festival plant sale April 12th.

Iva says there were lots of volunteers bringing food to the January meeting on the 21st. Amanda Borden, Ann Hill, Catese Chaffee, John Barnes, Sharon Potts, Carla McCune, Mamie Long, Bonnie McCormick, Tina Bowles and Judy May.

The January 8th speaker for the Lunch and Learn was Mary McCroan who taught Pruning. Helping were Sandi Adkinson, Carla McCune, Deborah Kelso, and Charlotte Hall.

Joan Johnston organized and purchased supplies for a Stepping Stone Workshop at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Tallassee on Saturday, January 18. Carol Rattan taught the class, Johan Beumer mixed the concrete, Judy May was there to assist and 18 ladies made some beautiful stepping stones they will proudly display in their yards.

Phil Easter and Mary MCCroan were on the WSFA-TV 'Alabama Live' show to promote Lunch and Learn. Mary, Phil and Mallory did a five minute segment of 'Be Our Guest', also on WSFA-TV. These will run in February. For January Lunch 'n' Learn the workers were Sandi Adkinson, Debbie Kelso, Carla McCune and Charlotte Hall. The speaker was Mary McCroan and the topic was Pruning.

Amanda Borden volunteered at the Governor's mansion this month with Jane McCarthy.



Over-all Webinar Promotion Links:

Link to All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar News Release:

<http://www.extension.org/pages/70252/>

The following web page can be used to promote the 2014 series:

<http://www.extension.org/pages/70120/>

A flyer is also available:

jpeg: <http://www.extension.org/sites/default/files/2014%20Webinar%20Schedule.jpg>

pdf: <http://www.extension.org/sites/default/files/2014%20Webinar%20Schedule.pdf>

February 7 Promotion Links:

Information about first webinar in the series AND a promotional flyer:

<https://learn.extension.org/events/1370>

February 7 jpg flyer:

<http://create.extension.org/sites/default/files/All%20Bugs%20Good%20and%20Bad%20February.jpg#overlay-context=node/98363>

Look for updates on Imported Fire Ant Social media sites that could easily be shared to your facebook and twitter pages. (Facebook: www.facebook.com/fireantinfo ; Twitter: @fireantinfo ; Pinterest: <http://www.pinterest.com/exfireants/fire-ants/>)

Let me know if you've got any questions! Thank you for your help!

Katie Wendland

Communications Student Intern/Imported Fire Ant Social Media
c/o Maggie Lawrence and Dr. Kathy Flanders
Alabama Cooperative Extension System



2014 Alabama Master Gardener Conference

April 28-30 2014 in Daphne, AL

hosted by Baldwin Master Gardeners

<http://alabamamg.org/AMGAConference.html>

Baldwin County Master Gardeners take great pleasure in inviting you all to participate in a JUBILEE, gardening style!

A JUBILEE is a relatively rare occurrence happening when the oxygen level on the bottom of the bay's water closest to mainly the Eastern Shore gets depleted due to a combination of conditions. Those conditions cause the "bottom feeders" like flounder, crabs, and eels but sometimes shrimp and catfish to go into a comatose-like state heading for the shore line where astute Eastern Shore dwellers are ready with gigs, buckets, bare hands - anything to catch them before the conditions change and the fish and crustaceans recover putting up the fight of their lives to get away from the shore and those humans!

This type of "fishing/crabbing" becomes a celebration - a JUBILEE

JANUARY MINUTES

By Rosemary Mobley



The January Central Alabama Master Gardener's Association (CAMGA) meeting was held January 21, 2014 at the Elmore County Extension Office Auditorium, Wetumpka, Alabama. Linda Griebel called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and turned the floor over to Carol Rattan, who introduced presenter, Jane Mobley.

Jane's presentation on "Southern Heirloom Gardens," provided a historical perspective of the major influences on design and plant selection in southern heirloom gardens. She discussed contributions from Native American-Three Sisters Gardens of squash, beans, and corn; the Spanish Walled Gardens; French Formal Gardens of geometric design; African-American survival-based gardens of swept earth; the English Grid Garden; and the German use of scientific data. Jane illustrated the comparison between formal and informal designs with slides of working southern gardens. She also shared information about obtaining heirloom seeds from local seed vendors as well as through catalogues such as, The Seed Saver's Exchange: www.seedsavers.org, Southern Exposure Seed Exchange: www.southernexposure.com, and Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds: www.rareseeds.com. At the conclusion of the program, Mallory Kelly presented Jane Mobley with a certificate of achievement as an Advanced Alabama Master Gardener in Southern Heirloom Gardens.

Prior to the refreshment break, Linda Griebel and Carol Rattan honored the past-president, Candy Jones, with a card of appreciation and a gift certificate of \$100.00 at Petals from the Past. Candy expressed gratitude for the gift and for "a wonderful time" during her tenure as President of CAMGA.

Johann Beumer announced that there were two remaining garden bucket caddies, made by the late Darrell Guilliams. The buckets were \$20 each and for sale at the conclusion of the meeting. Following the refreshment break, the group reconvened at 11:00 a.m. for the business meeting. Linda welcomed members and recognized guests including Rose McCauley, President of the Autauga County Master Gardener Association.

Linda discussed with the membership the important goal of recruiting for a master gardener intern class in the fall of 2014. She challenged everyone to recruit potential candidates. Some suggestions to achieve the goal included: (1) Personal contact with interested persons such as: sharing plants; extending invitations to CAMGA meetings, Lunch and Learn sessions, community plant sales, and Earth Day and Arbor Day activities; (2) Distributing flyers promoting the program at local businesses and events, and (3) sharing the applications, online and hard copies, at appropriate meetings, workshops, and other venues.

The December minutes were accepted as written. Gale Wheeler-Leonard made the first motion, Jane Mobley made the second, and it was carried by all present.

Becky Ashurst gave the treasurer's report for December, 2013. The balance as of December 31 was \$9986.38. The income for December was \$240 from dues, \$120 for the Christmas lunch, and \$161 in donations to the Food Pantry, and \$360 for the Bonsai class totaling \$881. Expenditures included a \$100 donation to Mulder Church, a \$161 donation to the Elmore Co. Food Pantry, a \$900 payment to the caterer, Tonya Prempranot, and \$450 for the Fred Evans Memorial Bench at Lanark; that totaled \$1611. This brings the balance to \$9,256.38. Linda shared that the Food Pantry sent a thank-you card to CAMGA. The treasurer's report was approved; Bonnie McCormick made the first motion, Candy Jones made the second, and it was carried by all present.

Next, Linda recognized Ann Hill, chair of The Directory Committee. Ann reported the completion of "C.A.M.G.A. Membership Directory and Information Guide, 2014." She noted that directories were distributed during the break and will be available after the meeting. Ann asked for assistance with deliveries to members not in attendance. She also announced that Directories will be available at the February CAMGA meeting. Linda reported that the Board approved a \$100 donation to the Extension Office in appreciation of help with printing the document.

Following Ann Hill's report, Reach for the Stars Program Coordinator, Rhona Watson, presented 2013



awards of bronze, silver, and gold stars for high volunteer hours. CAMGA members receiving bronze stars (100-299 hrs) were: Jim Davis, Sandra Walker, Cathy Whigham, Rick Hatcher, Katrina Mitchell, Sandra Adkison, Debbie Hough, and Susan Jones. Silver star recipients (300-499 hours) present at the meeting included Suzanne George, Rosemary Mobley, Carol Rattan, and Carla McCune; also receiving silver stars were Mary Holt and Barbara Olds. Maria Pachenco-West, Mary Ann Hatcher, John Barnes, Rhona Watson, Anida Wishnietsky, John Butler, RJ Arceneaux, Norman Turnipseed, and Gale Wheeler-Leonard received gold stars (500-999 hrs). These members are eligible for Platinum and gold badges to be presented at the 2014 Annual Master Gardeners Conference: Gold Badge (1000-1999 hours); Mary McCroan, Kelly Lafreniere, Lee Borden, Angela Peltier, Lois Pribulick, Becky Brown, and Amanda Borden. Platinum Badge (2000-3999 hrs); Ann Hill and Dawn Cermak; Congratulations to all of the award recipients for service to the community.

Carol Rattan, Program Committee Chair, announced speakers and trips planned for CAMGA meetings through June. These are:

February 18 – “Attracting Songbirds to your Yard,” Patrick Cook

March 18 – “Planning and Installing an Irrigation System,” Mary McCroan

April 15 – “Al Native Plants” - Richard Cobb (tentative)

May 20 – *Trip to the Scott Gardens on Lake Martin

**June 18 – *Trip to Young Farm in Auburn, AL

Linda announced that the Board approved the addition of a Photograph Committee, chaired by Tom Jaworski. A sign-up-sheet was passed around for interested members to join this committee.

Mary McCroan reported on the Community Learning Garden. She encouraged members to come on Tuesday mornings and participate in the gardening activities. Mary stated that Alice’s Perennial Garden is up for adoption. She requested someone volunteer to take ownership of this area. Also, Mary welcomes ideas about the area between the rain garden and vegetable garden. She discussed the possibility of covering the area with landscape fabric and gravel.

The chair of the Fund Raising Committee, Linda Armour-Scott, stated that the date for the annual Plant Sale is May 3, 2014 and that the site is unconfirmed at this time. May 2, 2014 is set for pricing, and members should bring labeled plants to the Extension barn on this day. It is not too early to start planning and preparing for plants to sell to the public. A sign-up sheet designating different responsibilities connected with the Plant Sale was circulated during the meeting.

The Historian, Jane Mobley, requested that throughout the year, members send her any publications or pictures where CAMGA activities are spotlighted. She will work with several committees including Photograph, Publicity, and Newsletter to develop the annual scrapbook. Please also send photos to Mary Long and Phil Easter.

Anida Wishnietsky presented the 2013 CAMGA Scrapbook. She shared that Shutterfly was used, (www.shutterflyinc.com) to develop a digital document that will be housed in the Library. Anida serves as the chair of the Network Committee. She reported that on January 31, 2014, direct communication will cease with members who have unpaid dues.

Mary Long, the Newsletter Editor, requested that members continue sending articles spotlighting volunteers by the designated monthly deadline. A new section is suggested to serve as a plant, seed, and cuttings exchange among members.

The Master Gardener Help Line online calendar is available for sign-up. Mary Ann Hatcher encouraged everyone to sign up for the Help Line. Those who need assistance with the sign-up process and any other aspects of the Help Line should contact Mary Ann.

Iva Haynie reported that sign-up sheets for volunteers to bring refreshments to monthly meetings were in circulation. As chair of the Hospitality Committee, she thanked the volunteers who prepared refreshments for the January meeting.

Member Care Committee Chairperson, Gail Wheeler-Leonard, announced that she would appreciate members helping her stay informed of anyone ill and/or hospitalized or any other life changing event.

*Guest participation is reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

* *The date of this trip is on a Wednesday instead of a regular Tuesday meeting day.



Catase Chaffey reported for the Projects Committee. (1) The Projects Committee met on January 13, 2014 to discuss projects for the year. (2) A Pruning Session in the Learning Garden was scheduled for February 4, 2014. A sign-up sheet for this activity was circulated during the meeting. (3) A Pruning Workday at the Governor's Mansion was scheduled for Feb 24. Another sign-up sheet was circulated for volunteers for this activity. (4) The Bonsai Class, scheduled for February 26, is full. Reminders will be sent to those who paid to attend. (5) The Flora and Fauna Arts Festival at Lanark in Millbrook, is planned for April 12, 2014. Volunteers will be requested at a later date. (6) A Leaf Bird Bath Class is scheduled for September 19 in the Extension Barn. Jane Mobley will conduct the class. More details will be forthcoming. (5) The Annual Master Gardener Plant Swap will be held on October 3, 2014, in the Extension Auditorium from 10 a.m. until noon. Participants are requested to bring 5 rooted plants to share and will take home 5 different plants after swapping.

Phil Easter, Publicity Committee, announced a new line-up for TV promos of Lunch and Learn (L&L) sessions. He has arranged for Monday promos at WSFA and Tuesday promos at WAKA before L&Ls on Wednesday! In addition, Phil, Mary McCroan, and Mallory Kelly taped 3 different segments for "Be Our Guest", to be aired on WSFA on different dates in February. Mary's session covered pruning, Mallory demonstrated seed starting, and Phil created floral designs using landscape materials from the natural environment. Mallory Kelly was asked to address the group. She reiterated the importance of signing up for the Master Gardener Helpline. Mallory shared that the Master Gardener Application is revised and available online and at the Extension Office. She encouraged everyone to invite friends to the L&Ls. Mallory discussed her office relocation to the Master Gardener Helpline Room. She stated that she was available to help with replacement of lost Master Gardener badges and that the replacement cost is \$7.00. Checks should be made out to ACES Home Grounds. Mallory thanked Candy Jones for her service as past President, and said she was looking forward to working with Linda Griebel and CAMGA for 2014.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m. Andy Wallace made the first motion, Amanda Borden made the second and it was carried by all present. Door prizes were awarded. Seventy people attended.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Mobley, Secretary

Backyard Fruit Pruning Workshop Tuesday, February 25th

Although there may not be much landscape work to do during the winter, February can be considered an important and critical time for taking care of fruit crops. Pruning your fruits in February each year will ensure healthy plants and increased production and fruit quality.

Once fruit trees and small fruits have been planted, training must begin. Since fruits are being grown for the production of food, all growth must be pruned properly to maximize production and to ensure the plant is strong enough to hold the weight of the fruit. Young plants are typically pruned and trained for the first several years primarily to develop the plants' proper shape and size. Once flowering and fruiting begins and is allowed, usually in the third or fourth year, some additional pruning is done to help prevent the breakage of limbs.

For established fruit trees, the first pruning cuts should be to remove any sucker growth that may have sprouted below the graft. Next, all diseased and damaged wood is taken out. Then as you look at the fruit tree, cut out all growth that crosses or rubs other branches. And since fruit develops where it gets adequate sunlight and air circulation, areas that are thick in growth or crowded must be thinned or opened up to allow more light and air movement.

More information and hands-on demonstrations of training and pruning techniques will be taught at an upcoming workshop for the public. Fruits to be discussed: muscadine grapes, blueberries, blackberries, peaches, apples, citrus, figs and even kiwi. **(See the flyer on page 18 for specific details.)**

Backyard Fruit Pruning Workshop

Hosted by the
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Tuesday, February 25, 2014

Gaines Smith's Orchard
2228 County Road 40 West
Billingsley, Alabama
(Directions Below)

9:00 am to 11:00 am



**LEARN HOW TO PRUNE MUSCADINES, BLUEBERRIES,
BLACKBERRIES, CITRUS, APPLES, PEACHES AND EVEN KIWI**



To sign-up or for more information, contact the Autauga County Extension office at 334-361-7273. Registration fee is \$5 per person. Pre-Registration and Payment is required by Friday, Feb 21st.

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Zip Code: _____ County: _____
Phone #: _____ E-mail address: _____
of Participants X \$5 = Total Amount Enclosed: _____



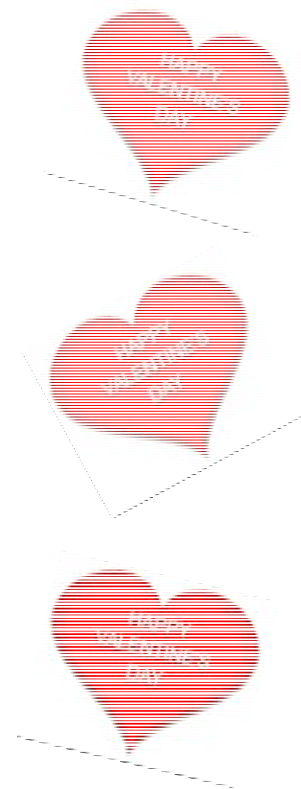
Return Pre-Registration Form and Payment by Friday, February 21, 2014 to: **Autauga County Extension Office**
2226 HWY 14 W, Suite E
Autaugaville, AL 36003
Make check payable to: **Alabama Cooperative Extension System**

Directions: From Prattville, travel west on US 82. Just past mile marker 128, turn left onto C R 40 and travel approximately 7 miles to 2228. Turn right onto gravel drive, then travel 1/4 mile to orchard.

Share Your Plants

There has been a suggestion that we start a SHARING SITE in the Buzzzz for MG's who want to acquire a certain plant they do not have or haven't been able to find. Possibly someone in the organization will have enough of the plant to share, and they can contact the person who wants it. Also we could use this site to swap plants with those who want to get more plants they don't have. If you fall into this category, contact Mary Long by email with your request and we'll get this thing going. Haven't you ever been with a friend talking about how you had to go all the way to Clanton to get a certain plant and they said, "I wish I had known that.....I have lots of it I could have given you!"

This will be a "fun" way to enhance our plant collections while getting to know one another better.....(as if any of us need MORE PLANTS!!!) Let's face it—we're addicted and we just can't help it. After all, we ARE Master Gardeners!



CAMGA

Garden Buzzzz

Mary Long,
Editor

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Elmore, AL 36025



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NEXT MEETING

10 a.m.

February 18

Attracting Songbirds

Patrick Cook

Wetumpka Extension



Mallory Kelly presented Jane Mobley with a certificate of achievement as an Advanced Alabama Master Gardener in Southern Heirloom Gardens. Congratulations, Jane!!