



## President's Message

By Linda Griebel



hosts. Now I know why the visit had to be scheduled a year ahead of time. Many thanks to Phil Easter who spearheaded this one. We even had a brief meeting after a presentation of background and history on the farm. Next month we will return to Extension for the first time in a couple of months. Not only can we resume our regular schedule, but be sure to be there since we will have some pond plant door prizes donated by the Humane Society courtesy of Petsmart.

If you haven't been there lately, the summer vegetable crops have really taken off, especially the experiment growing squash and melons in between the weed cover. Looks like we've been invaded by a fast developing alien that wants to take over the entire garden! Early in June, R. J. Arceneaux hosted a Garlic Lesson from the Garden on harvesting during which details were given on digging up the bulbs and drying for at least three weeks before using the cloves. Also, we are already enjoying some of the other fruits of our labor, such as cucumbers, edamame beans, blueberries, banana peppers, and summer squash. As always, we could really use more hands in the Learning Gardens if you have time. And I'm sure that Lanark, the Governor's Mansion, and Millbrook Farmers' Market sites need you as well.

I hope your garden at home is doing as well as mine. It seems that all of the rain has produced more vegetation than I anticipated and I have to cut things back in order to have some control, but the flowers are spectacular. My camera is staying busy capturing all of the unique blooms, such as dahlias that were forgotten while dormant. It's a very good year for spider lilies, crinum, day lilies, and cannas.... my double pink altheas are getting so heavy that they are drooping almost to the ground.

Last, but not least, please ensure that your recruits have turned in their applications for the fall class. We gave out several applications (as well as gardening information) at Lanark Hydrangea Festival thanks to Maria's invitation to have a CAMGA table. When conferring with Mallory earlier in the month, there were 17 in already, including some old ones, but we do need to keep them going. There's still time to apply. Spread the word - Master Gardening is educational and fun. Happy gardening. Linda

The June meeting at Young's Plant Farm was certainly unique and very enjoyable. Not only did we get to experience the trial gardens, but we also had a tour of the extensive greenhouses, some of which were empty due to plants having been shipped already, but a few had rows and rows of ferns - it looked like an abstract pattern of green with black hooks suspended above - hanging baskets sitting on benches. They were such excellent



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## Message from Mallory

By Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests

### Tips to Keep your Tomato Plants Healthy



The tomato is by far the most popular plant in the vegetable garden, but it can also be the most problematic. There are so many things to watch for when growing tomatoes to insure you have a healthy crop. I hope these tips below will help keep your plants healthy the further we go into summer.

Start with drip irrigation or hand watering only at the surface of the soil to avoid splashing. Then prune all lower limbs off the tomatoes that are touching the soil and apply mulch. Mulching your tomatoes keeps the plants moisture level consistent and will help prevent blossom end rot. Mulching helps control weeds where insects like to overwinter and eliminates their competition for the fertilizer you have applied. Mulch also creates a barrier between the plant leaves and the soil to help control many of the fungal problems that come from the surface of the ground.

Remove yellow and brown spotted leaves as soon as they appear and if not already, start a fungicide application to prevent "Early Blight." No tomato grower can avoid this problem so apply the PREVENTATIVE fungicide before the tomatoes get the fungus. Products with the active ingredients: Chlorothalonil, mancozeb or copper will control Early Blight.

Scout daily for insects. Go out and inspect for armyworms, fruit worms, hornworms along with stinkbugs. (The main insect problems on tomatoes). Products that contain *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) will work when the WORMS are young or use products containing carbaryl if the worms are larger. Another insecticide that will control stinkbugs and some of the other pests you may find is bifenthrin. Don't wait until your plant has no more leaves before you start your search for the hornworm. Scout today cause the plant may not be there tomorrow!!!!

Weather challenges, garden insects, viral, fungal and bacterial problems, and disorders are all challenges we face with growing our own backyard tomatoes. Like I said, they are the most popular vegetable/fruit to grow, but also the most problematic. If you have more questions on what may be affecting your tomato plants and what you can do to stop it. Please call our Master Gardener Helpline at 1-877-ALA-GROW (252-4769).

Also there will be a Master Gardener Course offered in Autauga County on Wednesdays and Elmore County on Thursdays 9-2:00 starting the first week in September. If you would like more information or would like to apply please call the county extension office.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## July 2014

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1 <i>Learning Garden Work Day Millbrook Farmer's Market</i>	2 <i>Lanark Work Day</i> 	3	4  <i>Independence Day</i>	5 <i>Judy Youngblood Tree Dedication Oak Park 11 a.m.</i>
6	7 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i>	8 <i>Learning Garden Work Day Millbrook Farmer's Market</i>	9 <i>Lunch &amp; Learn</i>  	10	11	12
13	14 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i>	15 <i>CAMGA Meeting Mallory Kelley</i>	16 <i>Lanark Work Day</i> 	17	18 <i>Deadhead roses for more fall bloom</i> 	19
20 <i>Horticulture Super Session Mobile with P. Allen Smith</i>	21 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i>	22 <i>Learning Garden Work Day Millbrook Farmer's Market</i>	23 <i>Lanark Work Day</i> 	24	25 <i>Begin starting cool crop seeds for fall veggies</i> 	26
27	28 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i>	29 <i>Learning Garden Work Day Millbrook Farmer's Market</i>	30 <i>Lanark Work Day</i> 	31		



## JUNE MINUTES

By Rosemary Mobley, Secretary



On June 18, 2014, the monthly meeting of Central Alabama Master Gardener's Association (CAMGA) was held at Young Plant Farm in Auburn, Alabama. Linda Griebel called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. She recognized Penny Merritt -Price, an employee of Young's Plant Farm, whose primary responsibility is Young's Trial Garden.

Ms. Merritt-Price began her presentation with a brief history of Young Plant Farm, started by Gene Jones in 1962. The family-owned-and-operated business began with 1512 square feet. Currently, the company consists of 1.65 million square feet indoor and 35 acres of outside growing facilities. There are 3 farm sites: Young's Farms 1 and 2 located in Auburn, AL, and Young Farm 3 in Andrews, North Carolina. The business employs 250 employees, and is the largest company of its type in Alabama.

The trial garden, located on Farm 2, consists of 26,400 square feet. The garden provides trials for raised beds, hanging baskets, and containers in both sun and shade settings. There are 432 single variety trials, 180 combination planters, 56 combination hanging baskets, and 50 landscape solution beds. In keeping with the intent of the trial garden, which is to help choose single and combination plants that yield better results, master gardeners were invited to flag 5 plants in the trial gardens.

After a brief break for refreshments provided by Young Farm, the business meeting convened at 11:00 a.m. Linda recognized guests and reported for the Projects Committee. This is an active committee with the following announcements: 1) Jane Mobley is the contact for registration and payment for the Leaf Bird Bath Class, scheduled for September 12, 2014. Registration will take place at the July meeting. The cost for attendance is \$10 per person and the class size limit is 25. 2) Master gardeners and interns from Autauga, Coosa, Elmore, and Montgomery counties are invited to the CAMGA Master Gardener Plant Swap scheduled for October 3, 2014. Those in attendance will bring 5 plant and leave with 5 different plants. 3) Plans are still being developed for the fruit tree planting project on Arbor Day at Adullum House. Janet Lewis is the contact. 4) Lois Pribulick is heading the "Child's Seed Starting" project. The plans are to gather and package contents for distribution next year at events such as, the Flora and Fauna week-end at Lanark, and the CAMGA Plant Sale. Anyone interested in helping with this project should contact Lois Pribulick.

The President also reported that she and Jane Mobley set up a CAMGA information table at the Hydrangea Fest in Lanark. They provided gardening information and distributed eight applications for the intern class. Recruitment of interns is still a high priority for CAMGA.

The Vice President, Carol Rattan, not in attendance, is recovering from knee surgery. She appreciates all who have reached out to her during this time. Linda announced that CAMGA was the recipient of a check for \$649.33 from the Alabama Master Gardener Association (AMGA) for hosting the Fall AMGA Conference of 2013. The efforts of Carol Rattan and the various committees have paid a nice dividend to CAMGA. The July CAMGA meeting will feature Mallory Kelly presenting information about the Extension Service, and share the process for becoming an Advanced Master Gardener.

Becky Ashurst gave the Treasurer's report for May. The balance as of April 30, 2014 was \$8,800.44. Income for May were dues-\$32.00, Plant Sale profits- \$2,069.24, and change for the Plant Sale- \$200.00 totaling \$2,301.24. Expenditures for May were the following: Learning Garden- \$257.44, and Plant Sale-\$6.00. Total May expenditures were \$263.44. This left a balance as of May 31, 2014 of \$10,838.24. The treasurer's report was approved. Phil Easter made the first motion, Jesse Miles made the second, and it was carried by all present. The May minutes were accepted as written. Amanda Borden made the first motion. Brenda Bernal made the second, and it was carried by all present. Rosemary Mobley updated the group about the display and presentation at the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference, in Mobile on July 20-24, 2014. She is still in need of photos related to any of the previous Lunch and Learn sessions, and pictures of master gardeners planting and/or harvesting vegetables, herbs, fruit, seeds, nuts, and/or edible flowers. Contact her at 334-514-7443 for additional information.



Mary McCroan reported on the Community Learning Gardens. She described an experiment in the vegetable garden of sowing seeds in the row openings between the layers of ground fabric. The early results are very positive, and Mary invited members to come and see the squash, watermelon, and pumpkin plants flourishing in the garden. She recognized Amanda Borden for providing seeds and helping with the experiment. Mary discussed harvesting blueberries in the garden. She prefers that members bring a child to the garden to experience picking a few berries, rather than having a few members harvest a large amount of berries. Mary also explained that the raised beds are maintained and harvested by the "owners". Linda noted that some years ago, Iva Wells came up with the name, "Community Learning Gardens," and the title remains appropriate to this day.

Linda recognized Phil Easter for his work in setting up the field trip to Young's Farm. Phil made an announcement that Southern Growers Gardens will consolidate and move the retail business to the Vaughn Road location in Montgomery.

Gale Wheeler-Leonard, the Membership Care Committee chair, shared that cards were sent to John Barnes, Bob Brown, Carol Rattan, and Peggy Turnipseed.

Jane Mobley announced that the topic for the July 9, 2014, Lunch and Learn is "Attracting Butterflies to the Garden."

Linda explained that after the business meeting, attendees were invited to tour the facilities at Young Plant Farm 2. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m. Twenty-seven [people](#) attended.

Respectfully submitted, Rosemary Mobley, Secretary



## Governor's Mansion

By Amanda Borden

During the month of June, volunteers at the Governor's Mansion weeded the daylily beds as well as those in the Secret Garden, by the pool fence, and along the bungalow's front fence. We also trimmed plants, dead-headed Knock Out

Roses, and planted iris. We will continue our schedule of beginning every Monday at 8:00 a.m.; with the earlier start we'll beat the heat as much as possible.



Amanda and Jane

## 2014 Lunch and Learn Programs

Second Wednesday Each Month

**12:00 to 1:00**

\*JULY 9TH ATTRACTING BUTTERFLIES TO THE GARDEN

\*AUGUST 13TH WORMS EAT MY GARBAGE

\*SEPTEMBER 10TH BEES

\*OCTOBER 8TH HERBS

\*NOVEMBER 12TH HOLIDAY DECORATING WITH  
NATURAL MATERIALS



Come Join us...  
Beverages are  
provided.



## Learning Garden Report By Mary McCroan

The learning garden is full of lush and fruitful plants. The automatic irrigation is working well and keeping everything green as the weather turns hot and somewhat drier. A few weeks ago we decided to try and experiment. There is an area in the garden that we covered with ground fabric so we wouldn't have to weed. This is not the recommended fabric for under trees and shrubs because it doesn't allow water to pass through as easily as weed fabric. But it's better for keeping out the weeds. Anyway,



we folded the fabric back about four inches at the seams and planted squash, pumpkin and melon seeds. We didn't know if it would work since it seemed likely the black fabric would cook the plants. Well the results have been amazing. The plants have grown extremely fast and have covered the black fabric. They've been very fruitful and there seem to be fewer bad bugs than you normally get in the garden. Stop by and take a look--this might be a technique you want to adopt at home.



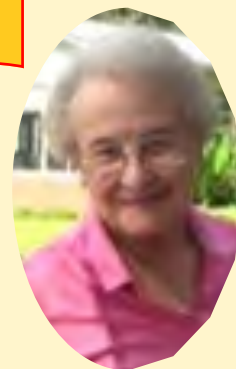
Amanda Borden is a faithful worker in the Learning Garden.



Earlier this month John Barnes, Linda Griebel and Mary McCroan did some more weeding. We also harvested a few greens, the last of the carrots, some giant cucumbers and some yellow squash that was well on its way to being large enough to hollow out for bird houses. Surprisingly, when we got the yellow squash home, it is still tender and tasty.



## ***SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS*** by Judy May



On May 27<sup>th</sup> Linda Griebel, Rosemary Mobley, Amanda Borden and Mary McCroan worke in the Learning Gardens. They weeded, planted and harvested the raised beds. Mary and Rosemary cleared out the area beside the shed and put down

some ground fabric so there would be a place to put the old tomato cages.

On May 27<sup>th</sup> Linda Griebel, Rosemary Mobley, Amanda Borden and Mary McCroan worked in the Learning Gardens. They weeded, planted and harvested the raised beds. Mary and Rosemary cleared out the area beside the shed and put down some ground fabric so there would be a place to put the old tomato cages.

Attending the Projects Committee meeting June 16 were John Barnes, Linda Griebel, Jane Mobley, Johan Beumer, Lois Pribulick, Janet Lewis, and Mary McCroan.

Helping Maria with the Hydrangea Festival were Ann Hill, Linda Armour Scott, Cathy Whigham, Sandi Adkinson, Sandra Gilley and Judy May. Maria says the Festival was very successful and she thanks all the volunteers. She said we made some great money at the plant sale which will benefit Lanark gardens. She said the talks went well and she has received many calls of appreciation for the event. She said due to the multiple uses of the Pavilion these wonderful volunteers came in early to help clean up, set up and get things ready for her. Maria is very grateful for the support. She said the volunteers did a great job cleaning up afterwards. She says the Lanark gardens rely on you and your hard work makes everything so much better.

Linda Griebel and Jane Mobley worked the CAMGA Information table at festival.

Working at Lanark this month were: Ann Hill, Sandra Gilley, Carla McCune, Cathy Whigham and Norman Turnipseed. They helped pot plants for the plant sale, cleaned up several areas, worked in the Heirloom garden, trimmed fig vines, planted flower beds and moved and rooted some plants.

On June 4<sup>th</sup> Linda Griebel presented "Gotta Have Hydrangeas" to 55 participants at Montgomery Master Gardener's June Lunch and Learn.

June 10<sup>th</sup> R.J. Arceneaux demonstrated how to properly harvest garlic and he was assisted by Penny Arceneaux in tying it up for drying. Six master gardeners attended.

For the CAMGA Lunch and Learn June 11<sup>th</sup>, Mary Long spoke on Hydrangeas. Helping that day were Carla McCune, Deborah Kelso and Sandi Adkinson.

Working at the Millbrook farmers Market this month were Rick Ohlson, Butch Kinney, Judy May, Joe L'Abbe and Marie Updike.

Jane McCarthy and Amanda Borden volunteered this month at The Governors Mansion.

Phil Easter helped coordinate the June CAMGA meeting at Young Plant Farm, did a program on "Decorating with Materials from the Landscape" for the Comaradas group at the Baptist Church in Coosada on June 19<sup>th</sup> and also did "Alabama Live" on WSFA-TV with Mary Long to promote the June Lunch and Learn. He also got the information on our Lunch and learn program for the next couple of months to Alabama Gardener magazine.

Working the CAMGA Helpline this month were Mary Ann Hatcher, Rosemary Mobley, Sharon Potts, Debbie Hough and Mary Ann Klatt.



## Program Notes By Carol Rattan

### CAMGA Meetings



I've been out of touch with our group the last couple of months due to my knee surgery in May and my Mom's illness this month. I've enjoyed seeing pictures posted on Facebook from both the May and June outing and I'm sorry I missed them! My mom is finally out of the hospital after 18 days, and is currently at the Wetumpka Health and Rehab for an estimated month-long stay. For those of you who sent thoughts and prayers, thank you!

In July we are back home with Mallory giving us the low down on the Extension Office and its many activities. In September we will travel back towards Auburn to Pat Dye's place. I am working on filling in the remainder dates and will keep you posted. I should be able to attend the July meeting. If anyone has a speaker in mind, please let me know. I'm quite busy as Mom is planning to move in with us permanently after her rehab – much to do! She was an avid gardener, so I hope she will join us occasionally for some of our activities!

## Helpline News By Mary Ann Hatcher



The month of June has had many more calls concerning pests in lawns, gardens, trees, and ornamentals. Our Master Gardener volunteer this month was Rosemary Mobley.

Serving as our interns from Coosa County

were: Adrian Lovell, Ann Hardman, Donna Goff, Jennifer Whitman, and Melissa Nannini.

Serving as Advisors were: Mary Ann Klatt, Debbie Hough, and Mary Ann Hatcher. Our friendly Appointment Reminder was Sharon Potts. Your assistance was greatly appreciated.



**Pictured: Donna Goff and Ann Hardman are researching a plant diagnosis.**



# All Bugs Good and Bad

## 2014 Webinar Series

Please join us for this webinar series for information you can use about good and bad insects. Webinars will be on the first Friday of each month at 2 p.m. Eastern.

### August 1 Minimize Mosquito Problems

*Molly Keck*



### September 5 Kudzu Bug Takes Over the Southeastern U.S./Brown Marmorated Stinkbug—All Bad

*Dr. Michael Toews/Dr. Tracy Leskey*

### October 3 Alien Invasions, Zombies Under Foot, and Billions of Decapitated Fire Ants

*Dr. Sanford Porter*

### November 7 Where Have All the Honey Bees Gone? Hope for the Future

*Dr. John Skinner*



**Bottlebrush Buckeye** This is Mary McCroan's Bottlebrush Buckeye or *Aesculus parviflora*. It's not a really common plant and she thought the members might like to see it. It can be grown as a large shrub or small tree. It likes sun to part shade and will grow in full shade but very slowly and with fewer flowers. The seeds are poisonous so it might not be suitable for yards with little kids (or puppies). On the positive side, the bees love it. She planted the seeds in the fall in one gallon containers and had some of them grow in the spring.





## Scenes from Young Plant Farm





## A Colorful Lunch and Learn on Hydrangeas by Deborah Kelso



White, pink or blue is up to you was the discussion during our June Lunch and Learn presented by a very knowledgeable Mary Long. She shared a slide show and many of her *Hydrangea* blossoms. A big thank you to Maria P. West for sending us two huge vases of her wonderful hydrangeas from Lanark for display.

Most people are familiar with the pink or blue cloud shaped flowers and large soft-green leaves of the *Hydrangea macrophylla*. Hydrangeas, however, also include many different sizes, textures, flower shapes and colors.

All hydrangeas are hardy in the southern landscape when placed in their favorite spot, gentle morning sun and cool afternoon shade. The oakleaves (*quercifolias*) and *paniculatas* can take more sun than the large round mop-heads. The oakleaf hydrangea is native to the south and can be found in the woods. Other species have their origin in southern Asia. Water weekly if Mother Nature does not provide the needed one inch a week. The *macrophyllas* and the *arborescens* varieties require more water than their relatives, but they do not like soggy roots.

The color you admire can be changed in only the *H. macrophylla*. The main factor in the color of the blossom has to do with pH of the soil. The aluminum effects the color by making the soil more acidic thus giving the more intense blue and darker colors.

Pruning depends again on the variety of the hydrangea you have. You can deadhead spent blossoms at any time. The oakleaf and *macrophyllas* bloom in the spring on old wood and need to be pruned soon after flowering and before late July and early August. The Annabelles and *paniculata* hydrangeas bloom on new wood and are best pruned in late fall and winter. The *paniculata* 'PeeGee' can be pruned into a tree form.

Layering is a common form of propagation for hydrangeas. In mid-summer dig a trench and bend a flexible branch down into the hole, scratch the bark and then cover the wounded area with soil and weigh it down with a stone or brick. Make sure to leave about 6 or 8 inches of stem at the end of the branch above the soil. Keep watered until ready to separate it from the mother plant.

Mary also showed us how to dry hydrangea blooms, and she brought several slides and a wreath she had created. Cut the flowers when they are just beginning to fade and hang them upside down in a cool, dry area for a couple of weeks, or hang under a ceiling fan for faster drying. When dried, the stems are firm and can be pressed into the decorating foam. They can also be sprayed painted when fully dried to recreate that natural look.

It is now up to you to decide which color and variety to choose. Have fun. Don't forget to join us at our next Lunch and Learn. It is on July 9th from 12:00-1:00. The topic will be Attracting Butterflies to Our Gardens. Remember that drinks are provided.



**Hear P. Allen Smith**  
**National AG Agents Conference**  
**HORTICULTURE Super-Seminar Sunday**  
**July 20th 1:00 pm– 4:30 pm**  
**Mobile Convention Center**

**Invitation from Kerry Smith**

State MG Coordinator

This is an announcement for **a free program** you are invited to attend on July 20, 1:00-4:30 – The National County Ag Agents Conference is hosted in Mobile this year and the “horticulture super session” starts off with well-known author and TV host **P. Allen Smith** and is followed by six MGA’s sharing stories of their favorite community projects – we hope you can join us for this grand time in the delta.

**WEAR YOUR MG NAME BADGE** – this will serve as your ticket to enter the conference. This portion of the conference is free to Master Gardeners . . . This being said, you are not registered for other events at this conference .

**Location is the Mobile Convention Center registration/info desk is straight ahead when you enter the main hall – our session is around to the right in the ballroom on the south side of building.**



FYI – all the downtown hotels are reserved by our county agents attending the full week conference; however, the eastern shore hotels are just 6 miles from downtown Mobile  
See you there! – Kerry

## The Millbrook Farmer's Market

By Rick Ohlson

Things have been going well at the Market. Cooler in the morning with less chance of weather problems. I could use a few volunteers for the July and August, Tuesday mornings. If you can help out, send me a message.

Several folks have helped and a special thanks for my regular guys, Joe L'Abbe and Butch Kinney. They seem to know everyone in the area and are great conversationalists. It is an easy gig for a few hours credit. Let me know if you would like to come.



John Barnes submitted this picture of a carrot crossing its fingers !! Can't we MG's grow some unusual things??





## The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Listen my children and you shall hear  
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,  
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five;  
Hardly a man is now alive  
Who remembers that famous day and year.  
He said to his friend, "If the British march  
By land or sea from the town to-night,  
Hang a lantern aloft in the belfry arch  
Of the North Church tower as a signal light,--  
One if by land, and two if by sea;  
And I on the opposite shore will be,  
Ready to ride and spread the alarm  
Through every Middlesex village and farm,  
For the country folk to be up and to arm."

\*\*\*\*\*

So through the night rode Paul Revere;  
And so through the night went his cry of alarm  
To every Middlesex village and farm,---  
A cry of defiance, and not of fear,  
A voice in the darkness, a knock at the door,  
And a word that shall echo for evermore!  
For, borne on the night-wind of the Past,  
Through all our history, to the last,  
In the hour of darkness and peril and need,  
The people will waken and listen to hear  
The hurrying hoof-beats of that steed,  
And the midnight message of Paul Revere.

*May we never forget the sacrifices of  
our founding fathers and our veterans.*

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### NEXT MEETING

**JULY 15  
MALLORY  
KELLEY**

**ACES  
10 A.M.  
EXTENSION**