



GARDEN BUZZZZZZ



Volume 29 Issue 1 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association January 2020



Message from:

Sandy Rosamond
CAMGA President



Happy New Year! Have you slowed down from the holiday season? I have. Now I am ready for a new year of gardening!

But first, I want to say "Thank You" for your help to make "The Charles Dickens Christmas" a success!

The sachet bags with our business cards attached were a great idea. We know we reached 300 people with the bags alone. The tree was admired as people entered the Chamber to get their free photos taken. Which went smoother because our Master Gardeners pitched in to help. So much, so that they have already asked us back for 2020!

Our January meeting is focusing on all the opportunities that we have to volunteer. We have new interns to introduce to the opportunities and plenty of opportunities for members that have been here for years! I hope everyone will find a place to help.

I hope all of you filled out the Projects Survey. If not it was sent out on Nov. 27 and it is not to late.

See you at the meeting, January 21st.

Sandy



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CAMGA Garden Buzzzz
Carol Pugh — Editor
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Message from Mallory

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

Create an Indoor Garden this Winter



For a breath of spring in the depths of winter, it's hard to beat a pot of flowering paper-white narcissus.

Paper-white narcissus are easy and foolproof enough that forcing them to flower is a good project even for the newest gardener and they make a beautiful decoration for your home or as a gift.

Purchase the bulbs anytime after October 1st from a reputable nursery or garden center. With paper-whites it is a good idea not to set them out all at once. Space out the time between when you set them out to every 10 days and then your blooms will not come all at once, then you will have blooms from December to Spring. Once you do set out the paper-white bulbs you should begin to see flowers in 4-6 weeks.

Although the term "forcing" is used when speaking of Paper-whites in our area of the Southeast it might be better expressed as "fooling" since what you really do is fool the bulb into thinking winter is over and it is time to bloom. Paper-whites are the easiest indoor bulbs to force or "fool", and are usually available at local nurseries and home improvement centers, or through catalogs.

Paperwhites are best grown in a shallow pot or bowl with no drainage holes in the bottom and best of all, no soil is require, only water. You will start by finding a container and filling the bottom with gravel, small stones, or even fun things like colored beads or marbles (there are tons of creative options). Then place as many paper-white bulbs as will fit on top of the gravel, with the pointed side up. Place the bulbs down in the gravel or marbles so that they act as support to hold the bulbs in place, but do not bury the bulbs. You want at least half of the bulb exposed. Add water up to the base of the bulbs and maintain it at this level making sure that the bulb does not stay in the water once it begins to send out roots or the bulb will rot. Place the container in a cool, dark place for two weeks before placing it in a warm, sunny location. Add water as evaporation and root uptake deplete the supply. Avoid disturbing the bulbs after planting as the roots are fragile.

There may be a slight difference in flower timing depending on the temperatures. Higher temperatures encourage weak growth and poor flowering. Bulbs immediately placed at a temperature of 60-70°F will bloom in about 6 weeks. For later bloom you can delay setting them out or the pot can be maintained at 50°F, and then moved to the higher temperature. For late spring bloom, the bulbs can be stored dry at 50°F. When potted, these will usually bloom in 3-4 weeks. The cooler the room, the longer it will take the bulbs to flower and the longer they will remain in bloom.

Paper-white narcissus are tender bulbs that will not overwinter outdoors easily and they may be forced only once. After the foliage begins to turn yellow, discard the bulbs and the potting medium (Gravel or marbles may be washed and stored and used again next year). Wash containers immediately and thoroughly to remove salts and lime deposits and hopefully by now, warmer temperatures and outdoor spring flowers have arrived!



CAMGA Minutes December 2019 By: Deann Stone, Secretary

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

President's Report: Our annual Christmas Party was held today. The theme this year was "Christmas Through the Eyes of a Child." Great food was enjoyed by all, followed by singing of Christmas carols, memories of Christmases past, and fellowship with members, new and old.

Secretary's Report: The minutes were posted in the last monthly newsletter. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report: Rhona Watson presented the Treasurer's Report for November 2019. The beginning balance was \$6,108.04. Total income for the month was \$628.00. Expenditures for November were \$144.64, leaving an ending balance of \$6,591.40. The report was approved by acclamation.

Projects Reports:

CAMGA Projects Survey - A survey will be sent to all members regarding their interest in participating in different activities that take place each month during the year. You are also being asked to suggest new/additional activities for the coming year. Your participation is critical to the success of the survey. Please respond by clicking on the link provided in the email you will receive from Anita.

Induction of Officers: Rhona Watson led the induction of officers: Sandy Rosamond, President; Lynda Edwards, Vice President; Deann Stone, Secretary; Deborah Kelso, Treasurer; Linda Queen, Representative.

The meeting concluded at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deann K. Stone



December 2019 Lunch and Learn By: Charlotte Hall

Well, 2019 was a very eventful year for CAMGA Lunch and Learn. We had a little bit of everything that we could and could not possibly imagine - or even prepare for in the wild hope of preventing.

We started January with a wonderful slate of interesting and informative speakers covering a gamut of gardening topics. And we started 2019 at a beautiful new venue having our first monthly meeting at the Wetumpka Presbyterian Church. Who knew what awaited the church and our Lunch and Learn meetings - from a vicious tornado destroying the historic church necessitating our returning to the Extension for subsequent meetings to untimely sundry mishaps for our speakers.

So, with all the unusual happenings that took place for us in 2019, why wouldn't we wrap up the year with one more unexpected bang? Our scheduled speaker had an emergency health issue that prevented her from making her presentation. Thankfully, the prognosis for her health issue is good and we are super relieved that the test results were filled with good news.



In place of the scheduled speaker, we had an impromptu presentation by Sandy Rosamond and Charlotte Hall on decorating with natural materials - aka Christmas Decorating au Naturelle. My French is a bit rusty but I decided this must mean yard and garden items because the only au naturelle items that day were pine cones, acorns, lichens, moss, branch twigs and the such.

Ornaments made from lichens, acorns, twigs, cotton bolls, magnolia leaves, moss, acorn caps and similar native items were demonstrated with Sandy actually constructing an ornament from scratch for hands on observation. Frosting pine cones and other various materials was shown. Creating candles and Christmas features using greenery, fresh cranberries and cellophane wrap was also demonstrated. Also shown were beautiful angels constructed from magnolia leaves and burr oak acorns, poppy seed pods, lichens and moss.

We decided anything that grew naturally in your garden or woods was fair game for ornaments. With a punch of imagination and an array of natural materials, many ideas emerged resulting in one-of-a-kind creations. It was both fascinating and inspiring to see such creative thoughts and suggestions from those in attendance.

So, there you have it - another year of Lunch and Learn programs wrapped up with a fork stuck in them -- done.

Join us next month on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, January 14th at the Wetumpka First Presbyterian Church for our initial Lunch and Learn program in 2020. We plan on that being Soils of Alabama with Dr. Charles Mitchell, retired Auburn professor. But who knows, it might be a completely different program.

Though we certainly hope that is not the case, you need to plan on joining us for every 2020 program this upcoming year. As Forest Gump would say, "life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get." You don't want to miss all the fun!

Best wishes to everyone for a safe, happy, healthy and prosperous 2020 filled with much gardening success!



Governor's Mansion Report December 2019 By: Amanda Borden



Volunteers at the Governor's Mansion spent December maintaining decorations and hosting tours in the Hill House. On work days they refreshed greenery and modified displays as needed, adding some lighting and embellishments. They served as Governor's Mansion/Hill House open house hostesses for the Christmas Candlelight Tours on the first three Monday evenings in December, and they were recognized at a reception at the Mansion on December 17th.

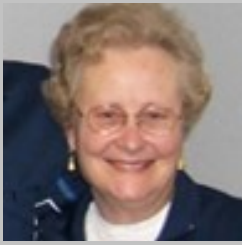
The volunteers took down decorations in the Hill House, December 30 and 31. Regular garden work days resumed on Monday, January 6 at 9:00 a.m.



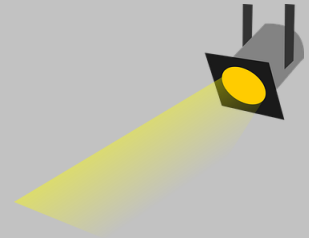


Governor's Mansion Report December 2019 By: Amanda Borden





**SPOTLIGHT ON
VOLUNTEERS
December 2019
By: Judy May**



The Lunch and Learn program on December 10 was Decorating au Naturel presented by Charlotte Hall and Sandy Rosamond. There were 20 attendees, 16 of them Master Gardeners. Assisting were Sandi Adkison, Charlotte Hall and Cathy Whigham.

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

The following volunteered for Tree decorating on December 4: Rhonda and Jesse Miles, Cecelia Ball, Deanne Stone, Candy Jones, Charlotte Hall, Jane Duke, and Sandy Rosamond.

Volunteering for the Dickens Christmas on December 6th and 7th were Cecelia Ball, Deanne Stone, Rhonda and Jesse Miles, Candy Jones, Jane Mobley, Deborah Kelso, Linda McQueen, Robin Snyder, Sandy Rosamond and Terry Chambliss.

Robin says everybody helped to make the Christmas Luncheon a success, thanks to all who helped with setup, cleanup, decorating, musicians, story tellers, kitchen help and lots of great cooks!

Helping Maria at Lanark this month were Leslie Bingham, Carla McCune and intern Beverly Coutts.

Helping Sandy Rosamond and Terry Chambliss remove ornaments from the Chamber of Commerce Christmas tree on December 30 were Cindy Augustine, Sandra Bowen, Kama Mason, Sheila Radford, and Betty Plaster.



CAMGA Library News December 2019 By: Dee Turberville

The Time-Life Complete Gardener is a basic series that is especially helpful for the beginning gardener. The individual titles, enhanced by colorful photographs, were written and compiled by several authors and editors during 1995-1997. Each 11.25" X 9.5" hardback includes a good reference section of troubleshooting, common questions, zone map, index, etc. This is one set of several books donated to the CAMGA collection this past year, thanks to Chip East and Angela Peltier.

A reminder: There are two ways to access Libib, the searchable online catalog for the CAMGA library collection.

You may click on the "link" within the *camga.net* website, or, you can access the collection directly at the Libib website address of: <https://camga.libib.com>. You do not need a patron login or password. Use the keyword search icon and box in the upper right corner; then search by author or title.

The books (289) are housed in the Elmore County Extension Office.





January Gardening Tips

By: Jane H. McCarthy

What I try to do in January ...

- ⇒ Keep leaves off your lawn
- ⇒ Trim dead limbs
- ⇒ Keep mulch thick or the winter weeds will sprout vigorously
- ⇒ Transplant, prune, and/or replace any dead trees and shrubs
- ⇒ Scout for pests, and identify them before you apply any pesticide
- ⇒ Control scale and mealy bugs with dormant oil, but read all the directions thoroughly
- ⇒ Protect the tender plants
- ⇒ Fertilize winter annuals regularly
- ⇒ Keep poinsettias moist until the flowers drop off, trim lightly, then move outside when it warms up
- ⇒ Enjoy seed catalogs

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

2nd TUESDAY of EVERY Month

12:00-1:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church

100 West Bridge Street, Wetumpka 36092



BRING A SACK LUNCH

FREE PROGRAM

DRINKS PROVIDED

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



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

www.aces.edu/elmore

Master Gardeners Toured Hills and Dales



These Master Gardeners toured Hills and Dales in LaGrange, GA on December 12th. Hills and Dales Estate is the home built for textile magnate Fuller E. Callaway and his wife Ida Cason Callaway. Callaway completed the home in 1916. The property includes the pre-Civil War Ferrell Gardens started by Nancy Ferrell in 1832 and expanded by her daughter Sarah Coleman Ferrell beginning in 1841. Photo submitted by Cathy Whigham.

In Deepest Sympathy

Deepest condolences to the family of Master Gardener, Mrs. Sandra Holland of Rockford, Alabama, who passed away December 14, 2019. Mrs. Holland was a member of the Coosa County Soil and Water Conservation District for over 30 years and was an active supervisor at the time of passing. She earned her Master Gardener Certification in 2014 and was member of CAMGA from 2014 to 2016. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family.

Calendar of Events

January 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2 <i>Learning Garden Workday, Elmore Co. Extension Office</i>	3	4
5	6 <i>Mansion Workday 9 a.m. — 12 noon</i>	7	8 <i>Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon</i>	9 <i>Learning Garden Workday, Elmore Co. Extension Office</i>	10	11
12	13 <i>Mansion Workday 9 a.m. — 12 noon</i>	14 <i>Lunch & Learn First Presbyterian Church 12-1 p.m.</i>	15 <i>Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon</i>	16 <i>Learning Garden Workday, Elmore Co. Extension Office</i>	17	18
19	20 <i>Mansion Workday 9 a.m. — 12 noon</i>	21 <i>CAMGA Meeting Extension Office 10 a.m.</i>	22 <i>Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon</i>	23 <i>Learning Garden Workday, Elmore Co. Extension Office</i>	24	25
26	27 <i>Mansion Workday 9 a.m. — 12 noon</i>	28	29 <i>Lanark Workday 8 to 12 noon</i>	30 <i>Learning Garden Workday, Elmore Co. Extension Office</i>	31	