



President's Message

By Linda Griebel



The December luncheon meeting was well attended - Santa came to extend seasonal wishes, too! Our appreciation goes to Carol Rattan for arranging such a delightful facility and also to all who decorated with such finesse. The tables were bright and attractive for our delicious repast. However, we missed those of you who were unable to make it, but hope your holidays were full of family and friends. I look forward to seeing you at our many Master Gardener functions in 2014.

It can't go without saying that we are most grateful to Candace Jones for three years of service to CAMGA as president. What a terrific leader we've had in Candy! There were so very many accomplishments and we anticipate that she'll continue to keep us moving in the best direction in the future. And I'd like to extend more kudos to the many officers and board members who worked closely with Candy to keep CAMGA such a productive and positive organization.

Thank you for selecting me to serve as president of CAMGA for 2014. It is indeed a privilege and an honor to work with such a proactive and hard-working group of people. I would like each of you to feel comfortable in conveying to me or to any officer or board member your goals, needs, and concerns for our association. Plans for the year already include the 'Lunch and Learn' series as well as several enjoyable and educational events for Master Gardeners. We hope everyone will jump in to help wherever needed. Please select one of more committees where your interests and talents can be utilized to make this another successful year. Watch the calendar in the newsletter and also on the yahoo group page to find things that you want to attend.

Have a healthful NEW YEAR and **grow** happy!

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Message from Mallory

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 paperwhite 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 1 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 paperwhites 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!

Calendar of Events

January 2014

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

| | | | | | | |
|----|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | | 1 <i>New Year's Day</i> | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 <i>Governor's Mansion Workday 9-11 a.m.</i> | 7 <i>Learning Garden Workday Advisory Council Meeting</i> | 8 <i>Lunch and Learn Lanark Workday</i> | 9 | 10 <i>Plant Hardy Annuals</i> | 11 |
| 12 | 13 <i>Governor's Mansion Projects Committee</i> | 14 <i>Learning Garden Workday</i> | 15 <i>Lanark Workday</i> | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 <i>Governor's Mansion Workday 9-11 a.m.</i> | 21 <i>MG Meeting 10 a.m. Heirloom Gardening</i> | 22 <i>Lanark Workday</i> | 23 | 24 | 25 <i>Plant English Pea seed directly in garden.</i> |
| 26 | 27 <i>Governor's Mansion Workday 9-11 a.m.</i> | 28 <i>Learning Garden Workday</i> | 29 <i>Lanark Workday</i> | 30 <i>Start pepper & tomato seed indoors.</i> | 31 <i>Begin pruning shrub roses</i> | |

DECEMBER MINUTES

By Amanda Borden



The December CAMGA meeting was held December 17, 2013 at Mulder Memorial United Methodist Church, Wetumpka, Alabama. Candy Jones called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

The November minutes were accepted as written. Linda Griebel made the first motion, Sandy Casey made the second, and it was carried by all present.

Becky Ashurst gave the treasurer's report for November 2013. The balance as of October 31 was \$8983.85. Income was \$552 from the Christmas lunch, \$780 from dues, \$10 from the Stepping Stone class, \$25 from the bank fee refund and change fund, \$113.66 from the seed sale, and \$10 from sale of a cookbook for a total of \$1491.66. Expenditures were \$351.73 for irrigation and landscaping at the Extension Office, \$98.60 for postage, \$20 for change for the seed sale, \$103.16 for the Stepping Stone class, \$12.45 for Master Gardener supplies (folders), \$11.29 for snacks for workday, and \$113.66 for Lanark Donation for a total of \$489.13. The balance as of November 30 was \$9986.38. The treasurer's report was approved; Rhona Watson made the first motion, Bill Long made the second, and it was carried by all present. Becky reminded members that the deadline to pay dues is December 31 in order to be listed in the CAMGA directory. Checks should be made out to CAMGA and given or mailed to Becky.

Ann Hill announced that members wanting a different photo in next year's directory should send her one; alternatively, she could take a photo with her camera at the meeting.

Candy Jones welcomed visitors and members to the Christmas luncheon and recognized Mallory and Hudson Kelley.

Linda Griebel reported the following: (1) The Governor's Mansion will continue to be a volunteer site for those wishing to participate. Volunteers should contact Jane McCarthy by noon the Friday prior to the workday in order to get their names on the list for clearance through security. There will be a sign-up sheet at the January meeting for a CAMGA workday at the Mansion. Amanda Borden has agreed to be the liaison with the Governor's Mansion. (2) The Beginning Bonsai class, scheduled for February 26, will be taught by Rhona Watson. Cost is \$18, and the class is limited to 20. All materials will be provided; the plant will be a small juniper. If more than 20 people are interested, the Projects Committee will try to offer another class later. (3) The annual Master Gardener plant swap will be October 3, 10 a.m.-noon. Participants should get five plants ready for the swap. (4) The public plant swap at the Recycle Center will be in April. (5) The Projects Committee will host a leaf birdbath project at the end of the summer. (6) Members who are approached about a possible project for CAMGA should talk to Linda or Catese Chaffee (new Projects Committee chair) about it.

Mary McCroan thanked members for their help--through financial contribution and/or hands-on work--with the three big projects in the Learning Gardens: (1) The water and shade garden, (2) the irrigation system, and (3) the installation of ground cloth to reduce maintenance. Mary welcomed members to come to the gardens to see what has been done and learn how to do it.

Carol Rattan reported on upcoming programs: (1) January - Jane Mobley, Heirloom Gardens; (2) February - Patrick Cook, Attracting Songbirds; (3) March - Mary McCroan, Irrigation; (4) May - visit to Jim Scott's garden; (5) June, visit to Young's Plant Farm. Carol will book the rest of the year as we go along. Candy Jones thanked Carol for all her good work in planning programs.

Phil Easter reported that he plans to meet with Mallory Kelley to set up CAMGA's appearances on WSFA-TV for next year.

Rhona Watson, Reach for the Stars coordinator, announced that the first week in January she would pull volunteer reports from "Lifetime Volunteer Hours" on the ACES reporting site. Rhona requested that members look online to make sure their reports are accurate and call her if there are problems. Active members should give a minimum of 25 CEU and/or volunteer hours per year. Candy Jones thanked Rhona for her work

and urged members to log in their hours because ACES depends on this for funding. She reminded members that Anida Wishnietsky offers assistance with the service reporting website.

Carol Rattan welcomed everyone to Mulder UMC and gave instructions regarding logistics for the lunch to follow. Santa wished everyone JOY in their Christmas: J – Jesus, O – Others, Y – You, in that order.

Candy Jones offered the following: (1) She commended Mary Long for the beautiful new format of the newsletter. (2) The slideshow at the meeting featured photos Candy had taken on various Master Gardener excursions, such as trips to Aldridge Gardens and Jim Scott's gardens. (3) She thanked Phil Easter and Rosemary Mobley for the great job they did on the December Lunch and Learn, and she urged members to attend future Lunch and Learns and bring friends. Charlotte Hall and Sandi Adkison will be co-chairing the Lunch and Learn program next year, and Carla McCune and Debbie Kelso are regular volunteers.

Mallory Kelley thanked everyone who contributed to the Lunch and Learn program during the past year. Charlotte Hall collected email addresses of all attendees and emailed them invitations to upcoming Lunch and Learns. Mallory recommended that members distribute Lunch and Learn schedule post-cards and bring people with them to a program; it is a good draw for the intern class and keeps CAMGA's name out there.

Candy Jones thanked CAMGA for their support of the Elmore County Food Pantry. Bob Brown began offering support when he was CAMGA president, and the practice has continued. Candy recognized those who had helped set up and decorate for the Christmas luncheon: Charlotte Hall, Carla McCune, Sharon Potts, Bob and Becky Brown, Carol Rattan, and Rosemary Mobley. Members added from the floor that Candy had also helped.

Phil Easter discussed a proposed memorial for Fred Evans. Fred was a past president of both AMGA and CAMGA. It was through Fred that CAMGA became active at Lanark. Maria Pacheco-West has been working for several months to have a small patio/terrace at Lanark designated in memory of Fred. The ultimate vision is to have two teak benches and two chairs in that area. Phil requested a motion that CAMGA donate \$450 for one bench in Fred's memory, with said memorial denoted by a plaque to be donated. Rhona Watson made the first motion, Tom Jaworowski made the second, and it was carried by all present.

Phil added that there would be a dedication ceremony later and that individuals could contribute additional money that could be used to purchase other furniture. Contributions should be made payable to Alabama Wildlife Federation (AWF), with a memo designating them as memorials to Fred Evans.

Candy Jones commented that she was pleased and honored to have served as CAMGA's president and recognized President-elect Linda Griebel. Candy turned the floor over to Nominating Committee chair Gale Wheeler-Leonard, who administered the oath of office to the 2014 officers: President – Linda Griebel; Vice-President – Carol Rattan; Secretary – Rosemary Mobley; Treasurer – Becky Ashurst; and Advisory Council Representative Sally L'Abbe.

Linda Griebel announced that her first duty as the new president was to commend Candy Jones on the tremendous job she had done for CAMGA for the past three years. Candy presented Linda with the CAMGA trowel (developed by Art Wilkerson in 1996), which was embellished with a plaque engraved with names of CAMGA presidents, with Linda's being the newest.

At 11:03 a.m., the business meeting was adjourned, and lunch was served. Following the meal, door prizes were awarded. Sixty-eight people attended.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Borden, Secretary



AMGA

24TH ANNUAL MASTER GARDENERS

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

CAMGA 'LUNCH & LEARN' PRESENTED DECORATING IDEAS USING NATURAL MATERIALS



Look at this gorgeous wreath/centerpiece made from natural materials around the house and yard. Phil Easter and Rosemary Mobley presented the December 'Lunch & Learn' program for a large crowd of guests from the community. They demonstrated lots of great ideas to enhance our holiday décor. All of the attendees were greatly entertained and impressed!

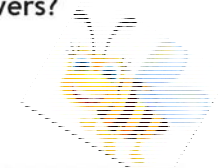


All Bugs Good and Bad

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.

- February 7** If Flowers are Restaurants to Bees, Then What Are Bees to Flowers?
Dr. John Skinner
- March 7** Straight Talk About Termites
Dr. Xing Ping Hu
- April 4** Get Tick**Smart**: 10 Things to Know, 5 Things to Do
Dr. Thomas Mather
- May 2** Are Those Itsy Bitsy Spiders Good or Bad?
Dr. Nancy Hinkle
- June 6** Fire Ant Management
Elizabeth Brown
- 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



For more information on the series and how to connect to the webinars, visit: <http://www.extension.org/pages/70120>.



SANTA'S HELPERS





Candy Jones (right) presents Linda Griebel with the president's trowel to begin her two-year term. Catese Chaffee will take Linda's place as Projects Committee Chair for 2014.



PROJECTS COMMITTEE CONCLUDES 2013

by Linda R. Griebel

The Projects Committee met on December 9 to discuss completed projects as well as to look into 2014. We will set up a couple of pruning group workdays hosted by this committee in 2014 -one in February coordinated with Jane McCarthy at the Governor's Mansion and another in early March coordinated with Mary McCroan in the Learning Gardens. The Projects Committee has also agreed to staff a CAMGA table at as many public events as the entity hosting the event would welcome us (in order to get the Master Gardener message out and also recruit for an intern class). *Members, be sure to let Linda or Catese know about any gardening events that might be opportunities for CAMGA to attend.*

The February 26th Beginning Bonsai class is on schedule. A sign-up sheet and payments were taken at the December meeting and the class of 20 is already full. **Mark your calendars!** We picked the date for the Annual MG Plant Swap - October 3, 2014 from 10-12. As requested, that gives members a long time to get 5 well established plants ready to participate in this fun event. Based on a member request, this committee will also plan a leaf bird bath project (similar to the one done several years earlier) - probably near the end of summer.

The next committee meeting will be a *Planning-for-2014* session on January 13 at 10:00. Catese Chaffee has graciously agreed to be the new Projects Committee Chairperson in 2014.



How's this for a prospective Master Gardener!

Ann Hill's ten-year-old next door neighbor Andrew Howard has built a cold frame and uses an old door to cover it. **He** tends it himself and is still providing his family and neighbors with fresh spinach and a variety of lettuces.

Way to go, Andrew !



SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS by Judy May



Helping in the Learning Gardens December 10th were Linda Griebel, Amanda Borden, John Barnes, and Mary McCroan.

Maria P.W. says Sandy Atkinson and Cathy Whigham helped clean out the heirloom garden and cut back canna's, butterfly bushes, ginger, roses, day lilies, perennials, pull weeds and clean up the debris. Carla McCune helped to make flower arrangements for the main house. Thanks for all the help! Lanark needs volunteers; if Wednesday's aren't good for you, call Maria and she can arrange another day and time for you to get involved.

Attending the Projects Committee meeting December 9th were Jane Mobley, Johan Beumer, Catese Chaffee, Tina Bowles, John Barnes, Candy Jones, Carol Rattan and Linda Griebel.

Phil Easter presented his program on holiday decorating with natural materials from the landscape three times in December: Dec 2nd - Montgomery Federated Garden Clubs, Dec 7 - Frazer Women's Ministry Christmas Brunch, and along with Rosemary Mobley on Dec 11th - CAMGA 'Lunch & Learn.'

Decorating and cleaning up for the Christmas meeting were Candy Jones, Bob and Becky Brown, Carla McCune, Sharon Potts, Carol Rattan and Charlotte Hall. Sharon brought all the cute snowmen and the burlap bags were Rosemary Mobley's. Thank you Carol for making the arrangements for use of the church hall, and many thanks to Tom Jaworski for having Santa add to the fun atmosphere.

INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS



Nominating Committee Chair, Gale Wheeler, swears in our new officers. From right: Rosemary Mobley, Secretary; Carol Rattan, Vice-president; Linda Griebel, President; Becky Ashurst, Treasurer, and Sally L'Abbe, Advisory Council Representative. **Congratulations to all !!**

Program Notes By Carol Rattan

Christmas Luncheon

Thanks to all who helped set-up, decorate and clean-up after the Christmas luncheon, and a special thanks to "Santa" for making a very special appearance. Those who signed-up and assisted with set-up were Candy Jones, Carla McCune, and Becky and Bob Brown. We had numerous folks help decorate, including Candy Jones, Charlotte Hall, Carla McCune, Cathy Whigham, Bob and Becky Brown, and Sharon Potts. Those who assisted with clean-up were Linda Griebel, Amanda Borden, Sherry Scott, and Sally and Joe L'Abbe. Lee Borden was responsible for signing in attendees. I apologize if I've left anyone out – I am going by my sign-up list and my memory, the latter of which is not very reliable. Thanks to Tonya Premremot and her crew for a delicious dinner, and to Mulder Church for providing the perfect location and room. I am blessed to be a part of an organization with wonderful, hardworking and caring members!



CAMGA Meetings

It has been suggested that we use more of our members as speakers for our monthly meetings, so I've asked several folks to speak and of course, they have agreed. In January, Jane Mobley will share her expertise on Heirloom Gardens. It has been several years since she has presented to the group on that subject, and I am looking forward to her presentation. In February, Patrick Cook is coming to teach us about attracting songbirds to our gardens. Mary McCroan has agreed to share her recently hard-earned knowledge on planning and installation of irrigation systems for the garden in March, and Rhona will be sharing her knowledge of composting in April. We have the privilege of visiting Jim Scott's beautiful and creative gardens in May! June's meeting is one day later than usual, on June 18th, with a trip to Young's Farm. I am working on other dates and always welcome suggestions, so please e-mail me with the information, or see me at a meeting. Thanks!



Library News by Barbara Wallace

The library is open Monday through Friday 9am-4pm, and is located in the Wetumpka Extension Office. It is for the use of all the Master Gardeners. We have some wonderful books there that may be checked out and kept for up to one month.

Check out procedure is as follows: Select your book, sign the card in the back of the book and place it in the green file box on top of the file cabinet. When returning books, please place in cardboard box on the top of file cabinet, do not shelve yourself!! There is a list of our books in a notebook on desk beside the file cabinet. Please direct questions or requests to me, Barbara Wallace.

My email address is bwallace@comlinkinc.net.



PAY DUES NOW IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY.



CAMGA
Garden Buzzzz

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NEXT MEETING

10 a.m.

January 21

Wetumpka Extension

Heirloom Gardening
Jane Mobley

CAMGA Lunch & Learn
January 8

Pruning

Mary McCroan

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