



President's Message

By Linda Griebel



Just when we thought we were done with the low temperatures, cold hit again. The leaves on my figs and kiwi plants look like someone torched the leaves on top to a toasty brown covering, but they look like they are starting to recover. And it seems like monsoon season with several inches every time it rains (I can empathize with those countries where a monsoon actually occurs every year). Yet, I keep reminding myself that "April showers bring May flowers" and am taking out my camera when it isn't raining to capture all of the best blooms the season has to offer. Azaleas are starting to fade while the irises are beginning to impress us with many colors. It seems like the plants that made it through winter are putting on the Ritz!

April was another busy month for CAMGA with members attending the State Advisory Council meeting; two Fund Raising Committee meetings to get ready for the MG Plant Sale on May 2; a terrific Lunch and Learn on perennials; workdays continuing at the Learning Gardens, Lanark, and Governor's Mansion; information tables at Farm City Day and Lanark Flora & Fauna Weekend; Projects Committee adopting two new projects; an exciting monthly meeting featuring Native Plants with Richard; two Grafting Workshops offered by Extension; AMGA Annual Conference in Daphne; and all those other individual volunteers gigs that members always handle with such devotion to education. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered.

Keep talking to those you meet and keep giving out recruitment flyers and applications. Your positive attitudes -are sparking interest in our fall intern class. We need to follow up to ensure that they turn applications in to Extension so we will have enough to hold classes.

We're all looking forward to some excursions in the next couple of months. And Mary Long has included lots of other activities in the newsletter calendar from which to choose. Perhaps we can all settle down a little after the plant sale has occurred, but, hey, it will be time to start new plants for the fall plant swap and for next year's plant sale...

See you in the garden! Linda

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Message from Mallory

By Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests

Ambrosia Beetles Attacking Small Trees

The Granulate Ambrosia beetles have been causing quite a stir in home landscapes over the past few weeks. This beetle was introduced into the United States in the early 1970's in South Carolina and has since spread throughout the



southeast and as far north as Maryland. This tiny beetle is a pest of woody ornamental, fruit, and nut trees and can cause significant damage in nursery, landscape, and orchard settings.

Granulate ambrosia beetles emerge in early spring and attack thin barked, deciduous trees. Tree species most commonly reported to be damaged are dogwood, redbud, maple, ornamental cherry, Japanese maple, and crepe myrtle. Other reported hosts include pecan, peach, plum, persimmon, golden rain tree, sweet gum, Shumard oak, Chinese elm, magnolia, fig, hydrangea and azalea.

Young trees and small branches of mature trees are where these beetles attack. Female beetles bore into the trunks and branches (1-3 inches in diameter) and excavate galleries in the

wood. In addition to boring damage, female beetles inoculate trees with ambrosia fungus which can block xylem vessels and interfere with vascular transport. Infested plants often die from boring damage, ambrosia fungus, or infection by a secondary pathogen.

These beetles attack seemingly healthy trees as well as stressed or unhealthy trees. Visible symptoms include wilted foliage and strands of boring dust protruding from small holes. Serious attacks that result in tree death usually occur during leafing-out stage.

Infestations can be easily identified by toothpick-like strands protruding up to 1.5 inches from the bark of the host plant. The strands of boring dust are produced by the female beetle as she excavates her gallery. The strands are fragile and are easily broken off by wind or rain leaving only pencil-lead sized holes.

Preventative applications of pyrethroid insecticides can protect trees by preventing Granulate Ambrosia Beetles from excavating galleries. However, once beetles are inside trees they cannot be killed with insecticides and fungicides are ineffective against the ambrosia fungus. Thus, the timing of preventative insecticide applications is crucial to protect trees from damage by this pest. Dr. Charles Ray, Auburn University Extension Entomologist says "recent research of the first flight of granulate ambrosia beetle in spring has found it occurs at almost exactly the same time as bradford pears beginning to bloom. This gives a clear sign to a homeowner of when they should apply the preventative sprays."

If you notice the white strands protruding from the branches or main trunk of your trees or shrubs the plant parts should be removed and destroyed.

Sources: Dr. Charles Ray, Auburn University, Extension Entomologist. North Carolina State University <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/O&T/trees/note111/note111.html>



May 2014

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 Bring bulk plants only to Extension barn for plant sale	2 Pricing Day Extension	3 CAMGA Plant Sale Episcopal Chruch Wetumpka
4	5 Governor's Mansion Work Day	6 Learning Garden Work Day Millbrook Farmer's Mkt 8am-12pm	7	8	9	10
11	12 Governor's Mansion Work Day WSFA 12 Talk	13 Learning Garden Work Day Millbrook Farmer's Mkt 8am-12pm	14 Lunch & Learn Shade Gardening	15	16	17 Plant Swap/ Earth Day Wetumpka Recycle Center
18  Montgomery Botanical Gardens	19 Governor's Mansion Work Day	20 MG Meeting Farmer's Mkt 8am-12pm	21	22	23	24
25	26 Governor's Mansion Work Day	27 Learning Garden Work Day Millbrook Farmer's Mkt 8am-12pm	28	29	30	31

APRIL MINUTES By Rosemary Mobley, Secretary

The April, 2014, Central Alabama Master Gardener's Association (CAMGA) meeting was held April 18, 2014, at the Elmore County Extension Office Auditorium, Wetumpka, Alabama. Linda Griebel called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. She turned the floor over to Carol Rattan, who introduced the speaker, Richard Cobb, President of the Alabama Wildflower Society.



Mr. Cobb provided a wealth of information about the native plants of Alabama. He explained that few states have the diversity and variety of wildflowers as are found in Alabama. One of the web sites cited, Alabama Plant Atlas (www.floraofalabama.org), contains a comprehensive searchable database of vascular plant species that occur in the state of Alabama. The listing for Elmore County shows 412 identified species. In a description of "Gardening with Nature," Mr. Cobb shared the importance of the following: 1) Planting in a habitat that naturally matches the plant, and already supports associated plants; 2) Eliminating invasive plants such as: privet, wisteria, Japanese honeysuckle, and Florida Bettany (snakeroot); 3) Creating refuges for plants such as fence rows; 4) Moving unsuccessful plants after the third year; and 4) Watching water needs in the first year, and minimizing watering thereafter. Several books about wildflowers and ferns including "Alabama Wildflowers" by Jan Midgley and "Ferns of Alabama" by Dan Blanche were discussed. Mr. Cobb responded to questions and brought some potted native plants that were awarded to fortunate CAMGA members as door prizes.

Following the refreshment break, the group reconvened at 11:20 a.m. for the business meeting. Linda called the meeting to order and shared some lesson learned about transporting, organizing, and displaying CAMGA materials during Farm Day and the Flora and Fauna Art Festival. Based on these findings, the CAMGA Board approved the purchase of plastic containers and a portable hand cart. Bonnie McCormick made a motion that an amount up to \$60.00 be used to purchase the plastic containers and a hand cart. Rhona Watson made the second, and it was carried by all present. Johan Beumer brought some large clips for anchoring display items against gusting winds. Linda announced that the display board had arrived. She invited members to offer suggestions about content and photographs to spotlight on CAMGA's display board.

The president recognized Mallory Kelly. Mallory expressed appreciation to CAMGA Master Gardeners for presenting information to current intern classes. These are Jane Mobley, Mary McCroan, Linda Griebel and Phil Easter. She also thanked everyone who volunteered to serve on the Helpline which is now filled. She shared that a workshop on grafting is scheduled on John Neighbor's property in Coosa County on April 23, 2014. Next, Mallory presented Jim Davis an Advanced Master Gardener Certificate in Beekeeping. Jim is also a Master Beekeeper. Congratulation to Jim!

Linda shared a thank you note from Maria Pacheco-West, Lanark Ground Specialist. It was in appreciation for the gift to Alabama Wildlife Federation in honor of Fred Evans. A bench with a memorial plaque will be dedicated in a ceremony planned for May, 2014, with details to follow.

The March 2014 minutes were accepted as written. Jane Mobley made the first motion. Amanda Borden made the second, and it was carried by all present.

Becky Ashurst gave the treasurer's report for March 2014. There were no expenditures or income. The balance as of March 31, 2014 was \$9,249.72. The treasurer's report was approved. Rhona Watson made the first motion, Jane Mobley made the second, and it was carried by all present.

Carol Rattan updated members on future CAMGA meetings. The next two meetings are scheduled off site. The May 20th meeting is at Jim Scott's Garden in Alexander City, AL. The June 18th (Wednesday) meeting is at Young Farm in Auburn, AL. All who plan to attend the May and June meetings will need to car pool and bring a sack lunch. It was suggested that car poolers meet at the Elmore County Extension Office. In July, Mallory Kelly will present information about the Extension Service and share the process for becoming an Advanced Master Gardener. The September meeting will take place at Coach Pat Dye's Quail Hollow Gardens Japanese Maple Nursery in Notasulga, AL.

Gale Wheeler-Leonard reported on the Advisory Council meeting held on April 11, 2014. The Alabama Master Gardener Association (AMGA) Endowment Fund Scholarship for worthy Auburn Horticultural students



is at \$88,000. Gale shared that the Annual Fall Conference is scheduled on September 16 at Gunterville State Park in Gunterville, AL. Some other items discussed were that interns may become AMGA members prior to graduation; and, mentoring was suggested as a good retention strategy. It was noted that Sally L'Abbe has the Master Gardener car tags for sale at \$20 each. All members were encouraged to attend Advisory Council meetings.

In her capacity as Membership Care Committee Chair, Gale Wheeler-Leonard stated that cards were sent to Bob Brown and Tom Jaworowski. She urged members to notify her of a member's illness or other condition as soon as possible.

The President reported for Suzanne George, Class for Interns Committee. Linda Griebel discussed recruitment efforts at recent events. Becky Brown encouraged the group to use the cover sheet of the application as talking points for prospective interns. She also advised following up with interested contacts so that applications are returned before the July deadline.

Linda reported for the Projects Committee. Plans are underway for a bird bath class in the fall. The committee approved a tree installation at Adullum House for Arbor Day, 2015. Judy May and Lois Pribulick will develop a prototype for a seed starting take home kit for children to be used at future public events. She announced that the Plant Swap/Earth Day at the Recycle Center in Wetumpka is scheduled for May 17, 2014. A sign-up sheet for this event was available at the registration table.

Linda Armour-Scott updated members on the progress of the Fund Raising Committee. She stated that the Plant Sale, scheduled for May 3, 2014, is still in need of volunteers for set-up and clean-up. Sign-up sheets were available. She also asked for plastic bags, boxes, yard art, planters, and other garden items for the plant sale. Rhona Watson had made laminated signs. A CAMGA information table will be on site, and members were asked to volunteer using the sign-up sheet at the registration table. Members were also asked to continue distributing flyers and postcards for advertisement.

Mary Long requested that articles and pictures intended for the May newsletter be submitted by April 23, 2014, which is an early deadline due to the State Conference at the end of the month.

Rick Ohlson, Millbrook Farmer's Market chair, announced that there will be a change in time for hours of operation. The market will be open Tuesdays in May to August, from 8:00a.m. until 12:00 p.m. He plans on sending an e-mail to members for volunteer opportunities.

Mary McCroan informed the group that a decision was made to use mulch instead of gravel on the area between the rain garden and the raised beds in the Community Learning Gardens. She encouraged members to consider adopting an area in the Learning Gardens, keeping in mind that this involved a commitment of upkeep for a minimum of one year.

Door prizes were awarded and the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. Forty nine people attended.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Mobley, Secretary

RIVER REGION LIVING MAGAZINE ISSUE NEW PLANT INTROS FOR 2014 By Phil Easter



Back in the March issue of 'In the Garden', we looked at several 'new' plants for our landscapes being marketed at 'First Editions' at local independent garden centers. Because of space limitations, we couldn't explore the entire collection so let's look at some more of these 'new' plants. Actually, most are shrubs or small trees.

Before we look at specific 'new' varieties of Crape Myrtles, let's revisit the crime of Crape Myrtle 'Murder'. A crime? 'Murder'? Yes, that's what we call it when those of us with landscapes feel compelled to excessively chop back existing Crape Myrtles early every year as a warped effort to control the height of these summer blooming beauties. Of course, if we'd had the opportunity to plant more self-controlling varieties of Crape Myrtles in the first place, we (hopefully) wouldn't have to worry about them getting too big for where we planted them. Unfortunately, until the past few years, we didn't have much choice in choosing the mature heights of the Crape Myrtles: They all seemed destined to grow to 15-25 feet and dwarf everything around them.....including our homes!

However, with today's range of varieties, we can choose Crape Myrtles that grow no more than 2-3 feet tall, 4-8 feet tall, 10-15 feet tall or those that are even taller. With that bit of information at hand, let's look at four 'First Edition' Crape Myrtles that will stay within the range of 6 to 12 feet mature height.....varieties that, IF we plant them in the correct place to begin with..... and eliminate the need/desire/compulsion to 'murder' them each year.

'First Editions' 'Coral Magic' Crape Myrtle forms a beautiful rounded, dense shrub loaded with salmon-pink flowers in early summer and again in late summer if the spring flowers are 'deadheaded'. Glossy reddish foliage gradually becomes dark green throughout the summer before turning red and yellow in the fall. Mature height/width: 6-10feet.

'First Editions' 'Moonlight Magic' Crape Myrtle gives us white flowers in a unique upright growing habit that will do well as small patio or container tree. The white blooms show off nicely against the dark maroon foliage. Mature height: 8-12 feet; mature width: 4-6 feet.

'First Editions' 'Plum Magic' Crape Myrtle is a semi-dwarf, rounded form, blooming in early summer with fuchsia pink flowers which show off well against the green foliage which first emerges as plum-purple in color. A late summer crop of blooms can be obtained by 'deadheading' the spent spring blooms. In the fall, the foliage turns to burgundy. Mature height/width: 6-10 feet.

'First Editions' 'Purple Magic' Crape Myrtle blooms in early summer with dark purple flowers on a dense shrub form that fits in the landscape where taller Crape Myrtles will become too large. New growth has a reddish tint and will mature to a glossy green, turning red and yellow in the fall. As with the 'Coral Magic' and 'Plum Magic', a second crop of blooms can be enjoyed in late summer if the earlier, spent bloom heads are removed. 'Purple Magic' blooms are produced on new growth so pruning (not 'Murder'!) should be done in the winter. Mature height/width: 6-10 feet.

All of the above Crape Myrtles are highly resistant to leaf spot and powdery mildew and should be planted in a location that receives full sun at least 6-8 hours a day for best flower production. All are hardy from zones 6 through 9: The River Region is growing zone 8.

Let's look at two more 'First Edition', out of the ordinary shrub ---these for shady areas: 'Florida Sunshine' and 'Pink Frost' Anise. As you may already know, the foliage of the Anise, when broken, gives off an anise (licorice) fragrance. These shrubs like to be grown in moist but well-drained soils. In fact, the furthest north natural Anise 'grove' is the damp area of Lanark in Millbrook.

'First Editions' 'Pink Frost' will grow to 6-10 feet high and wide with green and white variegated, glossy foliage against which the spring flowers of maroon-red will show off beautifully. The variegated foliage turns a beautiful pink-rose color in cold weather.

'First Editions' 'Florida Sunshine' is a small shrub growing to 5 feet tall by 3 feet wide with chartreuse/gold foliage that turns a screaming yellow in the cool weather of fall. Then the foliage becomes a near parchment color by mid-winter. At the same time, the upper stems take on a brilliant red cast for a great contrast with the foliage. The winter foliage will scorch in the sun, so it's important that we grow 'Florida Sunshine' in at least filtered or light shade.

The last of the 'First Editions' shrubs we'll look at is the 'Sunshine Blue' Dwarf Blueberry, a great choice for containers on or near the pool, patio or other outdoor living area in full sun. Growing only 3 - 4 feet high and wide, the glossy silvery-green leaves are semi-evergreen for great year 'round color. In spring, masses of pink flowers (instead of the typical white of most Blueberries) are followed by berries.....LOTS of berries! Each compact plant bears anywhere from 5 to 10 pounds of delicious, dime-sized, dark blue berries with a sweet and juicy taste unlike those we find in the grocery store. And 'Sunshine Blue' is self-pollinating which means we don't have to plant it near other varieties as is the case with most Blueberries. Easy to grow, 'Sunshine Blue' sports gorgeous purple-red fall color.

And, just in case we haven't picked up on the message, 'First Editions' plants are new this year! That means we River Region gardeners can be among the first to showcase these great, new plants in our landscape! Enjoy!!!!



SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS by Judy May



March 25th working in the Learning Gardens were Rosemary Mobley, Amanda Borden, Linda Griebel, John Barnes and Mary McCroan. Mary says many thanks to all for the hard work. She says we got ground fabric down around the rain garden and it was a heck of a challenge with the winds we had that day.

March 26th attending the "Learn and Prune Japanese Maples" in Tallassee were Jane Mobley, Rosemary Mobley, Candy Jones, Amanda Borden, Lee Borden, Cathy Whigham, John Barnes, Jim Davis, Rhona Watson, Linda Griebel and Mary McCroan. March 27th Teaching "Pruning Pointers" to Montgomery Intern Class: Mary McCroan, Jane Mobley, and Linda Griebel.

Attending the AMGA Advisory Council meeting April 1st were Gale Leonard - Wheeler and Linda Griebel.

Attending the Fund Raising Committee meeting April 2nd were Bob Brown, Lois Pribulick, Rhona Watson, Candy Jones, Gale Leonard Wheeler, Linda Griebel, Linda Armour Scott and Judy May.

Friday April 4th, Judy May hosted a Bacteria Water Monitoring class at her home assisted by Ann Hill and taught by citizen trainers Patti Hurley and Ginger Taylor. Four Lake Jordan residents as well as two Prattville residents and a monitor from Wilson, AL were recertified in chemical testing and five learned to test water for bacteria. We like to know if there is E. Coli in the water where our grand kids swim. Ann and Judy got involved in this program through the AL Master Naturalist Program.

Jane Mobley did a Butterfly Garden presentation April 12th at Lanark Floral days and on the 21st will do a pruning presentation for the Emerald Mountain Garden Club. She also did a presentation on Culinary Herbs to the Herb Society on April 15th at their monthly meeting.

Bringing refreshments to the monthly meeting were Sharon Potts, Becky Ashurst, Katrina Mitchell, Charlotte Hall, and Bonnie McCormick. Judy May brought cokes and Katrina Mitchell set up the room.

Working with Jane McCarthy at the Governors Mansion all month was Amanda Borden. Jane says March 24th was the "demeatballing" workshop with John Barnes, Charlotte Hall, Rosemary Mobley, Linda Griebel and Amanda Borden.

Phil Easter did the promo for Lunch and Learn at WSFA again this month and will be teaching a container gardening class to the Montgomery Master Gardener class on April 24th.

April 11th for Farm City Day, John Barnes worked with Linda Griebel at the CAMGA information table and Janet Lewis helped out unscheduled for awhile; Betty Stricker worked JR MG booth all day.

April 12th During Lanark Floral & Fauna Days, working the CAMGA information table were Bob and Becky Brown, John Barnes, Katrina Mitchell, Rhonda Myles, Jesse Myles, and Linda Griebel.

April 14th Projects Committee members attending were Jane Mobley, Lois Pribulick, Linda Armour – Scott, John Butler, John Barnes, Johan Beumer and Linda Griebel.

Volunteers at the Lunch and Learn April 9th were Deborah Kelso, Carla McCune, Sandi Adkinson and Charlotte Hall. Speakers were Virginia Pruett and Jane McCarthy, speaking on Annuals and Perennials.

Helping Maria prepare for the Flora and Fauna Festival were Norman Turnipseed, Cathy Whigham, John Barnes, Carla McCune, Charlotte Hall, Sandi Adkinson, Ann Hill and Sandra Gilley. Helping the day of the Lanark event were Ann Hill and Gene Hill, Carla McCune, Sandra Gilley, Ken Moore, Norman and Peggy Turnipseed, R.J.Arceneaux, Sally L'Abbe and Joe L'Abbe, Ricky Hatcher, Mary Ann Hatcher, Judy May, Sharon Potts, Marie Updike, Cathy Whigham, Sandi Adkinson, Joel and Sharon Grasse, Suzanne George and Janet Lewis.

Phil Easter spoke on the history of Lanark to guests visiting the art show and Jane Mobley gave an outstanding presentation on butterfly gardens.

Helpline volunteers this month were Sharon Potts, John Barnes, Rosemary Mobley, Carla McCune, Ricky Hatcher, Debbie Hough, Mary Ann Klatt and Mary Ann Hatcher.

April Program

Our April MG Meeting was most interesting. Richard Cobb of the Alabama Native Plant Society came to tell us about the wonderful native plants that we have here in Alabama to enjoy. He brought several pots of natives such as Bloodroot, *Aquelegia*, wild ginger, *Trillium*, and Shield Fern. He showed topographical maps of the whole state, explaining what plants grow in which areas. His presentation was so interesting we didn't want him to stop!



Program Chairman, Carol Rattan, introduced Richard Cobb from the Alabama Native Plant Society who offered the native plants he brought as door prizes. At right, Richard showed the different plants in Alabama and told where these unusual native plants thrive. Some are indigenous to Alabama. His presentation had us all in rapt attention. This was one of our most interesting programs we've had!

2014 Lunch and Learn Programs

Second Wednesday Each Month

12:00 to 1:00



*MAY 14TH
SHADE GARDENING
*JUNE 11TH
HYDRANGEAS
*JULY 9TH ATTRACTING
BUTTERFLIES TO THE GARDEN

*AUGUST 13TH WORMS EAT MY GARBAGE
*SEPTEMBER 10TH BEES FREE PROGRAM
*OCTOBER 8TH HERBS
*NOVEMBER 12TH HOLIDAY DECORATING WITH
NATURAL MATERIALS
*DECEMBER 10TH HOLIDAY PLANTS & FORCING
BULBS

At the April meeting Mallory presented the Advanced Master Gardener certificate for beekeeping to Jim Davis. Congratulations, Jim!



Program Notes By Carol Rattan

CAMGA Meetings

Thanks to Richard Cobb, we learned a lot at our April meeting about native wildflowers in Alabama, and his work to encourage them to continue to thrive. His talk was very informative, and he was kind enough to donate some native plants to our group!

We are headed to Lake Martin this month – see info below. In June we are also offsite, a day later than our usual meeting, visiting the Young's Farm near Auburn. In July we are home with our own 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.



Trip to Jim Scott's for May Meeting (Mostly borrowed from Mary McCroan). We are heading up to Lake Martin for our meeting on 21 May 2014. We will be there from 10 am to 2 pm. The itinerary is a tour for the first hour, then a bag lunch that you've brought, then wander around and take pictures until 2 pm. If the weather looks bad, we will meet at the Extension Center for a normal meeting—I'll send our information via email if that is an issue. **Things to know:** This is a walk around garden built on a hill with steps and narrow paths. It is a wonderful place to stroll around and take pictures. It's not a hike since you have all the time in the world to get from here to there. However, if you can't do stairs, or need rails to do stairs, you might want to skip this one.

Bring a lunch and drinks. A couple of hours wandering around a garden in May will require some hydration. Bring your **camera** with a full battery and lots of space on the card. You'll be sorry if you don't!

Carpool!!! Most important since parking is very limited. In general, we will carpool from the Extension Center at 9 am. **You should have at least four people in your car.** If you can get together four folks to meet at one house, you don't need to come to the Extension Center. You can consider meeting at the Refuge Baptist Church at Red Hill at the intersection of Hwy 229 and Hwy 50 if that makes sense logistically for your group. I'm not going to coordinate that, and people that carpool from the Extension Center are not going to stop at the church. I'm going to let members that don't come to the Extension Center make their own arrangements—just remember four people to a car. If you don't have a full car, please meet at the Extension Center so we can fill up the vehicles—at least four per car. **We'll leave the Extension Center about 9 am**, maybe just a few minutes later, so be up at Scott's garden a few minutes before 10 am. It's about a 50 minute drive.

Directions from the Extension Center

- Turn right on Queen Ann Road, drive .1 mile
- Turn right on Gossum Switch, drive .4 miles
- Turn left on Hwy 14, drive 3.5 miles
- Turn left on Hwy 170, Georgia Road, drive 11 miles
- Turn left on Hwy 63, Kowaliga Road, drive 6.7 miles
- Turn right on Hwy 229, Red Hill Road; drive 3.1 miles
- At Red Hill, drive straight on Hwy 50; drive 2.8 miles. Note: you drive straight to get onto Hwy 50. Do not continue on Hwy 229 which turns to the right. At the intersection of Hwy 50 and Hwy 229 is a landmark, Refuge Baptist Church.
- Cross the bridge below the Dam, take your first left on Overlook drive and drive 1.3 miles
- Turn left on Ghost Hollow. This is a dirt road, narrow and steep in places, so take your time
- Park just before or after the first gate—Gate 1—"INDECISION". The sign may be hard to see if the gate is open. If you get to Spirit Lane you've gone too far. Slow down when the road gets wider and has some gravel on it—you are almost there. Do not block the road when you park—use the wide spots. Go through the gate, walk down the road about 250 feet, we will meet on the covered deck to your left.

See you all there (if my knee surgery is after that date.)

Mulching Day at the Learning Garden By Mary McCroan

Efforts to simplify landscape maintenance in the Learning Garden by adding faucets and irrigation, installing ground cloth, and removing high maintenance perennials are just about done. Our most recent project was to install ground fabric and mulch around the rain garden. Last year we mowed it, weeded it, and tried to control vegetation around the rain garden with chemicals. Hopefully we will need to do almost nothing in that area this year. Now any volunteer hours will be to work on a particular area of interest. Areas that some MG's are



particularly focused on include the shade and water garden, veggies (perennial and annual), fruit trees and herbs. There are other things that could be done. If one of our Master Gardeners would like to landscape an area, plant a particular crop, adopt some existing elements of the landscape just contact Mary McCroan.



Governor's Mansion Report by Amanda Borden



At the Governor's Mansion this past month, Master Gardeners have weeded, renewed, pruned a pyracantha in the herb garden, finished pruning hydrangeas in the Secret Garden, planted day lilies,

Easter Lilies, and digitalis. They also cleaned up and trimmed sago palms and Carolina Jasmine.

At right: Amanda Borden and Jane McCarthy cut back Carolina jasmine.





At left: CAMGA display at Farm City Day. Betty Stricker (left) and Janet Lewis (right) participated. Farm City Day affords students the opportunity to learn about horticulture and animal husbandry.

Lanark Flora and Fauna Weekend was a big success !!



(Above) Manning our MG table were Bob and Becky Brown; also (at right) Rhonda and Jesse Miles with President Linda Griebel.



Thank You from Maria P. West

I want to thank those helping me to prepare and set up for the Flora and Fauna Festival: Norman Turnipseed, Cathy Whigham, John Barnes, Carla McCune, Charlotte Hall, Sandi Adkinson, Ann Hill and Sandra Gilley. Without the help of these dedicated folks, we would not have been ready.

The Lanark Flora and Fauna Festival April 12th was a huge success! We relied heavily on MG volunteers that went above and beyond to make the day fabulous! You amazing volunteers performed so many diverse tasks such as —directed traffic, got our guests to sign in, welcomed guests and gave them directions to our programs, gave out information, helped work with the vendors, sold Lanark plants, helped in Historic Lanark with the art show, over saw the speaker presentations, drove people around in golf carts and supplied vendors with water and snacks and just generally did everything possible to keep things flowing smoothly. Also I thank CAMGA for your wonderful table at the event. You gave a lot of information and instruction to the community! I'm sure each of you know how grateful I am for your faithful support. I appreciate you! Those helping at the Flora and Fauna Weekend are listed in the "Spotlight" article on page 7. Again, THANK YOU ALL !!!!!

Montgomery Botanical Gardens, Why?

Sunday, May 18, 2014

2:00 pm

\$5.00 Donation at the Door

Proceeds go to the *Montgomery Botanical Gardens*.

City Hall Auditorium

103 N. Perry Street

Montgomery, AL 36103

Presenting Fred Spicer, Jr.

Executive Director/CEO Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Mr. Spicer is a polished, energetic, and humorous speaker who will highlight the benefits the Birmingham Botanical Gardens brings to their city.

Sponsors

For more information: www.capcitymga.org or 334-294-9797

SPONSORS



**Capitol City
Master Gardeners**



For more information: www.capcitymga.org or 334-294-9797



Montgomery Area Daylily Society

<http://www.montgomeryareadaylilysociety.com/>

"Bringing Color to the River Region"

Annual Daylily Plant Sale

Saturday, June 7, 2014 (10:00 a.m. until gone...)

EASTDALE MALL

MONTGOMERY, AL

These fuss free perennial flowers excel in sun to light shade and display many colors and flower sizes. Daylily plants freshly dug, sold bare root. Most are \$5.00 for 2 fans.

Call for more information: 334-288-6024

HELPLINE NEWS By Mary Ann Hatcher

Helpline calls increased this month with many clients concerned about lawn weeds, fruit tree care, and wildlife pests. Giving assistance over the phone, through the mail, and by email were the following: John R. Barnes, Carla McCune, Rosemary Mobley, and Ricky Hatcher. Advisors were: Mary Ann Klatt, Debbie Hough, and Mary Ann Hatcher. Our Appointment Reminder was Sharon Potts. Thank you all for your much appreciated service to the Helpline.



Lunch and Learn By Charlotte Hall



The April Lunch and Learn presentation was perfectly timed. After a few days of sunshine and warm weather, everyone was anxious to get in their yard - especially after attending the presentation on Annuals and Perennials conducted by Virginia Pruett (right) and Jane McCarthy (left).

By definition, an annual is a plant that completes its life cycle, from germination to the production of seed, within one year, and then dies. It starts as a seed and ends in a seed all in one year. A perennial is a plant that lives for more than two years. And a biennial is a flowering plant that takes two years to complete its biological lifecycle. In the first year the plant grows leaves, stems, and roots

(vegetative structures), then it enters a period of dormancy over the colder months.

All three types of plants have their place in one's garden. Annuals can bring a burst of color for a short time and even though they only last for one year, seeds can be saved and planted again for the next year. Many can also be propagated by taking cuttings to extend their impact in your garden. And there are just some plants that take longer than one year to flower that you want to put in your garden just because you like that particular plant. Some things are worth the wait! And everyone likes dependable perennials that remain or return to re-bloom year after year.

When purchasing plants, you will find that plant tags are your best friends. Yellow tags are always used for perennials and white tags indicate annuals. Knowing this, you can immediately identify what type plant you are purchasing by just looking at the tag color.

Suggestions were given for plants for a moon garden which basically is a garden that is filled with flowers of very light/white shades that look luminous in moonlight – white, light purples, gray, silver are good color options. Use plants that bloom late in the afternoon or anything that glows or is bright in the moonlight. Moonflower vine, biennial lunaria (money plant), white cosmos, gomphrena, liatris and nicotiana were recommended.

Virginia and Jane also suggested some books which would be helpful for annual and perennial gardening: *Alabama Gardener's Guide* by Jenifer Greer and *Passalong Plants* by Steve Bender and Felder Rushing, along with Southern Living garden books, are excellent information sources.

Tips were given on methods for continuing plants by collecting seeds, dividing plants, propagating perennials, and taking cuttings. Perennial cuttings should be in the ground before they go dormant to give them time to establish roots. Removing leaf growth or cutting leaves in half for propagating with cuttings was discussed. Make roots instead of shoots.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Virginia shared many of her various types of seed that she had previously collected from her garden. Both Virginia and Jane fielded specific questions from attendees. All in all, a very interesting and successful program.

So join us next month on the second Wednesday – May 14th – for a presentation on Shade Gardening with Mary McCroan. You'll be amazed at the knowledge you can attain in one short hour. And remember, drinks are on us!



The Millbrook Farmer's Market

By Rick Ohlson

The Farmer's Market will open on 27 May, from 8 AM until noon. It is held at the park in Millbrook on Main St. and the Master Gardener's have a table where we answer questions and talk to folks. The truth is, we actually learn more about what is going on with local gardening than anything else.

Of course, I am looking for volunteers to help us. This is not a place where you have to be an expert in everything to help out.

We have handouts and also tell folks where to go online to help them with their situations. It is very relaxed and a great way to get some volunteer hours. If you can't stay the whole time, but can work a few hours, please let me know - - we will work it out.

Please contact me if you can help. It is a fun thing, does not require digging, and is a nice way to spend a summer morning. For information, give me a call or email.

Rick Ohlson

CAMGA had a great showing at the 2014 AMGA Conference



Front row from left: Rose McCally, Linda Griebel, Rosemary Mobley, Angela Peltier, Judy May, Mary Long, Janet Lewis, Jane Mobley. Back row: Carol Rattan, Mallory Kelley, Rhonda Miles, Jesse Miles, Anthony Yarbrough, Paula Seamon, Peggy Turnipseed, Bill Long, Norm Turnipseed.



CENTRAL ALABAMA
MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

SPRING PLANT SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 7:00-2:00

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PARKING LOT

5375 U S HWY 231, WETUMPKA, AL

Great prices and plant selections

Annuals, perennials

Trees, shrubs

Vegetables, herbs

House plants, garden items

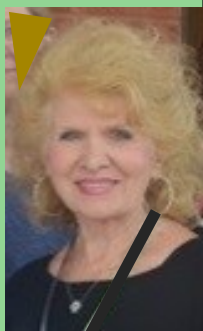
Gardening demonstrations

Soil test kits available / free

Gardening questions answered by on-site Master Gardeners



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NEXT MEETING

MAY 20

10:00 A.M.

**JIM SCOTT'S
GARDEN**

CAMGA SPRING PLANT SALE MAY 3RD

By Phil Easter

The Central Alabama Master Gardeners' Association (CAMGA) will hold its annual Spring Plant Sale for the public in the parking lot of Trinity Episcopal Church at 5375 U.S. Hwy 231 in Wetumpka from 7am until 2pm on Saturday, May 3rd.

Shoppers will find a huge selection of annuals, perennials, trees, shrubs, house plants, garden items and more, all at great prices. In addition, CAMGA members will be available to answer gardening questions and provide free soil testing kits.

The Alabama Master Gardener program is an educational research program provided by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES). The CAMGA group is one of the more active Master Gardeners' organizations in the state. In 2013 alone, the nearly 90 members contributed more than 8,000 hours of volunteer service in the community.

For more information on how to become a Master Gardener, those interested may call the Elmore County ACE's office at 334-567-6301. The 2014 Master Gardener Class will be accepting applications through mid August.

The 2014 Class will be held on Thursdays September 4th through December 4th from 9am until 2pm.

