



President's Message By Linda Griebel



Now that October is upon us and slightly cooler temperatures are beginning to arrive, most of us are really looking forward to getting back into the heavier work in our gardens. Not that I will begin transplanting much until dormancy sets in (perhaps more of that in November), but maybe I can add my mulches. I actually tried to rake up some of the pine straw in my woods last week and only gathered one cart full before I was fully over-heated - so I spread that amount and stopped. We still need to be aware of personal safety. Frankly, it can wait until it cools off even more for some gardening efforts. It's a good time to repot those items you're saving for next year's plant sale. Don't forget that October is traditionally the driest month of the year. Provide moisture to your plantings, especially those under one year in the ground. In spite of the heat, September was an excellent month in many ways for our association. The first really terrific event was the start of the 2014 intern class. 17 students came together to create CAMGA's newest intern class on Thursday September 4th. Several board members provided a spaghetti lunch and really enjoyed meeting the interns. To provide information and assistance to those newest master gardeners, we networked 16 very experienced members to act as one-on-one mentors to the interns. They took lunch to their individual interns on the second Thursday class session - a get-to-know-you opportunity - and will stay available to assist the interns along the way. Mallory has lined up an excellent set of speakers and topics in order to educate these individuals and I hope all of you will welcome and encourage our interns whenever you encounter them. Remember to help the classes out in any way possible, including signing up to provide food (contact Rosemary Mobley or Red Norman to see what to bring and when they need you).

There was a really informative Lunch and Learn with Jim Davis and Ken Moore sharing bee-keeping knowledge. We do need our pollinators and anything we can do to help nurture them would be good. Please congratulate Jim Davis on achieving his Alabama Master Beekeeping Certification in September!

Another event, the Projects Committee's leaf birdbath class resulted in 18 additional master gardeners learning how to create an attractive and useful piece of yard art which they'll now be able to teach to others. (We had 2 interns participating in this event.)

Many members really enjoyed the monthly meeting at Pat Dye's Quail Hollow farm - of course, several came home with Japanese maple treasures. (Several interns were there, too!) It's always a nice field trip to that location. Thanks, Carol Rattan, for coordinating that one.

Oh, don't let me forget to mention the delightful Seed Saving class taught by Dani Carroll. It wasn't limited to master gardeners and Extension actually had to turn people away because the room was packed. We learned lots of different techniques for keeping seeds and actually took a few seeds home from the class. Many of us are looking forward to the seed exchange being set up for 2015. Even if you didn't make the class, dry your seeds, mark and date them, and keep your extras for next year's exchange.

Several CAMGA members volunteered at Lanark for Good Ole Days, not only providing horticultural information to the public, but also some helping Maria with plant sales, giving talks, and other items needed. Many, including some interns, are also working at the regular sites to provide our much needed services to the Learning Gardens, the Governor's Mansion, and Millbrook Farmers Market, just to mention a few.

There's lots of planning already being done for 2015. We really need everyone's input to keep our programs informative. Remember to join in wherever you are able.

Please make one change in your directory - Sally and Joe L'Abbe have agreed to take over the County Extension Office Committee. Thanks to their willingness to handle this position.

Our master gardener and intern plant swap is still on track for October 3rd at 10:00 am. Bring your 5 established plants (potted) and go home with five different ones. Hope we all get some rain - soon! See you in the garden.

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Message from Mallory

By Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests

Plant Plants this Fall

Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas are right around the corner and many people will be focused on Mums, Pumpkins and Christmas trees, not their landscape. But, fall is actually the best time to plant trees and shrubs for many reasons. Below are three reasons why.....



Fall is the best time for root growth!

Although above ground your plant may look dormant, there is a lot of activity going on beneath the soil. Fall is the best time to plant because the plants are not trying to put on leaves, flower or grow fruit. This allows the plants time to put all their energy into making roots while the parts of the plant above ground are dormant.

According to Dr. Dave Williams, horticulture professor at Auburn University and former Alabama Extension agent, photosynthesis is the source of this root growth.

“Instead of photosynthates being used immediately for bud development, they have been stored and in the fall begin to move down into the root system. In the root system they’re stored as carbohydrates,” Williams said. **“Some of them are used for root growth through the fall and winter when the soil is still warm.”**

The plants have time to get established. Planting in the spring requires trees and shrubs to immediately begin budding. Planting in the fall gives your plant a period of rest, so it can firmly establish itself. **“The plants have fall and all winter to develop roots with very little care otherwise. In central Alabama we typically get sufficient rainfall to supply adequate**

moisture to the roots all winter so **less maintenance is required,”** said David West, Alabama Extension agent. **“They can get established before they try to commit resources to blooming and new shoot growth.”** A strong network of roots is key to a successful tree or shrub.

More roots help the plants to be stronger and healthier the following year when hot, dry weather arrives and they are trying to put on flower and fruit all at the same time.

Sales! Because fall is not a popular time to plant, it is a good time of year to find plants on sale. Most consumers are buying pumpkins, poinsettias and Christmas trees, leaving slashed prices for common trees and shrubs. It is still important, however, to choose a good quality plant for your climate and soil type.

“You may have to search a little bit,” Williams said. **“Local gardening centers are a good place to start.”**

To plant your tree or shrub, begin by researching and selecting a plant for your climate and growing site. Once **you’ve chosen your** plant, dig a hole that is two times as wide and

just as deep as the plant is in the pot. Be cautious of power lines and roof eaves overhead and fiberoptic and gas lines underground. Always call [811](tel:811) to have your site checked! Add organic matter to the hole, and mulch around the plant to suppress weeds and insulate the soil from temperature. Lastly, and most importantly, water your plant immediately and often if no rainfall.

More resources:

<http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0814/index2.tmp>

<http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-1405/ANR-1405.pdf>

Additional Source: Jamie Wallace, Public Relations Student working with the *Extension Daily*



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 2014

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

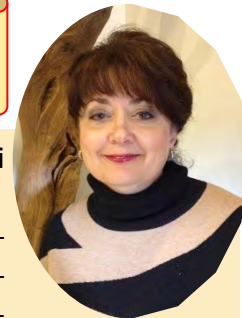
Fri

Sat

			1 <i>Lanark Work Day</i> 	2 <i>Intern Class</i>	3 <i>FAIR Begins</i> <i>Flower Show at the FAIR</i>	4
5	6 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i>	7	8 <i>Lunch & Learn Lanark Work Day</i>  <i>2nd Flower Show</i>	9 <i>Intern Class</i>	10 <i>Fall Garden Extravaganza Tallapoosa County</i>	11 
12	13 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day FAIR Ends</i>	14 	15 <i>Lanark Work Day</i> 	16 <i>Intern Class</i>	17	18 <i>Aquaponics Workshop Auburn</i>
19 	20 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i>	21 <i>CAMGA Meeting Montgomery Botanical Gardens</i>	22 <i>Lanark Work Day</i> 	23 <i>Intern Class</i>	24	25
26	27 <i>Governor's Mansion Work Day</i>	28 	29 <i>Lanark Work Day</i> 	30 <i>Intern Class</i>	31 	

AUGUST MINUTES

By Rosemary Mobley, Secretary



The September, 2014, Central Alabama Master Gardener's Association (CAMGA) meeting was held September 16, 2014, at Quail Hollow Gardens in Notasulga, Alabama. Linda Griebel called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. She welcomed everyone, and recognized interns in attendance: Sharon Cleary, Mike Harber, and Sandy Rosamond.

Linda reported that the Board approved a small budget of up to \$10 per month for food items for the intern class. She added that the mentoring program for interns is in full swing as all interns have mentors. A date for intern graduation has been set for Tuesday, August 18, 2015, which is in conjunction with the regularly scheduled CAMGA meeting. The site is Mulder Memorial United Methodist Church.

Becky Ashurst gave the Treasurer's report for August. The balance as of July 31, 2014 was \$11,352.10. Income for August included \$74.00 - Bird Bath Workshop, \$17.00-Plant Sale, and \$5.00- Donation, which totaled \$96.00. Expenditures for August were Bird Bath Workshop- \$137.94 and Paper Products- \$9.21 which totaled \$147.15. This left a balance as of August 31, 2014 of \$11,300.95. Rhona Watson made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Jane Mobley made the second, and it was carried by all present.

Linda reported for the Projects Committee. She spoke about the success of the Leaf Bird Bath Class which was designed so that attendees have the ability to share the process with others. Other activities planned by this committee include:

- * On September 20th, CAMGA volunteers will staff an information table during Good Ole Days at Lanark in Millbrook

- * A Plant Swap for master gardeners and interns is slated to take place on October 3rd in the Extension barn. Participants will bring 5 established plants with the intent of swapping these for 5 different plants.

- * Friends of the Governor's Mansion requested that CAMGA members volunteer on November 17th. Amanda Borden, the liaison for this project, noted that the primary task for this day is the relocation of plants. A sign-up sheet for this activity will be circulated at the October meeting.

- * The bonsai class is scheduled for March 5, 2015. A few openings remain. Contact Linda Griebel if you are

interested in attending the bonsai class.

- * The Projects committee approved a re-design of Alice's Garden from primarily a perennial garden to a butterfly garden. Anyone interested in helping with design and installation should contact John Barnes.

Next, Gale Wheeler-Leonard, chair of the Membership Care Committee, requested that members keep her informed of member illnesses and deaths of immediate family. She shared that Lois Pribulick's son, Joseph Pribulick, passed away recently and that a memorial service will be held on September 20th at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church.

Tom Jaworowski, Photograph Committee, reported that he visited the intern class and took photos of the interns for the directory. Ann Hill, Directory Committee, used these photos along with contact information, and compiled a list that was made available to interns and CAMGA members by Anida Wishnietsky, Network Committee.

Jane Mobley, Historian, shared that progress was being made on gathering the photographs and information necessary for the book that is a record of CAMGA's yearly activities. She requested that members continue to send photos and articles to her.

Linda announced that the Lunch and Learn program in September on bees was well attended. The next Lunch and Learn is scheduled on October 8th and the topic is: "Herbs". Jane Mobley and Rosemary Mobley are the presenters. The Lunch and Learn committee is already at work gathering information on topics for next year.

An announcement was made that the 11th Annual Alabama Coastal Birdfest will be held on October 2-4, 2014. For more information, visit:

AlabamaCoastalBirdFest.com

After the business meeting, Linda invited attendees to enjoy the surroundings at Quail Hollow Gardens and to take a look at the many varieties of Japanese Maples on display.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m. Twenty-five attended.

Respectfully submitted, Rosemary Mobley, Secretary

Correction from September Newsletter

Remember the article about this thorny tree in last month's *Buzzzz*? Well, I gave credit for the article to Linda Griebel who submitted it but it was written by our good friend and former CAMGA member, **Sandy Casey**. She now lives in Kentucky where this tree is native. We can be glad it doesn't grow here!! Sorry for the oversight, Sandy. Please send us some more interesting plant articles!



Mary Long—Editor



Aquaponics Workshop

E.W. Shell Fisheries Station | 1201 N College St | Auburn, AL 36830

Just wanted to make sure that folks in the surrounding counties were aware of the upcoming aquaponics workshop on Sat. Oct. 18th. This has become a very hot topic among both back yard/local food enthusiasts and those interested in commercial aquaponics. We suspect that the majority of participants are the back yard variety but those with commercial interest are also welcome. Please let me know if you have any questions. Attached are some flyers and the link to register.



<https://mell-base.uce.auburn.edu/CourseStatus.awp?&course=C141018>

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2014 Lunch and Learn Programs

Second Wednesday Each Month

12:00 to 1:00

*OCTOBER 8TH HERBS



*NOVEMBER 12TH HOLIDAY WITH NATURAL MATERIALS



*DECEMBER 10TH HOLIDAY PLANTS & FORCING BULBS



Be sure to catch Phil Easter and L&L presenter every 2nd Monday on WSFA '12 Talk' or sometimes 'Alabama Live' TV Show.

(11 to 12:30 timeframe)



SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS by Judy May



Attending the September Projects Committee meeting were John Barnes, Johan Beumer, John Butler, Jane Mobley, Linda Griebel and Lois Pribulick.

Phil Easter and Jim Davis did WSFA Alabama Live Monday, September 8th to promote the Lunch and Learn on the 10th. Phil says Jim did a great job.

Jim Davis and Ken Moore presented a program on Bee Keeping at the Lunch and Learn. Assisting that day were Carla McCune, Sandi Adkinson, Debra Kelso, Cathy Whigham and Linda Griebel.

September 12th, Judy May and Ann Hill assisted Carol in the Extension Office in folding and labeling the County Newsletter for mailing.

The Leaf Birdbath project was September 12 with Jane Mobley as instructor. Johan Beumer had made posts for the leaves to sit on in advance of the class. Johan, John Butler, John Barnes and Don Hoover (intern) mixed the vinyl patch so participants could shape their leaves. Others helping that day were Candy Jones, Linda Griebel and Janet Lewis.

Members in attendance were Lois Pribulick, Marjorie Hannah, Kay Norman, Penny Arceneaux, Charlotte Hall, Deborah Kelso, Pat Perryman, Rhonda Giles and her friend Debby, Brenda Uhlig, Catese Chaffee and Katrina Mitchell who brought another extension worker, Lori.

Working at the Governors Mansion were Jane McCarthy, Amanda Borden and intern Sandy Rosamond.

Becky Brown says Andy Wallace and Selma Thomason were test graders for the new class September 11 and 17. Bob Brown makes arrangements for the weekly test graders. Board members brought lunch September 4th so the class could put names with faces and vice versa. The mentors brought lunch Sept. 11th. Rosemary Mobley and Red Norman are in charge of the lunches.

Thursday, September 11th, Tom Jaworowski was up early to attend the 2nd meeting of the new Intern class and got great photos of the new class members. They now have their own copy of our committees so they know who to call. Ann Hill got their information for the directory.

Those mentoring the interns are John Barnes, Johan Beumer, Amanda Borden, Lee Borden, Linda Griebel, Charlotte Hall, R.J. and Penny Arceneaux, Candy Jones, Mary McCroan, Carla McCune, Jane Mobley, Maria Pacheco West, Sharon Potts, Barbara Wallace, Rhona Watson and Cathy Whigham.

Helping Maria at Lanark this month were Ann Hill, Norman Turnipseed, Cathy Whigham, and Carla McCune. They helped get ready for winter and prepare plants for the Good Ole Days plant sale.

On September 20th John Barnes and Linda Griebel worked at the CAMGA table and talked to visitors about horticultural issues at Lanark's Good Ole Days.

Helping Maria with Good Ole Days were Ann Hill (and her hubby Gene), Mary Ann and Ricky Hatcher, Joe and Sally L'Abbe, and Marie Updike. Maria says she could not have done it without them. They did a fabulous job and once again Lanark is very blessed to be supported by great volunteers from CAMGA.

Sept 24th Lee and Amanda Borden did a Vegetable Gardening presentation for the Gardening Class at the AUM Center for Life Long Learning. Twenty One attended.

Working in the Learning Gardens this month were Amanda Borden, John Barnes, Linda Griebel, Mary McCroan, Katrina Mitchell, Rosemary Mobley and Virginia Pruitt.

Attending the AMGA Mini Conference in Guntersville were Connie Willis, Cathy Whigham, Bill Long and Mary Long.

CAMGA members who helped with lunches for the interns Sept 18th were Angela Peltier, Rosemary Mobley, Jane Mobley, Brenda Bernal, Iva Haynie and Kay Norman.

Helping with lunches Sept 25th were Peggy Turnipseed, Brenda Bernal, Becky Brown, Rosemary Mobley, Barbara Wallace, Carla McCune and Kay Norman.

Program Notes – By Carol Rattan

Future Meetings . . . This month, Ms. Ethel Boykin-Dozier will discuss on the Montgomery Botanical Gardens at Oak Park at our usual meeting location. We return to Lanark in November for an informative program by Maria Pacheco-West on ferns. Our December meeting, of course, will be our traditional Christmas luncheon with our interns at Mulder Memorial United Methodist Church.

**Governor's Mansion Report**

By Amanda Borden

Volunteers at the Governor's Mansion weeded several key beds during the month of September: In front of the Mansion, under the kitchen steps, in front of the guest house, the daylily beds, the pool area, the Secret Garden, and the Herb Garden. They also pruned some of the oak leaf hydrangeas, pulled down ivy that was growing on the back wall of the Mansion, and did some trimming and limbing up. CAMGA is planning a workday at the Mansion on November 17, so please mark your calendars. Details to follow in next month's newsletter.



Deepest Sympathy

to the family and friends of

Bill Legg

Shelby County lost a loyal member and a real gentleman last week. Bill took the M.G. Class in 1999 and has served many positions on the local level as well as on the State Board. Bill had many MG friends all over the state who are saddened by his passing.

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.

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

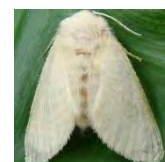
For more information on the series and how to connect to the webinars,



Speaking of all bugs good and bad....here's a BAD one

By Mary Long

If you have Redbud trees, you'd better watch out for this critter. It is the flannel moth larvae, *Norape ovina*. It comes in droves in the fall and likes Redbud tree leaves. They are all over my Redbud and when you touch them you get a painful sting. Believe me, I know. . . I brushed up against one the other day with the back



of my arm and it hurt for about an hour and left a big red spot. Each little yellow dot has poisonous spikes that give off a toxin. They are all over the trunk of my redbud in the chicken yard and the chickens won't touch them. This is the first year I have seen them but there are hundreds on my tree.

Just wanted to give you a heads up!



MG's Enjoy their outing at Pat Dye's Japanese Maple Farm



Alabama Gardening Calendar—October

Fruits and Nuts

- New catalogs will be arriving soon.
- Start plans for future selection and plantings.
- Take soil test for new planting areas.
- Fertilize established strawberry plantings.



Shrubs

- Study landscape to determine plant needs.
- Check early varieties of camellias.
- You may want to replace those damaged in spring by late freezes.
- After fall growth is completed, spray all shrubs with a fungicide.

Lawns

- Plant seed of winter grasses where situation prevents planting permanent grasses.
- Winter seeds will appear soon.
- Stop fertilization three weeks before frost.

Roses

- Protect fall crops of blossoms from aphids and thrips.
- Keep plants healthy.



Annuals and Perennials

- Last chance for planting perennials and biennials.
- Old clumps of perennials may be divided.
- Spring-flowering bulbs may be planted late this month in north Alabama.
- Delay planting in south Alabama.

Miscellaneous

- Clean up infestations of insects on azaleas, camellias, boxwoods, gardenias, hollies, etc.
- If oil spray is needed, don't use in freezing weather.
- Build compost bin or box; leaves will be falling soon.
- Move houseplants indoors.



Vegetable Seed

- Plant hardy vegetables and root crops.

Vegetable Plants

- Plant cabbage, collards, cauliflower, celery, Brussels sprouts, and onion sets.



'Fall Gardening Extravaganza' October 10, 2014

Shane Harris is excited to announce a big event for October! The Tallapoosa County Extension office and Tallapoosa County Master Gardeners will be hosting a **'Fall Gardening Extravaganza'** on **Friday, October 10, 2014** at Central Alabama Community College in Alexander City. This huge gardening event will feature talks from four well-known horticulturists:

- * **Steve Bender** of *Southern Living*
- * **Lois Trigg Chaplin** of Bonnie Plants
- * **Robert 'Buddy' Lee** of Encore Azaleas
- * **Jason Powell** of Petals from the Past



Location:

Betty Carol Graham Technology Center
located on the campus of
Central Alabama Community College
1675 Cherokee Road
in Alexander City, Alabama
The Betty Carol Graham Technology Center
is on east side of campus. Parking for the
building will be on the left just past the pond.

Sponsors & Supporters

**Central Alabama
Community College**

Tallapoosa Publisher's, Inc.

FLOYD'S FEED & SEED

Tallapoosa County
Alexander City

Hosted by

Tallapoosa County Extension Office and
Tallapoosa County Master Gardeners Association



Southern Living Magazine



Intern Class gets off to a great start with Plant Physiology.





Learning Garden Report By Mary McCroan

September has been a month to enjoy the harvest from the learning gardens. I've learned how to cook spaghetti and butternut squash and found out that I really like both of them. The Moon and Stars Watermelon that RJ planted were almost too pretty to pick but they were delicious. The Peanut Pumpkins have a real wow factor in the looks department and I plan to cut up one today to try a pumpkin chili recipe. I have an arrangement with my husband--if one of my culinary experiments isn't eatable, he can take me out for dinner. So either pumpkin chili will be delicious or I'll go eat Italian at Casa Napoli. There's a win/win situation if ever there was one. Toward the end of the month we cleared out the

last of the vines and planted fall veggies.

A project in the ornamental beds in front of the Extension Center was to deal with the nut grass that was taking over the part of the beds beside the front walkway. The nut grass was just laughing at the weed cloth we'd put down and it seemed to find both RoundUp and Bayer Brush Killer equally amusing. So we relocated the variegated liriop and put down a layer of Ground Cloth--the same fabric that is around our raised beds in the veggie garden. We will cover it up with some mulch soon. The ground fabric is a tighter weave than the weed fabric and so far has been impervious to weeds. It also is a little slower to absorb water and more likely to shed the water down a hill if you are gardening on a slope. So take that into consideration if you decide to use this product around shrubs as a weed preventative. It would probably work great on a flat site.

There was one sad incident from the Learning Gardens this month. One weekend, someone--we are thinking unsupervised kids--vandalized the water feature. They broke many of the capstones on the retaining wall and threw many of the decorative stones that formed the waterfall into the pond. It is going to cost about \$75 in materials and several man-hours to repair the water feature. One of the lessons learned from the Learning Garden is that there are vulnerabilities to creating gardens in public spaces. If we ever do another public water feature, I'd use really big stones that would be hard to move and triple the amount of construction glue on any masonry elements. And I'd plan the water feature to be a pondless waterfall--which is what we have ended up with anyway after earlier incidents with weekend "visitors" throwing rocks into the pond, terrorizing the fish and possibly placing themselves at risk for a fall, a knock on the head and possible drowning. My last thought on public water features is to consider including piranhas. Or maybe alligators. Seriously, we have considered a security camera. It sure would make my heart feel good to have the guys in blue show up on some juvenile delinquents' porch.

And just a reminder, input to the gardens is welcome. Give me a call if you have ideas. Know in advance though that if you have a good idea, you are expected to implement it!



Ground Fabric Installation



Moon and Stars Watermelon



Peanut Pumpkin



Bird Bath Workshop a Success

September 12 was the date of the leaf birdbath project held for CAMGA. The project committee had previously practiced making the birdbaths so that all committee members could help others. Jane Mobley led the instructions. Johan Beumer had previously made posts for the leaves to set on because the posts had to dry for such a long time. Johan, John Butler, John Barnes, and Don Hoover (intern) mixed the vinyl patch so that participants could shape their leaves. Other project committee members there to help were Candy Jones, Linda Griebel, and Janet Lewis.

Members in attendance were Lois Pribulick, Marjorie Hannah, Kay Norman, Penny Arceneaux, Charlotte Hall, Deborah Kelso, Pat Perryman, Rhonda Giles and her friend, Debbie, Brenda Uhlig, Catese Chaffee, and Katrina Mitchell who brought another Extension worker, Lori. Everyone had a great time, and the leaves made will be beautiful additions to lots of yards.



Art Masterpieces



Design interpretations based on
The Masters

*61st Annual Fall Flower Show at
the Alabama National Fair*

**Cultural Arts Center
October 3-13, 2014**

Presented by

Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs

Come see a large variety of plants as well as creative floral designs. **Win blue ribbons on your horticulture.**

Horticulture competition is open to the public.

Entry times:

Potted plants: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm Thursday, Oct. 2

Cut Horticulture entries: Friday, Oct. 3

7:30 am – 9:30 am

2nd Show

Cut Horticulture entries : Wednesday Oct. 8

7:30 am– 9:30 am,

See www.alnationalfair.org for rules under Competitions tab



**Master Gardeners are
encouraged to enter !!**

See more details on page 18



The flower show at the Alabama National Fair is a great opportunity for you to show off your growing expertise! Just cut the prettiest specimens from your yard and bring them to the fair at the days and times mentioned on page 17. Judges look for horticulture that is at the peak of perfection. That means you need to cut the flowers, trees or shrubs the day before and plunge them in deep water (not the flower) so they will hydrate overnight. Come early so you can fill out

the horticulture tags that must be placed on them. You will need to know the correct botanical name and the cultivar (optional) if you know what it is. The botanical name should have the genus name first and the species name second and it should be UNDERLINED. If the botanical name is written incorrectly it can not receive a top award. Here is an example of a correctly written botanical name: Zinnia elegans 'State Fair.' Notice the cultivar name is capitalized, in SINGLE QUOTES and is NOT underlined. This may seem tedious but it's easy when you get the hang of it. If you don't know the cultivar, leave it blank....the botanical name is the most important. There is a classification committee that helps you identify your plant if you are not sure about it. You must come early because if you have a lot of plants to enter, you will have to be finished filling out your tags by 9:30 a.m. Anything coming in after that is disqualified.



We give blue, red, yellow and white ribbons to the entries. If your entry wins best in the section, it gets an Award of Merit which gives it a place on the front table. Then all of the winners are voted on for **Horticultural Excellence Award** which is 'Best in the Show.' It's exciting to win awards, especially if you have worked hard in your garden all year and want to show off your plants. All of the awards and ribbons are gathered up after the show and given to the winners at a later date. When you enter something, you must put your name on the entry tag, so bring some address labels to stick on so as to take less time.

Try your hand at exhibiting at the fair. Many times Master Gardeners have won big prizes, and their entries make for a better, more beautiful show!

Any questions—call Mary Long 462-4214

Announcements By Linda Griebel

Once again, Yahoo groups has done something that changed our original entries on time frame for upcoming events. Although I have gone in to correct it, please be aware that work-days in the Learning Gardens are scheduled from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon (**not 1 a.m.**) Just so interns are aware, there is flexibility in arrival and departure times within that time frame.

Many of you may not be aware that vandalism damage was done to the water feature between the buildings and we may be repairing and replacing stonework on Tuesday if Mary McCroan was able to get the supplies. Come and learn from this experience as well as provide any needed assistance in the gardens.

INTERN CLASS MENTOR LUNCHEON



CAMGA has started a Mentor Program for our new interns. We kicked off the program with a mentor luncheon. Veteran MG's will work along side their interns to create a liaison between the class members and our organization. They will answer questions, be a fiend, get to know the intern and make them feel at ease with the program. The mentor will be 'on call' for the intern for whatever questions or difficulties they may have. We kicked off the program with a mentor luncheon where each mentor brought a sack lunch to share with their interns.

Some of the mentors really got into the spirit of the idea with flowers, napkins and actual plates. The rest of us made do with paper plates but viewed our creative fellows with admiration. There might have been a kick or two under the table, but we won't talk about that! It was a great opportunity to exchange information about gardening interests and we learned that many of our interns have wonderful experiences and ideas and are going to be a great addition to CAMGA. So far the Mentor Program is proving fruitful with some interns participating on CAMGA projects and attending their first monthly meeting.

Nominating Committee Report

Chair of the Nominating Committee Kelly Lafreniere presents the following slate of nominees for 2015:

President: Linda Griebel

Vice President: Lee Borden

Secretary: Rosemary Mobley

Treasurer: Rhona Watson

State Advisory Council Representative:

Gayle Wheeler-Leonard

If there are any nominees from the floor, please get in touch with Kelly Lafreniere. The slate of nominees for CAMGA 2015 officers will again be presented at the October meeting.



Our Wetumpka agent, Katrina Mitchell, attends yet another Expo. This one was at EV Smith Trial Gardens and Research Center in Shorter, AL.

Lunch and Learn Report By Deborah Kelso



“Honey Bees”

What is all the BUZZ about? Honey bees of course. Far right Jim Davis from our Elmore Master Gardeners gave a very educational presentation at our September Lunch and Learn. Ken Moore, also of the Elmore Master Gardeners, assisted with bringing a demonstration hive and spring and fall honey for tasting.

The first honey bees brought to North America to help with pollinating the orchards were the German Black bee in 1622. It was not till 1853 that honey bees arrived in California. In 1859, the first Italian queen bee was imported to the United States. In North America, it is primarily the Italian honey bee that is raised or farmed to this day. In 1922, laws were passed to prevent further importation of live bees to the US. It was in 1990 that the first Africanized honey bee was recorded arriving in the Southwest and California. These bees are wild, more aggressive and difficult to work with.

Honey bees are the only insect which produces a product for human consumption. They are some of the world's busiest workers, pollinating fruit, nuts and vegetables which come out to 33 % of the world's food, according to honey-beehaven.com. A 2014 White House report stated that honey bees contribute more than \$15 billion to the United States economy.

It takes 1,152 honey bees traveling 112,000 miles and visiting 4.5 million flowers to produce 16 ounces of honey. It takes eight pounds of honey to obtain one pound of beeswax.

The sad news is that honey bees are on the decline. In 2006-2007 the government allowed package bees from Australia into California to pollinate the almond crops. It is the only pollinator of Almonds. The population of bees in the United States has decreased by half since 1945. There were just under 6 million colonies in 1940, but today they number just over two million. Alabama has just over 9,000 colonies, down from a previously reported 90,000 colonies. At one time Alabama was the leader in the packaging of queen bees. Today the majority come from Florida or Georgia.

So what is causing the decline? Several factors are responsible -- pest, diseases, loss of forage areas and chemicals in our environment. Another key factor is that commercial beekeeping is expensive and requires hard work.

Bees are the “perfect pollinator” Jim tells us. They have thousands of hairs over their entire body including their eyes. These hairs attract pollen by electrostatic forces and bees can transport up to half their body weight in pollen baskets on hind legs. Each colony collects 40-125 pounds of



pollen, which is the protein source for the colony. Typically, they prefer one type of flower on a foraging trip. Thus you can get specific honey flavors, such as clover, blueberry or sourwood.

Bees have two sets of wings which hook together before flight allowing them to fly further -- up to eight miles. They then unhook them to save space in the hive. They also have three simple and two complex eyes to see the colors yellow, blue, purple and ultra violet to locate their food source.

We consume and use many products made by the honey bee. Honey is usually extracted one to two times per season in Spring and Fall. Typically 60 to 200 pounds of honey will be extracted from a single hive (about 16.5 gallons). They must leave plenty to support the bees during the winter. Each bee collects and transports between 50% and 85% of its body weight in nectar. The average bee produces one twelfth of a tsp of honey in its lifetime, visits 75-3,000 flowers and travels up to 8 miles from the hive at speeds of 9-15 MPH.

Beeswax is another product which can be made into candles, cosmetics, water proofing and wax foundation. Royal Jelly is fed to the newly hatched brood and to the queen throughout her life. It is also used as a supplement as is Propolis. Propolis is the bee glue used to seal the hive from moisture and pests. Pollen is used as a nutritional supplement. Even the bee's venom is used in research for some medical conditions such as arthritis.

So come join in the buzz and keep our crops pollinated. Also join us on October 8 for our Lunch and Learn on Herbs. Bring your lunch. Drinks are provided.

Fall Mini Conference in Guntersville

The Marshall County MG Association hosted the MG Fall Mini Conference in Guntersville. There was a presentation on our national bird, the beautiful Bald Eagle. Many MG's lined up to purchase Harvey Cotton's book, *Easy Gardens for the South*. Those attending from CAMGA were Connie Willis, Bill and Mary Long and Cathy Whigham. The weather and scenery were beautiful—thus making for a wonderful day.



Harvey Cotton



Governor's Mansion Report

By Amanda Borden

Volunteers at the Governor's Mansion weeded several key beds during the month of September: In front of the Mansion, under the kitchen steps, in front of the guest house, the daylily beds, the pool area, the Secret Garden, and the Herb Garden. They also pruned some of the oak leaf hydrangeas, pulled down ivy that was growing on the back wall of the Mansion, and did some trimming and limbing up. CAMGA is planning a workday at the Mansion on November 17, so please mark your calendars. Details to follow in next month's newsletter.



Advisory Council News By Ginny Holland— State AC Chair

The November Advisory Council meeting will be here before we know it. Due to Election Day, our meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 5. Unfortunately, Alabama Power will be using their meeting room on that day. We will be gathering at the Jemison Municipal Building instead. Directions will be sent out in October along with the agenda. Chilton County Master Gardeners have offered to provide coffee for the early arrivals. They have also offered to set up a sign-in table for attendees. Look for it as you enter the meeting room -- we will no longer be circulating the attendance sheet. As usual, please check your association's information on the listing for accuracy and please note any needed corrections.

A major item of business at this meeting will be the election of AC officers for 2015. The Nominating Committee's report is attached. Our SOP also allows nominations from the floor "...provided the individual being nominated has agreed prior to the nomination." Many thanks to the committee members for their diligent work. This was not an easy task.

Also, we are looking for topics for the open discussion. One item that has come up is the term length of AC Reps. Each association determines the length of service for its Rep. Since we meet only 4 times a year, is a 1 year appointment enough? The AC SOP suggests that reps be appointed for 2 years and then they can be reappointed for 2 more years. How are associations handling this?

Please let me know what other topics you would like to discuss. I will include them in the agenda that I will be putting together in the next 2 weeks.

Thanks for all you are doing for AMGA.

Looking forward to seeing you in November.

CAMGA *Garden Buzzzz*
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NEXT MEETING

OCTOBER 21

Ethel Boykin-Dozier

**Montgomery
Botanical Gardens**

**Here is Candy Jones' Incredible salad dressing
we all enjoyed at the first intern class lunch.**



Creamy Herb Pesto and Salad Dressing

1 cup loosely packed fresh Italian Parsley,
roughly chopped

10 big leaves fresh basil

¼ tsp dried oregano

2 cloves garlic, peeled

¼ cup red wine vinegar

¾ cup extra virgin olive oil

¾ tsp salt

¼ tsp ground black pepper

1 ½ tsps honey

Combine all ingredients in a food processor and
blitz to blend.

