



## President's Message

By Linda Griebel



As summer starts to wane, most of us are still really busy harvesting delicious vegetables and figuring out how to conquer the weeds (let me know if you succeed). The spotty showers of late don't seem to have provided enough moisture for my plants and I'm out there making the water company happy by sending me larger bills. But my reward is wonderfully fragrant ginger lilies and sweet autumn clematis along with colorful cannas, dahlias (picture provided), roses, and giant red Texas star hibiscus as well as I find moon flowers and four-o'clocks on my early morning photo taking rounds.

Hopefully, everyone is as pleased as I am that there were a sufficient number of applications to make a class this year. The dates are September 4 through November 20th. *Don't forget that we really need your help providing food for interns.* And, Mallory has a full schedule of great training set up for the interns with several of the sessions taught by not only experts from Auburn, but also by seasoned master gardeners who either have advanced certifications or are working on fulfilling the requirements to gain one.

Add to that to the terrific presentation that Lee and Amanda Borden gave at the August 19th meeting; a recent conversation with a member who's thinking of specializing in weed identification and solutions; R J's garlic focus; Paula and Rose's August Lunch and Learn on Vermiculture; Rhona with bonsai; and many, many others who's range of expertise is listed in the Speakers Bureau in the directory. All of this serves to demonstrate that CAMGA members certainly cover a lot of the horticultural ground. However, it started me thinking that there could be more areas explored in order to be able to cover the full of topics in the gardening arena. CAMGA's and Master Gardening's primary mission **IS** education, after all.

So, I'd like to challenge you to consider what subject you could master - perhaps one at which you are already really good or one that you would like to pursue. A couple of areas which I am hoping could be addressed include insects (both bad pests and good bugs) and diseases (yes, that's a big field), but there are many more from which to choose. A specialist in those and other areas could really help all of us and enable members to provide an ever expanding repertoire of offerings to homeowners and interns. Be sure to consult with Mallory once you've selected your specialty so you'll be on your way to advanced certification. I look forward to you presenting your loves at Lunch and Learns, monthly meetings, to intern classes, and beyond.

See you in the gardens.....

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My favorite dahlia, 'Purple Haze'. For simple growing instructions:  
<http://www.sidsdahlias.com/files/SidsDahliaGrowingTips.pdf>

## Message from Mallory

By Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds, Gardens, Home Pests

### Planting a Fall Vegetable Garden

We are blessed by our warm Alabama climate that we can grow vegetables almost year round. Many vegetables we grow in the summer are well adapted for fall harvest and even further into the fall and winter if protected from frost, examples of these are tomatoes and peppers.

Many cool-season vegetables, such as carrots, broc-coli, cauliflower, collards and Brussels sprouts, produce their best flavor and quality when they are maturing during cool weather. In Alabama, the spring temperatures often heat up quickly causing vegetables such as lettuce and spinach to bolt (flower) or develop a bitter flavor. This is why planting these veggies late in the summer or early fall when we are transitioning to cooler temps is more ideal than in the spring. Growing a productive fall vegetable garden requires thoughtful planning and good cultural practices. In Alabama, August and September are the ideal months for planting a fall garden. For a more accurate planting schedule, determine the average date of the first killing frost in the fall, and then count backward from the frost date, using the number of days to maturity to determine the best time to plant in your area.

Alabama summers can be hot and dry, and soils may form a hard crust. If you choose to plant your fall veggies from seed you must be careful to keep the soil moist. Incorporating organic matter into the soil will help add nutrients and also break up the hard crust that has developed throughout the summer, particularly in heavy clay soil. Lettuce and spinach seeds will not germinate if the soil temperature exceeds 85 degrees F so for these you may need to wait a bit longer before sowing or plant from transplants. Also remember to mulch the garden to moderate moisture levels as September and October are our driest months with very little rainfall.

You can extend your summer vegetable crop and your semi-hardy vegetables on into the fall and winter easily by protecting them from frost. In Alabama, we often enjoy several weeks of good growing conditions after the first frost. Cover growing beds, rows or individual plants with burlap or a floating row cover supported by stakes or wire to keep the material from directly touching the plants.

Most hardy vegetables require little or no frost protection, but semi-hardy vegetables should be harvested before a heavy freeze. Root crops such as carrots and radishes should be harvested or mulched heavily before a hard freeze. Mulched root crops can often be harvested well into the winter, and during mild winters, harvest may continue until spring.

So, if your summer garden was a flop or your wanting to continue your progress of home vegetables into this fall and winter, it's not too late.

There is still time to plant, especially the HARDY vegetables that can withstand a light frost such as: Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage (by transplant), Carrots, Collards, Kale, Kohlrabi, Onions by seed or sets, Radishes, Spinach and Turnips.

Also, if you would like to learn how to save seeds we are hosting a workshop on September 17<sup>th</sup> from 9-12:00 at the Elmore County Extension office, cost is \$10 per person. For more information *or to register* please call: 334-567-6301.

# # # #



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

# September 2014

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	 1 Labor Day	2	3 Lanark Work Day Bring food for intern class.	4 Intern Class Begins	5	6
7	8 Governor's Mansion Work Day	9	10 Lunch & Learn 'Bees' Lanark Work Day	11 Intern Class	12 Leaf Birdbath Class	13 Daylily Auction Columbus, GA Butterflies Aldridge Gardens B'ham
14	15 Governor's Mansion Work Day	16 Fall Mini Conference Guntersville CAMGA Meeting	17 Lanark Work Day Seed Savers Workshop	18 Intern Class	19	20
21	22 Governor's Mansion Work Day	23	24 Lanark Work Day	25 Intern Class ..... Special Gardens	26	27
28	29 Governor's Mansion Work Day	30				

## AUGUST MINUTES

By Rosemary Mobley, Secretary



The August, 2014, Central Alabama Master Gardener's Association (CAMGA) meeting was held August 19, 2014, at the Elmore County Extension Office Auditorium, Wetumpka, Alabama. Linda Griebel called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. She began the meeting by sharing thank-you cards from Mallory Kelley, Regional Extension Agent, Kerry Smith, Master Gardener Program Coordinator for Alabama, and Jim Todd, Coordinator for the National Association of County Agricultural Agents Professional Improvement Conference. All three expressed appreciation for CAMGA's participation in the conference held last month. Linda also gave kudos to Rosemary Mobley for a lot of hard work creating not only a wonderful display board, but also giving an excellent presentation on Lunch and Learn at that conference. Next, she read a letter from Diane Bentley, First Lady of Alabama, which was in appreciation to CAMGA for volunteer hours spent on the Friends of the Governor's Mansion project. Jane McCarthy, CAMGA member, chairs the Friends of the Governor's Mansion Project. Amanda Borden, the CAMGA liaison, along with other master gardeners from CAMGA, Autauga County, and Montgomery County, have recorded 500+ volunteer hours in horticultural work on the grounds of the mansion.

Linda recognized Carol Rattan who introduced the speakers, Amanda and Lee Borden, CAMGA advanced master gardeners, who have raised vegetables on their farm organically for five years. Their presentation focused on fall vegetable gardens, but addressed year-round gardening as well. They used illustrations from the raised beds on their farm to highlight "traditional" fall vegetables, and cover crops.

Prior to the break, the President presented Angela (Garthright) Peltier with the gold badge earned for volunteer hours. After the break, the business meeting convened at 11:22 a.m. Linda reported on the Advisory Council meeting held in Clanton on August 5, 2014. She urged members to submit nominations for the Alabama Master Gardener Association (AMGA) Board and Advisory Council Board. The deadline for entry is in March, 2015. Advisory Council attendees expressed interest in CAMGA's Lunch and Learn Program, and

Linda shared information about the particulars of the program. Additionally, there was interest in the experiment with the cover crop, ground /weed fabric, and plantings between the seams used in the Learning Garden. She announced that the 2015 AMGA conference will be March 23-25 in Cullman, and the 2016 AMGA Conference will be in Dothan May 12-14. The next order of business was to approve the July minutes as published in the newsletter. Phil Easter made the first motion to accept the minutes, Amanda Borden made the second, and the minutes were accepted as written by all present.

Becky Ashurst gave the Treasurer's report for July. The balance as of June 30, 2014 was \$11, 272.10. Income for June was \$130.00 for the Bird Bath Workshop. The expenditure for July was a \$50.00 donation to Alabama Cooperative Extension for Helpline printing. This left a balance as of July 31, 2014 of \$11,352.10. Candy Jones made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Bonnie McCormick made the second, and it was carried by all present.

Next, Linda recognized Carol Rattan to announce programs for September through December. The September 16 meeting will be held at Quail Hollow Gardens in Notasulga. Those who plan to attend should bring a lunch and carpool. Carol will send directions at a later date. The October 21 meeting will be held at the Elmore County Extension Auditorium, and Ethel Boykin-Dozier will present on plans for the Montgomery Botanical Gardens at Oak Park in Montgomery. On November 18, the meeting location will move to Lanark in Millbrook. Maria Pacheco-West will present a program on ferns. The December 16 meeting is a Christmas luncheon and will be held at Mulder United Methodist Church.

Becky Brown, Intern Class Chair, asked Mallory to update the group on the number of interns in the fall class. She shared that 25 entries are on file, and that invitation letters are to be mailed the same day as the meeting. Linda





Griebel is coordinating pairing mentors with interns. Mentors will assist interns through the early days of classes, and help guide them through the learning curve of becoming a master gardener. Bob Brown will oversee the test graders. He described the role of test graders and circulated a sign-up sheet. Some classes will cover more than one topic which will require graders to review more than one test. Red Norman gave an overview of plans for the lunches for the class. The CAMGA Board will provide lunch for the first meeting on September 4, 2014. Lunches for the second meeting will be covered by intern class mentors, and one class is a field trip to Petals from the Past. CAMGA members were asked to bring items for lunch for the remaining eight classes. In order to cut back on class interruptions, volunteers were asked to bring food and drinks to the CAMGA Auditorium on Wednesday, the day before the class, at 3:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet for food volunteer for the intern class was distributed. Contact Rosemary Mobley at 334-514-7443 or [dmobley@elmore.rr.com](mailto:dmobley@elmore.rr.com) to volunteer to help provide lunch for the intern class.

John Barnes, chair of the Projects Committee, gave a report on upcoming events. He shared that the Bird Bath Class, scheduled for September 12, 2014 from 9:00 until 12:00, will be in the Extension Barn. John also mentioned the mg plant swap, scheduled for October 3, 2014 will be held in the barn. Master gardeners and interns from Autauga, Coosa, Elmore, and Montgomery counties are invited to the plant swap. A bonsai class is tentatively scheduled for March 5, 2015 and a sign up sheet was available to measure the number interested in attending the class. Rhona Watson will conduct the bonsai class.

Charlotte Hall, Lunch and Learn Co-Chair, announced that the Lunch and Learn topic scheduled for September 10th is: "Bees". Jim Davis and Ken Moore will be the presenters.

Anida Wishnietsky, Network Committee chair, notified members that CAMGA will only send out e-mails that have to do with gardening and agriculture. Those interested in other Extension activities and workshops should contact Carol Pugh at [pugh-dia@aces.edu](mailto:pugh-dia@aces.edu) to get on the Extension e-mailing list.

Mallory Kelly presented Rosemary Mobley with a notebook from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents in appreciation for her work

on the Master Gardener exhibit and for presenting at the recent Professional Development Conference in Mobile. Mallory addressed the group and reported that the Helpline Committee will be active for two more weeks this year. She thanked MaryAnn Hatcher for all of her efforts as Chair of the Helpline Committee. She shared the new bookmark that was funded in part by CAMGA's donation. Mallory announced that a Seed Saving Workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at the Elmore County Agricultural Center. As a follow-up to this session, a seed exchange will be held in February, 2015. There is a \$10.00 fee for the workshop, and those interested should register by calling 334-567-6301. She also mentioned that Stephen Enloe is scheduled to speak on brush control at the fall intern classes in Autauga and Elmore counties. Door prizes were awarded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m. Fifty-five [people](#) attended.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rosemary Mobley, Secretary

## 2014 Lunch and Learn Programs

Second Wednesday Each Month

**12:00 to 1:00**

**\*SEPTEMBER 10TH BEES**



**\*OCTOBER 8TH HERBS**



**\*NOVEMBER 12TH HOLIDAY  
DECORATING WITH NATURAL  
MATERIALS**



**\*DECEMBER 10TH HOLIDAY  
PLANTS & FORCING  
BULBS**





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



Attending the Projects Committee meeting August 18<sup>th</sup> were John Barnes, Johan Beumer, Linda Griebel, Candy Jones and Linda Armour Scott.

Volunteering at the monthly Lunch and Learn were Charlotte Hall, Sandi Adkinson, Deborah Kelso, Carla McCune and Linda Griebel.

Helping Rick Ohlson with the Millbrook Farmers Market this month were Butch Kinney, R.J. Arceneaux, Joe L'Abbe, Marie Updike and Judy May.

Working in the Learning Gardens August 5<sup>th</sup> were John Barnes, Virginia Pruitt, Rosemary Mobley, Amanda Borden and Mary McCroan, and again on August 12<sup>th</sup> it was the same volunteers.

Helping Maria this month at Lanark were Ann Hill, Cathy Whigham, Norman Turnipseed, and Judy May. We helped root plants, trim the fig vine on the garden walls and front columns, trim vines, prune trees, prune azaleas, collect hydrangeas, clean up the holding bed area and hand weed some beds and various other tasks. Maria says thanks to all for keeping Lanark beautiful! She says at an annual board meeting recently many board members were impressed with the clean, lush condition of the garden areas. Maria let them know she couldn't do it without your help. She thanks everyone for their hard work.

Amanda Borden and Rosemary Mobley and Sandy Rosamond assisted Jane McCarthy at the Governors Mansion this month.

Working the Helpline this month were Mary Ann Klatt, John R. Barnes and Mary Ann Hatcher.

At a bird bath "Train the Trainers" committee meeting August 8<sup>th</sup>, Candy Jones, Jane Mobley, Johan Beumer, Janet Lewis, Carol Rattan, and Linda Griebel were present.

On August 2<sup>nd</sup> CAMGA members working at the Chilton Co. Expo were Katrina Mitchell, Catese Chaffee, Virginia Pruitt and Linda Griebel.

August 5<sup>th</sup> Gale Wheeler-Leonard and Linda Griebel represented CAMGA at the quarterly Advisory Council Meeting.

On August 16 Jim Davis demonstrated how to build and assemble beekeeping equipment; Ken Moore brought frames full of honey from his hives and assisted in demonstrating how to extract the honey. During the honey judging, Ken won a Blue Ribbon for best in the county! Linda Griebel staffed a CAMGA info table at the first CABA (Central AL Beekeeper Assn) National Honey Bee Day at the Extension Barn.

Refreshments for the August meeting were provided by Katrina Mitchell, Penny Arceneaux, Sally L'Abbe, Bonnie McCormick and Iva Haynie.

If you're having problems with powdery mildew,  
here's a website that will help:

[http://www.organicgardening.com/learn-and-grow/powdery-mildew?  
cid=NL\\_LivingLightlyNL\\_1816076\\_08252014\\_PowderyMildew](http://www.organicgardening.com/learn-and-grow/powdery-mildew?cid=NL_LivingLightlyNL_1816076_08252014_PowderyMildew)

**Program Notes – By Carol Rattan**

This month we are traveling to Pat Dye's Quail Hollow Gardens. Per MapQuest, the trip is approximately 50 minutes from the Extension Office, so those who want to carpool from there should meet at 8:45am. Those who don't live near the Extension Office can make their own carpool arrangements with those who live nearby. Please bring your own picnic lunch! Our meeting location is the covered pavilion next to the nursery office, and there is plenty of parking just past the nursery area. Bathrooms are nearby. We will have our meeting first, at 10am, then wonder around the gardens, shop for Japanese Maples, and enjoy your brown bag lunch on the grounds. I hope to see you all there!

**Address and Directions:**

For those of you with a GPS, the address is 768 Red Creek Road, Notasulga, Alabama 36866. These instructions are from their website:

From I 85, take Exit 42 (Wire Road). From Montgomery, turn left onto Wire Road; from Auburn, turn right onto Wire Road.

Continue past the truck stop and turn left onto Macon County Road 57 (first paved road to the left). Continue about 1/2 mile and turn left onto Macon County Road 59 (first paved road to the left).

Go 1.8 miles and turn left onto dirt road. Follow road through the black iron gates; continue on the driveway until your first right up the hill.

**Future Meetings . . .**

In October, 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.

# 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,**

## Helpline News By Mary Ann Hatcher

The Helpline Season ended with our volunteers answering 105 plus calls. Our ever faithful CAMGA Master Gardeners came through volunteering throughout the season when the need was made known. The Eight CAMGA MGs and Interns from Coosa County, who volunteered to serve their Helpline hours with us, made a significant difference to CAMGA. These CAMGA MGs and Interns worked the Helpline multiple times and together they brought with them a unique skill set.

Working the Helpline for the month of August were Interns: Wanda Ivey, Ellen Smith, Sheila Ward, Adrian Lovell, Sally Holland, and Melissa Nannini. Advisors working the Helpline were: Mary Ann Klatt, John Robert Barnes, and Mary Ann Hatcher. Sharon Potts served as our ever faithful Appointment Reminder. Thank you all so much for a successful Helpline Season!







## Mark your Calendars

**AMGA 2014**

**Fall Seminar**

**September 16, 2014**

**9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**Guntersville State Park**

**Goldenrod Room**

**Registration: \$25**

**Payable to:**

**Marshall County  
Master Gardeners  
(MCMG)**

**Send Registration and Check to:  
Wilma Tanner  
80 Ensley Drive  
Arab, AL 35016**



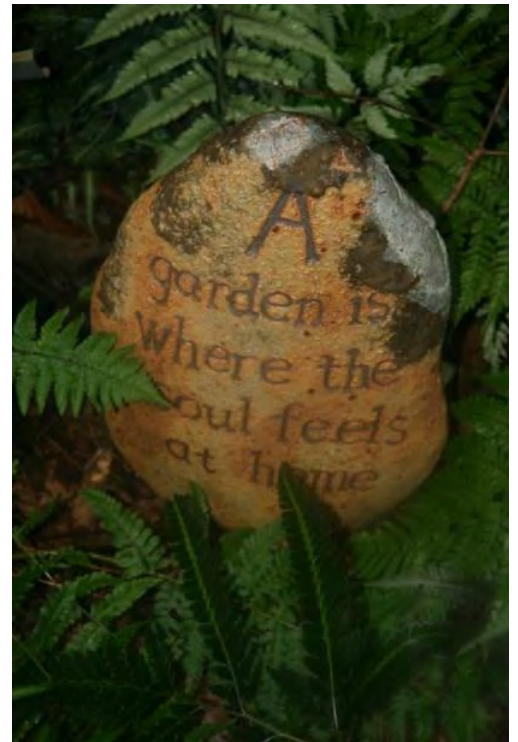
**Information:  
256-586-8615**

## **Wild About Our Back Yards**

**Seminar Sessions...**

- 1. All About Eagles**
- 2. Easy Gardens For The South**
- 3. Nature Calls: Photographing  
Your Backyard and Beyond**
- 4. Landscaping That Works**

**(Full Day = 4 CEU's)**





**REMEMBER THE GREAT FOOD YOU ENJOYED AS AN INTERN? OTHER MASTER GARDENERS PROVIDED THAT FOR YOU AND NOW WE NEED YOU TO HELP FEED OUR 2014 INTERN CLASS!**

Starting September 4 this year, the intern class schedule will be from 9-2 and will include lunch rather than mid-morning snacks. As a means for cutting down on class interruptions, food volunteers are asked to assist in the following ways:

1. **Deliver all food or drinks to the Extension Auditorium at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, the day before the class.** If for some reason, you are unable to provide the food item for which you volunteered, call **Rosemary Mobley at 334-657-9853** prior to that time and date so that other arrangements might be made.
2. If you agree to bring sandwiches, prepare enough for 20 people and enclose in a plastic sandwich bag. The whole sandwich is provided rather than  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a sandwich. Plastic bags will be available on Wednesday, if needed.
3. Prepare a meat and bread sandwich. Some ideas for bread are: whole wheat, white, raisin bread, sandwich thins, buns, etc. Sandwich ideas are turkey, ham, chicken, chicken salad, tuna salad, pimento cheese, egg salad, etc. *No additions - just meat and bread.*
4. If you agree to bring fruit, bring enough for 20 people. Fruit ideas are medium-size apples, medium-size bananas, and whole grapes in clusters.
5. If you agree to bring a dessert, prepare enough for 20 people, and enclose individual servings in a plastic bag. Dessert ideas are cookies, brownies, cake slice, etc. Again, plastic bags will be available if needed.
6. You can count as volunteer hours not only your preparation time, but also your time to deliver the food on Wednesday to Extension for the class.
7. *Thank you to all who already signed up at the August CAMGA meeting to bring food as the month of September is covered. However, we still need to fill in the remainder of the intern class schedule for October and November.*
8. Please notify Rosemary Mobley of dates that you will volunteer to provide food and which category you will fill for the October and November classes. Also consider 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> choices, as your 1<sup>st</sup> choice might already be filled when you contact Rosemary. Rosemary will keep a record of food volunteers.
9. **A table is attached showing open dates and needed food items in October and November.**
10. You can contact Rosemary by e-mail, phone, or text at: 334-514-7443 or 334-657-9853, [dmobley@elmore.rr.com](mailto:dmobley@elmore.rr.com) or [mmmpumpkin1@hotmail.com](mailto:mmmpumpkin1@hotmail.com) (Be sure to include your name and phone number if you leave a message.)

**We really do need your help. Thanks for all you already do for CAMGA.**

# Alabama Gardening Calendar—September

## 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.





## **Bird Bath Class September 12**



Jane Mobley is the contact for registration and payment for the Leaf Bird Bath Class, scheduled for September 12, 2014. The cost for attendance is \$10 per person and the class size limit is 25.

## **Bird Bath Practice Session**



At Left:  
At the bird bath "Train the Trainers" committee meeting August 8<sup>th</sup> Candy Jones, Jane Mobley, Johan Beumer, Janet Lewis, Carol Rattan, and Linda Griebel practiced how to make a leaf bird bath so they would be able to instruct the ones who attend the class on September 12.



It's always good to have a 'dry run' when planning a big project. The MG's pictured above assembled all of the necessary components for the leaf bird bath and made one to see how it would turn out. How beautiful is that!!!!

No wonder the class fills to overflowing.



## Harvest for Health By Mallory Kelley



A grant from UAB has allowed the opportunity for Master Gardeners to mentor cancer survivors in hopes that it will continue to improve their health and well-being. In short, UAB is looking for approximately 25 Master Gardeners from the Autauga, Elmore and Montgomery region who would be interested in mentoring a cancer survivor in the area of vegetable gardening. You will attend an orientation in the coming weeks for a refresher in vegetable gardening and to learn any other specifics about the program. Then another meeting is scheduled where all the Master Gardeners will meet their cancer survivor.

UAB will be providing all the materials and supplies for the vegetable garden and you will be providing the expertise. Your involvement is to make contact with the cancer survivor 2 times per month. One time is through phone and the other face to face to help them in their garden. The program will start in September and last one year!

The hopeful outcome of this program is to improve the quality of life of the survivor, not only through nutritional food, but also through exercise and overall well-being. You all know the sense of worth and satisfaction you get from picking and cooking something you grew.

Please let me know if you are interested in being a mentor by emailing me at: [jones57@auburn.edu](mailto:jones57@auburn.edu).

**Here is the site for a video about it that is also helpful:**

<http://www.uab.edu/news/innovation/item/4827-gardens-help-cancer-survivors-cope-heal-and-grow+fdfeature>

## Early Registration Continues for Bonsai Class

Here's another chance to sign up early for the BONSAI Class that will be next year. This class was so popular back in the spring that we feel we need to advertise it way ahead so everyone will have a chance to get the jump on reserving a spot.

### CAMGA Members

The Projects Committee is planning another BEGINNING BONSAI CLASS since many of you stated that you weren't able to take the first training offered early this year. The date is set for March 5, 2015 from 9:00-12:00 (Extension Auditorium) and the tentative price will again be \$18 per person, with each participant taking home a completed BONSAI. Please email Linda Griebel at [lgriebel@yahoo.com](mailto:lgriebel@yahoo.com) (don't just hit reply) to sign up for this class. We won't take payments until closer to the class date, but will limit the number to 25 participants. Reserve your spot well ahead of time since we can offer this to interns if the 25 seats are not taken by regular members.





At our August meeting Amanda and Lee Borden gave a Power Point presentation on fall vegetable gardening.



**Congratulations** are in order to Angela Peltier (left) on receiving her gold badge for 1000 + hours of volunteer work. At right, Mallory Kelley presents Rosemary Mobley with a notebook from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents in appreciation for her work on the Master Gardener exhibit and for presenting at the recent Professional Development Conference in Mobile.



**Katrina Mitchell, Catese Chaffee, Linda Griebel and Virginia Pruitt  
all volunteered at the Chilton County Expo.**



**Katrina**



**Catese**



**Virginia**

Linda Griebel took these photos.

## SPECIAL GARDENS

## SPECIAL PLACES

### SEPTEMBER 25, 2014

*Selecting plants with appeal that grow best in our gardens.*

*\$20 REGISTRATION includes lunch, program, & snacks.*

*Limit 75 seats.*

*Program Guide*

• 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. Betty Pate

Memory Gardens

• 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Rip Weaver

Executive Director, Aldridge Gardens

• Lunch Provided

• 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Lisa George

The Plant Project

• 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Dr. Carol Reid

The Backyard Garden

**BLOUNT COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION**

**FALL CONFERENCE**

**PALISADES PARK**

1225 Palisades Park, Oneonta, AL 35121

**Registration: 8:30 – 9:00 a.m.**

AMELIA PORTER CENTER

**Sessions: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

D. S. LOYD BUILDING

**Contact Information**

Sherilyn Osborne (205) 681-9896

[sherilynosborne@bellsouth.net](mailto:sherilynosborne@bellsouth.net)

Registration: Vickie Hallman

631 Rocking H Road, Remlap, AL 35133

(205) 681-2569

[vvhallman@yahoo.com](mailto:vvhallman@yahoo.com)

Participants attending all sessions earn 4 CEUs.

**REGISTRATION FORM (please print)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to Blount County Master Gardener Association and mail to Treasurer Vickie Hallman. Nonrefundable advanced registration.**

**Blount County Master Gardener 2014 Fall Conference**

*Deepest  
Sympathy*

*to*

*Lois  
Príbulick*

*in the loss  
of her son*

*August 2014*





## Butterfly Program at Aldridge Gardens

The co-authors of the book ***Butterflies of Alabama ~Glimpses Into Their Lives***, Sara Bright (photographer) and Paulette and Haywood Ogard (text) have agreed to speak to the Garden of Alabama on September 23 at the Aldridge Gardens in Homewood.

Welcoming butterflies into our landscapes is personally rewarding and environmentally important. As more and more habitat is lost, learn how your yard can become a beautiful oasis that sustains the butterfly species that live in your area. They will focus on why using native host and nectar plants is important and how to incorporate these plants into your landscape. Specific groundcovers, vines, flowers, shrubs, and trees that are garden-worthy as well as butterfly-friendly will be highlighted.

Cost is \$12

## Daylily Auction and Sale to Be Held At the Columbus, GA Botanical Garden



COLUMBUS, GA, August 22 – The Chattahoochee Valley Daylily Society's (CVDS) Annual Auction and Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, September 13, 2014, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Columbus Botanical Garden, located at 3603 Weems Road in Columbus, Ga. Registration for the auction will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Adams House.

Daylily hybridizers Mark and June Singletary of Jammin's Daylilies in Lakeland, Ga., will give a presentation on their hybridizing program and how to care for daylilies. The presentation will take place from 10 to 10:45 a.m., and will be followed by question and answer.

The Singletarys have been hybridizing daylilies for seven years and have registered 22 cultivars, all of which are denoted with the garden name "Jammin's" at the beginning of the daylily's name. Their garden consists of 240 named cultivars, as well as numerous seedlings that are in the evaluation stages. Mark and June make gardening a family affair with the help of their two children, Amanda and Ben. Visitors are invited to their garden during the spring and summer months when the daylilies are strutting their stuff.

The daylilies up for auction on September 13 will be provided by Jammin's Daylilies and by members of the Chattahoochee Valley Daylily Society. The daylily auction will begin at 10:45 a.m. and continue until all the plants have been purchased.

In addition to the daylily auction, there will be daylilies and other perennials available to purchase on the "Plant Bargain" sales tables, which will also open at 10:45 am.

"Please attend and bring a friend. There will be bargains here that you won't be able to find anywhere else," said Larry Miller, President of the Chattahoochee Valley Daylily Society.

For additional information, visit [www.cvds.8k.com](http://www.cvds.8k.com) or contact Larry Miller at [locmliller@att.net](mailto:locmliller@att.net).

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## Lunch and Learn Report “Vermicomposting” By Charlotte Hall



“Worms Eat My Garbage” What an intriguing thought!! And what an intriguing presentation presented by Rose McCauley and Paula Seamon from the Augusta Master Gardeners to our August Lunch and Learn bunch.

Vermicomposting is a word made up of two Latin words: Vermi, which means ‘worm’ and ‘compost,’ to bring or to gather. These combine to give us the official word of ‘v

ermicomposting.’ Worms recycle food scraps and other organic material into compost. This is similar to regular composting except that it uses worms in addition to microbes and bacteria to turn organic waste into compost, which can be used as a nutrient-rich fertilizer. Vermicompost is also known as worm compost, worm castings, worm manure or worm poop – right from the mouths of these nice women!!

Vermicomposting basically is a relatively simple procedure which involves obtaining a squirm (official term for a group of worms – what you don’t learn at these presentations!) of worms, a container and just feeding the worms with organic waste or garbage. And then the worms do the rest. The mighty earthworm is the master composter. Basically the worm spends all of its time and life eating, multiplying and excreting. And we can be the recipient from this master composter by harvesting that nutrient-rich excretion – literally black gold for gardeners.

Red wigglers are recommended as the best type of earthworm for vermicomposting. They are surface dwellers and are best because they do not dig deeply into the dirt and therefore you do not need a lot of dirt. They usually burrow no farther down than six inches. There are online suppliers of red wigglers of which one is Uncle Jim’s Worm Farm.

To be successful for this operation, you should maintain a moderate temperature between 55 – 70 degrees Fahrenheit, moderate amount of moisture since worms breathe through their skin, adequate ventilation and darkness. Worms are photophobic which means

they do not like light and are sensitive to it. They will burrow into dirt to avoid light, making darkness a requirement.

Now that interest is piqued, here are the directions for building a worm bin. You will need the following items: Container, worms, shredded newspaper, water, sand, garden soil, and then, of course, your garbage.

Obtain a large plastic tub – a ten gallon or 12.5 size is ideal – and drill holes in the lid and along the sides for proper ventilation. Holes should be about ¼ inch size.

Fill the bin about one half full and wet the newspaper – not too much water so that the newspaper is soggy or there is water in the bottom of the container. Just moisten newspaper.

Let the bin sit for a while – about 2 days. Check for excessive moisture.

Add approximately ½ cup of sand.

Add 2 cups of garden soil.

Mix all together.

Add worms – about 1 to 2 pounds to start should be enough.

Add kitchen waste.

Add shredded paper on top and place ventilated lid on top of the bin.

Some hints for the garbage – do not use meat product scraps or dairy products, not a lot of citrus fruit, potatoes or onions, grind eggshells and shred newspaper (do not use sleek inserts but colored pages are ok), break down large paper items such as cardboard, paper towel holders, etc. to facilitate faster eating by the worms. Use any other kitchen waste such as banana peels, coffee grounds, tea bags minus the metal staple, loose tea, and other fruit and vegetable remnants. The smaller the size of the garbage, the faster and easier it is for the worms to eat.

Feed the worms about once a week or every two weeks depending upon how fast the worms are eating. Check and add more garbage as needed. Worms will reproduce after 53-75 days.

After 3 to 6 months, you are ready to harvest your black gold. Worms need the castings removed in order to eat, multiply and excrete more! You can harvest with a flashlight as worms do not like light. You may prefer to disturb your worms and harvest by pouring the contents out and separating the worms



and any compost remnants from the castings. This is not an exact science so select which method appeals to you. Other than when harvesting, do not disturb your worms. After harvesting, continue feeding and let the worms get back to work.

Worm castings can be used immediately or stored for later use. Use for top dressing, making potting soil or adding nutrients to your soil, either directly or as a worm tea.

Common problems with worm bins are too much moisture (either add more shredded newspaper or if too wet, may have to start again), not enough ventilation, ants (spreading cinnamon may keep ants from crawling into bin) or centipedes which are predators to earthworms.

money by replacing or reducing fertilizer purchases enrich the nutrients in your topsoil, better plant health as worm castings will not burn any plants, good for the environment – recycle, re-use and reduce, as one third of household waste can be composted, educational and it's really fun. Remember what is good for a plant is good for us!

So there you have it. Where else could you learn in just one hour how to make black gold?

Did you know that September is National Honey Month? In celebration and in tribute to the makers of honey, our next program will be on Bees and Bee-keeping presented by our own Jim Davis and Ken Moore. Mark your calendars for September 10<sup>th</sup> and remember that drinks are provided.



Rose McCauley (left) and Paula Seamon give us all the “ins and outs” of vermicomposting.

This is what you get when you practice vermicomposting. This probably wouldn't look good to anybody but us Master Gardeners!!



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## Seed Saving Workshop 101

Where:

**Elmore County Agricultural Center**

340 Queen Ann Road,  
Wetumpka AL 36092

When:

Wednesday,  
September 17, 2014

9:00am—12:00pm

There is a \$10.00 fee,

Call Elmore County Extension System to register.  
(334) 567-6301

### PRE-REGISTRATION FORM:

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_  
# of Participants \_\_\_\_\_

\$10 \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**(Make check payable to: Alabama Cooperative Extension System)**

Return Pre-Registration Form and Payment by  
Wednesday, September 10th, 2014 to:  
Elmore County Agricultural Center  
340 Queen Ann Rd  
Wetumpka, AL 36092  
Phone: (334) 567-6301



**Learn about seed saving principles of common vegetables and annuals. Learn what types of seeds can be saved and what types can not. (hybrid vs. open pollinated).**

**Come and talk with others about the value of local seed exchanges.**

**We will be having a seed exchange in February 2015 so start backyard seed preservation now.**

**Sponsored by:**

**Alabama Cooperative Extension System**

**Central Alabama Master Gardener Association**





## Governor's Mansion Report By Jane McCarthy

"With the help of many dedicated Master Gardeners, we are making great progress in the gardens at the Governor's Mansion. The scraggly Knock-out roses that CAMGA moved to the Perry Street fence line back in November are doing very well. The Secret Garden has been weeded and pruned several times and is starting to look quite tidy. The dwarf crepe myrtles in the Guest House garden were pruned to 6" and are now 4' of pure color. The poolside sago palms with severe cold damage were pruned back and are now off the patio and are far less

threatening. We have started taking cuttings from certain hydrangeas, dividing perennials, and planning for the future.

There is a master list of all our volunteers at the security gate so if you have worked in the gardens, you are on the list at the Finley Street gate. If you are interested in joining us at the Governor's Mansion, please give me a call (221-9936) and you will be put on the master list. Bring your hand tools and join us any Monday 8-12. And yes, we will work on Labor Day...weather permitting.

Many thanks for all the help...you all certainly make Monday mornings very enjoyable...Jane"

**From left: Sandy Rosamond, Rosemary Mobley and Amanda Borden are all smiles AFTER their work session (Check out Sandy's knees!!!)**



## The Millbrook Farmer's Market

**By Rick Ohlson**

The Millbrook Farmer's Market was a huge success again this year and the Master Gardeners were a significant part of that success. We get compliments all the time and so does the Millbrook Economic Development Director who heads this project. A special thanks to Butch Kinney and Joe L'Abbe for holding down the fort most of the time. Marie Updike had a special touch along with Judy May and RJ Arceneaux. We touch a lot of folks at this site and pushed the new class real hard. Thanks to all who supported our effort.

## Mark Your Calendars

### Southern Region Master Gardener Conference

### October 21-24

### Baton Rouge, Louisiana

The [East Baton Rouge Master Gardener Association](#) of the LSU AgCenter's MG Program is proud to host the 2014 Southern Region Master Gardener Conference. When gardening enthusiasts from Texas to Virginia converge on Louisiana's capital city, they will be greeted with riveting speakers, entertaining tours and a trade show that promises to offer those 'one-of-a-kind' items.

This event will bring together master gardeners, vendors, horticulture professionals and others with a common interest in all aspects of gardening, the environment and plant sciences. The 2014 Conference Committee is grateful to all who have made this conference possible through [sponsorships](#), in-kind gifts and hundreds of volunteer hours from our members.

Please join us in beautiful [Baton Rouge](#) from October 21<sup>st</sup> through October 24<sup>th</sup> at the [Crowne Plaza Hotel](#). Check back often for updates! Hope to see you there!



## Keynote Speakers' Productions



## Baton Rouge



**Beware of Dangerous Tree** By Linda Griebel

I'm sending pictures of a dangerous tree, several of which are in my the back yard. It is native to Kentucky (hardy in Zones 4 to 7 or from Quebec to North Carolina & Kansas). Normally, I favor native plants; however, there are exceptions. The Cockspur Hawthorn has number of objectionable characteristics. The one I am most displeased & disturbed with is the thorns growing out of the trunk. The UK website advises that these trees not be placed "in areas where children are likely to be playing, as its sharp thorns can cause serious injury." I think that statement should include anyone and pets. We're working on getting these trees removed before there are any trips to the hospital.



**This is a follow-up to our August presentation on Fall Vegetable Gardening. Several questions surfaced, and Lee and Amanda promised to get back to you with more information. Please let us know if there is a question we have not addressed in these websites.**

[amandawborden@gmail.com](mailto:amandawborden@gmail.com)    [lee@divorceinfo.com](mailto:lee@divorceinfo.com)

**Information on short-day onions:**

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/archives/parsons/publications/onions/shortday.html>

Also, see attached ACES article, page 2 for a list of short-day varieties.

**Insect barrier:**

Agribon AG-15 insect barrier - <http://www.johnnyseeds.com/p-5455-agribon-ag-15-insect-barrier-118-x-50.aspx#>

**Frost blanket:**

Agribon AG-30 frost blanket - <http://www.johnnyseeds.com/p-6843-agribon-ag-30-83-x-250.aspx#>

We purchase cover crop seed mixes from Adams-Briscoe Seed Co. - <http://www.abseed.com/>

*CAMGA Garden Buzzzzz*

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**NEXT MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 16**

**QUAIL HOLLOW  
JAPANESE MAPLE  
FARM  
NOTASULGA, AL**

**Mark your calendars for  
AMGA Mini Conference  
September 16 in Guntersville!**  
(Details—Page 9)



Mary McCroan is still harvesting vegetables from the Learning Garden.