



GARDEN BUZZZZZZ



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Message from:

Sandy Rosamond CAMGA President

Hello Everyone,

I sure have been missing all of you! I am hoping you and your families are staying healthy.

Since my husband was recovering from surgery and I have low a immunity, we decided to self quarantine. In my quite time while I weed and weed and weed some more, I just wonder how this pandemic COVID-19 will change how we live our lives in the future. As much as I love all the busy things I am involved, I must say I have enjoyed a break.

I wish I could give you news about the plant sale, but everything is still up in the air. I was so excited about the new location and all the new plans for sale this year. I thought it was going to be outstanding event. BUT, please hang on to your plants and your ideas because we will have a plant sale and it will be outstanding!

I want to share a post that my husband received from a friend. We hear so much bad about the people in our society, that we overlook the very best in people. I hope you have not read it before; but if you did, read it again. It will make you PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN !

"The reports are that the truckers are getting supplies to the stores. People are stocking the shelves all night and letting old people shop first.

Carnival Cruise line told Trump "We can match those big Navy Hospital ships with some fully staffed cruise ships"



CAMGA Garden Buzzzz
Carol Pugh — Editor
pughdia@aces.edu

GM said hold our cars and watch this; we can make those ventilators where we were making cars starting next week.

Women and children are making homemade masks and handing out snacks to truckers. Restaurants and schools said, We've got kitchens and staff; we can feed kids." Churches are holding on-line services and taking care of their members and community. NBA basketball players said, "Hold our basketballs while we write checks to pay the arena staff." Construction companies said, "Here are some masks for the medical staff and doctors". Breweries are making sanitizes out of the left-over ingredients.

We thought we couldn't live without Baseball, NASCAR, NBA or going to the beach, restaurants or a bar. Instead, we're trying to keep those businesses open by ordering take-out.

You've got two Democrat Governors getting told "We will make it happen" by a Republican President who has fought with them for three and half years. While the media keeps repeating itself, "We are a nation divided." What communist China didn't count on was America saying "Hey, hold my beer and watch this."

I think of a Japanese Admiral in the middle of the Pacific said it best in 1941, "I think we have awakened a sleeping giant."

Give us a few more weeks (maybe months) and we will be doing much better! And stop listening to the hysterical media!!

Sharing this from another FB friend. We have a wonderful country and an amazing God."

*Can't wait to see you,
Sandy*

*Sandy Rosamond
CAMGA President*





Message from Mallory

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

Extra Time Garden Tasks

While we all have the time at home that we always complain we don't have enough of, let's use it wisely. What about some landscape beautification or trash pickup along the roadsides near your home? This is great exercise and also achieves a beautiful outcome. Here are some other tips on activities you can do to improve your landscape while staying healthy and safe.

First, this is a great time to take inventory of your garden supplies and clean out those old and unused items from your garage. Throw out old seed packets, chemicals that still have the label in tack need to be used according to the label. Call the Department of Agriculture to ask when and where their next collection time will be. Sharpen and clean all of your garden tools. Take time to oil and gas up your motorized tools. Go out and use that fertilizer that has been sitting on the shelf, as this is a great time to give your plants an extra boost. Maybe you have some bags of potting soil or seed starting mix, go out and plant some of those seeds.

Containers for planting need to be sterilized before replanting and it's best to wash them with a 1:10 bleach:water solution. Then, fill with potting soil. Never soil from the ground, as it has poor drainage, has weed seed and potential diseases, and most of all will be very heavy if you go to move it.

Go rake the pine straw and leaves from underneath plants. This is a great sanitation practice to eliminate fungal diseases that have overwintered in the leaf matter in the soil this winter. Then apply a fresh layer of pine straw approximately 3 inches deep.

Use that old mulch and leaf matter to start a new compost bin. Do some pruning of plants like your Lime Light Hydrangeas that bloom in mid-summer and throw those branches and weeds you're pulling as you clean up beds into the compost bin as well.

Speaking of compost, lessen your trash by throwing things like eggshells, coffee filters and coffee, all vegetable and fruit matter left over from meals and meal prep, shredded junk mail, and more into your new compost bin. As long as you don't include dairy, oils, or bones you can throw it all in your compost bin and start turning it daily. Add some water to keep the pile moist and soon you will have made garden gold!

The winter months are the best time to plant and move plants in the landscape. However, if you can continue to water thoroughly, it is not too late to dig up and transplant those plants that have either outgrown their space or have not performed well.

Don't be afraid to move plants around in the landscape until you find just the right environment for them to thrive. The conditions on one side of your house are totally different than the conditions on the other. The brightest light will be on the southwest corner of your house with afternoon sun, while the most shade will be on the northeast.

Message from Mallory (Continued)

Mallory Kelley
Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds,



If the shrub or trees flower in summer or fall, this means it blooms on “new wood,” or the growth that occurs throughout the spring months. These plants should be pruned now. The best guideline for pruning is to follow the May rule. If a plant blooms **before** May 1 prune it as soon as its flowers are spent. If a plant blooms **after** May 1, prune it when the plant is dormant. Summer flowers produced after May 1 are on “new wood” growth. Pruning now would stimulate new growth and greater flower production this summer.

Now for those pesky weeds, here are some helpful tips. First, where are they? If it is a vegetable bed and you want to prep for spring planting of tomatoes, peppers, okra, squash and more you will want to spray the whole area now with glyphosate. Give it at least two weeks for the weeds to completely die all the way to the root before you till the soil to make your rows. Then right before you plant you can spray the garden soil with active ingredient, trifluralin which is a pre-emergent safe in your flower beds as well as your vegetable garden and this will give you a huge jump start in the battle to combat the weeds this summer. Again, this is a pre-emergent and will not kill weeds you can see, but will prevent the seeds of weeds you cannot see from germinating.

If you intend on planting vegetables in your garden soil by seed such as: corn, okra, mustard greens and squash then be sure not to spray the soil in that area with trifluralin or it will prevent those seeds from germinating as well. Then mulch, mulch, mulch... this will suppress weed growth even more and even the weeds that might still emerge will be much easier to remove.

Message From: Maria Pacheco-West
Lanark Gardens
Lanark Grounds Specialist and Tour Coordinator

Dear friends,

I hope this finds all of you settled in our new "normal". After careful consideration, the Executive Director of AWF has taken measures to ensure the safety of AWF's employees, visitors, and volunteers. So, along with everything else, the Plants and Pollinators Festival, for May 9, 2020, is canceled. We may do it in the fall but as you all know, things are up in the air. The Nature Plex and AWF headquarters are shut down to the public until the end of May. I cannot allow any visitors or volunteers to come to the facility until further notice. Fortunately, I will be out here working in the gardens and able to answer any of your questions by phone, please call at 334-657-9414. Once this is over, I will let you all know about volunteer opportunities and when we restart our special events. Stay safe and think of all the extra attention our own home gardens are going to be getting!

Missing you all,
Maria Pacheco-West



CAMGA Minutes

March 2020

By: Deann Stone, Secretary

It seems a little strange to be sharing the "minutes from March" with you, since we didn't meet! However, 56 members attended the February meeting! It was great to see the room full!

Anida reported that we have 92 paid members, 1 lifetime member, and 18 interns. Hoping one day to see all members attend and it be standing room only!

Of the 92 paid members, 18 people participate in CAMGA in addition to their primary Master Gardener Group. Most of our members are from Elmore County, however, 23 members are from Montgomery County, 10 members live in Autauga County, 2 members live in Coosa County, and we have one member from each of the following counties: Lee, Jefferson, Calhoun, Crenshaw, Madison, and Butler! We also have one member that lives in Florida!

On a happy note, Molly Kate Meadows was born on March 26, 2020. She weighed 7 lbs. 11 oz and was 19" long! She joins her cousin in Chicago, Ashlyn Haze Menges (10 months), to make me a proud "Fluffy" of two!

With the President extending the social distancing guidelines until the end of April, please be careful as you continue your lives! Hoping to see everyone soon! I've been working in my garden and in my yard.

Enjoying each day, as I can! God Bless you all! See you soon!!

Respectfully Submitted,
Deann Stone





March 2020 Lunch and Learn By: Charlotte Hall

**“Gardening With Climate Change”
Presented by: Lee and Amanda Borden**

For the CAMGA March Lunch and Learn series, we were all enlightened on a new gardening concern - Climate Change. “Global warming may be global weirding.”

Our own advanced master gardeners, Lee and Amanda Borden, told us about their own personal encounters concerning their gardening efforts over the last ten years in regards to the different weather patterns. There have been some definite changes in seasons, length of hot and cold days, rain measurement, or lack thereof, for our drought times, and extreme temperatures. We have set records for highs and lows over the years with longer, hotter summers and warmer, milder winters. And don't forget about the mosquito effect - the number one killer in the world.

It was interesting to see how many attendees had experienced some of the same climate changes and same gardening problems those changes imposed. There was a lot of agreement head nodding going on by the attendees.

The handout provided by the Bordenes on Backyard Solutions to Climate Change listed the following suggested backyard actions - improve energy efficiency, reduce water consumption, plant lots of trees, reduce the use of gasoline-powered yard tools, incorporate native species, create a certified wildlife habitat, and compost kitchen and garden waste.

So, if you would like to see the topics covered and discussed, go to the following link provided by the Bordenes. They were gracious enough to include a link to all their slides which were filled with documented observations, suggestions and colorful photos. Thanks to the Bordenes for making their slides available to all of us who attended and couldn't take notes fast enough and to those who were unable to attend!

The link is:

<https://wp.me/p8eayi-2WQ>

There will not be a CAMGA Lunch and Learn program for April, 2020. All meetings and events have been cancelled due to the corona virus outbreak. This is a concerted effort to limit its spread by reducing possible exposure when large groups meet.

We intend to resume May 12th when Dr. Sue Webb, Petals from the Past, will speak on Southeastern Natives. Until then, practice social distancing and stay safe!!



Lessons from the Learning Garden

Raised Beds

By: Mary McCroan



Hey everybody. Although I think that our food supply system is basically secure in these interesting times, clearly people are concerned. So, this is a great time to think about growing your own veggies if you don't already. In our Learning Garden at the Extension Office we have been using raised beds for growing veggies and herbs for about 14 years now, so here are the lessons learned:

Benefits of raised beds:

You can totally manage your soil. Start out with anything from compost, to common top soil, to professionally mixed "super soil". Amend it anyway you like. Add leaves in the fall, composted materials from your kitchen, etc. You are not at the mercy of soil that is too sandy, has too much clay, won't drain or drains too much.

It's easier to manage the weeds when you have a defined space. They provide a barrier against intrusion by your canine pets and even help with slugs and snails. Older treated wood used Arsenic and was a concern for migration of that toxin into food that might be grown in a raised bed. Modern treated wood uses micronized copper which has been shown in university studies to have very little migration into garden soil. And small amounts of copper, unlike arsenic, are actually beneficial to plants.



The general design is to get some 2 inch treated lumber and screw it together in a box shape.

For a minimalist low-cost design just use 2x6s. Pick a length that fits your yard. The width should be no more than four feet so you can easily reach to the middle without stepping into your raised bed. That is bad because it tends to compress the soil. For a bed that will only be maintained from one side--like if it is against a fence--the width should be no more than three feet.

Any three or four inch screw will work to connect the sides to the ends. For awhile. But, 4 inch lag screws are awesome for keeping your corners tight together for over a decade. You will want to use pilot holes to get those bad boys in!



Lessons from the Learning Garden: Raised Beds

By: Mary McCroan

A step up from the 2x6s is 2x12s and that is what all the beds at Extension are made from. More room for good soil, but the planks are heavier when you moving them from store, to truck (or van), to garden.



If you add a trellis down the middle, you have more space to grow veggies such as tomatoes, beans and cucumbers vertically and maximize the production of your bed.

Even better, if you have the energy to purchase, transport, and screw together twice as much lumber, is a bed is two levels of 2x12 to create a planting surface that is twenty-three inches tall. This is way more comfortable for an older gardener to use. Much less bending and it's a good height to prop a hip on while you plant, weed or harvest.

The bed pictured at right, has the bottom half filled up with wood--large branches and small trunks. This provide two benefits. First, it saves you money on soil. Second, as the wood decays, it feed the veggies that are planted above it. That's a win/win by any gardeners calculation!





Governor's Mansion Report

March 2020

By: Amanda Borden



Like many of our Master Gardener activities, workdays at the Governor's Mansion were curtailed due to the COVID-19 cancellations. We worked one day, March 9 (original date March 2 was rained out), and accomplished a lot with our 10-person crew. We laid fresh pine straw in the Herb Garden, thickened the mulch along the Lady Banks rose bed, and pruned the knockout roses under the dining room window. In the back yard we weeded the beds adjacent to the pool fence and Guest House, pruned the knockouts, and cut back the dwarf crape myrtles and Mexican heather. We are tentatively planning to return to social-distancing gardening after Easter, on April 13, subject to Mansion approval.



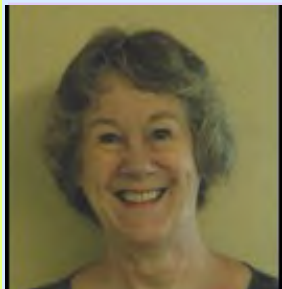
Donna, Mirenda, Susan, Peggy, Marjorie, Kathy, Amanda, and Dian cleaned up and added pine straw in the Herb Garden. Participants not pictured: Robin



Marjorie and Robin pruned knockout roses along the pool fence.



Beds by Guest House and pool fence following weeding and pruning



Projects Committee Minutes

March 10, 2020

By: Terry Chambliss

Those present were Rhona Watson, Sandy Rosamond, Cindy Augustine, Sandra Bowen, Sherron Schaefer, John Butler, Johan Beumer, Robin Snyder, Candy Jones, Terry Chambliss and guests Mary Lou Mullins and Lea Bradford.

The Projects Committee received a letter from the Presbyterian Church requesting CAMGA assistance with a landscaping plan. Mary Lou Mullins, representing the church, presented some architectural drawings of the church and grounds. They would like a plan they can grow into by stages and something that is low maintenance. They have an initial \$10,000 to work with and will go through Russell and their distributors for supplies. She is not sure if the fence is part of the \$10,000. They would like to have some key features in place by August when they hope to open. We can use some of the construction crew while they are there. After discussion, it was decided to take a team approach. Jane Mobley already agreed to put the plans on paper.

Sandy discussed the craft workshop. She would like to make hummingbird swings, torches out of wine bottles and dragon flies out of fan blades. She will be requesting donations of colored bottles and metal pop bottle caps at the meeting.

The senior project will require Progresso soup cans so a request will be made for those as well.

Sandy will put it to a vote at the meeting to include vendors at our plant sale. Allyson Andrews knows a lot of vendors that may want to participate. It was suggested to charge the vendors for their booths.

Allyson volunteered to set up a bee display with her alpacas to keep her company. Sandy agreed to work with Allyson on this if approved.

Respectively submitted,

Terry Chambliss

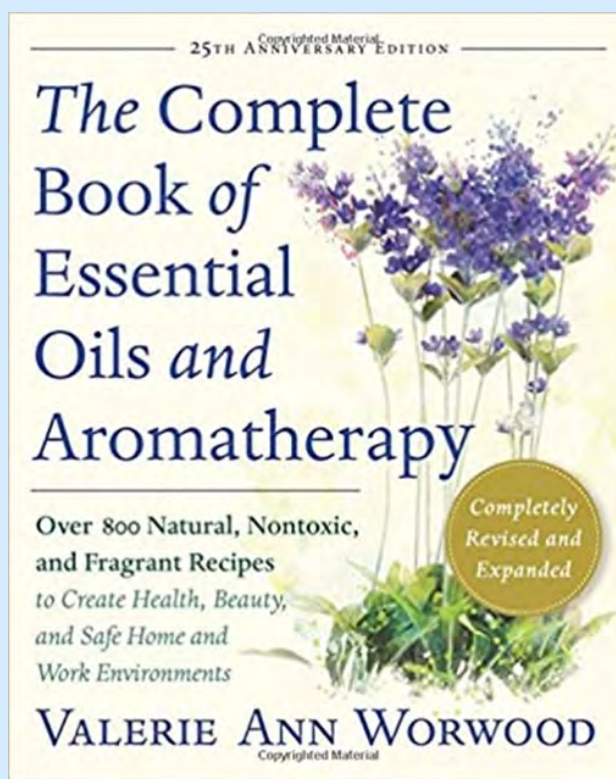


CAMGA Library News

April 2020

By: Dee Turberville

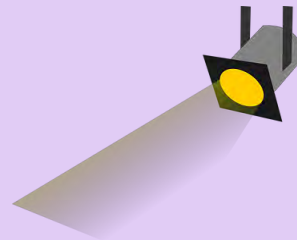
During a recent CAMGA program, Debbie Boutelier, herbalist and advanced master gardener, recommended *The Complete Book of Essential Oils and Aromatherapy* as her favorite go-to reference for EOs. Valerie Ann Worwood's original edition was published in 1991 and now an updated edition is available from the CAMGA library collection. Published in 2016, the 25th anniversary edition includes over 800 natural, nontoxic and fragrant recipes for health, beauty, and safe home and work environments. Valerie Ann Worwood, a consultant and expert on the clinical uses of essential oils is recognized internationally. She was a specialist long before the current interest in essential oils.



Worwood provides practical tools to address a variety of health issues, including specific advice for children, women, men, and seniors. Her book covers self-defense against microbes and contaminants, emotional challenges, care for the home and workplace, and applications for athletes, dancers, travelers, cooks, gardeners, and pet lovers. In her clear-cut writing style, she discusses the use of essential oils in beauty and spa treatment and includes profiles of 125 essential oil and 37 carrier oils. This resource is helpful for anyone interested in alternative approaches to healing. Scientific researchers throughout the world are exploring essential oils for their unique properties and uses. *The Complete Book of Essential Oils and Aromatherapy* is making an impact in a field that has a long history, beginning in Ancient Egypt – considered the birthplace of aromatherapy.



**SPOTLIGHT ON
VOLUNTEERS
March 2020
By: Judy May**



The Lunch and Learn program on March 10th was “Gardening with Climate Change” by Lee and Amanda Borden.

There were 35 attendees, 27 of them Master Gardeners. Assisting were Charlotte Hall, Cathy Whigham and Bill Quailes.

With Deepest Sympathy

*We extend Deepest Sympathy to our friend and
Master Gardener Jane Mobley, for the loss of her
husband Randy Mobley on March 6th.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with Jane
and her family at this time.*



**Congratulations
CAMGA Master Gardeners!
By: Lee Ann Marona
Reach for the Stars Program Coordinator**

Congratulations to the following CAMGA Members who are being presented with the following awards. Awards and certificates will be distributed when we meet again.

Robin Award for January: Sandy Rosamond

Robin Award for February: Rhonda Miles

Star Awards for Lifetime Hours through 2019:

- Bronze – 100+ Lifetime Hours – Deann Stone, Cheryl Fitzgerald, Sharon Kochik
- Silver – 300+ Lifetime Hours – Dee Turberville, Allyson Andrews
- Gold – 500+ Lifetime Hours – Robin Snyder, Lynda Edwards, Carolyn Hope-Placeway, Sherron Schaefer, Cheryl Christian

Advanced Badges for Lifetime Hours through 2019:

Gold Badge – 1000+ Lifetime Hours

Sandy Rosamond

Virginia Pruitt

Cathy Whigham

Bill Quailes

Annette Walker

Jean Lee Lifetime Hours Award Nominee for CAMGA: Candy Jones – 3,277 Hours

Top Hours of the Year Award Nominee for CAMGA: Candy Jones – 431 Hours

Outstanding Newsletter and Website Award Nominee for CAMGA:

Carol Pugh and Anida Wishnietsky

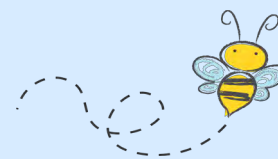
**Propagation Workshop
March 6, 2020
Submitted by: Carolyn Love-Dorsey**

The following are pictures from the Propagation Workshop held at Ronda Watson's home in Emerald Mountains, Wetumpka.

We learned how to divide hostas and we planted several pots for the Annual Plant Sale.



April Calendar of Events



Get Outside with Alabama Smart Yards!

Free Webinar Series (45 minutes)

Weekdays @ 11:00 a.m. (CDT)

Connect: <https://auburn.zoom.us/j/834500888>



W, April 1: Azaleas for Alabama, Shane Harris
 TH, April 2: Disinfectants & Respirators: Be Smart, Dr. Sonya Thomas
 F, April 3: Managing Fire Ants in our Landscapes, Bethany O'Rear
 M, April 6: Thyme for Herbs?, Kerry Smith
 T, April 7: Vegetable Gardening Basics, Lee and Amanda Borden
 W, April 8: Creating Compost, Dani Carroll
 TH, April 9: Snakes of Alabama, Bence Carter
 F, April 10: Container Gardens, Lucy Edwards
 M, April 13: TBA, David Koon
 T, April 14: TBA
 W, April 15: TBA, Dani Carroll

Master Gardener Helpline (877) 252-4769

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COVID-19 UPDATES

Auburn University



Auburn extends operational modifications through May 9

Following careful evaluation with state and federal authorities regarding COVID-19, Auburn University is extending its operational modifications through May 9. The university began alternate operations on March 16, to include remote delivery of instruction and remote work assignments. Initial guidance called for those modifications through April 10 with reassessment in late March. This alternate operations model is now intended to be in place through May 9, but if circumstances change the university will communicate any needed updates through its COVID-19 website and this email distribution list.