



# GARDEN BUZZZZZZ



Volume 29 Issue 6 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

June 2020



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### Message from:

**Sandy Rosamond**  
**CAMGA President**



It sure was nice to see your faces on the Zoom Meeting. I styled my hair and everything so I wouldn't scare you and then my video would not work. Maybe next time..

I have had some questions about earning volunteer hours. Everyone can earn CEUs watching the webinars. The webinars from Elmore County Extension are taped so you can catch up if you have missed any of them.

I will see you June 16 for our next Zoom meeting. Be safe and stay healthy.

*Sandy*



CAMGA Garden Buzzzz  
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## Message from Mallory

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

### Tips to Keep your Tomato Plants Healthy

The tomato is by far the most popular plant in the vegetable garden, but it can also be the most problematic. There are so many things to watch for when growing tomatoes to insure you have a healthy crop. I hope these tips below will help keep your plants healthy the further we go into summer.

Start with drip irrigation or hand watering only at the surface of the soil to avoid splashing. Then prune all lower limbs off the tomatoes that are touching the soil and apply mulch. Mulching your tomatoes keeps the plants moisture level consistent and will help prevent blossom end rot. Mulching helps control weeds where insects like to overwinter and eliminates there competition for the fertilizer you have applied. Mulch also creates a barrier between the plant leaves and the soil to help control many of the fungal problems that come from the surface of the ground.

Remove yellow and brown spotted leaves as soon as they appear and if not already, start a fungicide application to prevent "Early Blight." No tomato grower can avoid this problem so apply the PREVENTATIVE fungicide before the tomatoes get the fungus. Products with the active ingredients: Chlorothalonil, mancozeb or copper will control Early Blight.

Scout daily for insects. Go out and inspect for armyworms, fruit worms, hornworms along with stinkbugs. (The main insect problems on tomatoes). Products that contain *Bacillus thuringensis* (Bt) will work when the WORMS are young or use products containing carbaryl if the worms are larger. Another insecticide that will control stinkbugs and some of the other pests you may find is bifenthrin. Don't wait until your plant has no more leave before you start your search for the hornworm. Scout today cause the plant may not be there tomorrow!!!!

Weather challenges, garden insects, viral, fungal and bacterial problems, and disorders are all challenges we face with growing our own backyard tomatoes. Like I said, they are the most popular vegetable/fruit to grow, but also the most problematic. If you have more questions on what may be affecting your tomato plants and what you can do to stop it.

**CAMGA Minutes**  
**May 19, 2020**  
**By: Candy Jones**  
**Past Master Gardener President**



**Zoom Meeting -- With 34 Participants**

Sandy Rosamond, President, opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m. commenting that she knows everyone has been busy in their gardens and was so glad to see everyone on Zoom, though it was not the same as being able to get together as a group.

Debbie Kelso, Treasurer, reported that April had been a very quiet month with no income received and the only expense was for mulch at \$22.36. Balance of the account as of April 30, \$5,394.61. Sandy remarked we had a great plant sale and it was nice being able to get together even wearing masks and watching our distances. Debbie Kelso reported that the plant sale had earned so far, \$1313.00 so far.

Terry Chambliss, Projects Committee Co-Chair, reported that the committee is hoping to be able to get together in the fall, doing our outside projects like the plant swap and make and take. Further down the road, it looked like we would be doing the Chamber Victorian Christmas and the tree again this year. Sandy would like to add to the ornaments we have by making new ornaments with cotton bolls. If anyone has a resource for cotton bolls, please let Terry know. We will also be making the sachets again this year and will be looking for donations of dried mints & rosemary. We may need to pick up supplies and make the bags at home.

Debbie Kelso said there had been a lot of interest in purchasing ornaments we made last year, and wondered if we would consider making and selling ornaments at the event this year. Sandy commented that there may be a way to get a small group together in a spread-out area, or to take samples home as a guide to make ornaments.

Jane Mobley reported that she had finished the landscape design plans for the front and side yards for First Presbyterian Church and was meeting with them later that afternoon to go over them.

Mallory Kelley, Regional Extension Agent, reported that the Extension Office doors will remain locked. ACES current policy is that the offices will remain locked and not more than ten (10) people will be allowed inside the building at one time, and no face-to-face meetings until June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

There is a welcome sign and a doorbell at the front door. Lunch and Learns are cancelled until at least July.



## **CAMGA Minutes Continued**

**By: Candy Jones**  
**Past Master Gardener President**

The Alabama Smart Yard webinars are going on every Wednesday at 1 p.m. and there are recordings on the Smart Yard Facebook page. The beekeeping webinars are still going on through the end of this month on Thursday nights, the garden chats are open to the public on Wednesdays at 3 p.m.

The Commercial team has a Facebook page, and there are virtual garden tours, and also check out the Grow More Give More program. It will be a beginning to end tutorial on everything gardening. Mallory gave a shout-out to the Lee and Amanda Borden, who will be the first master gardener volunteers to do a section on cover crops in the vegetable garden. She also gave a shout-out to Mary Ann Hatcher who has been handling, with Mallory, all of the Master Gardener Helpline calls for the entire state of Alabama.

The Farmer's Market in Millbrook is open on Tuesdays and Rick Ohlson is handing out Intern information, etc.

Lee Borden asked Mallory what type of questions are being fielded on the helpline. She stated that people are gardening at crazy rates, even individuals who have never grown anything in their lives. The head of greenhouse operations for Bonnie Plant Farm told Mallory that they are selling plants faster than they can grow them.

Gardening is at an all-time high, especially with newbies. The helpline is sending out links and information for people calling with questions. If you are growing extra produce at home and donating to neighbors, etc., the Extension is trying to come up with a system of measurement (i.e. a grocery bag of tomatoes) for master gardeners to report, as part of the Grow More Give More program.

Katrina Mitchell, Elmore County Extension Coordinator, reported that John Barnes donated vegetables from the bed he maintains at the Extension, to the food pantry. Please monitor the Elmore County Alabama Extension Facebook page. They are trying to keep a variety of articles on the page for everyone to like and share.

Sandy said we will have a Zoom meeting again in June. She would like to look at having a meeting outdoors at some point. If anyone has ideas, let Sandy know.

Mallory said that anyone can join the meetings, even without internet by using their cell phone and calling in. We will use the same links to connect for June's meeting. Anida will re-send the information. "Everyone, stay well." Meeting adjourned.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
***Candy Jones***  
***Past President, CAMGA***

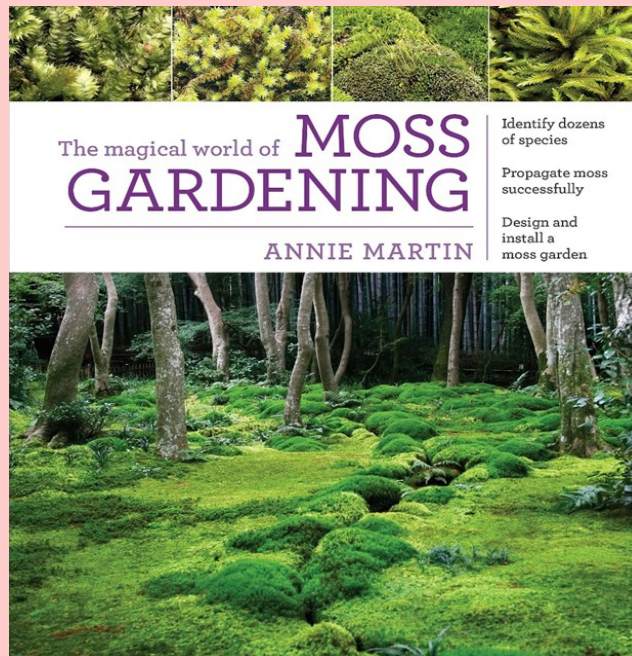


## CAMGA Library News June 2020 By: Dee Turberville

### **The Magical World of MOSS GARDENING, by Annie Martin**

Gardeners are often faced with locations where nothing seems to grow, especially in deep shade or in moist, boggy spots. Repeated efforts to plant grass or annuals can be frustrating and expensive. Dealing with root rot is no fun, and the moss creeps in. Rather than fighting to get rid of it, try to view the limitations with a fresh perspective. Why not embrace the moss? Moss is an extraordinary plant; it grows without roots, flowers, or stems. Moss provides year-round color, excels in difficult climates, prevents soil erosion, and resists pests, disease, and deer.

*The Magical World of MOSS GARDENING*, is a comprehensive examination of the subject and a valuable resource if you are interested in creating a moss garden. It is evident that the author has a love for mosses, but it can be a challenge to pick out the nuggets amidst the wealth of somewhat dry material within the book. Focus on the sections – Mosses for Gardeners (25 bryophytes to know and grow) and Concept to Garden Plan (designing with mosses). Great for all garden lovers, the book is more bible than guidebook.



Try placing these magical plants between rocks, along pathways, or even as a lawn for a velvet green backdrop. There is little guidance for transplanting from the local woods; the emphasis is upon mosses that come from garden centers. Ideal soil types to signs of moss stress are covered thoroughly and in depth. Even if you have little interest in creating your own moss garden, you will have a greater appreciation of the moss gardens covered (with lovely photographs) from Green Grandeur tours. Coming upon a pretty moss during a walk or hike can brighten an ordinary stroll. To continue your journey through the magical world of mosses, visit Annie Martin's business website, Mountain Moss Enterprises, at [mountainmoss.com](http://mountainmoss.com)





## Projects Committee Report By: Terry Chambliss

### Greetings from Projects!

Jane submitted the landscape plan for the front and sides of the Presbyterian Church in Wetumpka.

They will be planting in August and would like planting guidance from some of the members.

Please let us know if you would like to assist with that.  
The irrigation will be in place.

We will not be doing the project with the seniors this year.

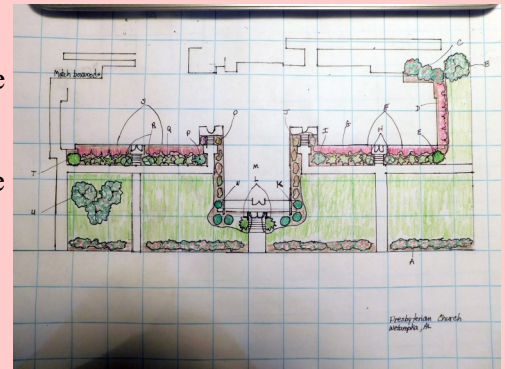
The make and take project has been scheduled for September 16 at 9:00 a.m. We will be making bird baths using leaves as the form. You will be able to take your creation home on September 18.

Some leaves to consider are elephant ears, kava kava and rhubarb. The class will be held outside and limited to 10 in order to maintain social distancing. If we have more interest, we can schedule two classes. The fee is \$10. Please let Terry know if you are interested in this class.

The plant swap among members has been scheduled for October 15 at 10:00 a.m. This also will be held outside.

We will be making herbal sachet bags for the Christmas activities in December. Please continue to dry herbs to cut down on the costs. Herbs to consider are lemon balm, lavender, rosemary, mints, etc. In addition Sandy would like to add some more ornaments to the Chamber tree. She needs cotton bolls and dried rose buds.

As a reminder, CAMGA will have its regular meeting by Zoom on June 16, at 10:00 a.m. Katrina or Mallory will send the invitation. We hope to see you then.



*Respectively submitted,  
Terry Chambliss*

# **June 2020 CAMGA Zoom Meeting**

## **June 16, 2020 — 10:00 a.m.**

Mallory Kelley is inviting you to a scheduled Auburn University Zoom e-meeting. If you're a new participant, we have a quick start guide here: <https://aub.ie/zoomquickstart>

Topic: Elmore (CAMGA) Master Gardener Association Meeting

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://auburn.zoom.us/j/6392310534>

Connect using Computer/Device audio if possible.

Or Telephone: Meeting ID: 639 231 0534

Dial: +1 312 626 6799 (US Toll)

or +1 646 876 9923 (US Toll)

Or an H.323/SIP room system:

H.323: 162.255.37.11 (US West) or 162.255.36.11 (US East)

Meeting ID: 639 231 0534

SIP: [6392310534@zoomcrc.com](mailto:6392310534@zoomcrc.com)

Mallory Kelley

Alabama Extension Regional Extension Agent — Horticulture





## ***2020 CAMGA Plant Sale***

