



GARDEN BUZZZZZZ



Volume 29 Issue 7 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

July 2020



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Message from:

Sandy Rosamond
CAMGA President



Hello Everyone,

I bet everyone's gardens are beautiful after your hard work and all this rain! I wish all of you would send a picture of your gardens with you working in it to Jane Mobley. We can document how we used our time during the pandemic.

In 2019, the AMGA Board voted "The Garden Buzz" as the Outstanding Newsletter of the Year. The award was introduced in 2011 to honor the association that was judged to have the best newsletter in the state.

The newsletters are evaluated on several criteria to include Public Relations stories, Calendar of Events., Photographs of Activities, Announcements, Imagination, Color and Art.

Thank all of you for contributing articles and photos that make it interesting. Thank you Carol for all your hard work putting our newsletter together. You make every page look fantastic.

What a team. Job Well Done. CONGRATULATIONS!!

***See you on Zoom,
Sandy***



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Message from Mallory

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

Avoiding Poisonous Plants

Beware of those poisonous vines while working in the yard this summer. Each year many Alabamians come in contact with poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac while in the outdoors, but it is not only summer when you have to be careful so always be on the lookout. Even in the winter when the vines look brown and dead they still contain oils that will cause allergic reactions. These plants can cause a great deal of discomfort, itching and pain from contact on the skin and even greater if the oils get in your lungs or eyes so never burn these vines as the oils can get in the air and be inhaled. All three of these poisonous plants are easily found throughout the Southeast, but they look very similar in appearance and are often confused with each other and other plants such as Virginia creeper, box elder or fragrant sumac, all of which are nonpoisonous.

Poison ivy is often found climbing high on trees, walls or fences or trailing on the ground. This woody vine has hairy looking aerial roots and can grow to more than 10 feet tall. All parts of the plant are poisonous and poison ivy always has three leaflets. Flowers and fruit form in clusters on slender stems attached to the leaf limbs. Poison ivy has toxic oil in the stems and leaves that many people are highly allergic to and develop a rash. The rash usually starts with itchiness and swelling, followed by a reddish inflammation of tiny pimples. The rash can vary in severity from person to person and can begin as early as an hour after contact or up to five days after contact. The oil can even be transmitted from a pet's fur or from smoke of burning poison ivy.

Poison oak is very similar to poison ivy, but it does not climb. Its leaves are thicker, are a dull green and are hairy on both sides of the leaves. Poison oak is found in dry, sunny sites in woodlands, thickets and old fields. Poison sumac is a shrub and can grow to 25 feet tall. Leaves are 7 to 15 inches long and have 7 to 15 leaflets to a central stem, with one leaflet at the end of the stem. It is found mostly in swamps or moist bottomlands.

Poison sumac also has ivory or white berries that form in clusters. Same as the poison ivy, never burn these plants and poison oak and poison sumac also have toxic oils that can cause an allergic rash on the skin. All of these irritating plants range in appearance as leaf shapes will vary even on the same plant and they will also vary in form from rough, woody vines to erect woody shrubs or trailing shrubs that run on the ground.

Never base your identification on one or two leaves, but look at the overall plant and many leaves and compare size and shapes to determine the plants identify and if ever in doubt, leave it alone. May and June are the best times to apply control measures to these poison plants, but it can be done any time of the year.

Spraying the foliage with products that are listed with the active ingredient: glyphosate (sold under trade names such as Roundup or Kleenup and others) is recommended. To kill poison ivy on trees, cut the vine right above the ground, then treat any leaves coming from the vine on the ground with Roundup. More than one application may be necessary, but eventually this herbicide will kill the roots and prevent sprouting. Always follow directions on the label when using this herbicide. Glyphosate will kill almost any plant when it comes in contact with the green plant tissue and does not remain active in the soil.

To prevent these plants from poisoning your summer, become familiar with how the plants look and avoid them. If you come in contact with one of the plants, wash your skin with strong soap and hot water immediately, and remove and wash all clothes, including shoes and socks in a strong detergent and warm or hot water. Also, keep your hands away from your eyes, mouth and face. If you develop a rash, don't scratch it. You can apply calamine lotion, zinc oxide ointment or a paste made with baking soda and water to the rash. If these measures don't work, call your doctor. Some people have severe allergic reactions to these plants and can have swelling in the throat, breathing problems, weakness, dizziness and bluish lips. Some people even fall into unconsciousness. If any of these reactions occur, seek emergency medical care.

SOURCE: Dr. John Everest, Extension Weed Scientist, Alabama Cooperative Extension System

CAMGA June 2020 Minutes

By: Deann Stone, Secretary



The meeting was called to order by Mallory Kelley at 10:00 AM. Mallory welcomed the 30+ ZOOM attendees, provided family, friend and past member updates and asked for continued prayers for all those in need and/or suffering unforeseen circumstances during this difficult time our world is experiencing. Jane Mobley asked at the beginning of the meeting if Mallory had any knowledge of what would happen with Pat Dye's Japanese Maple farm. Mallory had no update on the matter, but advised that she would let us know if she heard anything.

Mallory provided the following updates:

Grow More/Give More program. Please use the QR code to access the site to record what you have grown and are giving away.

The Fall Seminar is still planned for September 17, 2020

The Elmore County Extension Office has extended the limitation of face-to-face meetings not exceeding 10 people to August 8, 2020. Extension employees have returned to work, in a limited capacity. Please call before you go the Extension Office to make sure someone is there.

Secretary's Report: Candy Jones took the minutes for the May ZOOM meeting, which were posted in the monthly newsletter. The minutes were accepted as presented by email in the newsletter. Deann Stone thanked Candy for assuming this task in her absence.

Treasurer's Report: Deborah Kelso presented the Treasurer's Report for May 2020. The beginning balance was \$5,400.02. Total income for the month was \$1,726.00. Expenditures for May were \$5.41, leaving an ending balance of \$7,086.61. There were no questions and the report will be filed for audit.

Projects Reports:

Jane Mobley provided the following updates:

September 19, 2020 – Bird Bath Make and Take at 9 AM. The cost is \$10. Please notify Terri Chambliss if you are interested in participating. The group is limited to 10 and 6 people are registered to attend as of 6/16/2020.

October 15, 2020 – Plant Swap will be held in the Extension Arena/Barn area. There may be a talk on propagation. Plans are still being finalized.

Governor's Mansion – Amanda Borden reported that the group began working at the Governor's Mansion again on June 15. They begin at 8 AM. There are some new security measures in wake of COVID-19. Please contact Jane McCarthy, macandjane@att.net for details if you would like to participate.

Learning Gardens – Debra Kelso shared that people have been working at individual times in the Learning Gardens. She shared that the following items have been planted and are growing in the garden: French pumpkins, bush beans, black berries, evening primrose, plantains, mother's wort and st. john's wort, as well as chamomile.

Millbrook Farmer's Market – Cindy Augustine provided a "live" update from the Farmer's Market. They are making new contacts and recruiting potential new members. Please go when/if you have the opportunity.

MG Helpline – Thank you, Mary Ann Hatcher, for all you are doing with the Helpline! Mallory reported that Mary Ann is receiving 10 or more calls a day!



CAMGA June 2020 Minutes (Continued) By: Deann Stone, Secretary

Intern Update – Robin reminded the group that our 22 interns are continuing to work to earn hours. She recommended that time be extended beyond August to allow ample time for all interns to earn their hours, and with the hope that we will be able to gather again and work collaboratively on projects. It is doubtful that a graduation will be held in August, as we have done in the past. However, as interns complete their hours, they will be awarded their certificate and receive their badge and a formal graduation will take place on a date in the future when we can be together. The four members from Autauga have completed their hours and will be receiving their badges and certificates on July 9 at 6 pm in Prattville. Several of the Elmore County interns have completed their hours as well. Plans will be made to get with them to provide their certificates and badges in the near future. Mallory stated that there is no “hard deadline” for completing hours. Keep working, Interns! The Helpline is no longer a requirement for completing hours.

Jane Mobley, CAMGA Historian, asked that members continue to send pictures to her so that activities can be placed in our book.

Plant Sale: Robin Snyder shared that the proceeds from the 2019 plant sale were \$1,200. Proceeds for 2020 were \$1,726. She thanked members for the support!

Robin Award - The Robin Award is an award for hours a member accurately documents for the work they performed during a given month. The award is given in arrears. Leigh Ann looks at the website on the last day of each month to determine the award winner for the coming month. Please record your hours monthly!

Mallory asked for recommendations for future awards. Robin Snyder recommended that since minimal hours were being earned/recorded during this time of social distancing that Mallory use the knowledge she has about works members are doing and make the recommendation for the award. Mallory agreed, however, still requested that if any members had recommendations to please email them to her for consideration.

Smart Yard and Garden Chat – Mallory shared that these recorded programs are taking the place of the face-to-face Lunch and Learn programs. The sessions can be accessed via the website. Lunch and Learns are cancelled until further notice.

Lanark Work Days – Maria Pacheco welcomes anyone that is available to work at Lanark. Debra Kelso and Dee Turberville have been volunteering. She is limited to 2 volunteers at a time and is taking volunteers any day she can get them! Please contact Maria if you are interested in working at Lanark!

The next ZOOM meeting will be **July 21 at 10 AM**. Our first face-to-face meeting is tentatively planned for August 18 at the Lanark Pavilion or Amphitheatre. Members will bring their own snack and drink. Those that are not ready to attend a face-to-face meeting may still join via ZOOM. Lynda Edwards asked when we would need to schedule our next speaker. Mallory stated, “Not anytime in the foreseeable future.”

The meeting concluded at 10:45 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Deann K. Stone, Secretary



Governor's Mansion Report

June 2020

By: Amanda Borden



After a long hiatus due to the CO-19 virus, we finally made it back into the gardens at the Governor's Mansion on June 15. We wore masks and practiced social distancing. Over the course of three consecutive Mondays, we weeded the Herb Garden, removed and recycled the daylilies in the shaded bed near the gate, weeded and then trimmed the forsythia, wax myrtles, tea olives, camellias, daylilies, and roses around the pool and guest house. Those interested in volunteering at the Governor's Mansion should contact Jane McCarthy at macandjane@att.net.





Governor's Mansion Report

June 2020

By: Amanda Borden



Sometimes we discover some interesting creatures in the Governor's Mansion gardens!



CAMGA Library News

July 2020

By: Dee Turberville

Deer-Resistant Design

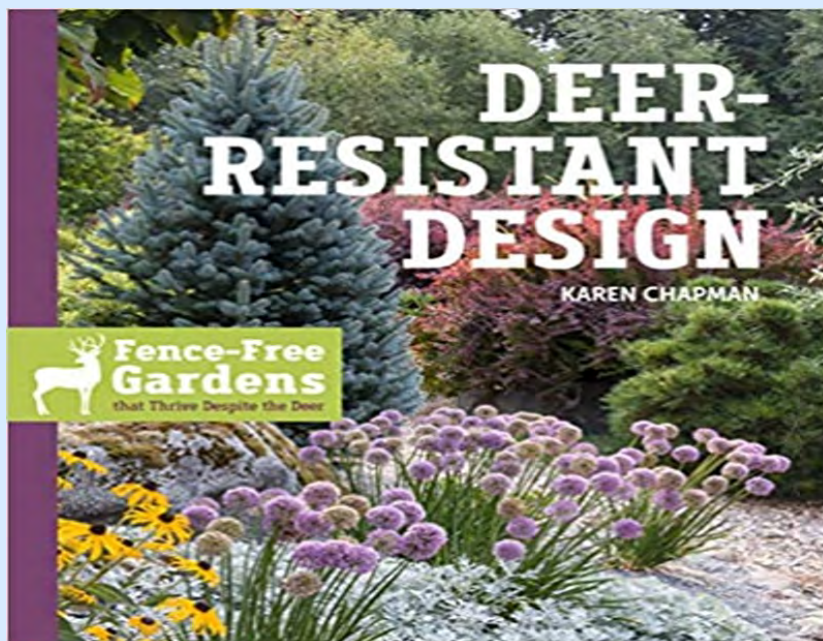
By: Karen Chapman

Deer are often one of the most common problems gardeners can face. These graceful creatures can devour hundreds of dollars' worth of plants. Most common solutions include the use of unattractive fencing and chemicals. In *Deer-Resistant Design; Fence-Free Gardens that Thrive Despite the Deer*, Karen Chapman offers another option – design choices that result in beautiful gardens that coexist with wildlife.

Deer-Resistant Design showcases home gardens across North America--from a country garden in New Jersey to a hilltop hacienda in Texas--that have successfully managed the presence of deer. Each homeowner shares their top ten deer-resistant plants, which I found helpful. While many of the gardens covered in this book are not in our growing zone, you can still gather a list of plants to try in your garden.

A chapter on deer-resistant container gardens provides suggestions for making colorful and imaginative containers. Illustrated with lovely photos, Karen Chapman shares practical advice and fundamental information to help you counter these beautiful but pesky deer! The book is like a garden tour of homes with stunning landscaping to inspire your design creativity.

“Fear deer no more! The best source I’ve seen on the topic!” – Tracy DiSabato-Aust, award-winning garden designer and best-selling author





Projects Committee Report

By: Terry Chambliss

July 2020

Hello to all!

Hope this finds everyone well and still enjoying your yards.

We want to remind you about the make and take project. It has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, from 9 --12:00 noon. We will be making bird baths using leaves as forms. The light weight bird baths made with vinyl patch will dry to a light grey color. You will need to provide your own base. Jane said Shaw's Garden Center on Hwy 231 sells some or you can make you own. Leaves to consider are elephant ears, kava kava, and rhubarb. If you don't have a leaf, let us know and one will be provided. They must be picked up on Friday, September 18, as there is a 4-H event in the barn on Saturday. There are two slots left. If interested, let Terry know.

Our annual plant swap will be on Thursday, October 15 at 10:00 a.m. It will probably be held outside with no presentation. You do not need a plant to swap, however you won't be in the first round of picks.

Please continue to dry aromatic herbs like rosemary, mint, lavender, lemon balm, etc. for the sachet bags. Many herbs can be harvested several times throughout the season.

Terry Chambliss
chamblissterry67@gmail.com





June Learning Garden

By: Mary McCroan

There are always lessons we are learning in the Learning Garden and here are a few for June.

First--Below are two pictures of the Swiss Chard/Asparagus Bed. The first is from last April where the perennial asparagus is just starting to grow and the annual (maybe perennial?) Swiss Chard has been already going gang busters for a couple of months. The new growth of the asparagus is harvested for about eight weeks, then allowed to grow and fern-out for the rest of the summer. The second picture is from today (late June) with the asparagus fully grown and sheltering the Swiss Chard from the hot summer sun. So the experiment, continuing since Spring 2019 is to see if the Swiss Chard, with protection from the Alabama summer sun, can be grown perennially, in the asparagus bed, without harming the long term health of the asparagus. Note, that conventional wisdom is that asparagus does not like competition in its root zone. We will see--so far, so good. The Swiss Chard is still tasty, but pretty quick will get tough and not worth eating until next fall or early Spring. By then I will have trimmed back the old growth and the new shoots will be again ready for the pot.

Second --in my last article I mentioned the sweet potatoes we grew in 2019. My portion of the harvest over wintered in my unheated garage. The last of the sweet potatoes is still tasty. If you are thinking about what to grow when times are weird and the food supply might be uncertain--well there you go. The potatoes I have left are sprouting. I just cut off the sprouts, plant them for next year's crop, and eat the rest of the tater!



June Learning Gardens (Continued)

By: Mary McCroan



Third -- we continue strive for an easy care landscape. Do you want some plants that love you even if you pay no attention, don't water them, don't fertilize them ... in short, thrive on neglect? Go no further than these beauties: The plant on the left is Scullcap, a low growing herb that loves the hot sun. We aren't sure of the variety, except that it is NOT the one that has been studied for medicinal use. That one has blue flowers. Our plant may be Pink Scullcap (*Scutellaria suffrutescens*). The middle plant is of course Amaryllis. Officially they bloom from late December until June. However, this picture was taken last Friday, and it looks like it will still be blooming in July. And I have pictures of it blooming as early as October. We never water it and it loves us anyway. Maybe the crew will get around to dividing it this year and we can share it with the rest of you! The picture on the right is the Coral Honeysuckle. Another plant in our landscape that gets no attention, water or fertilizer except what mother-nature provides. It is an Alabama native and a wonderful addition to any landscape. We do periodically snip vines to make babies, but it grows prolifically so feel free to go snip some of your own. I was more successful putting the snipped ends directly into a pot with damp soil than I was rooting it in water.



Special mention to the butterfly garden designed by Jane Mobley.

Jane continues to add plants to this garden at her own expense. Do you supposed she is smart enough to have envisioned this composition when she planted the Daylily, Salvia, and Black-eyed Susans?

Yep, I think she probably is. What a great combination!





June Learning Gardens (Continued)

By: Mary McCroan

Last lesson for the month involves our continuing use of landscape fabric in the gardens to reduce wear and tear on the gardeners. Unfortunately the landscape fabric had sustained a lot of wear and tear since it was installed about seven years ago. I think the lesson learned here is that twisting wheelbarrow wheels on top of the of the fabric--especially when the barrow is heavily loaded with dirt--should be avoided. Anyway, we got together a crew last Friday--starting at 6am to avoid some of the heat, narrowly avoided disaster when we discovered a nest of yellow jackets inside the roll of landscape fabric (notice the hole in the fabric they created), and installed a new layer fabric. Somehow the crew managed to actually tuck the fabric under the existing beds which will substantially reduce future weeding where somehow those seeds can find any little crevice.

The final result was the new fabric is straight, wrinkle free and tucked around the existing beds as close to perfection as anybody can wish for. I was not there in the early stages, so I can happily brag on the rest of the crew without any worry y'all might think I was tooting my own horn. The gardens now look MUCH better and a potential tripping hazard has been resolved. Thanks to Laurie Weldon (in particular because it was her warning that kept Mary from a visit to the ER with what could have been dozens of stings), Katrina Mitchell, (who got us organized to get it done), Bill Quails, Candy Jones, Terry Chambliss, Deborah Kelso, Virginia Pruitt, Amanda Borden, and Mary McCroan. It was super great to actually see another gardener!



CAMGA Zoom Meeting

July 21st — 10 a.m.



REMINDER: CAMGA ZOOM MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 — 10:00 AM

CAMGA ZOOM MEETING INSTRUCTIONS:

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: Central Alabama Master Gardener Association Meeting
Educational Speaker: Bionca Lindsey on "Happy Hostas"

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

Mallory Kelley
Alabama Extension
Regional Extension Agent, Horticulture

Deepest Sympathy

We extend deepest sympathy to Master Gardener, Debbie Hough for the recent loss of her husband, Mike. Our thoughts and prayers are with Debbie and her family.