



GARDEN BUZZZZZZ



Volume 29 Issue 8 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

August 2020



Message from:

Sandy Rosamond
CAMGA President



Hello Everyone

I sure do miss all you! It has been a crazy 2020 with so many unknowns.

We are finishing the year with some fun activities and getting to see each other "at a safe distance". Check your calendars for the dates.

Congratulations to our Interns that have completed the course. The rest of you have until October to complete your hours. Please let me know if you are having trouble finding a place to volunteer.

We are planning to recognize all of you on October 19 at our monthly meeting. That meeting will be at Lanark. I hope all of you will come.

Don't forget the plant swap! It is time to start getting your plants ready to swap. This reminder is for you and me since I put off and put off until I run out of time to split my plants. But not this year. Terry and Jane will be giving you more information.

Don't forget our Zoom meeting August 17. The Board Meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. followed by the monthly meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Gary Gray, Regional Extension Agent will present a program on "Edible Landscape" at our meeting.

Hope to see you then!!

Let's Zoom,
Sandy

Table of Contents:

Message from Sandy.....	1
Message from Mallory.....	2
CAMGA Library News.....	3
CAMGA Minutes	4-5
Mansion Report	6-7
Projects Minutes.....	8
Learning Garden.....	9
Upcoming Virtual Programs.....	10-11



CAMGA Garden Buzzzz
Carol Pugh — Editor



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

Planting a Fall Vegetable Garden

If your summer vegetable garden has been a bust, you're not alone. The frequent afternoon thunderstorms seemed to be a thing of the past, that is until this summer. It has been years since I remember the hot humid afternoon rain showers of summer messing up a late afternoon trip to the pool. And while the rain is a welcomed site, we all know late in the afternoon is worst for plants and at times the rain has been more than what we needed causing more problems in the summer vegetable garden. If your tomatoes, peppers, beans and squash didn't survive, don't give up, you must try again and why not with a fall garden? If these afternoon showers keep up, the rain will be great for starting that fall garden from seed, which now is the time for that or putting in those transplants come September.

Fall vegetables are really my favorite to grow and I have just about decided I will leave the peppers and tomatoes to pickup at the local farmers market and avoid the summer heat, afternoon rain showers and weeding all together. We are blessed by our warm Alabama climate that we can grow vegetables year round.

Many cool-season vegetables, such as carrots, broc-coli, cauliflower, collards, lettuce 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 in August and September is usually hot and dry. If you choose to plant your fall veggies from seed during these months you must be careful to keep the soil moist. Incorporating organic matter into the soil will help add nutrients and increase water holding capacity. 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 protected or 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 you're wanting to continue your progress of home vegetables into this fall and winter, it's not too late. There is still plenty of time to prepare to plant. Especially the HARDY vegetables that can withstand a light frost such as: Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Collards, Kale, Kohlrabi, Onions, Radishes, Spinach and Turnips.



CAMGA Library News

By: Dee Turberville

Mister Owita's Guide to Gardening By Carol Wall

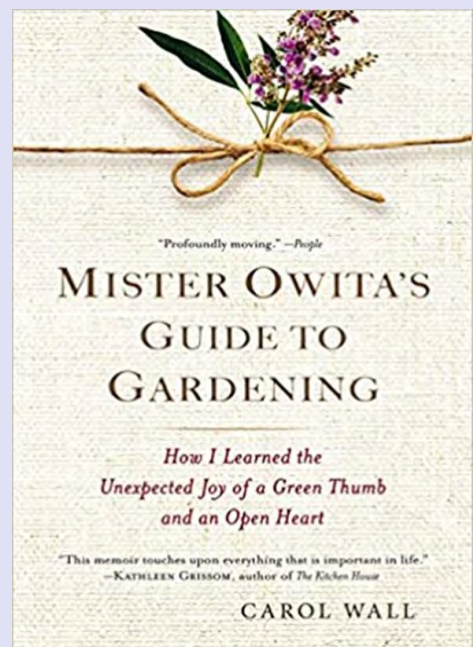
Truthfully, this is more than a garden book. It is both a heartwarming and heartbreaking memoir of Carol Wall's battle with cancer. It is about a surprising friendship that blooms between Carol Wall, a cancer survivor, and her neighbor's gardener, an African man from Kenya, who also works in a garden shop and bags groceries in their white suburban community.

Carol envies her neighbor, a master gardener and owner of the garden shop where Giles Owita works. She has neglected her yard over the years and wants the overgrown azaleas gone! Curious about this mysterious man, she hires Mr. Owita and before long, he not only transforms Carol's yard but her life with his philosophic ways.

Carol never does convince Giles to rip out those azaleas. After an embarrassing incident of reading him a book on how to prune trees (while he was in the tree, which reminded me of my self), she discovers that he had been a university professor and horticulturist in Africa.

Giles is one of those people we aspire to be – humble, kind, gentle, graceful and compassionate. Although they approach life's challenges differently, Carol and Mister Owita both have long buried secrets with which they struggle. Once those secret issues are revealed, their bond of friendship is cemented forever. This is a bitter-sweet book and an unforgettable read.

"No green thumb is required to enjoy the warmhearted pleasures of Carol Wall's moving memoir, Mister Owita's Guide to Gardening...magnetically compelling...Grace and gardening go hand-in-glove in this fine book about what really matters in life: friendship, kindness and watching a garden grow." USA Today





CAMGA Minutes

July 2020

By: Candy Jones
Past CAMGA Master Gardener President

July Zoom Meeting With 37 Participants

Mallory Kelley introduced speaker, Bionca Lindsey, Autauga County Master Gardener who is presenting "Happy Hostas" to our Association. Bionca is currently working on her Advanced Master Gardener Certification on Growing Hostas and was awarded the 2019 Intern of the Year Award.

Bionca would like everyone to consider growing Hostas in their gardens. She covered information on the history of, division, problems, why they need sleep, benefits of the blooms, how to grow and identify Hostas, of which there are over 9000 varieties.

Sandy Rosamond, President, opened the Zoom business meeting at 10:35am and thanked Bionca for her fabulous presentation on Hostas. Sandy asked if everyone accepted the Minutes posted in the Garden Buzz for the June meeting. Minutes accepted. Candy Jones was asked to take July minutes.

Sandy Rosamond reported for Debbie Kelso Treasurer, that CAMGA had a balance of \$7,019.76 as of June 30.

Terry Chambliss, Projects Committee Co-Chair, reported there were no changes from last meeting. She did ask Katrina Mitchell how many people we can have attend an outside project. Katrina responded that as long as we "social distance", it is ok to have more than ten (10). Let Terry know if you are interested in the birdbath project. Class size is limited to fifteen (15). The class is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16th at 9:00am. Jane Mobley, Projects Committee Co-Chair, commented that you will need to bring your base with you to make the birdbath the correct size. Your project will be left at the Extension barn for 48 hours to cure, then it will need to be picked up on Friday, September 18th. The fall plant swap will be held outside at the Extension on Thursday, October 15th at 10:00 a.m. You do not have to bring a plant to participate.

The Chamber is continuing planning for Christmas and we will once again participate in decorating the tree for them. Also continue to dry herbs for the sachet bags. Sandy Rosamond read a thank you note from First Presbyterian Church for Jane Mobley's work on designing the landscape for their new building. Jane reported that she had spoke with a representative at the Church and the construction crew is going to prepare the ground, etc. We do not know how much they will call on CAMGA to help with the plantings. With the current heat, Jane has recommended the ground be prepared with soil, amendments, irrigation and mulch, then wait until fall to plant.

CAMGA Minutes Continued
July 2020
By: Candy Jones
Past CAMGA Master Gardener President



Sandy mentioned that graduation for the interns would be at Lanark when we have our meeting there in October. Some of the interns will have already obtained their certifications and as many members as possible should attend this meeting to congratulate and celebrate their accomplishment with them.

Katrina Mitchell reported the annual Extension Advisory meetings will be on Zoom, Friday, July 24th. Let Katrina know if you are interested in attending any of the programs and a link will be sent to you. The Agriculture portion is on Friday morning at 8:30am.

Sandy discussed issues some members have been having with receiving their notices from Go-Daddy. The emails going to some individuals with Gmail, received them under promotions, rather than in their primary email. Anida W. is looking into a solution for this.

Sandy commented that we would be figuring out how to work on decorations for the Chamber Christmas tree, since we will not be able to gather in the auditorium. We will also be using decorations from last year.

Sandy said that she hopes we will be able to continue having Zoom presentations like we had today.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Candy Jones
Past President, CAMGA



Governor's Mansion Report

July 2020

By: Amanda Borden



During July we renewal pruned 30 feet of Lady Bank's rose, planted and pine-strawed the front gate bed with verbena and portulaca, cleaned out the Greenhouse (power-washed it and organized pots), and weeded the overgrown and very weedy Herb Garden.

Having been out of the garden for 3 1/2 months due to the shutdown, we have been vigorously weeding and trimming ever since.

Volunteer hours at the Governor's Mansion now totals 4931 hours of pure work; this does not include driving time. We have been asked to decorate the sunroom in the Mansion for Christmas and are looking forward to it.



Governor's Mansion Report (Continued)

July 2020

By: Amanda Borden





Projects Committee Minutes

By: Terry Chambliss

Hope all of you are surviving the heat---just a month or so to go before the weather breaks and we can all spend more time in the gardens.

As a reminder, the Make and Take class will be Wednesday, September 16, from 9-12:00, with pickup on the 18th. You will need to bring your own base to insure the finished product will fit and be stable. The class is now full.

The Plant Swap will be on Thursday, October 15 at 10:00. This will be outside also. We will have more guidelines closer to that time.

In an inspirational moment, Sandy has arranged for us to have a table with the Market Shops in Wetumpka that are on August 6, September 3 and October 1. They set up along the River Walk behind the old Fain Theater. Right now, the time is from 5:30-8:00 p.m.

The table set up will be similar to the one we do at Lanark. Sandy did purchase an 8' lightweight table for our use for events like this. Besides sharing information about our program, we will also sell a few ornaments. We will need three volunteers to man the table on September 3 and October 1. Please email Terry if you would like to participate.

We have been requested to help decorate the alley in downtown Wetumpka at Christmas as well as the tree in the Chamber lobby. Please collect natural materials to make ornaments like pretty sticks, lichens, Spanish moss, dried flowers, extra small pine cones, cotton bolls, small acorns and anything dried that looks interesting. An ornament making session will be planned later. Please continue to dry aromatic herbs for the sachet bags.

Respectively submitted,

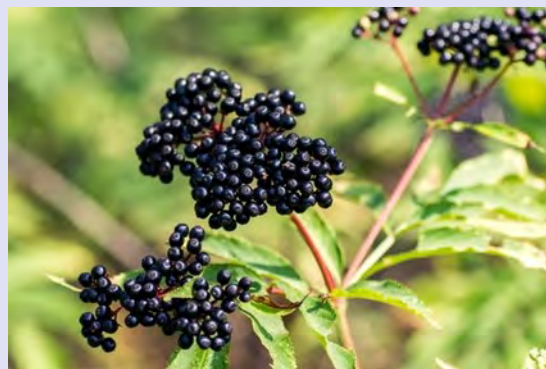
Terry Chambliss
chamblissterry67@gmail.com



Learning Garden July Report By: Mary McCroan

One of the things we are learning about in the Learning Garden is about growing Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *canadensis*).

You may have read about taking Elderberry Syrup as medicine, but as Master Gardeners we are not supposed to talk about the medicinal properties of plants. However, like all berries (blueberry, blackberry, strawberry, etc.) elderberries are good for you. They are chockfull of antioxidants and make a great jelly or syrup. So they are very worth growing or wild-harvesting. In addition, they are great pollinators and food for the birds.



One key caveat: ELDERBERRIES (LEAVES, STEMS AND SEEDS) CONTAIN CYANOGENIC GLYCOSIDES WHICH ARE TOXIC.

You gotta know that anything that starts out with “cyano” may not be a good thing to ingest. The good news is that these compounds are rendered harmless through heat. So, you have to cook the elderberries! I’m not going to tell you how long because if you are going to prepare elderberry syrup, you should be doing some research and be personally knowledgeable and accountable.

Anyway, back to horticultural considerations for growing your own:

First, they grow in our local fields in full sun or at the edge of the woods. They are relatively easy to find in the spring when they are in flower. You will see them as you drive almost anywhere in the local area. Since we only have one elderberry plant at the Extension office large enough to produce elderberries, I thought I’d make a few notes on where I could wild source some elderberry berries. My first location got wiped out when Alabama Power decided this was the year to bush hog under the electrical wires. My second spot had a tree fall on part of it, and the rest of it was too hard to get to because of the grasses and briars were over waist high and even in my snake boots I felt pretty nervous. One more special note: You don’t want to wild source elderberries, or anything else, if it is where our local road maintenance crews spray defoliant, or anywhere near railroad tracks for the same reason.

So back to growing your own:

The one at the left side of the Extension Building is a volunteer that for some reason decided that was the perfect place to grow. We have not fertilized it, or irrigated it, and it produced lots of flowers and fruit this year. Last year we pruned it to keep most of the fruit within picking distance, and we plan to do that again this year. It is growing in full sun--you also see them in the wild at the edge of the woods, but they still generally get enough sun to be considered full sun.

This year, Terry planted two baby elderberries in the rain garden. She did some research and determined that they are tolerant of wet feet as well as dry conditions. We are irrigating the babies for the first year, but they should be very independent in the future. So you can plant them where it is wet or dry with lots of sun. Here is a good article from the Alabama Sustainable Agricultural Network (ASAN):

http://asanonline.org/docs/2014_fall_web.pdf

HORTICULTURE & HOME GROUNDS

Get Outside with Alabama Smart Yards
Weekly, Wednesday @1:00 pm
30 minutes

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





**Alabama
Garden
Chat**


EVERY WEDNESDAY IN
AUGUST | 3 PM

<https://auburn.zoom.us/j/531241108>



Fact or Fiction?

The truth behind GMO'S and other myths




GMO, Genetically Engineered, Bio Technology—
What Does it All Mean?

Come join Alabama Extension professionals and specialists from Auburn University and Alabama A&M University as we uncover the truth with non-biased & research based information.

Tuesday, August 25th at 5:30 p.m.
Location: virtual Zoom meeting

Please pre-register online –
https://auburn.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIsfu2oqDkvG9c_ctHlbQyF_yM2rEoal2SW

<p>“What is in the Meat We Eat?”</p> <p>Rickey Hudson Regional Extension Agent, Animal Sciences & Forages</p>	<p>“Urban Legends - Plant GMO Mysteries & Myths”</p> <p>Rudy Pacumbaba, PhD Extension Specialist, Alabama A&M University</p>
---	--



For more information or to register, contact the Wiregrass Research & Extension Center to register at (334) 693-2010.

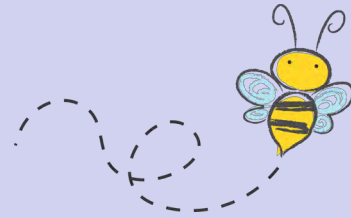
The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator and employer. Everyone is welcome!

CAMGA ZOOM MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Tuesday, August 18, 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: Gary Gray, Commercial Extension Agent, ACES on "Edible Landscaping"

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

