



# GARDEN BUZZZZZ



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## Message from:

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



Hello,

Is fall just around the corner? People keep telling me they can feel it. Gosh, I hope they are correct. After my luck with tomatoes this year, I will be happy to grow fall veggies.

A few of us have been setting up a table at the Merchants Market the first Thursday of each month. We have been talking to the community to see the interest in a Community Garden. We found lots of interest and lots of support. We have fall garden education sheets to give them and we will be talking to them about fall gardening and gardening in containers. We answered their questions about gardening and invite them to become a Master Gardener. We had a lady join the intern class in August. Not bad. I was surprised at how many people told me they had just heard about Lunch and Learn when Covid shut it down. They enjoyed the education! I was glad to hear that because when I went business to business talking to owners about Master Gardeners many of them had never heard of Lunch and Learn. Thanks to all of you, MGs are making a difference in our community.

Don't forget to look at the projects schedule to see what is scheduled for the following months.

We are looking for ways to have an all together meeting that is safe. Please share with us if you have a suggestion. Our October 20th meeting will be at Lanark and will be outside, Wear mask and keep your distance! At this meeting we will celebrate the interns' graduation and we have some other important business on the agenda.

Please remember we will have our Zoom meeting September 15. The board meeting will be at 9 a.m. followed by the monthly meeting at 10. I hope to see all of you.

***Stay safe and healthy!***  
***Sandy***

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**CAMGA Garden Buzzzz**  
**Carol Pugh — Editor**



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

**Controlling Fire Ants in the Fall**

The temperatures are finally falling and with all the recent rainfall, the leaves are quickly falling too. After the hot and humid summer, everyone is anxious to get outside and enjoy the fall foliage, football and maybe even a bonfire. However, if you're not careful you may encounter fire ants. Is now a good time to treat for these awful pests?

Now is the perfect time to rid your lawn or landscape of these unwelcome invaders! "Fall temperatures are perfect for fire ant activity and foraging, making it an opportune time to put out fire ant bait," says Dr. Fudd Graham, Entomologist and Fire Ant Specialist for Alabama Cooperative Extension.

While the warm weather is rolling out and cooler air moves in, fire ants are still actively foraging. Fire ants look for protein-rich foods all year, but especially in the late spring and early fall. Foragers will continue searching for food until temperatures drop below 75 degrees Fahrenheit. **(Is that day time temps or night?)** Using fire ant baits on a sunny day after the dew on the ground has dried can provide specific and continued control of fire ants in a cost-effective way.

Not only are fire ants a nuisance outdoors, but they can wreak havoc indoors, as well. Fire ants will be looking for a warm place to overwinter and begin searching for warm places to spend the cold months. Often, this means mounds inside the house or built against the foundation.

Treating all areas in the landscape surrounding the home should eliminate a home invasion. Be sure to inspect your pile of leaves or compost area, stacked firewood, raised garden beds and potted plants as they all make great hiding places.

Graham says it is important to check for fire ants before playing, working or carrying wood inside and remain proactive. This is a great time to consider a slow-acting bait for continued control going into the cold season. Treat the areas before piling up leaves to play in or for compost, treat your preferred firewood location and treat around the perimeter of your garden, but only specific products can be applied in a vegetable garden no matter what time of year it is.

For increased success, controlling fire ants should definitely be a team effort. Working with neighbors or surrounding landowners can greatly boost your success. Fire ant control is more effective when larger areas are treated. When an 80-90% control rate is acceptable, consider participating in a community or neighborhood-wide treatment program. If the problem is widespread, a large treatment plan could be more effective than treating in small areas. Graham said Extension professionals have developed a community-wide management program that is available for use and implementation.

For more information on controlling fire ants, please visit [http://www.extension.org/fire\\_ants](http://www.extension.org/fire_ants).



## CAMGA Library News

### By: Dee Turberville

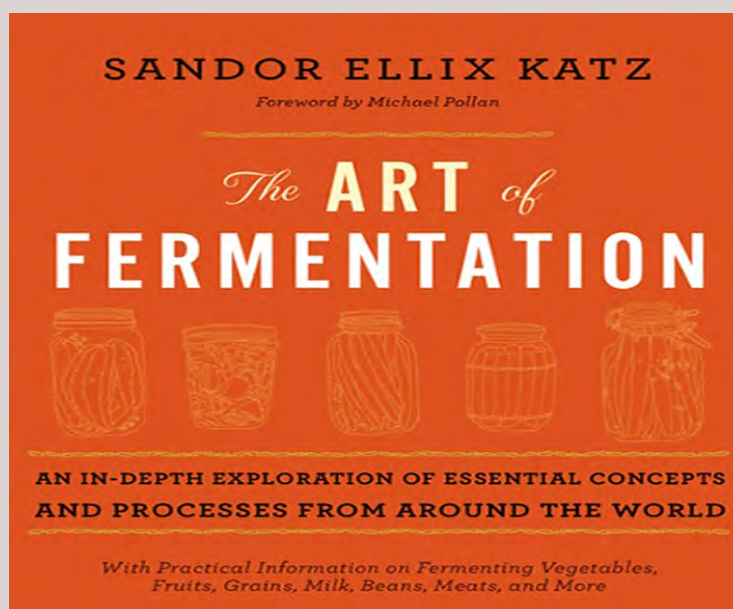
### The Art of Fermentation

By: Sandor Ellix Katz

Michael Pollan states, in the Forward of this book, “Sandor Katz has awakened more people to the diversity and deliciousness of fermented foods than any other single person has over the last century. Once you look at the world through the fresh eyes of such a genius, there is no going back to the tasteless world you had previously occupied. The Art of Fermentation is a wonder – so rich in its knowledge and so practical in its application. This book will be a classic for the next millennium.”

The Art of Fermentation is not a cookbook per se, although an experienced cook could develop recipes from it. A comprehensive reference guide, the book covers all wild fermented foods, from sauerkraut to miso, yogurt to sourdough, plus, all kinds of alcoholic beverages. It captures the essence of fermentation with scientific, historical, and practical information. Katz’ reasoning – not all bacteria are bad; they are nutrient rich for our digestive system, easily absorbed and beneficial for our consumption.

Sandor Katz is an engaging and passionate writer who shares some amusing tales from his life within a hippy-like community in the hills of Tennessee. He presents the scientific concepts behind fermentation in ways that are simple enough to guide a reader through their first experience making sauerkraut and in-depth enough to provide greater understanding and insight into the process for experienced practitioners. The fermentation process is fascinating!





## **CAMGA Minutes**

### **August 2020**

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

#### **CAMGA Minutes 08/18/2020** **Zoom Meeting w/31 Participants**

Sandy opened the Zoom meeting with discussion on CAMGA having an information table at the Wetumpka Merchant Market on the first Thursday in September and October and about having ornaments to sell at the October Market as a fundraiser. Rhonda Miles, Jane Mobley, Sandy Rosamond and Lynda Edwards volunteered for the Merchant's Market table on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, with Deborah Kelso, Candy Jones and Sandy Rosamond volunteering for October 1<sup>st</sup>. Sandy briefly discussed progress on the Community Gardens.

Mallory Kelley, introduced speaker, Gary Gray, ACES Regional Extension Agent, Commercial Horticulture, who presented on "Edible Landscaping".

Sandy Rosamond, President, thanked Gary Gray for his wonderful presentation. Sandy asked if everyone accepted the Minutes posted in the Garden Buzz for the July meeting. Minutes were approved.

Deborah Kelso, Treasurer, reported that CAMGA has a balance of \$6,671.73 as of July 30<sup>th</sup>.

Dee Turberville, Library Chair, reported that CAMGA has a book in the library called, "*Start a Community Garden; the Essential Handbook by La Manda Joy*", which may be helpful to Terry Chambliss and others in planning the Community Garden in Wetumpka.

Lee Ann Marona, Intern Class Co-Chair, recognized MG Interns, Cindy Augustine, Sandra Bowen, Jane Duke, Donna Ingalls, Marilyn Knapp, J. Daniel McGuire and Hugh Wicks, as those who currently will be graduating in October. Autauga MGA has held a graduation ceremony for Valerie Bice, Beverly Coutts, James Hussey and Paula Wyatt. Lee Ann announced the Robin Award for this month goes to Mary Ann Hatcher.

Terry Chambliss, Projects Committee Co-Chair discussed the Merchant's Market and having an information table in September and October, as we did in August. At the table in August, soil test kits were handed out, along with surveys on the Community Garden. The Make & Take class scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup> is full. The Plant Swap is scheduled for Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. – 12 noon will be made safe and held outside. You do not need to have a plant to come, there will be extras. There will be a Zoom Projects meeting on August 21<sup>st</sup>. We will need a project session to make ornaments for the Merchant's Market in October and possibly another for the Chamber tree. CAMGA has also been asked to help decorate the alley in Wetumpka.

## CAMGA Minutes Continued

### August 2020

By: Candy Jones

Past CAMGA Master Gardener President



Sandy Rosamond said, for the alley, we will need to keep the ornaments simple. Please start collecting natural items such as pinecones, acorns, grapevine, etc. On ornament workshops, we can gather at the auditorium, with up to seven (7) people. Dried herbs for sachets will be needed around the first week of December.

Terry reported on the Community Garden, that she had contacted Mayor, Jerry Willis and he is onboard with the gardens. He already has a location on Charles Street with 24,000 square feet. There are currently five (5) beds which need repair. The Mayor has committed that property to us, with the caveat that we would have to move if the city sold the property. The City will provide the water and keep the grass cut. This information is still all verbal. Individuals were asked to complete a survey at the Merchant's Market to provide feedback on having the community garden. CAMGA will be organizers and teachers (mentors) for the public. We will be overall managers. Mentor roles discussed. Will need written agreements. Money is available through grants, donations and fundraisers. Raised beds may cost approximately \$150 each. We would like to see raised beds, especially for the handicapped. This project is in its infancy stage. Details need to be worked out. Terry submitted an application to HGTV for the project. Purpose is to help the community with increased food security, physical exercise, mentoring, provide a kiosk in the garden for educational component, improve mental health, provide relaxation, make it a family project. **Lynda Edwards moved that CAMGA agree to support Terry's Dream Project for a Community Garden and keep the membership informed as it progresses. Deborah Kelso seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Lynda Edwards, Programs Chair, reported that Eric Shavy, Extension Agent, will be talking to us about hay bale gardening in September.

Sandy reported that Johan Beumer fell and needed surgery. He is currently in the Rehab Center in Opelika. Frances Stone fell on Saturday and broke her wrist.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Candace Jones, Past President*



## Governor's Mansion Report

### August 2020

By: Amanda Borden



**In August, we worked at the Finley House, weeding and trimming both the front fence bed and around the front porch. We weeded and trimmed the very overgrown shrubs in the Serenity Garden, then worked around to the Herb Garden...anything to stay in the shade! We plan to work around the side lawn next, in the shade!**





## Projects Committee Minutes

### August 21, 2020

By: Terry Chambliss

Those present in the zoom meeting were Jane Mobley, Sandy Rosamond, Candy Jones, Mary McCroan, Sherron Schaefer, Linda Edwards, Katrina Mitchell, Julia Griffith and Terry Chambliss.

The table at the Merchants' Market was discussed. Sandy said the eight foot table should be here any day. She will try to get some literature or signage about the Grow More Give More Program. Those manning the table on September 3<sup>rd</sup> will be Sandy Rosamond, Jane Mobley and Rhonda Miles. Those manning the table on October 1<sup>st</sup> will be Debbie Kelso and Candy Jones.

The Make and Take Project details were finalized. Those registered will receive a reminder. For those of you who have not paid, you can bring it the day of or send the \$10 to Debbie Kelso, 215 Coosada Lane, Coosada, AL 36020. Please memo it for Make & Take.

The Plant Swap on Thursday, October 15 will be from 10-12:00. This will be held outside behind the barn in the covered area where we held the plant sale. The details will be finalized at our next Projects Meeting. There will not be a presentation.

We will be making ornaments with Sandy on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> and Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> from 9-12:00 in the kitchen at Extension. We need six volunteers for each session. Please email Terry at [chamblissterry67@gmail.com](mailto:chamblissterry67@gmail.com) to sign up for the day you wish to participate. We will practice safe distancing. You will need to wear a mask. If you have them, please bring a glue gun, glue stick, scissors and an extension cord.

We need lichens (any), seed pods such as okra and magnolias, cotton bolls with or without cotton, 1 to 4 inch pine cones, small and large acorns, tiny magnolia leaves, pretty sticks with forks, ¼ " ribbon (red, burgundy, white, silver, blue, gold, green). All of the materials need to be dried. Please bring them to Extension at 8:15am on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. If this date does not work for you, please leave them with Carol Pugh in the office before that time. The office is open.

Most likely we will have another ornament making session combined with the sachet bags closer to Christmas. Please continue to dry aromatic herbs.

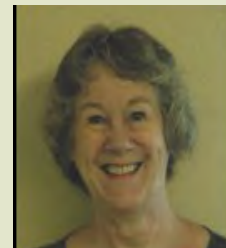
The Community Garden was discussed including the mission, partnerships, our nonprofit status, grants, money management, legal issues and the survey. In regards to the survey, it was suggested to remove the first and third statements from question number four relating to teaching and modeling how to garden, freeze, dry or can the harvest. It was felt this should be an Extension responsibility in the beginning. We will continue to distribute the survey at the Merchants' Market. The survey may evolve into an advertising format for potential gardeners at some point.

Initially our partners will be CAMGA, Extension and the City. As we progress, we will reach out to other organizations.

## Projects Committee Minutes (Continued)

### August 21, 2020

By: Terry Chambliss



Lee Borden volunteered to work on agreements between our organization, the city and the gardener. Julia Griffith volunteered to write for a grant from Lowes. More research will be done regarding the nonprofit status. Several of those present believe we are covered by Extension and AMGA for grant purposes, but we would not have a separate tax id number to allow donations to be tax deductible. It was agreed a separate bank account will be set up under CAMGA to be managed by our Treasurer.

Candy and Terry plan to visit the community garden at Auburn. It was suggested we also visit Eat South in Montgomery.

The next steps are to develop a mission statement, finalize the written agreements, update the city and to visit some gardens.

The next Project's Meeting will be on Monday, September 14 at 10:00am.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Terry Chambliss*



*Photo taken at the Merchant's Market in Wetumpka, August 6th*



## August 2020 Learning Garden Report

By: Mary McCroan

Carol is waiting for me to get this done, so I'm going to make my August input quick. Thanks goodness for people that are patient with my frequent lack of organization!



Anyway, Katrina grew corn this year in the Learning Garden and in spite of previous failures in this location caused by smut (a plant disease caused by the pathogenic fungus *Ustilago maydis*), her crop was successful. She grew it both in a raised bed and in the ground and the raised bed location did better. The stalks are still standing, but not for long, so if you'd like to grab some for fall decorations do it this week!

It is almost a good time to divide perennials for our next plant sale. I'm assuming that we will be vaccinated, exposed or just not care by next spring and we will have a plant sale! Anyway, I jumped the gun on digging these Cast Iron Plants that are just about impossible to kill. I'd wait a couple of weeks before digging anything

else. My experience for potting up many perennials in the fall is that they grow roots all winter long, look great in the spring and their water needs are so low in late fall to early spring that they need almost no care.



The blackberry bed that Deborah Kelso organized last Spring is doing great. She has planted baby blackberrys which had just a little fruit this summer, then trimmed the old canes, tied up and pruned the new canes and the result is pretty impressive. A few canes have even dipped to the ground where they have rooted and will be dug for the plant sale. These are thorn-less blackberries which are supposed to have a little lower production, but they are big, delicious and no finger sticks when working around them.





### Get Outside with Alabama Smart Yards!

Gardening Webinar Series (45 minutes)

Wednesdays @ 1:00 p.m. (CDT)

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



September 2: Backyard Berries, Mallory Kelley  
September 9: Fantastic Fall Plants, Allyson Schabel  
September 16: Controlling Mosquitoes, Dr. Fudd Graham  
September 23: Growing & Cooking with Herbs, Debbie Boutelier  
September 30: Fall Vegetable Gardening, Amanda & Lee Borden  
October 7: Water Gardens, Mary McCroan  
October 14: Fleas and Ticks, Dr. Fudd Graham  
October 21: Sustainable Landscape Design, Amanda Borden  
October 28: Shade Gardens, Mary McCroan  
November 4: ANTS, Dr. Fudd Graham

**Master Gardener Helpline (877) 252-4769** [www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu)

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## PECAN MANAGEMENT

Bringing Pecans Back to Life

**Tuesday, October 20, 2020 | 9-11AM**

Pecans are a popular, sometimes challenging, crop to grow in Alabama. Fortunately, with a bit of knowledge and effort, it's possible to produce good quality pecans. This [Virtual Pecan Program](#) will help homeowners as well as small producers learn how to rejuvenate their trees and properly manage their orchards to promote greater yields. Regional Extension Agent, Doug Chapman, will be discussing the topics of variety selection, planting and care, pecan pest management, and much more.



Register online: <https://www.aces.edu/go/pecanmanagement>

For more information, contact Lucy Edwards (334) 329-1672

[www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu)

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## ***Join us for Alabama Smartyards Each Wednesday at 1:00!***

Great new subjects every Wednesday at 1 pm.  
Click on the link below to preregister for Alabama  
Smartyards:

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

## **CAMGA ZOOM MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.**

### **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**

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

