



GARDEN BUZZZZZZ



Volume 29 Issue 10

Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

October 2020



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Fall is here! This has been a year of adjustments, but gardening has been the stabilizing force. It has brought friends together and made new friends as folks that never gardened, are now asking for help.

Who would have thought this time last year we would have been talking about virtual learning and virtual schedules as we do today?

What a blessing virtual learning has been. For sure it has not taken the place of Lunch & Learn in Wetumpka. I get asked when Lunch & Learn is going to start again more than any question.

But I still miss that togetherness! How about the times the Master Gardener's are talking so loud we can't bring the meeting to order. Don't you just love the thought? Well we are going to do it again! Our Oct. 20th meeting will be at Lanark. Wear your mask and we will practice social distancing.

*I can hardly wait to see you,
Sandy*

REMINDER!
October 2020 CAMGA Meeting:
October 20th at 10:00 a.m.
Lanark — Millbrook, AL.
Wear your mask and practice
social distancing!!

(Board Meeting starts at 9:00 a.m. at Lanark)



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

Lawn Burweed

Your thoughts of those pesky stickers in your turfgrass this summer may be a distant memory now, but if you don't want to battle them again next early summer, now is the time to act!

Lawn burweed (*Soliva sessilis*) is a winter annual that germinates throughout thin turf in the fall months as temperatures cool. It is small and not very noticeable during the cold winter months. However, as temperatures warm in the early spring, lawn burweed initiates a period of rapid growth and begins to form spine-tipped burs at the base of each leaf. The seed is contained within the hooked bur.



Now that you know what it is, the most important question remains – how can you get rid of it? The best strategy in controlling lawn burweed is to apply a preemergence herbicide, containing the active ingredients atrazine or isoxaben in early October, before the winter weeds germinate. This method will kill it upon sprouting and greatly reduce its presence in your yard next spring. One point to mention – these products are available in either a granular or liquid form. Granular products require ½ inch of rainfall or irrigation to become active.

Just in case you have a few weeds that escape the preemergence herbicide (which is not unusual), you can also spot spray with a postemergence herbicide. The key to success is to treat between November and February, when lawn burweed is very small and much easier to control. During this time, the weed has yet to develop the spine-tipped burs. Spray your lawn with a postemergence herbicide containing the active ingredients of three broadleaf weed killers: 2,4-D, dicamba, and mecoprop (MCPP). Many brands of broadleaf herbicides on the shelf contain these ingredients. Using the herbicide 2-4-D alone may not be quite as effective, so a three-in-one product is preferred. Keep in mind that broadleaf herbicides are not effective unless applied when the air temperature is above 68 °F. The window of opportunity can be very limited during the winter season. Again, another reason to use pre-emergence herbicides in the fall.

Unfortunately, most people do not notice a lawn burweed problem until warmer temperatures arrive. However, waiting until spring is too late. If you delay until April or May to attempt lawn burweed control, you are fighting a losing battle. Once the weed has reached a more mature state, multiple herbicide applications may be necessary, which can increase the potential for turfgrass injury. Because lawn burweed is a winter annual, it will begin to succumb to the warmer air temperatures (~90 °F); however, the spines have already formed and will remain after the weed withers and dies. Mowing the area at a very low height and bagging the seeds might offer some relief.

Some severe situations may call for killing the entire area, including the turfgrass, with a non-selective herbicide, such as glyphosate. Of course, one will have to replant grass or lay new sod but this method may be worth it, since it will ensure no more lawn burweed!

Dead or alive, lawn burweed poses a painful problem. The only solution is early identification and control. Remember lawn burweed is an annual and will come back from seeds that develop each spring. Take action now for prickly-free turf later.

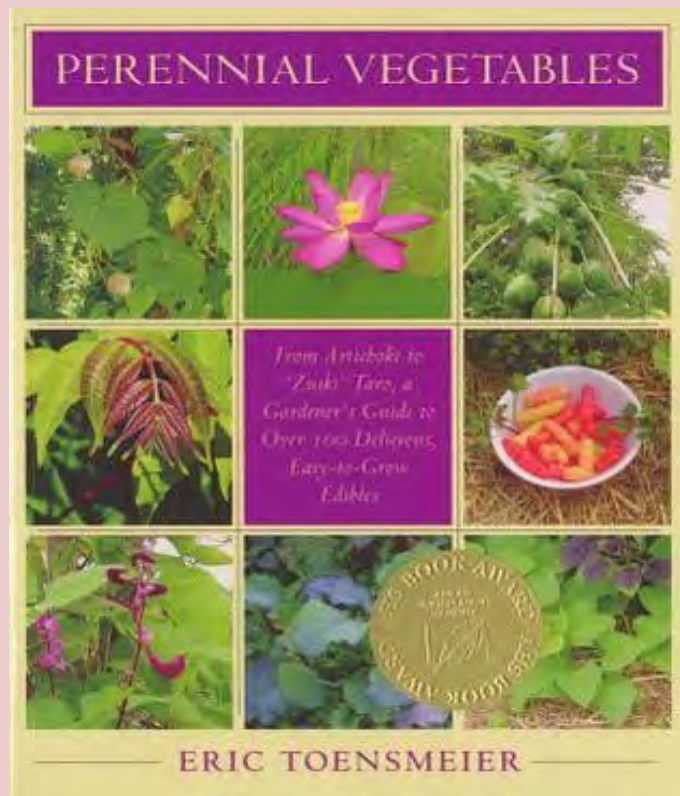


CAMGA Library News

By: Dee Turberville

Perennial Vegetables by Eric Toensmeier

Imagine growing vegetables that require nearly the same amount of care as the flowers in your perennial beds and borders with no annual re-planting. Except for the stalwarts of asparagus and rhubarb, most edible crops can be grown only annually. Thanks to award-winning author Eric Toensmeier, gardeners need not be frustrated by such limitations any longer. From air potatoes to water celery, Turkish rocket to Malabar gourd, there are more than 100 new species of edible plants in this comprehensive guide. After covering cultural basics as site selection and preparation, Toensmeier explains why each plant is an excellent perennial vegetable crop. He includes recipes, explains how to raise, tend, harvest and cook with plants that yield great crops. He is an enthusiastic and knowledgeable guide for exploring a largely undiscovered and underdeveloped part of the sustainable landscape.



The first half of the book introduces perennial vegetables, some on trendy restaurant menus, along with others as low maintenance plants and suggests various ways to design them into your garden. The second half of the book is a catalog of plant profiles, i.e., the antioxidant rich wolfberry (goji berries). Each entry includes a color-coded map of the proper zone for growing. Toensmeier organizes the plants by family – i.e., Alliaceae: The Onion Family, Asteraceae: The Aster Family, etc., which is helpful for planning your garden's design. Eric Toensmeier cultivates about 300 species in his urban garden; his writing can be viewed at perennialsolutions.org

It is time to join the fun of fall gardening with some new perennials!



CAMGA Minutes

September 15, 2020

By: Deann Stone

The meeting was called to order by Sandy Rosamond at 10:00 AM. Mallory introduced our speaker, Eric Schavey. He provided a very informative session on Strawbale Gardening. You must use a WHEATSTRAW bale, not a hay bale. It is a 10 day process to prepare the WHEATSTRAW bale for planting. The WHEATSTRAW bale must be in a location that gets a minimum of 5 hours of direct sunlight. The bale must be set on the side, the cut side should be up – strings should be running parallel to the ground.

Day 1 – Water the bale until it is saturated. You will notice it swell.

Day 2, 3, 4 – Apply 1 cup Ammonium Sulfate to the bale and water it in.

Day 5, 6, 7, 8 – Apply ½ cup Ammonium Sulfate and ½ cup 8-8-8 fertilizer and water it in.

Day 9 – Apply 1 cup 8-8-8 and 2 cups lime and water it in.

Day 10 – PLANT! Use a small spade to make a hole, plant and add 2 handfuls of topsoil.

What can you plant in a one WHEATSTRAW bale?

- ⇒ 2 tomatoes
- ⇒ 3 peppers
- ⇒ 2 squash
- ⇒ 2 zucchini
- ⇒ 3 broccoli
- ⇒ 3 cabbage
- ⇒ 2 lettuce
- ⇒ 2 cauliflower
- ⇒ 2 bush beans

You can also plant companion plants in the sides of the bale.

Mallory turned the meeting back over to Sandy

Secretary's Report: Candy Jones took the notes for the August meeting. The notes were published in the monthly newsletter and were accepted as published and will be filed for future reference.

Treasurer's Report: Deborah Kelso presented the Treasurer's Report for August 2020. The beginning balance was \$6,548.72. No income or expenses were recorded leaving an ending balance of \$6,548.72. There were no questions and the report will be filed for audit.

Projects Reports:

Plant Swap – Terry Chambliss said we will have our plant swap as scheduled.

Merchant's Market – Terry shared that Sandy has been coordinating this project. The ornaments look awesome and will be offered for sale at the market on October 1 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm behind the Market Shoppes. Sandy will also have some gourds for sale.

Christmas Plans – All plans are still pending, based on the decisions made by the Chamber of Commerce.

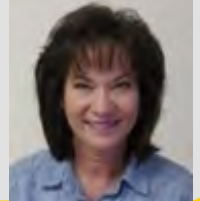
Make and Take - Has been postponed due to the impending weather until the September 24 with pickup on September 26.

Presbyterian Church – Jane Mobley shared that the church plans to have the landscapers plant everything and would like for the Master Gardeners to help when they plant the back of the church.

CAMGA Minutes Continued

September 15, 2020

By: Deann Stone



Terry Chambliss shared that the City of Millbrook has requested that we do some plantings around the flag-pole. They have a plan in mind. If you'd like to participate, let Terry know.

Community Garden Project – We've been shown where we can have some beds. Irrigation is working and some electricity is available. We have received a letter from the City confirming their commitment. Mechanics are still being worked out and beds are being plotted. It looks like we will have 30 – 32 beds of various sizes. We have received 26 surveys back – 16 people indicated that they would like a bed and 4 individuals would like to be part of the planning. Community members will be invited to be part of the committee. Please let Terry know if you would like to also be part of this committee.

Learning Gardens – Deborah Kelso shared that the learning garden work has once again begun each Thursday. If you would like to participate, please notify Mary McCroan that you plan to participate.

Intern Graduation – Robin shared that the Intern Graduation is planned for October 20 at Lanark. We are planning to have a boxed lunch. A number count will be taken at a later time. All interns are invited and will be celebrated even if hours have not been completed. Candy Jones made a motion that Extension pay for the Intern Lunches and CAMGA pay for member lunches. Robin seconded the motion. A total will be determined and submitted for approval.

Rick Beauchamp Award – Sandy shared that we are looking into securing a bronze plate or stone to record award winners for display in our garden. She asked for recommendations and help in researching this project. Lynda Edwards offered to take a picture of what Autauga is doing in Prattville. Robin suggested that individual bricks be inscribed and used to build a walkway.

Robin reminded everyone that it is time to start propagating for the spring plant sale. Candy reminded everyone that it is time to pay dues, and Jane reminded us to bring gloves if you are participating in the Leaf Project (constructing a bird bath). Sandy said it is also time to plan for officers for next year. She does not plan to be President next year. The bylaws say that officers should turn over every 2 years. A discussion was held regarding nominations. A vote will be held in November and new officers will be named in December. Rhonda Miles and Dee Turberville are leading the nomination committee.

The October meeting will be held on October 20 at Lanark. The meeting will be broadcast on ZOOM, as well.

Robin Award – Lee Ann announced that Amanda Borden is the Robin Award winner this month. Congratulations!!

Mary Ann Hatcher shared her adventures of 6 months of manning the MG helpline!

A discussion was held regarding how we might help the needy during the holidays in lieu of a membership Christmas meeting. Robin suggested that members wishing to participate donate money that may be used to purchase items for donation to local food banks.

Having no other business, the meeting concluded at 11:50 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Deann K. Stone



Governor's Mansion Report September 2020 By: Amanda Borden



During September, volunteers at the Governor's Mansion worked in the back yard, Secret Garden, side lawn beds, front gate, Finley House beds, Herb Garden, and across the front yard. We did lots of work and had lots of volunteers. We weeded mostly, but also did some selective pruning...entirely thinning cuts. We wanted to do the pruning before the hedge trimming crew showed up. The volunteers were from all three of the local Master Gardener groups: Tami Black, Amanda Borden, Anne Carr, Susan Carmichael, Linda Cater, Bionca Lindsey, Jane McCarthy, Dawn Mitchell, Cat O'Brien, Kathy Quinn, and Amy Richardson.

The Governor's Mansion is a great place to volunteer; please notify Jane McCarthy in advance: macandjane@att.net





Projects Committee Minutes September 14, 2020 By: Terry Chambliss

Those present by Zoom were Candy Jones, Sandy Rosamond, Mary McCroan, Katrina Mitchell, Terry Chambliss and guests Elisa Jones, Millbrook Chamber of Commerce Director and Ann Harper, Millbrook Economic Development Director.

Elisa Jones and Ann Harper requested assistance with landscaping around a flag pole in Millbrook at the intersection of Coosada Rd. and Main Street. There is a water wheel at the location as well. The pole will be lit. They plan to water by sprinkler during crucial periods of planting and drought. Irrigation alternatives were discussed. They need drought resistant perennials that can withstand morning and afternoon sun and room for annuals when they have a special event. They would like some color all year round. They will contact us when they have the lighting in place, the location of the electric lines and research a possible tie in to the water wheel source for irrigation. They provided pictures.

Due to weather, the Make & Take Bird Bath Project was rescheduled to Thursday, September 24th with pick up on the 26th.

The Merchants' Market on October 1st was discussed. The hours have changed from 5-7:00pm. Volunteers include Debbie Kelso, Candy Jones, Sandy Rosamond and Betty Plaster. Ornaments will be sold besides the usual educational materials. Sandy will work with the Chamber for advertising. Sandy advised the City of Wetumpka is not sure whether there will be a Dickens Christmas event like last year due to the pandemic. If the event will take place, a date will be set for filling the sachet bags. Candy will order them if needed. We will however decorate the tree at the Chamber of Commerce building and trees in the alley. Dates for those projects will be set closer to that time.

Jane has been in contact with Mary Lou Mullins about landscaping the Presbyterian Church. They will not need help planting as it was part of the contract with the builders. They will need another landscape plan for the back of the building and requested assistance with that.

The Wetumpka Community Garden was discussed. Mary McCroan and Terry Chambliss met with representatives from the City to discuss the location of the garden beds, irrigation and access to electricity. Among those present was the landscaping architect for the City. Josh Berry advised they discard the in ground plants and plants in the hanging baskets when updating for a season. He said our organization is welcome to them. The beds he maintains are at the bridge, Coaches Corner, in front of the Administration Building and the corner of the bank and Hwy 231 plus the hanging baskets. Terry volunteered to pursue this for the discarded perennials which can be potted and maintained in the propagation area behind the shed for the plant sale.

Projects Committee Minutes (Continued)

September 14, 2020

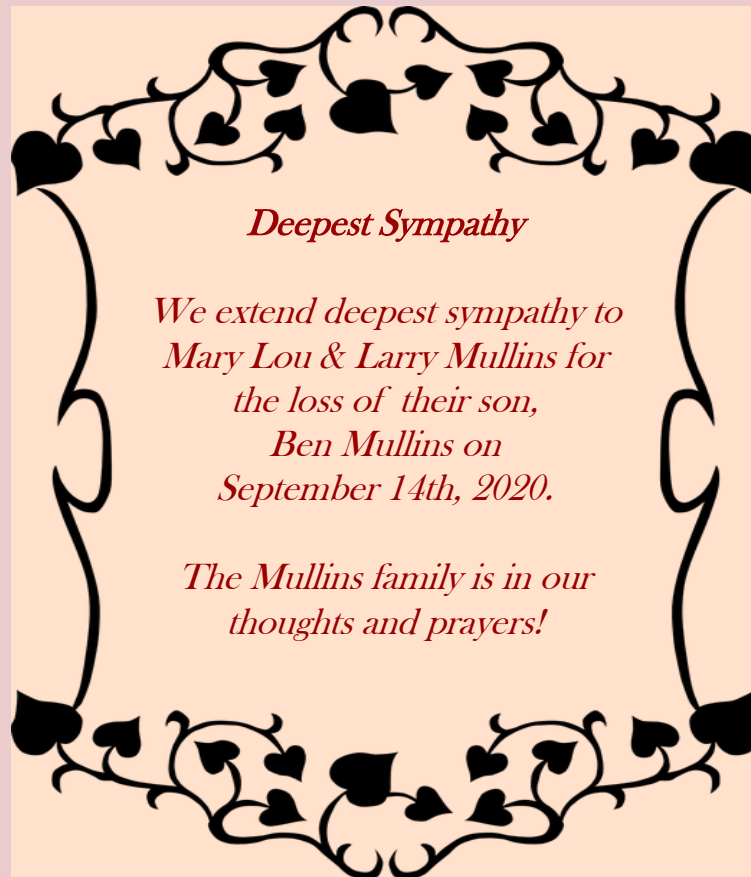
By: Terry Chambliss



It was decided a separate community garden committee will be formed to include members of the community. CAMGA members Candy Jones, Mary McCroan, Debbie Kelso and Terry Chambliss volunteered to be a part of this committee. A request for more volunteers will be made at the meeting. Out of the 26 community surveys received so far, four indicated their willingness to help plan and organize the garden and sixteen would like a garden bed upon completion.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Chambliss





SPOTLIGHT on VOLUNTEERS

By: Judy May



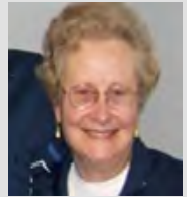
Two ornament workshops were hosted by Sandy Rosamond in September. Those participating on September 10th were Sandy Rosamond, Anne Carr, Sheila Radford, Betty Plaster, Lynda Edwards, Sherri Schaefer and Candy Jones. Participants on September 11th were Sandy Rosamond, Betty Plaster, Linda Cater, Sheila Radford, Candy Jones and Deann Stone. These ladies are so talented!



On September 3rd, Sandy Rosamond, and Jane Mobley setup the table at the Merchant's Market in downtown Wetumpka. Handouts included soil kits, fall vegetable garden pamphlets, information about the grow more, give more program, helpline contact information and the community garden survey. Sandy enjoyed discussing the community garden project and obtained 10 completed surveys for her efforts.

SPOTLIGHT on VOLUNTEERS (Continued)

By: Judy May



On September 21st, Mary McCroan, Deborah Kelso and Terry Chambliss met with Marley Halter at the Community Garden in Auburn. The 110 beds on 2 acres were impressive. Ms. Halter spent several hours explaining the fee structure, plot sizes, supplies for the gardeners and those supplied by the gardeners, irrigation management practices, pathways and thoughts on the future garden when it is moved in 2022.

September 9, Mary McCroan and Terry Chambliss met with City of Wetumpka personnel Chappell Brown and Josh Berry at the future site of the Wetumpka Community Garden. They discussed bed placement, irrigation and electricity.

On September 28, Jane Mobley taught Sheila Radford, Anne Carr, Linda Cater, Jane Duke and Terry Chambliss how to make bird baths from leaves. Thank you Jane for your instruction and assistance and John Butler for mixing the vinyl patch and water for the creations. It was a fun project!

All area members of the Advanced Master Gardener Committee, from Autauga and Elmore Counties, have been helping candidates from Jefferson, Blount and St. Clair counties (as well as each of our local counties) to reach their goal of becoming Advanced Master Gardeners, by becoming mentors to individuals from these counties, by aiding them in completing their applications for acceptance to the program and hearing their presentations to the Committee in order for those individuals to obtain their certifications.

The goal of this outreach is to assist Master Gardeners in those counties in becoming Advanced, so that they may form a Committee in their area of the State, to further cultivate this Program in those areas. In addition to mentoring candidates, all of the Advanced Master Gardeners provide programs to the public as requested by ACES. Members of the area Committee include: Amanda Borden, Lee Borden, Deborah Boutelier, Sondra Henley, Glen Huovinen, Judy May, Jane Mobley, Maria Pacheco -West, Rose McCauley, Mary McCroan, Paula Seamon, Rhona Watson, Candy Jones as Committee Chair and Mallory Kelley, Regional Extension Agent.

Working at the Governor's Mansion this month were Amanda Borden, Anne Carr, Linda Cater, Jane McCarthy and Robin Snyder.

Maria says this month she has been fortunate to have Carla McCune, Leslie Bingham, Cheryl Fitzgerald and intern Julia Griffith help her. In the last two weeks we have been doing major clean up from Sally and Maria is so grateful for all the help. Fall is beautiful at Lanark and she hopes you will consider volunteering. Call Maria at 334-657-9414 and let her know when you are available.

Attending the Advanced Master Gardener presentation September 22 at Aldridge gardens with David Doggett on Japanese Maples and Hydrangeas were Jane Mobley, Rhona Watson, Glenn Huovinen, Sondra Henley and Candy Jones.

On September 30th Candy Jones, Deborah Kelso and Terry Chambliss met with Tiffany Robinson, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor, who was out sick, regarding the Wetumpka Community Garden.

Master Gardener Photos

Attending workshops and volunteering services



Master Gardeners who attended the bird bath project



**These Master Gardeners visited the
Auburn Community Garden**

Master Gardener Photos (Continued)



Lee and Amanda Borden's daughter had plans to get married at the beach September 26th.

When the storm struck southern Alabama those plans suddenly changed and they had days to make alternate plans for a wedding at their home.

Several master gardeners stepped up to provide flowers from their gardens and some beach decor.



Alabama Garden Walks

A virtual visit to gardens in North and Central Alabama

Field trips are not possible right now, so let us bring the gardens to you! Join us as we stroll through gardens around North and Central Alabama to learn new plants and new practices to help make your garden a more diverse and sustainable place. Each session will visit a different public or private garden to look how they approach landscaping. Learn new plants and new landscape ideas all from the comfort of your own home!

12:00-12:45 PM

1st and 3rd Fridays of the month

Register at:

www.aces.edu/go/GardenWalk



- October 2 - **A Sustainable Approach: Common Ground Community Garden** with Allyson Shabel
- October 16 - **Connie Mac Dobbs' Backyard Oasis** with Hayes Jackson
- November 6 - **A Plant Collector's Garden: Jim Allen's Backyard Hideaway** with Allyson Shabel
- November 20 - **Longleaf Botanical Garden's Sensory Garden and Tropical Cascade Garden** with Hayes Jackson

For more information, contact

Hayes (jacksha@aces.edu) or **Allyson** (ams0137@aces.edu)

www.aces.edu
Master Gardener Helpline (877) 252-4769

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator and employer. Everyone is welcome! Please let us know if you have accessibility needs.



At Home Beekeeping Series

Distance Learning for Beekeepers

We're offering beekeepers the chance to attend virtual meetings from the comfort of one's own home using a computer or mobile device. Each event will bring participants up to date on timely beekeeping topics. Time for Q&A included.

ALL ARE WELCOME! IT'S FREE!

- Sept 29: Winter bee biology & management, with Jack Rowe (Alabama Extension)
- Oct 27: Creating & maintaining a wildflower meadow, with Anthony Abbate (Auburn)
- Nov 24: Getting started and staying in beekeeping, with Jeff Harris (Mississippi State)
- Dec 29: Beekeeping boxing day sales, with vendors & Geoff Williams (Auburn) & Anne Marie Fauval (Bee Informed Partnership)

Last Tuesday
of the month

6:30 – 7:30 pm
Central Time

Watch via Zoom Webinar
<https://auburn.zoom.us/j/904522838>

or Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension/>

Questions? Email Allyson Shabel ams0137@aces.edu

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