



GARDEN BUZZZZZZ



Volume 29 Issue 11 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association November 2020



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Message from:

Sandy Rosamond
CAMGA President



Hello Everyone,

We had a party! At least that is what it felt like to me. I loved recognizing people for a job "well done" It was a treat to see everyone in person instead of Zoom. Thank you to all the people that worked behind the scene to make our meeting a success.

This has been a different year to say the least. But, Gardening continues! I hope all of you are enjoying vegetables from your fall gardens. I love working in my vegetable garden this time of the year. I must admit I am planning next year to have a better spring garden. One Without Nut Grass! Any suggestions? (I am asking for a friend). What should I be doing now to prevent it? Please email me the answer. sandrose2007@gmail.com

I will share all your suggestions next month in the Garden Buzz.

See you at the November Zoom Meeting,

Sandy



CAMGA Garden Buzzzz
Carol Pugh — Editor



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

What Makes Beautiful Fall Foliage?

Fall weather in Central Alabama has finally arrived. There is nothing like those first few cool crisp mornings after the long hot summer months. As we all know, our September and October can often times be just as hot as August. Looking around the last few days I am starting to see the first few vibrant colors of fall foliage. The initial plant that tells me fall is here is the terribly invasive popcorn tree! It is almost guaranteed to have a showy year! You will start to notice them along fence rows and out in pastures along the road sides. That is one great characteristic of this plant is its beautiful fall color.

Many times I am asked to make a fall foliage prediction for Alabama. To explain how to make an accurate fall color prediction let me remind you of the days in science class. The green color in leaves that we see all throughout the spring and summer is chlorophyll. Photosynthesis, the food-making process in the plant, takes place in the green, chlorophyll-containing leaves. As the day length changes and the amount of sun available to the leaves for photosynthesis begins to decrease. The living plant cells do not receive food and as a result, they change colors and then eventually die and fall to the ground.

As daylight hours shorten and temperatures drop, chlorophyll breaks down and disappears allowing the yellow color (which has been there all along) to show through. The potential for the yellow color has always been there, just covered up by the green chlorophyll. So now you know that the leaves do not actually change colors by magic, but rather by a chemical process in the plant that cause chlorophyll (the green color) to break down. So when someone asks you your projection for the fall colors this year, you can always say with certainty that it will be a great year for yellows!

Now, what is it that brings along the amazing shades of red and orange that we all love to see in the fall of the year?

While the process of photosynthesis is decreasing due to light changes causing yellow to appear, other chemical changes cause red, orange or even purple pigments to form. This is what gives plants such as dogwoods, sumacs, sweet gums, and other trees their red to purple fall colors. Sugar maples take on a fiery orange color, hickories will only show yellow colors, while oaks are primarily reddish brown to brown.

So what triggers leaves to form the beautiful shades of red, orange, and even purple?

Warm sunny days with cool night temperatures, especially below 45 degrees. While we have not quite gotten down to 45 degrees, the nights in the 50's are definitely starting the process. These day and night temperatures tend to raise the level of red coloration. The cool night temperatures trap the sugars produced during the warm sunny day inside the leaves.

The interesting thing about fall color is that it can vary from tree to tree because of things such as genetics or physical location. Colors can even vary on the same tree. For example, leaves directly exposed to the afternoon sun may turn brilliant red while those on the shady side of the tree may only turn yellow.

So now the mystery is solved and next time someone asks you for your projection for the fall foliage you can always say, the yellow fall color is guaranteed to be GREAT, but the red, orange and purple foliage will depend upon the warm day temps and cool night temperatures.

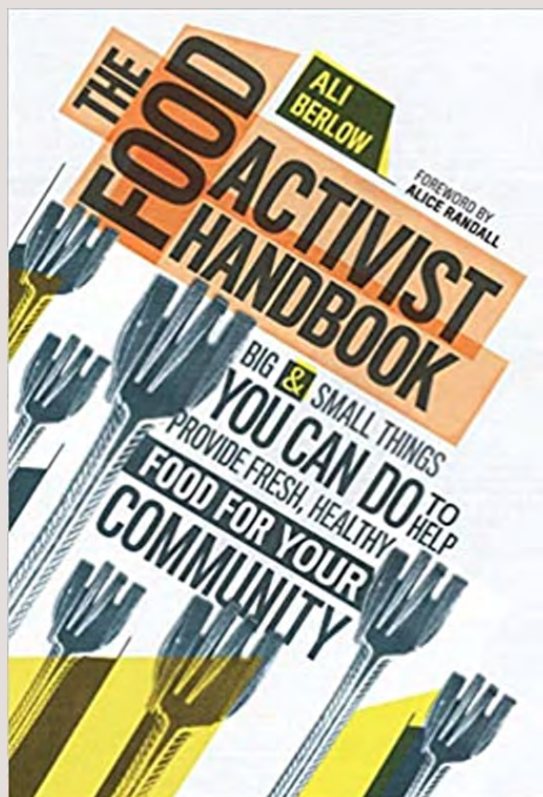


CAMGA Library News

By: Dee Turberville

The Food Activist Handbook by Ali Berlow

One person, along with the assistance of CAMGA gardeners and local leaders, can make a difference in the quality of life for a community, especially when it comes to developing plans for a community garden. This desire has been a passion for Terry Chambliss. My hope is that this book will assist her with information of practical strategies CAMGA can do to help provide fresh, healthy food for our community and to inspire families to join in the effort.



The Food Activist Handbook is a useful guide for anyone interested in food justice, healthy access, and food insecurity. Author Ali Berlow has such a positive spirit. She has researched and crafted a book of how-to's, with big and small steps, and includes a section titled, "You Can Do This." The book is a comprehensive look at activities that individuals and organizations can do to improve the food environment in the United States, i.e., establish a neighborhood kitchen for preserving the harvest, set up a community composting program, connect food pantries with producers, and map local farmland. More than "just eat local," the book is a playbook of solutions within a framework of food activism – Fresh Food For All – that can inspire all of us to start our own community garden.



CAMGA Minutes

October 20, 2020

By: **Betty Plaster**
Secretary

Sandy Rosamond called the October meeting of the CAMGA to order at 10:00 am. She introduced Maria Pacheco from Lanark who gave an interesting talk on composting and green manure.

Maria suggested that you keep the composting pile small so you can turn it yourself. Preferably the pile should be turned once a week. Grass, greenery, vegetables, fruit peels, tea bags, egg shells, paper towels, and other products can make a healthy and beautiful dirt. Also, remember to have equal parts of nitrogen (greenery) and carbon (leaves) in your compost. Green manure is used to feed plants and strengthen the structure (cells) of the plant. The horsetail plant makes a tea when mixed with water that is a very good green manure.

Sandy turned the program over to Mallory to honor our intern leaders, Robyn Snyder and Lee Ann Marona for all their work with the intern program. Some interns are still working to obtain their 50-hour commitment and others have exceeded the 50-hour commitment. The following interns have far exceeded their 50-hour commitment: Valerie Bice - 206, Beverly Coutts - 342, James Hussey - 161. These interns have exceeded their 50-hour commitment: Cindy Augustine, Sharon Bowen, Jane Duke, Julia Griffith, Donna Ingalls, Daniel Maguire, Paula Wyatt, and Hugh Wicks. Congratulations!

Mallory presented the Golden Acorn pins to Advanced Master Gardeners Judy May, Maria Pacheco, and Jane Mobley.

Lee Ann Marona presented the Robyn award (the member with the most service hours of the month) to Deborah Kelso.

Sandy presented the Rick Beauchamp award to Mary Ann Hatcher for her extraordinary volunteer service for the master gardener helpline.

Sandy also presented the Rick Beauchamp award to Rhona Watson for her teaching ability, organizational skills, and service to the community.

Mallory presented Mary Ann Hatcher with a special award from the extension service and the master gardener organization for her dedicated work on the helpline. During the COVID crisis, Mary Ann was the face of the master gardener program for the state of Alabama.

Announcements: Mallory reminded everyone to watch the Smart Yard program every Wednesday at 1:00pm. It is on Facebook and this program counts toward master gardener educational hours.

November 19, Mallory, Katrina Mitchell, and the extension wildlife specialist will present a program on wildlife critters.

This year the master gardener class is being held virtually. Right now, there are 175 participants in the state of Alabama and Mallory is coordinating the class.

Sandy reminded everyone to pay CAMGA dues and to complete the membership form. Please send the form and dues to Deborah Kelso.

CAMGA Minutes Continued

October 20, 2020
By: Betty Plaster
Secretary



Sandy reminded us to donate money to the Elmore County Pantry and Welcome Center so canned goods may be purchased for the holidays. Please make your check to CAMGA and note it is for the food bank. Please turn your money in by the middle of November to Deborah Kelso.

A motion was made to donate the Farm Bot to the Robotics club at Wetumpka High School. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Officers nominated for 2121 are as follows:

President: Lynda Edwards
Vice President: Leslie Bingham
Secretary: Betty Plaster
Treasurer: Deborah Kelso
Advisory Council Representative: Cheryl Fitzgerald

Projects: Terry Chambliss requested that members please email her at chamblissterry67@gmail.com and let her know if you have dried herbs for the sachet bags and how much of the herb you have dried. New bags may have to be purchased depending on the amount of dried herbs we have available. A date to fill the bags will be announced soon.

The Wetumpka Christmas Chamber event will be December 4 and 5. Decorating the Christmas tree for the chamber office will occur after Thanksgiving.

The community garden project is on hold for the moment. The city of Wetumpka has a developer interested in the original location of the garden. Please be looking for other locations for the garden and contact Terry Chambliss if you would like to work on this project.

Treasurer Report - Deborah Kelso
September beginning balance \$6,548.72
Donation of \$25.00 to the food bank
Expenses: Supplies \$4.60
 Awards \$115.00
September ending balance \$6,610.12

Sandy announced that the November and December meetings will be on Zoom.

Mallory encouraged members to go to the CAMGA website and use the link to the library. You can see what books are available and then check them out of the library anytime.

A motion was made for CAMGA to pay \$5 per for the new link to our library and to reimburse Lee Ann for the money she has spent on the link. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Candy Jones asked members to please answer the survey that will be sent out in November regarding the state master gardener conference in Montgomery in 2022. We are all hoping this conference will take place.

***Respectively submitted,
Betty Plaster, Secretary***



Governor's Mansion Report

By: Amanda Borden



October at the Governor's Mansion was spent tidying up, lightly pruning, lots of weeding, and creating pomander balls for Christmas decorations.

Please Note: Workdays at the Mansion will be from 9:00 a.m. to noon starting Monday, November 2nd, due to Daylight Saving Time ending.



Susan and Dawn



Jane & Robin Trimming Around



Bionca and Kathy Pruning



Governor's Mansion Report (Continued)

By: Amanda Borden



Robin Pruning



First Day of Christmas Crafts



Pomander Balls



Spotlight on Volunteers

October 2020

By: Judy May

Robin says several folks helped her get ready for the meeting at Lanark. Sandy Rosamond, Sandra Bowen, LeAnn Marona and Robin helped Maria Pacheco West set up the Pavilion on Monday afternoon. Deann Stone created and managed the lunch sign up program.

Amanda and Lee Borden placed the lunch order and coordinated with 1220 Café and then picked up and delivered the meals to Lanark. Mallory provided the cupcakes. LeAnn Marona, Sharon Kochik, Jane McCarthy and Iva Haney helped serve food and drinks. Many folks helped with clean up. All help was appreciated and made for a pleasant and smooth meeting and luncheon.

Maria says this month Carla McCune, Dee Turberville, Leslie Bingham, Cheryl Fitzgerald, Don Hoover and intern Julia Griffin all helped keep the grounds beautiful; prepare for 2 weddings, one in the Heirloom garden and one in the formal garden. She says as always, she is so grateful!

On September 30, Lee and Amanda Borden presented “Fall Vegetable Gardening” as part of the Alabama Smart Yards webinar series.

On October 21, Amanda Borden presented “Sustainable Landscape Design” as a part of the Alabama Smart Yard webinar series.

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

The annual plant swap was well attended this year.

Those participating were Laurie Weldon, Rhona Watson, Katrina Mitchell, Iva Haney, Bonnie McCormick, Jane Mobley, Barbara Wallace, Sandra Bowen, Betty Plaster, Anne Carr, Dee Turberville, Sandy Rosamond, Mary McCroan, Debbie Kelso, Candy Jones, Jane Duke, Robin Snyder and Terry Chambliss.



October Projects Committee Minutes By: Terry Chambliss

The Projects Committee did not meet in October.

The **Dickens Christmas** event will be held in downtown Wetumpka on December 4th and 5th this year.

Volunteers will be requested for:

Sachet Bags--date will be set when the bags come in. A request was made at the meeting to let Terry know how much dried herb has been collected in order to determine how much to order.

Decorating the Christmas Trees at the Chamber and Alleyway—Date will be set when we are notified the trees will be put in place.

December 4th—Chamber assistance, manning a table

December 5th-- Chamber assistance, manning a table

December 30th—Ornament Recovery

The Community Garden is on hold. The committee was notified of a possible developer for the site. The committee will meet in the near future to discuss progress made and future plans.

Respectively submitted,

*Terry Chambliss
chamblissterry67@gmail.com*



Candy Jones, Dee Turberville, Terry Chambliss,
Lois Cortell and Debra Hall at the
Old Cloverdale Community Garden



Critter Control and Cures Inside and Out

Learn how to manage those unwanted critters and pests

November 13, 12-1:30 PM CST

Topics to be covered include:

- Common Critters of Concern:
 - Fire Ants, Roaches, Chipmunks, Deer, Voles, and more
 - Signs of Damage
 - Control Methods
- Laws Concerning Wildlife

Registration is free but required. Register through the following link:
<https://auburn.zoom.us/join/joiner/tZckfu2urDwiGtVSr62ktyW1Gd62jALhQMrF>



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CAMGA ZOOM MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, November 17th — 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>

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

CAMGA Membership Renewal



Central Alabama Master Gardener Association 2021 Membership Form Due: December 18, 2020

Please Print:

Name _____ Birthday - Month _____ Day _____

____ Check if your information in the 2020 CAMGA Membership Directory is correct. If your information is correct, it is unnecessary to complete your profile information below.

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Home Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Year of your Master Gardener Class Graduation _____ County _____

Membership (includes graduating interns):

____ CAMGA Membership Dues - \$ 20

____ Pay \$12 only if you are already paying state dues through another Master Gardener Association (example: CCMGA, ACMGA, LCMGA) or a Lifetime member
Name of Association of State Membership: _____

Checks should be made payable to CAMGA.

Amount Enclosed: Check \$ _____ Check Number _____ Cash \$ _____

Please mail or give this completed form and dues to:

Deborah Kelso
215 Coosada Lane
Coosada, AL 36020

Would you like to receive a CAMGA Membership Directory Booklet as well as the digital version or only the digital directory? Check one:

____ CAMGA Directory Booklet as well as the Digital Version

____ Digital CAMGA Directory ONLY

*Your completed form and dues must be submitted by December 18, 2020 or you risk not being included in the 2021 CAMGA Membership Directory. If you wish to have a new picture in the directory, send to cathywhigham@gmail.com by December 18.



**Maria Pacheco Presenting
Composting Program**



**Rhona Watson received the
Rick Beauchamp Award**



**Advanced Master Gardeners
recognized**

*October 2020
CAMGA Meeting
At Lanark*



**2019 Master Gardener
Class Graduates**

2020 Master Gardener Plant Swap

