



# GARDEN BUZZZZZ



Volume 29 Issue 12

Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

December 2020



***Merry Christmas!***



## **Message from:**

***Sandy Rosamond  
CAMGA President***



What an awesome group you are! We were able to give the Food Bank \$635.00. Deb said they did a "happy jig" when she presented the check to them. I know that money will feed a lot of people. Thank you all for your help in our community!

The Fort Toulouse Pavilion right beside the river was a beautiful place to have an outside meeting. We voted in the new officers as following; President Linda Edwards, Vice President Leslie Bingham, Secretary Betty Plaster, Treasure Deb Kelso, and Advisory Council Representative Cheryl Fitzgerald. Our next meeting is a Zoom Meeting Dec.15 at 10 a.m. I will swear them in then.

Thank you for all your support during the last 2years. What a great time we had and you accomplished so much. If I need help, I know the best group to ask! Hugs to each of you

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Sandy*



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**CAMGA Garden Buzzzz  
Carol Pugh — Editor**



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

## ***Our State Flower***

Did you know that the camellia is the state flower of Alabama? I find this most fitting as we can grow this evergreen flowering shrub quite easily and there are varieties that bloom 3 out of the 4 seasons (except summer) in our Alabama climate. Not only are they easy to grow in Alabama, but did you know that the sweet tea we southern love to drink comes from the camellia genus, a relative of the camellias we have growing in our landscapes.

Each year you may notice there are more and more varieties of flower forms, new hybrids, seedlings, and hardier species. Even though we can have camellias flowering in Alabama September through March, not every variety of Camellia is suitable to our climate (Zone 7-8) in central Alabama so do your research on varieties before purchasing.

Some camellias can be grown in full sun, although most grow and produce better flowers in partial shade where the blooms and foliage are protected from sunburn. A site under pine trees is ideal as they provide filtered light year-round for growth, winter protection and natural mulch from the pine needles.

Camellias do best in soils that are acid (pH 5.0 to 6.5) and do poorly in alkaline conditions (pH above 7.0). Camellias require only light pruning, if any, to remove dead wood and to thin inside limbs to increase air movement. The best time to prune is after blooming and before new flower and vegetative buds form.

As for problems on camellias, the most common is flower blight (also called petal blight) and tea scale. The flower blight is caused by a fungus that infects only the flower tissue of camellias. It is characterized by brown spots on the petals that spread rapidly to engulf the whole bloom. Infected blooms fall to the ground where the fungus will overwinter until the following year. This fungus can lie dormant in the soil up to 4 years. When warm and humid conditions occur, small, dime-sized, brownish-gray mushrooms form and produce the fungal spores that will infect the blooms. A community effort is needed to collect these mushrooms as the spores can be carried by wind for half a mile or more. It is prevalent and most active in humid areas when the temperatures range between 45 degrees F and 70 degrees F when the camellias are in bloom.

Tea Scale insects are the most significant pests of camellias. They pierce the leaves and twigs and suck out the plant juices. This stunts and weakens the camellia and hurts the appearance of the foliage. Yellow splotches appear on the upper side of the leaves, while the underside is covered with a cottony mass. For control of scales you can use Horticultural oil sprays which should be reapplied often and must make direct contact with the scales or you can use systemic insecticides, such as imidacloprid which is an insecticide drench that is taken up by the roots and ingested when the scales feed on the leaves.

If you live in Alabama and do not already have a camellia growing in your yard, I encourage you to add one to your landscape. They can add beautiful color almost any time of the year.



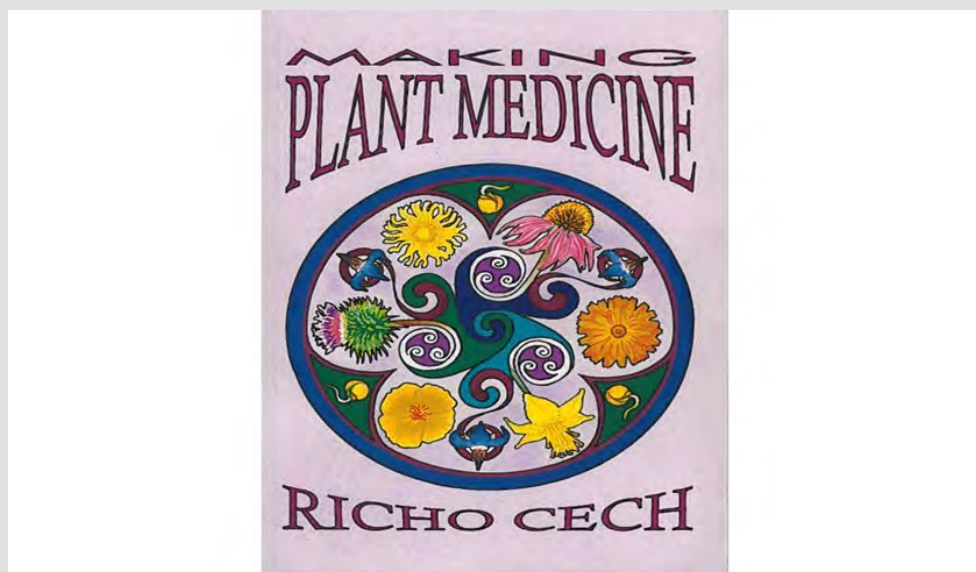
## CAMGA Library News

**By: Dee Turberville**

### **Making Plant Medicine**

**By: Richo Cech**

In the newest fourth edition, 2016, *Making Plant Medicine*, is a preferred reference for learning how to prepare herbal tinctures, teas, syrups, oils, salves, and poultices. Many medicinal herb gardeners and wild-harvesters consider this a “first” read -- one of the most useful on the topic of herbal remedies. An Oregon herb farmer, Richo Cech gives both advanced mathematical formulas (especially for tincture making) and easy methods (no math required) to make plant medicine. Cech has included intriguing stories based on his world travels and his family’s experiences with herbs. The book’s Herbal Formulary showcases over 500 herbs that include the best method of preparation as well as the best ratio of ingredients. Cech covers a wide variety of topics with recipes and tidbits of info on: tincture making, balm and salve making, succus (juice-making), decoctions (tisanes or teas), vinegars, compresses and poultice making.



### **Disclaimer**

“Although all cultures on earth use plant-derived medicaments, we cannot recommend self-medication with plant products. Rather, we offer medicinal information in the context of historical usage and from personal experience, augmented by our studies of current research. Please seek the care and advice of a qualified healthcare practitioner for all medical problems. We have endeavored to provide responsible and specific cautions and contraindications for the herbs and preparations described in this book. However, be advised that iatrogenic, idiosyncratic, and/or allergic reactions can occur, albeit rarely, regardless of the cautions employed.” -- Ricard A. “Richo” Cech and Herbal Reads LLC (This CAMGA reviewer agrees with this disclaimer.)



## **CAMGA Minutes**

**November 17, 2020**

**By: Betty Plaster  
Secretary**

Sandy Rosamond called the November meeting to order at 10:00 am at Fort Toulouse. She introduced Lynda Edwards who demonstrated how to make a bow on a device she invented. In about ten minutes Lynda had made a beautiful Christmas bow that could be used on a door, tree, or present.

After Lynda's bow demonstration she, Leslie Bingham, Betty Plaster, and Debbie Kelso introduced themselves to the members of CAMGA. Each lady told how they got involved with the program, shared details of their personal life, and showed/described things they enjoyed doing with plants and flowers.

Lee Ann Marona presented the Robyn award to Lynda Edwards who had the most service hours this month.

Treasure Report- Debbie Kelso

October beginning balance \$ 7992.12

October expenses \$1190.13

October income \$1382.00

October ending balance \$6901.59

A motion to approve the October minutes was made by Candy Jones. Motion passed.

The new officers for 2021 were elected. The motion was made by Cathy Whigham and seconded by Candy Jones. The motion passed.

### **2021 officers**

*President-Lynda Edwards*

*Vice President-Leslie Bingham*

*Secretary-Betty Plaster*

*Treasurer- Debbie Kelso*

*Advisory Council Representative-Cheryl Fitzgerald*

Sandy said our December meeting would be a zoom meeting.

Lynda Edwards closed the meeting by reading a poem.

***Submitted by:***

***Betty Plaster, Secretary***





## Governor's Mansion Report

By: Amanda Borden



During November we crafted decorations and worked to decorate the Sunroom of the Governor's Mansion for the Christmas holidays.







## Governor's Mansion Report (Continued)

By: Amanda Borden





## **Spotlight on Volunteers**

### **October 2020**

**By: Judy May**

Volunteers who helped Maria at Lanark this month were Carla McCune, Leslie Bingham, Don Hoover, and Cheryl Fitzpatrick. Thank you all for all the great work! Lanark couldn't be beautiful without your appreciated help!

If you haven't been to the Lanark gardens in a while, or ever, please consider spending a morning with us (or an afternoon!) There is plenty of work to do even in the winter! Please call Maria at 657-9414 to make sure she'll be there. She will be off 2 Wednesdays in December, the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> for the holidays. You can work any weekday at whatever time works best for you, just please call and schedule first to make sure that Maria is in the gardens that day. She is looking forward to seeing you!

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

On November 13<sup>th</sup>, twelve volunteers met to stuff and card the herbal sachet bags to be handed out at the Dickens Christmas event in December. They were Cheryl Fitzgerald, Sheila Radford, Janet Lewis, Linda Cater Anne Carr, Jane Duke, Betty Plaster, Mary Ann Hatcher, Jane Mobley, Deborah Kelso, Lynda Edwards and Terry Chambliss.



## **Project and Community Garden Committee Minutes November 2020 By: Terry Chambliss**

### **Project Committee Minutes**

The Committee did not meet in November. Sandy advised the Chamber will not have a tree and Father Christmas will be in the alley. Our organization is not needed to help with the pictures nor decorating the alleyway. However the Dickens Christmas is still expected to be held on December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

The sachet bag workshop was held on November 13<sup>th</sup>. The twelve volunteers made quick work of filling and carding the bags with lavender, rosemary and mints.

Thanks to all of you who dried and de-stemmed the herbs. Volunteers will be requested to hand them out at the Downtown Dickens Christmas event.

There will be no meeting in December.

Submitted by: Terry Chambliss

### **Community Garden Report**

A meeting was held on November 12<sup>th</sup> by Zoom. Those present were Mary McCroan, Deborah Kelso, Candy Jones, Dee Turberville and Terry Chambliss. The need to find a more permanent location, perhaps one that can be purchased for back taxes or on a long term lease was discussed. Mulder Church offered some space, but it was felt to be too far out to attract participants. Other issues such as establishing a 501-c3, funding, and the garden model were discussed.

Deborah Kelso spoke with an official from the City of Millbrook who seemed very encouraging about establishing a garden, possibly on the village green. She plans to set up an appointment with the Mayor to pursue this.

Terry Chambliss contacted Richard Beyer with the Elmore County Commission. He could not think of any property we could use, but provided information on some prospective areas we may want to consider. Contact was made with Cheryl Tucker, Wetumpka City Councilwoman D-2 about some sites in her district. She is to get back with us. Contact will be made again with the Mayor of Wetumpka when he recovers from an illness.

If these avenues do not pan out, an appeal will be made through social media.

Submitted by: Terry Chambliss



## **I GOT A "2 FER"!**

**By: Sandy Rosamond**

**Remember last month I asked how to get rid of nutgrass? Below is the reply I received from Mary Ann Hatcher on how to get rid of it. I can't wait until spring to see the results.**

**I also have plenty of unwanted bermuda grass that the same product will kill. That is why I said I got a "2 fer". You know 2 for 1!**

***Thanks Mary Ann!!***

***(Reply from Mary Ann Hatcher)***

**Dear Sandy:**

**I'm sending you a link which gives you the names of several chemicals to help get rid of nutsedge. Preemergent products (applied when dormant) don't work well on nutsedge. However, post emergent herbicides work well. If it is still alive (I was looking around my beds today and spied some), spraying it now will help and spray as soon as it emerges in the spring.**

**Use a shield to protect desirable plants and spray close to the weed to kill it. Let the product dry. Nutsedge is a perennial and pulling by hand rarely gets all the roots. If your garden bed has nothing but the nutsedge now, you can safely use a product that is Nonselective, meaning it kills all it comes in contact with. And there may be some nutsedge that emerges in the spring from seeds. I know it's laborious!**

**<https://www.lsuagcenter.com/portals/communications/publications/agmag/archiveagress/2012/winter/controlling-weeds-in-flowerbeds>**

**[https://www.aces.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/IPM-0590-Home-Lawns-Chemical-Control\\_022520L-G-copy.pdf](https://www.aces.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/IPM-0590-Home-Lawns-Chemical-Control_022520L-G-copy.pdf)**

# 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.

# **CAMGA ZOOM MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

## **Tuesday, December 15th — 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](mailto:6392310534@zoomcrc.com)