



GARDEN BUZZZZZZ



Volume 30 Issue 1 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association January 2021



Happy New Year!!



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Message from:

Lynda Edwards
CAMGA President



Happy New Year!!! Praying that 2021 will be a better year for everyone. 2020 included the most "first" for me. Here are just a few:

- First Pandemic
- First Wearing a Mask
- First Making Masks
- First Avoiding Hugs
- First Zoom Meeting
- First to Avoid Travel

You probably have additional "first" to add to the list. My observation of human perseverance, compassion, kindness and resolve during this past year has given me a sense of renewal in our ability to make this pandemic a positive.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president this year. Never did I dream the pandemic would linger so long and our Zoom meetings would continue into 2021. Thank God for this technology that holds us together until we can resume our meetings at the Extension Center Auditorium. We will be looking for places to meet outside as soon as weather permits. Any suggestions would be appreciated.

The CAMGA Officers are ready to serve. We bring a diverse background to our organization and I look forward to working with Leslie Bingham, Vice President, Betty Plaster, Secretary and Deb Kelso, Treasurer. We are excited to have this opportunity and ask for your support by attending the meetings, whether virtual or in person.



CAMGA Garden Buzzzz
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Message from Lynda (Continued) Central Alabama Master Gardener Association President



My experience in gardening is limited; even though I grew up on a farm about 72 miles from Memphis in Jackson, Tennessee. I enjoyed the "farm life." Being a 4-H Club member with projects like sewing, frozen foods, canning, cooking and food preservation have certainly been beneficial to me over the years. Bet you didn't know I once judged chickens as a 4-Her at the Mid-South Fair in Memphis; demonstrated the art of making biscuits at the fair when I was 13 and made a fresh strawberry pie on a TV cooking show at the age of 14. I continue to make biscuits from scratch several times a week and that strawberry pie recipe remains a favorite but I haven't touched a live chicken since I was a teenager. ha! Leaving the farm life was a long time ago and some things like gardening and farm animals were placed on the backburner until I retired.

After leaving Jackson, I moved to Memphis, Little Rock, Nashville, New York, Atlanta, Gulfport, Memphis again and Vicksburg before settling in Prattville, Alabama. The experiences in vegetable gardening in my youth were done the old fashion way and taking the Master Gardener course in 2015 renewed my interest and love for having fresh vegetables and fruits available. I love digging in the dirt and watching things grow; love planting a seed and seeing it sprout into something good to eat or beautiful to observe. Taking the master gardener course was truly one of the best things that Earnie and I ever did together.

My background in Hospital Human Resources and serving on the International Board of a large philanthropic organization has given me 40 years of experience in attending and conducting meetings. One area of our organization that needed updating is the CAMGA bylaws. A Bylaw Committee consisting of Amanda Borden, Chair, Anne Carr, Janet Lewis and myself as ex-officio member have already spent many hours in Zoom meetings with a goal to have a revision ready for you to approve by our February meeting. We certainly hope this happens. Your Officers with input from Committee Chairs will shortly begin adopting a budget to take us through 2021. The budget will also be approved by the membership. Normally this is done prior to January 1, so please bear with us.

Since there is little chance that we will meet other than by Zoom in January and February, I have asked that we not print our Membership Directory and Information Guide until our new Bylaws are approved. This is another reason the committee is hard at work to revise as quickly as possible.

Most Committee Chairs are in place. I see a need to consolidate some task and add a few others. If you would like to serve on a committee and haven't been asked, please let me know. We want 2021 to be the best year possible for CAMGA. It will be another year of challenges but also a year of opportunities. Because of Covid-19, more time was spent in my garden this past year than in previous years. In 2021 we will seek to find alternate ways to achieve our goals and paths this year. My high school class motto was: "Find a Way or Make One." This slogan often comes to mind in situations like "a pandemic." Together, in spite of Covid-19, we can make it a good year.

*Wishing you a Safe and Healthy 2021,
Lynda Edwards, President
Central Alabama Master Gardener Association*



Message from Mallory Narcissus Blooms

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

Narcissus blooms are a sure sign that spring has sprung in Alabama. However, it isn't difficult to bring the smell of spring indoors during the winter by forcing a paperwhite narcissus to flower. Paperwhite narcissus are easy to grow and foolproof enough that forcing them to flower is a good project even for the newest gardener. They also make beautiful decorations or gifts.

Setting Out Bulbs

Paperwhites are the easiest indoor bulbs to force and are usually available at local nurseries, home improvement centers or through catalogs any time after October 1. It is a good idea not to set out all of the paperwhite bulbs at once. Set bulbs out every 10 days so the blooms will not come all at once. In doing this, you will have blooms from December until spring. Once the bulbs are exposed to light, flowers will begin blooming in four to six weeks. While the term "forcing" is used when speaking of paperwhites in the areas in and around Alabama, it might be better expressed as "fooling." What gardeners really do is fool the bulb into thinking winter is over and it is time to bloom.

Growing

Paperwhites grow best in a shallow pot or bowl with no drainage holes in the bottom. The best thing about growing these is no soil is required. The bulbs only need water. Start by finding a container and filling the bottom with gravel, small stones or even fun things like colored beads or marbles. Then place as many paperwhite bulbs as will fit on top of the gravel, with the pointed side up. Place the bulbs down in the gravel or marbles so they act as support to hold the bulbs in place, but do not bury the bulbs. Leave at least half of the bulb exposed. Add water up to the base of the bulbs and maintain it at this level. Once the bulbs begin to send out roots, be sure it does not stay in the water. Prolonged immersion in the water will cause the bulb to rot.

Ready to Flower

When you are ready for your bulbs to begin growing and flowering, place the container in a warm, sunny location. Brighter spots are better, as it will make the stems shorter and stronger when they bloom. Growers should add water to the container because evaporation and root uptake will deplete the supply. Avoid disturbing the bulbs after planting, as the roots are fragile. There may be a slight difference in flower timing depending on the temperatures. Higher temperatures encourage weak growth and poor flowering. Bulbs immediately placed at a temperature of 60 to 70°F will bloom in about six weeks.

For later bloom, delay setting them out or maintain the pot at 50°F, and then moved to the higher temperature area. For a late spring bloom, the bulbs can be stored dry at 50°F. When potted, these will usually bloom in three to four weeks. The cooler the room, the longer it will take the bulbs to flower and the longer they will remain in bloom. If light levels are low, the stalks grow tall before blooming and then fall over. It is common to tie the cluster together or even place a small stick in the cluster of bulbs to support the stems.

Paperwhite narcissus are tender bulbs that will not overwinter outdoors easily. These bulbs can only be forced to bloom once. After the foliage begins to turn yellow, discard the bulbs and the potting medium. Then wash gravel or marbles and store them for use again next year. Be sure to wash containers immediately and thoroughly to remove salts and lime deposits.



CAMGA Minutes

December 15, 2020

By: DeAnn Stone
Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Sandy Rosamond via ZOOM at 10:00 AM. She welcomed all members.

President's Report: Sandy requested that all members submit their dues as soon as possible. The new officers for 2021 are Lynda Edwards, President; Leslie Bingham, Vice President; Bettye Plaster, Secretary; and Debbie Kelso, Treasurer. Sandy swore in the new members.

Secretary's Report: Bettye Plaster took the minutes for the November ZOOM meeting, which were posted in the monthly newsletter. The minutes were accepted as presented by email in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Deborah Kelso presented the Treasurer's Report for November 2020. The beginning balance was \$6,801.59 Total income for the month was \$369. Expenditures for November were \$786.54, leaving an ending balance of \$6,384.05. There were no questions and the report will be filed for audit.

Projects Reports: Terry Chambliss thanked the volunteers for helping with the Dicken's Christmas. There are currently no projects planned. She announced she is stepping back from chairing the Projects Committee and thanked all for their support.

Intern Update: Mallory provided an update on the virtual intern class. She shared that the program was very successful, even though "we didn't know what we were doing!" Fourteen interns participated in the program. The majority of the participants were from Prattville, however, we did have participants from Wetumpka and Montgomery. Participants have completed all course and volunteer hours. We plan to repeat the virtual intern class in the fall. The classes are held via ZOOM. Interns can register and pay online. Participants have access to an online site hosted by Auburn University. Classes are divided into modules and links are provided. The sessions are recorded and can be accessed after the ZOOM meeting. Links are posted for testing, videos, and other resources. The Spring 2021 Class schedule was shared. The entire state will follow the proposed schedule. Mallory says she supports a hybrid model where some portions of the course are offered in person. Personal interaction is important to building relationships and keeping new members involved.

Master Gardeners cannot attend the virtual sessions due to limits with online learning. We want those that have paid for the course to have full access. Even after our world returns to "normal" the virtual sessions may be used for make up classes.

Mallory announced some new things to come for 2021. A modified program for Lunch and Learn is being proposed. Stay tuned for more information. Garden Chats will resume in the Spring of 2021.

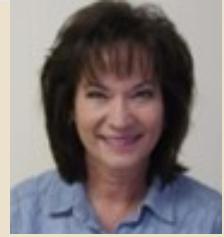
Mallory wished everyone good health and would like to know if anyone is sick. Lee Borden thanked Mallory for her great works!

Lynda Edwards thanked Sandy for the opportunity to share the goals for 2021. It appears that ZOOM meetings will continue for the next several months. The new officers have been meeting monthly and planning for the new year and welcome all members support for a successful new year. A first task of the new officers has been reviewing the bylaws and updating them to include meetings by ZOOM. Amanda Borden is leading the by law review committee. The goal is to bring updated bylaws to the membership by February.

CAMGA Minutes (Continued)

December 15, 2020

**By: DeAnn Stone
Secretary**



Linda announced there is an opening for a Membership Chair, Member Care Chair, and a Projects Chair. Please contact Lynda if you would like to serve in any of these positions.

Our next priority is to adopt a budget. After reviewing minutes for the past ten years, she has not found where a budget has been established for CAMGA.

Lynda shared her vision for future plant sales. She envisions a festival atmosphere with live demonstrations, food vendors, activities for adults and children and plants for sale! All plans hinge on COVID and determine how we may move forward. She asked for the support of all members as she assumes this new role!

Lynda thanked Sandy for her service as President the past two years! She presented Sandy with a \$100 gift card as a token of appreciation. Sandy thanked everyone for the gift.

The meeting concluded at 10:40 AM. Merry Christmas to all!!

Respectfully Submitted,

***Deann K. Stone
Secretary, CAMGA***



Governor's Mansion Report December 2020 By: Amanda Borden



During December we finished decorating the Sunroom of the Governor's Mansion for Christmas, and we periodically changed out and spruced up the greenery. We did some pruning of dead plant material around the entrance to the Mansion. We have enjoyed our work at the Governor's Mansion during 2020, and we look forward to continuing in 2021. Please join us in 2021 for our Monday morning workdays!

Contact Jane McCarthy at macandjane@att.net ahead of time so she can arrange for you to clear security. Happy Holidays!



CAMGA Library News

December 2020

By: Dee Turberville



CAMGA Library Acquisitions for 2020

Air Plants; All You Need to Know	\$ 7.91
The Art of Fermentation	\$ 24.50
Wild Fermentation; The Flavor, Nutrition and Craft of Live Cultures, 2 nd Ed.	\$ 19.15
Japanese Stone Gardens; Origins, Meaning and Form	\$ 13.52
The Complete Book of Essential Oils and Aromatherapy, Revised	\$ 17.13
Perennial Vegetables; From Artichoke to Zuiki Taro...	\$ 27.98
Raised Bed Gardening for Beginners	\$ 10.09
The Food Activist Handbook; Big and Small Thing You Can Do Help Provide Fresh...	\$ 11.62
Deer-Resistant Design; Fence Free Gardens That Thrive Despite the Deer	\$ 15.96
The Magical World of Moss Gardening	\$ 15.92
Creating Sanctuary; Sacred Garden Spaces, Plant-Based Medicine, and Daily...	\$ 16.16
Making Plant Medicine	\$ 31.26
Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 12 th Edition	\$ 17.99



Several additional titles, not listed here, have been donated by Chip East, Ann Hill, Janet Lewis, Jane McCarthy, Robin Snyder, and others, anonymously. Thank you for these additional resources.

Use the “**Libib**” online database with keyword search to browse the collection. Click on the Libib link within the *CAMGA.net* website. Call Carol Pugh for check out procedures during this Covid time.



Projects and Community Garden

Projects 2020

By: Terry Chambliss

This was a challenging year for our organization but despite the obstacles, we adapted and overcame. We were able to accomplish most of the projects that were planned and had good participation given the restrictions.

We started the year with a float in the Mardi Gras Parade held on February 22nd. It was a lot of fun to decorate and participate in the parade. We discovered we needed more beads and seed packets.

On March 6th, twenty of us met at Rhona's for a hands on demonstration on propagating hostas and air layering hydrangeas. Such a great hostess!

We had fifteen volunteers for the Learning Gardens Work Day on March 19. A lot of work was accomplished that day. Several volunteers helped Maria for the Lanark work day on April 8th.

Jane held a Camellia air layering workshop on April 22. It really is an impressively easy technique. Thanks Jane!

In June, Jane submitted the landscape plans for the front and side of the Presbyterian Church.

CAMGA had a table at the Merchant's Market in Wetumpka on August 6th, September 3rd and October 1st. The volunteers did a great job promoting our organization.

Ornament Making Workshops were held on September 10th and 11th. Ten volunteers made 150 ornaments. We do have some talented people in our organization. Thanks Sandy for organizing and leading this event.

On September 28th, Jane hosted a bird bath project. The six participants were quite excited with their creations. Jane made it so easy for us with step by step directions.

There were eighteen participants in the annual plant swap held on October 15th.

On November 13, twelve volunteers stuffed and carded 300 herbal sachet bags. They knocked this out in one hour!!

There were two volunteers to distribute the sachet bags at the Dickens's Christmas Event on December 4th and 5th. Jane and Deborah looked great in their period clothes.

I would like to end this report with one of my favorite quotes by Alfred Austin.

"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, heads in the sun, heart with nature.
To nurture a garden is to feed not just on the body, but the soul."

I hope 2021 can do this for us all.

I am stepping down as co-chair of the Projects Committee. It has been so enjoyable working with all of you, but I want to concentrate on some other areas of interest. Thank you all for helping me to grow and learn.

Terry Chambliss

January 2021 CAMGA Monthly Meeting

January 19, 2021

Board meeting — 9:00 a.m.

Regular monthly meeting — 10:00 a.m.

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://auburn.zoom.us/j/88248604942>

Connect using Computer/Device audio if possible.

Or Telephone: Meeting ID: 882 4860 4942

Dial: +1 646 876 9923 (US Toll)

or +1 301 715 8592 (US Toll)

With Deepest Sympathy

*We extend deepest sympathy to our friend
and Master Gardener Cathy Whigham for the
loss of her husband,
Russell Whigham on January 5th, 2021.*

*Cathy and her family are in our
thoughts and prayers.*

“The Language of Flowers”

By: Betty Plaster

Master Gardener

Through Master Gardening I was introduced to the language of flowers. This idea became very popular during the Victorian Era. Remember at that time there were no cell phones, no texting, or televisions.

There were a lot of rules of etiquette to follow. Such as, you were never to discuss your feelings for someone or your relationship with someone in public. So flowers began to have secret or special meanings. Sending flowers became the way you expressed your feelings to others.

Most homes during the Victorian Era had a flower dictionary which told the meaning of every flower. By using the dictionary you were able to send the correct message to that special someone.

My research shows that through the years some meanings of flowers have changed since the Victorian Era.

However, with Valentines Day around the corner I hope you receive a dozen roses of the right color. Listed below are the rose color meanings...

Red- love, longing, or desire

White- purity, chastity, innocence, or sympathy

Yellow- friendship and caring (In the Victorian Era yellow roses meant infidelity.)

Peach- modesty

Cream- charm and thoughtfulness

Pink- admiration, joy, or gratitude

Orange- passion and energy

Lavender- love at first sight

Blue- I can't have you, but I can't stop thinking about you.

Green- best wishes for a prosperous life

Mixed roses- I don't know what my feelings are yet, but I like you enough to send you roses!

Impact of the Master Gardener Program

Thyme and Time Again

By: Leslie Bingham
Master Gardener

Faith, religion, spirituality, and denomination affiliation are not a part of the Master Gardener program. In spite of there being no spiritual correlation made, I personally, have found a great spiritual impact through the Master Gardener program. After all, isn't God the "founding father" of gardening? Read these selected verses from Genesis 2- from The Message, and perhaps my perspective of impact will be more clearly understood.

5-7 At the time GOD made Earth and Heaven, before any grasses or shrubs had sprouted from the ground—GOD hadn't yet sent rain on Earth, nor was there anyone around to work the ground (the whole Earth was watered by underground springs)—GOD formed Man out of dirt from the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life. The Man came alive—a living soul!

8 Then GOD planted a garden in Eden, in the east. He put the Man he had just made in it. GOD made all kinds of trees grow from the ground, trees beautiful to look at and good to eat.

15 GOD took the Man and set him down in the Garden of Eden to work the ground and keep it in order.

Looks to me like God was the first Master Gardener. When we gather to "dig in dirt", we are living into the original calling God had for man and his creation. It is through volunteering at Lanark, the Governor's Mansion, the Prattville Community Garden, and our Learning Garden at the Extension offices -digging in someone else's dirt that community is formed. Two or three Master Gardeners kneeling in that dirt, the same material God created us with, sharing stories, getting to know one another, giving of one's self for the benefit of another is both spiritual and communal. Communing with our creator but also forming community with each other, which in turn betters our community.

I had just moved into the Millbrook area, from a neighboring state knowing no one, and for the first time in a long time (if ever), having time on my hands. I saw an advertisement for the Master Gardener program in one of the local papers I had picked up in my efforts of trying to learn a bit about my new home. Always having a love for flowers and gardening, I knew it was something I wanted to do. So, I got out my google maps and headed to the County Extension office to pick up my application. My enthusiasm from the opportunity to meet new people, be a contributor rather than only a consumer in my community, and to learn the right way to garden verses always being "the piddler" quickly waned when I read the application. It looked demanding, maybe more than I was qualified for. I began to doubt if this was the direction I should go. As chance (you do know, God does not take chances) would have it, that very day I meet Sally and Joe L'Abbe...Need I say more. The rest is history.

Not only did she insist I go home that night, fill out the application, but I was instructed to deliver it to her home that very night so she could hand deliver it the next Monday because I was to be out of town the rest of the week and the class was filling up fast.

Sally knew mailing it, when I could was not good enough. I will tell you, that made one little gal who knew no one feel like she just may have moved to the right place. Community, friendships, caring, and oh did I mention sharing. If the rest of the world would share its excess like Master Gardeners share their plants (and their time), our nation's debt would be reduced in no time, our Government could have a balanced budget and we may even end the cycle of poverty and homelessness.

Master Gardeners are the most helpful, giving, caring, knowledgeable, sharing people I know and in so doing, make this tri country area a better place to live, a more beautiful place to live and in my case, a better place to move to! So-- thank you Master Gardeners for your "Thyme and Time Again" approach to life. You have helped make a dot on the map, home!