



# GARDEN BUZZZZZZ



Volume 30 Issue 5 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association



*May 2021*



## **Message from Lynda**

*CAMGA President*



"May....it's full of all the things that make spring and the brighter part of the year so special. Flowers bud, the sun shines, and new seeds are sown into the fabric of our lives. May is awesome."

Jenna Danchuk

Special thanks to all who came last Saturday and assisted with our Annual Plant Sale and to those who donated plants. I am excited to report that to date we made \$1592.90 on this event.

I feel confident that we will make our budgeted amount of \$1726.00 since plans are to advertise the leftovers on Facebook Market Place and make available at the Extension Office this Thursday and Friday from 9am to 11am. We only need \$133 to make budget.

Congratulations to Robin Snyder for an outstanding job as Plant Sale Coordinator. Everything was well organized and it was great to see so many of our volunteers working together to make our event successful.

Earnie and I spent the entire weekend digging holes and trying to find a spot to plant all my purchases. Fun! Fun! Look out next year when we open this event to the public.

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CAMGA Garden Buzzzz  
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## Message from Lynda (Continued)



Our April meeting was refreshing to be outdoors and together for the first time this year at Oak Park in Montgomery. A very informative guided tour of the first phase of The Montgomery Botanical Gardens was conducted by Fairlie Reinhart. I had no idea the park dated back to the 1800s and had so much history.

All CAMGA members were encouraged to become a member of this wonderful organization. You may also donate to the MBG at no cost to you through AmazonSmile. When you make a purchase to Amazon, Amazon donates .5% of the price of your eligible purchases to approved charitable organizations and the MBG is a participant. It's an easy way to give.

We will meet at the Lanark Pavilion on May 18, 2021 and our speaker will be Kristen Irons, Master Bee Keeper speaking to us on "What Gardeners Can Do to Help the Native Bees". Bring a chair and join us at 10 a.m.

*"Queer things happen in the garden in May. Little faces forgotten appear, and plants thought to be dead suddenly wave a green hand to confound you." - W.E. Johns.*

Enjoy this month. The flowers are beautiful!

**Lynda Edwards, President**  
**Central Alabama Master Gardener Association**

*Wetumpka Market Day on April 1st. — |Workers were Sandy Rosamond, Candy Jones, Robin Snyder. The theme was succulents*





## Message from Mallory

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

### **Fire Blight**

Fire blight affects many plant species each year and once you know the symptoms you will start noticing it everywhere. This spring it seems to be more prevalent and a warmer winter along with the drought stress we had in the fall is what I attribute it to. Fire Blight, caused by the bacterium *Erwinia amylovora*, is a common and destructive disease of pear, apple, quince, hawthorn, many other members of the rose plant family as well as several stone fruit trees. The host range of the fire blight pathogen includes nearly 130 plant species in 40 genera. Badly diseased trees and shrubs are usually disfigured and may even be killed by fire blight.

The term fire blight describes the blackened, burned appearance of damaged flowers, twigs, and foliage. Symptoms appear in early spring. Blossoms first become water-soaked, then wilt, and finally turn brown. Fruit may be infected by the bacterium directly through the skin or through the stem. Immature fruit are initially water-soaked, turning brownish black and becoming mummified as the disease progresses. These mummies often cling to the trees for several months.

Shortly after the blossoms die, leaves on the same spur or shoot turn brown and black. As the twig and leaf blight phase progresses, leaves die and curl downward, but do not drop from the tree which produces a “shepherd’s crook” appearance. This is usually the time when this disease is noticed on a tree or shrub. Spraying at this time is pointless, sanitization is the only cure. This means cutting back at least 12 inches behind the scorched area and sanitizing pruners between every cut. Choosing tolerant plant varieties is an easy way to reduce the likelihood of getting fire blight. Another option is to apply antibiotics (bactericides) very early in the spring, but timing can be very tricky for complete control. Remember, Antibiotics are protectants and not cures so they must be present to prevent the infection. The best way for a homeowner to avoid fireblight is to choose resistant varieties.





## **CAMGA Minutes**

### **April 20, 2021**

**By: Betty Plaster, Secretary**

#### **The April 2021 CAMGA meeting was held at Oak Park in Montgomery, AL at 10:00 am.**

Program: President Lynda Edwards turned the meeting over to Vice President Leslie Bingham who introduced the guest speaker Fairlie Rinehart with The Montgomery Botanical Gardens. Mrs. Rinehart gave a brief history of Oak Park stating that the park was founded on 1899. During this time era of the park, there was a pavilion for dancing, space for football games, and picnic areas. During the 1930's Oak Park featured swimming pools, a small zoo, a bear pit, playground, and a croquet court. In 1959, the park was closed by federal orders. The park reopened in 1965 with the Gayle Planetarium as the park's first project.

On November 7, 2013, The Montgomery Botanical Gardens held its ground breaking ceremony at Oak Park. For two years the board worked with the city of Montgomery to prepare a working memorandum and to file for 501C3 status. The gardens are divided into four phases. Presently, Phase One, The Southern Garden is under construction. With the help of volunteers such as the Capital City Master Gardeners, Local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, The Day Lily Society, The Pollinators group, City of Montgomery, and numerous other volunteers, the dream for the Montgomery Botanical Gardens is coming to life.

The Montgomery Botanical Gardens was awarded the 20<sup>th</sup> Garden of Peace award. This is a worldwide award.

After a tour of the Southern Garden, Amanda Borden distributed information on how to join The Montgomery Botanical Gardens. This information can also be obtained by going to the website of [montgomerybotanicalgardens.com](http://montgomerybotanicalgardens.com) or contacting Amanda Borden at [amandawborden@gmail.com](mailto:amandawborden@gmail.com).

Member Concerns: Rhonda Miles reported that Catese Chaffee's sister, Christie, has breast cancer. Linda Jarazyniecki reported that her husband who fell fourteen feet off a barn roof is home and walking. Linda thanked the membership for their prayers and concern. Lynda Edwards continues to have problems with her recent hearing loss. Prayers are appreciated for all.

President's Report by Linda Edwards: Lynda reported that the CAMGA internal audit by Pat Petro-Perryman, Virginia Pruitt, and Deborah Kelso was completed February 26, 2021. The auditors found no errors, discrepancies or irregularities whatsoever. The accounts balanced to the penny.

Covid Protocols for Alabama Master Gardeners are as follows. Based on the directive from the ACES Administration, Master Gardener Volunteers will continue to follow current protocols to minimize health risks in all volunteer workplaces. These include maintaining six feet of distance between others, wearing masks when interaction with others or in common areas, use of plexiglass barriers in reception areas (when in the Extension Office), practicing good hygiene, and limiting your proximity to non-family members. Lynda received this information from Kerry Smith, State Master Gardener Program Coordinator and Home Grounds Team Co-Leader.

Lynda stated that she and Sandy Rosamond are working with the Wetumpka Mayor's office to possibly use the new Wetumpka Farmers' Market pavilion for our meetings in the summer months.

CAMGA's first craft project class was held April 13, 2021, at the Extension Center. Nine Master Gardeners participated in the Rock Painting Class. If any member wants to step forward and teach a class, please contact Lynda.

## CAMGA Minutes Continued

### April 20, 2021

**By: Betty Plaster, Secretary**



On March 24, 2021, Glenn Huovinen, Rick Ohlson, Katrina Mitchell, and Lynda Edwards met with Anthony Branick and Ken Sharman with the Greensky Family Farms organization. This is a planned community with 8 gardens located on Old Prattville Highway near the corner of Camp Grandview Road. Greensky is being developed as a Renewable Energy Company, service provider and educator of natural energy sources. Their vision is to help empower healthy eating and implement renewal energy practices.

Plans are to bus children in to teach them how to garden. They presently have 8 garden tracts of about 1/3 acre, each. This is the area Greensky would appreciate the expertise of CAMGA. When the classrooms are opened, Greensky would like Master Gardeners to help educate the children. You can visit their web page at [greenskyfamilyfarms.com](http://greenskyfamilyfarms.com).

Vice President's Report by Leslie Bingham: Leslie introduced a new Master Gardener who is joining CAMGA, Sherri Davidson. Welcome Sherri!

May 18<sup>th</sup>, CAMGA will meet at the Pavilion at Lanark where Kristen Irons, Master Bee Keeper of Alabama, will speak on What Gardeners Can Do to Help the Native Bees. There will be a requested two-dollar donation to cover the use of the pavilion.

On June 15<sup>th</sup> CAMGA will meet at Petals from the Past. Jason Powell will be the guide through the gardens and a business meeting (in the educational building) will follow the tour. If you would like a box lunch, please respond to Leslie Bingham by text 601-594-4434 or email [lgbi1017@aol.com](mailto:lgbi1017@aol.com).

Secretary's Report by Betty Plaster: Betty moved to dispense with the reading of the March minutes since they were printed in the Garden Buzz and distributed to all members. Leslie Bingham seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report by Carol Rattan:

March beginning balance	\$6159.26
March income	\$1580.00
March expenditures	\$1781.06

Ending balance for March	\$5958.20
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There were no questions about the report. The Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Advisory Council Representative Report by Cheryl Fitzgerald: Cheryl distributed the seeds and information from the Zooming Zinnias project. Any seeds that were not picked up at the monthly meeting will be available at the CAMGA plant sale on May 1, 2021, at the Elmore County Extension barn.

The quarterly AMGA meeting will be held Tuesday, May 4, from 10:00 am to noon. The meeting will be held at the Lanark Pavilion. Bring your own chair and refreshments will be provided. This meeting will be held rain or shine.

The AMGA annual business meeting will be a Zoom meeting to be held Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 10:00 am. New officers and board members will be elected at this meeting.



## **CAMGA Minutes Continued**

### **April 20, 2021**

**By: Betty Plaster, Secretary**

Membership Report by Lee Ann Marona: Cathy Whigham distributed the 2021 CAMGA directories to members at the April monthly meeting.

Robin Award winners for the month were Cathy Whigham and Rick Ohlson.

2020 Volunteer "Reach for The Stars" Awards CAMGA Totals

57 Certified volunteers posting hours

4,030 Volunteer hours

1,204 Educational hours

5,234 Combined total volunteer and educational hours

AMGA Award Nominees from CAMGA:

Jean Lee Lifetime Hours Award

Candy Jones 3,847 Lifetime volunteer hours

Top Hours of the Year Award

Candy Jones – 560 volunteer hours for 2020

Reach for the Stars Advanced Badge Recipients:

Platinum name badge (2000+) Charlotte Hall – 2000.75 lifetime hours

Gold name badge (1000+) Deborah Kelso – 1328 lifetime hours

Robin Snyder- 1074 lifetime hours

Reach for the Stars (Star Pins) Award Recipients

Gold Star (500+hours) Linda Jarzyniecki, Carol Pugh, and Dee Turberville

Silver Star (300+ hours) Ernie Edwards

Bronze Star Jane Duke and Linda Jennings

Honorable mention: Judy May reached 3,003 lifetime hours joining our other 3000+ members: Candy Jones, Lee Borden, Jane Mobley, Mary Long, and Amanda Borden

Plant Sale Report: Robin Snyder reported that setup for the May 1 plant sale will be April 30, 8:00 am to noon at the Elmore County Extension Barn. Leaders are still needed for the pricing, vegetables, and annuals teams. Please label your plants when you bring them on Friday. Robin requested that each plant area be decorated to display the plants in a beautiful way. Terry Chambliss requested that members with light weight tables to please bring them on setup day Friday, April 30.

2022 AMGA Conference Report: Candy Jones reported that speakers are being selected now for the May 2 -4, 2022, conference. Candy also stated that most of the co-chairs from CAMGA and Capital City Master Gardeners had been selected.

**CAMGA Minutes Continued**  
**April 20, 2021**  
**By: Betty Plaster, Secretary**



Community Market Report: Sandy Rosamond reported that the members of CAMGA will have an information table the first Thursday of every month from 5:00 pm to 8:00pm through August. The market has vendors, music, and food. Each month CAMGA members will be recruiting people for the Fall Intern Class that will begin in September 2021, and educating people on a gardening topic.

May 6- Butterfly Gardening - Jane Mobley  
June 3 – Container Gardening - Glenn Huovinen  
July 1 – Growing and Drying – Mary McCroan  
August 5 – Chores for August – Candy Jones and Deb Kelso

New Business: Autauga County Master Gardeners Plant Sale will be Saturday, April 25.  
Capitol City Master Gardeners Plant Sale will be Saturday, April 25, 9:00am – 3:00pm at Oak Park.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:01 pm.

***Respectfully Submitted,***

***Betty Plaster, Secretary***



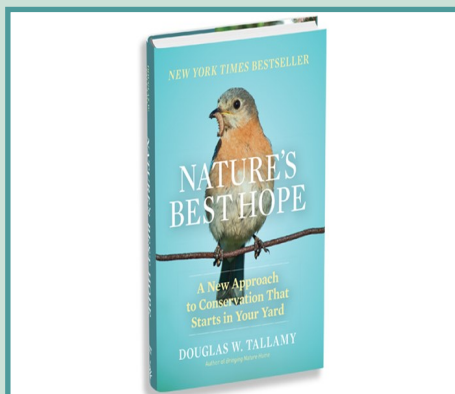
## CAMGA Library News

### April 2021

By: Dee Turberville

### **Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard** By Douglas W. Tallamy

There are several excellent reviews of Nature's Best Hope, and I would like to share excerpts from two of them. From Google reviews, "Douglas W. Tallamy's first book, Bringing Nature Home, awakened thousands of readers to an urgent situation: wildlife populations are in decline because the native plants they depend on are fast disappearing. His solution? Plant more natives. In this new book, Tallamy takes the next step and outlines his vision for a grassroots approach to conservation. Nature's Best Hope shows how homeowners everywhere can turn their yards into conservation corridors that provide wildlife habitats. Because this approach relies on the initiatives of private individuals, it is immune from the whims of government policy. Even more important it is practical, effective, and easy—you will walk away with specific suggestions you can incorporate into your own yard."



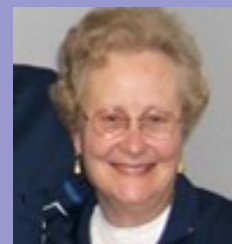
"Nature's Best Hope is a clarion call for the informed appreciation of native plants and the immediate course correction of using them in our own planting spaces to form the connected corridors that will help forestall the loss of species and the loss of ecosystem services that we are currently experiencing. A core concept of the book is an idea Tallamy calls the *Homegrown National Park*, one that is created by us, as individuals, with no need for new laws to be passed. Tallamy in no way minimizes the extent of the challenges we face, he carefully quantifies all that we have lost in acres, in habitat, and in species, but his mastery of details is what makes his idea of the *Homegrown National Park* so compelling. He notes that we have witnessed time and again how quickly nature can restore itself and asks us to imagine how much more quickly she would do so if only we helped her. We have the power as individuals to do so."— Sue Dingwell, master gardener and member of the Virginia, Florida and Colorado Native Plant Societies



## SPOTLIGHT on VOLUNTEERS

April 2021

By: Judy May



Attending the Rock Painting class taught by Loretta Loy April 14<sup>th</sup> were Lynda Edwards, Iva Haynie, Linda Cater, Anne Carr, Betty Plaster, Jane Mobley, Sheila Radford, Sandy Rosamond and Judy May. It was a class we all very much enjoyed!

Earth Day was held on April 17<sup>th</sup> this year at the Wetumpka Farmer's Market. Those participating in the public plant swap were John Barnes, Cindy Augustine, Jane Moley, Sandy Rosamond, Debbie Kelso and Terry Chambliss.

Robin Snyder provided set-up support, sound system set up and refreshments for our April meeting. The refreshments were wonderful! They had to be a lot of work! The water was provided by Judy May.

Cathy Whigham has spent the past six months collecting and compiling membership and association information into a new directory which was recently printed and then distributed at the April meeting.

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, a group of volunteers met at Dr. Charles Mitchell's home and grounds in Auburn to air layer camellias. The goal was to do 30, however Dr. Mitchell kept enticing with the different varieties so the total came to 42. They will be ready to cut and potted in the fall for the plant sale and conference in 2022. Dr Mitchell and his wife Peggy hosted a lunch afterwards. Those participating were Jane Mobley, Rhona Watson, Candy Jones, Amanda Borden and Terry Chambliss.

The following members of the phone team called members prior to the April meeting: Leslie Bingham, Cheryl Christian, Cheryl Fitzgerald, Marjorie Hannah, Janet Lewis, lee Ann Marona, Judy May, Rhonda Miles, Jane Mobley, Betty Plaster, Sandy Rosamond and Rhona Watson.

Jane McCarthy says volunteers this month at the Governor's Mansion were Amanda Borden, Jane Boysen, Susan Carmichael, Anne Carr, Linda Cater, Peggy Funk, Glenda Harris, Bionca Lindsey Soyna Moore, Jane McCarthy, Kathy Quinn, Robin Snyder and Beth Wicker.



## Governor's Mansion Report April 2021 By: Amanda Borden



During the month of April, we enjoyed nice weather and accomplished a lot:  
(1) Weeded at the Hill House and tried to avoid getting poison ivy; (2) Trimmed forsythias and wax myrtles to prevent the grounds maintenance guys from meat balling them; (3) Cleaned up the Green House; (4) Fertilized a few hydrangeas; (5) Started trimming camellias; (6) Trimmed and sprayed the bay laurel tree and applied NEEM for scale control; (7) Weeded in the Herb Garden; and (8) Attacked a severely root bound sa-go palm, divided it, planted the largest one, then potted up the babies for a plant sale.





## Governor's Mansion Report Continued

### April 2021

By: Amanda Borden



**Air Layering Camellias at Dr. Mitchell's in Auburn. They will be used for the AMGA conference workshop and our next plant sale. Workers were Rhonda Watson, Jane Mobley, Terry Chambliss, Candy Jones and Amanda Borden. The group did 42 air-layers on April 15th.**





A small blue and orange bird, possibly a bluebird, is perched on the roof of a wooden birdhouse. The birdhouse is made of weathered wood and is mounted on a wooden post. The background is a soft-focus blue sky with some dry grass in the foreground.

# Identifying Songbirds by Sight & Sound

## Learn to Identify Songbirds by Sight & Sound!

Whether you have been birding for years or are just beginning, *Identifying Birds by Sight and Sound* is a FREE workshop you won't want to miss. So, join us as Carrie Threadgill, Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries nongame program coordinator, teaches us how to identify birds by sight and sound. This hybrid event will be offered in-person at the Autauga County Extension office and by zoom. To register for the in-person event please follow this link:

<https://www.aces.edu/event/identifying-songbirds-by-sight-and-sound/>

If you would like to join us via zoom, please register here:

<https://auburn.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZAlceqpgTlpHdleBkldlnhwGpeEoXI-pSsm>

[May 18<sup>th</sup> at 10AM]

For questions, contact  
Lynn Dickinson

(334) 303-8360



YouTube

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

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## Get Outside with Alabama Smart Yards!

Free Webinar Series (30 minutes)

Wednesdays @ 1:00 pm

Connect: [auburn.zoom.us/j/82398811386](https://auburn.zoom.us/j/82398811386)



### W, May 5 Butterfly Gardening

Sherry Blanton, Alabama Extension Master Gardener Volunteer

### W, May 12 Blueberries: Variety Selection and Planting Basics

Lucy Edwards, Alabama Extension Regional Extension Agent

### W, May 19 Blueberries: Insect, Disease and Nutrient Management

Neil Kelly, Alabama Extension Regional Extension Agent

### W, May 26 Blueberries: Preserving, Freezing and Other Uses

Bridgette Brannon, Alabama Extension Regional Extension Agent

### W, June 2 Blueberries: Proper Pruning Techniques

David Koon, Alabama Extension Regional Extension Agent

**Master Gardener Helpline (887) 252-4769** [www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu)

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**Plant Swap for Earth Day at the new Wetumpka Farmers Market, April 17th. Workers were Terry Chambliss, Sandy Rosamond, Jane Mobley, John Barnes, Debbie Kelso, and Cindy Augustine.**





## April 2021 CAMGA Meeting at Oak Park. Master Gardeners toured the Montgomery Botanical Gardens

